

**MAURICE DERING, OR,  
THE QUADRILATERAL: A  
NOVEL. IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOLUME II**

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Maurice Dering, or, The quadrilateral: a novel. In two volumes. Volume II by George Alfred Lawrence

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**GEORGE ALFRED LAWRENCE**

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THE QUADRILATERAL: A  
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MAURICE DERING;

OR,

THE QUADRILATERAL.

# MAURICE DERING;

OR,

THE QUADRILATERAL.

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BY

THE AUTHOR OF "GUY LIVINGSTONE"

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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# MAURICE DERING;

OR,

## THE QUADRILATERAL.

### CHAPTER I.

#### UP IN THE HILLS.

LET us travel, now, a thousand leagues, Eastward Ho!

A deep irregular gorge; shut in on either side by a steep spur of the great mountain range that looms all around, dark against the sky-line; almost choked up, in parts, by low trees buried in creepers, and stubborn brushwood, and tangled grasses; with masses of a yellowish-brown stone cropping out here and there. Just such a scene, in fine, as you may see repeated, day by day, as you wander through the hill-country of India.

At certain points, when the rock comes too

near the surface, to allow rank vegetation to take hold, are small clearings, like a natural glade in our English woodland. Opposite to one of these, half-masked by a huge boulder, a hunter is sitting, with one rifle across his knees, another by his side.

We recognise an old acquaintance, though his cheeks look wonderfully tanned and brown under the white linen swathed round the close felt casque, and there is a burnt reddish tinge in his chestnut beard, as if it had passed through the furnace-heat of many fierce sun-rays. But the clear, honest eyes are not a whit changed, nor has one line of the face grown harder.

It is the same Maurice Dering, all over, whom you saw, two years ago, waiting on the 'rocketers' at Marston Lisle.

He is quite alone on his post; but two of his comrades are already ensconced in their several stations within a few hundred yards; for at this point it is almost certain that their game will break. It is a noted cover for bear; and they are to shoot at nothing else to-day.

Maurice's favourite *shikari* had been disabled early in that week by an accident. The man who ought now to have been at his elbow was a comparative novice in wood-craft. Old Kurreem would never have brought out bullets three sizes too large for the second rifle that now lay unloaded and useless by the hunter's side. Dering was noted for his success in managing his followers, whether actually in his service or not. The great secret of this was, that though always firm and decided in his manner, he never by any chance lost his temper with a native, nor condescended to use threats or abuse. On the present occasion he did not rebuke the lad's mistake very sharply; but simply told him to be more careful for the future, and despatched him to the tents, which were not far distant, to change the bullets; for neither of Maurice's comrades had any to fit that particular rifle.

The young *shikari* was silent and reserved, as are most of his kind; but his large bright eyes told plainly enough how he appreciated the Sahib's forbearance. He became famous in