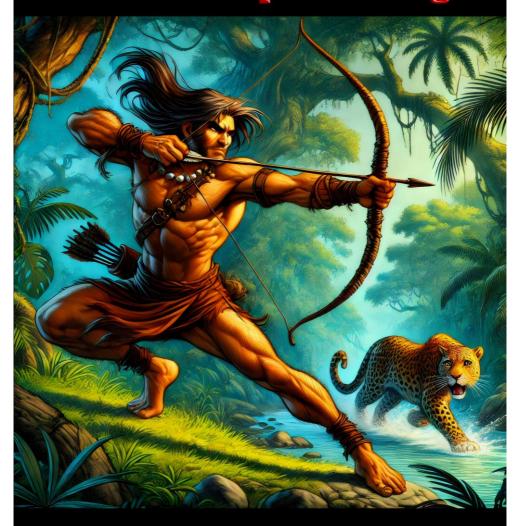
JUNGLE HAWK SERIES

5. The Leopard Gang



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THE LEOPARD GANG

by

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SUMMARY

When the Jungle Hawk is tasked with dismantling the feared Leopard Gang by Colonel Fleerackers of the Belgian Security Police, he embarks on a dangerous mission deep into the heart of the Congo jungle. The gang, known for their sinister rituals and deadly tactics, has taken a farm family hostage, abducting their daughter, Rita Leggio, to offer as a sacrifice to their Leopard God.

Determined to save her, the Jungle Hawk faces one peril after another. He narrowly escapes a deadly crocodile, battles the unforgiving elements of a tropical storm, and navigates the treacherous jungle terrain. Rita, meanwhile, must summon all her courage and wits to escape her captors, enduring the horrors of nature and the constant threat of recapture.

As the Hawk pursues the gang, he encounters allies and adversaries, including Rita's brother, who joins him in the relentless chase. But the Leopard Gang proves formidable, drawing the Hawk into their lair, where he faces an old enemy and a deadly trap that could mean his end. Will the Hawk outwit the gang and their feral god, or will their fortress mark his final chapter? The answers lie in this thrilling tale of courage, survival, and justice in the wilds of Africa.

EXTRACT

His fingers test the grass rope around his wrists. He glances quickly over his shoulder. The nearest native is about six steps behind him.

The Falcon's arm muscles bulge. With brute force, he yanks his arms loose from the ropes. He pulls himself up, dives through the air and grabs a low branch. In a single movement, he swings his body around it, straightens his arms and steps firmly. He immediately dives to a higher branch and repeats the trick again.

Under him, total consternation breaks out. The warriors call out to each other in alarm. Spears follow the Falcon, but he is an extremely difficult target, because he moves so swiftly from one point to the next. He dives to a monkey rope and swings low above the ground to the next tree. Like a monkey, he climbs higher. Thirty feet above the ground, he stops for the first time. Below him, the warriors are scrambling around like bewildered ants. Rokoeroe shouts furiously that they should pursue him, but is himself powerless to do anything.

The Falcon laughs boisterously. "Rokoeroe, you are like children. Did you really think you could keep the Jungle Falcon captive against his will?" The warriors stare at him speechlessly. They feel very humiliated, but also feel admiration for the strange white man who evaded them with so much ease.