

**TOM SWIFT IN CAPTIVITY
OR, A DARING ESCAPE
BY AIRSHIP**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649119400

Tom Swift in captivity or, A daring escape by airship by Victor Appleton

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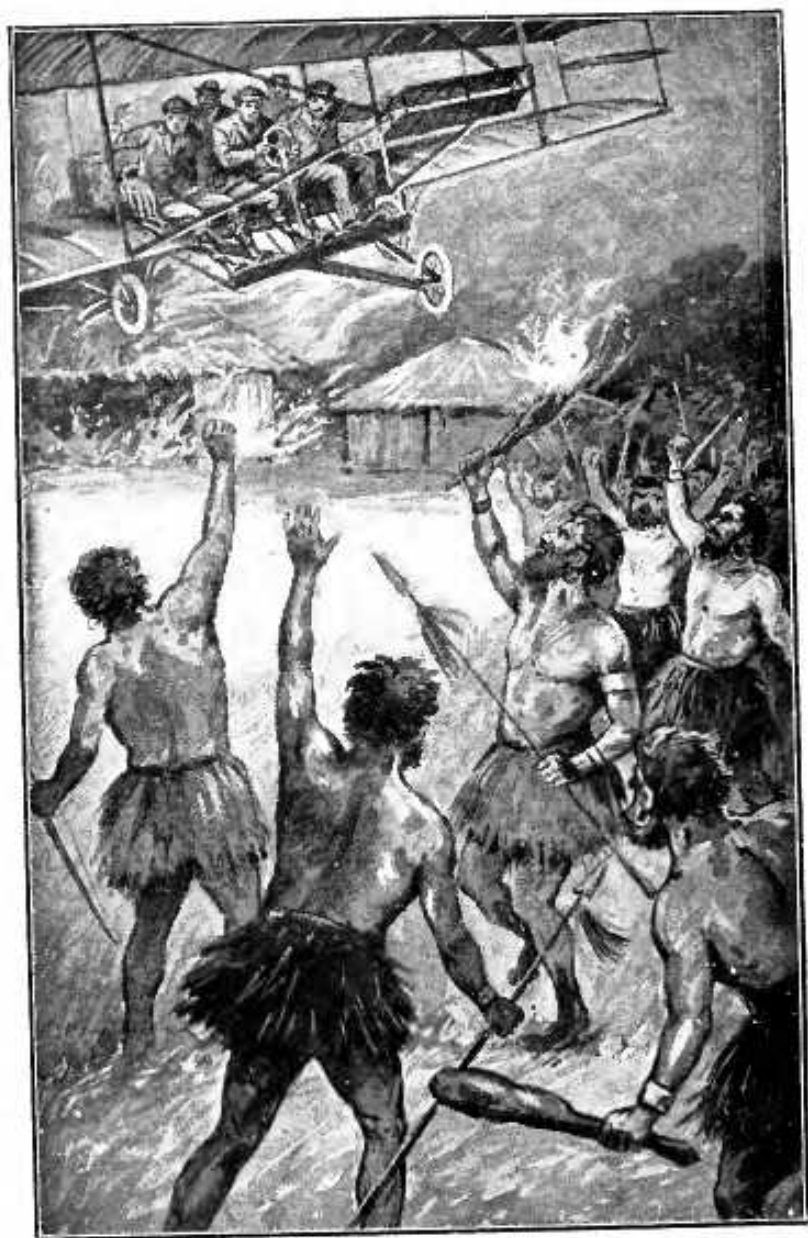
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VICTOR APPLETON

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OR, A DARING ESCAPE
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THERE WAS A RATTLING, BANGING NOISE, AND THE BIG PROPELLERS REVOLVED WITH INCREDIBLE SWIFTNESS. — Page 209.
Tom Swift in Captivity.

TOM SWIFT IN CAPTIVITY

OR

A Daring Escape by Airship

BY

VICTOR APPLETON

AUTHOR OF "TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-CYCLE," "TOM SWIFT AND
HIS WIRELESS MESSAGE," "TOM SWIFT IN THE
CITY OF GOLD," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED

NEW YORK
GROSSET & DUNLAP
PUBLISHERS

Made in the United States of America

BOOKS BY VICTOR APPLETON

THE TOM SWIFT SERIES

- TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-CYCLE**
Or Fun and Adventures on the Road
- TOM SWIFT AND HIS MOTOR-BOAT**
Or The Rivals of Lake Carlota
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GROSSET & DUNLAP
PUBLISHERS NEW YORK

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Tom Swift in Captivity

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TOM SWIFT IN CAPTIVITY

CHAPTER I

A STRANGE REQUEST

TOM SWIFT closed the book of adventures he had been reading, tossed it on the table, and got up. Then he yawned.

"What's the matter?" asked his chum, Ned Newton, who was deep in another volume.

"Oh, I thought this was going to be something exciting," replied Tom, motioning toward the book he had discarded. "But say! the make-believe adventures that fellow had, weren't anything compared to those we went through in the city of gold, or while rescuing the exiles of Siberia."

"Well," remarked Ned, "they would have to be pretty classy adventures to lay over those you and I have had lately. But where are you going?" he continued, for Tom had taken his cap and started for the door.

"I thought I'd go out and take a little run in the aeroplane. Want to come along? It's more fun than sitting in the house reading about exciting things that never have happened. Come on out and——"

"Yes, and have a tumble from the aeroplane, I suppose you were going to say," interrupted Ned with a laugh. "Not much! I'm going to stay here and finish this book."

"Say," demanded Tom indignantly. "Did you ever know me to have a tumble since I knew how to run an airship?"

"No, I can't say that I did. I was only joking."

"Then you carried the joke too far, as the policeman said to the man he found lugging off money from the bank. And to make up for it you've got to come along with me."

"Where are you going?"

"Oh, anywhere. Just to take a little run in the upper regions, and clear some of the cobwebs out of my head. I declare, I guess I've got the spring fever. I haven't done anything since we got back from Russia last fall, and I'm getting rusty."

"You haven't done *anything!*" exclaimed Ned, following his chum's example by tossing aside the book. "Do you call working on your new invention of a noiseless airship nothing?"