



Legends of the Hunt

By John Seerey-Lester

Harry Wollhuter's night-long ordeal remains one of the most incredible stories in the annals of African adventure.

Precariously perched in the small tree, the hunter peered into the night, his eyes slowly adjusting to the eerie light cast by the moon. The year was 1903; the place: Sabi Sands, South Africa.

Harry Wollhuter was shaking from a combination of cold and fear. What was left of his clothes was soaked with blood, not all of it his own. His shoulder was bleeding badly, though he wasn't feeling pain. His biggest worry was that he might faint and fall from his roost.

Wollhuter looked down and stared in horror at the head of a male lion, its upturned eyes reflecting the moonlight. He knew the lion would probably climb up to get him; after all, he'd managed to climb the tree in spite of his wounds. Wollhuter was beginning to cramp up and could hardly move. Realizing that his time on this earth would soon be over, he returned the lion's stare, shivered and reflected on the horror that had brought him to this place.

Accompanied by one of his dogs,

Harry Wollhuter had been riding for hours in search of water. The light was fading and night was coming on. He could hear rustling in the grass ahead of him, but was unable to make out anything. Perhaps it was a sudden splash of moonlight that enabled him to distinguish the all-too-familiar forms of two male lions heading straight for him. Soon the cats were only a few yards away, and though Harry had a rifle, there was no time to raise it to his shoulder. He turned his horse and gave spur, knowing



the lions would come after them.

Wollhuter's horse began bucking with fear as one of the lions tried to dig its claws into its haunches. The other cat likewise overtook the horse, throwing Wollhuter out of the saddle and on top of the lion, which snatched the fallen rider by the right shoulder and started to drag him away. The other lion, meanwhile, continued to pursue the runaway horse, which in turn was being chased by his dog.

Wollhuter was on his back and the lion began dragging him away, straddling the

man's body with his powerful legs. Every now and then the hunter's spurs dug into the parched soil, acting as a brake and causing the lion to jerk the man's shoulder even harder. Wollhuter's pain was almost unbearable, but he didn't pass out.

After being dragged for what he thought was many miles, Wollhuter remembered the sheath knife attached to his belt on the right side. Hoping it had not been dislodged, he reached around his back with his left arm and managed to pull the knife free. The man's face was pressed so tightly

A Stab in the Dark depicts that first tense moment when Harry Wollhuter encountered the two lions. Little did the hunter know what was in store for him.

against the lion's mane that he was unable to see, forcing him to do everything by feel.

With great difficulty Wollhuter gradually located the cat's heart. All the time the cat was purring very loudly, obviously quite happy with his prize. Fearful that he might miss the heart, or worse, drop the knife, he

gripped it as tightly as possible and with a backward movement stabbed twice. The lion dropped his prey and let out a mighty roar.

Still lying under the beast, Wolluter plunged his knife into the lion's throat, severing its jugular and showering him with blood. Releasing its hold, the wounded lion slinked off into the night.

Wolluter staggered to his feet, and figuring the second lion would probably follow his blood spoor, he sought refuge in a tree to await the inevitable – or a miraculous rescue.

It didn't take long. Soon he was staring down on what he had feared: the second lion. Thankfully, it did not try to climb the tree; instead, it would wander off, lie down in the bush, then return to the tree. And so the hours passed.

Then, just before daybreak and with the bush coming to life, Wolluter heard the welcome sound of his boys coming toward the tree. They lit a fire to keep away the lion and attended to the hunter's horrible wounds.

For Harry Wolluter, one of the first rangers in Kruger National Park, his ordeal wasn't over. His boys arrived without water and he feared he'd die without it. Amazingly, with the help of his native helpers, he walked some six miles to a waterhole where they patched him up.

He sent some of the men back to skin the dead lion and to find his horse. Although skeptical that Wolluter had in fact killed the huge predator with a knife, they not only found the cat, but returned with its skull and even the heart to show where the knife had pierced it. The horse only had minor injuries to its haunches, but was so spooked by the ordeal that Wolluter had to retire it from service.

Within days the ranger's injuries had turned septic and he had to be carried in relays over nearly a week of arduous travel before he could get the hospital in Komatipoort. His ordeal remains one of the most incredible stories in the annals of African adventure. ♦

LEGENDS OF THE HUNT – IN TRADE & DELUXE BOOKS

This wild tale will be among some 80 true-life stories in John Seerey-Lester's

new book, *Legends of the Hunt*. In more than 100 paintings and a fascinating text, the artist relives the amazing adventures of our greatest early explorers and hunters, including Theodore Roosevelt, Jim Corbett, Frederick Selous and many more.

The book is now available in four unique editions:

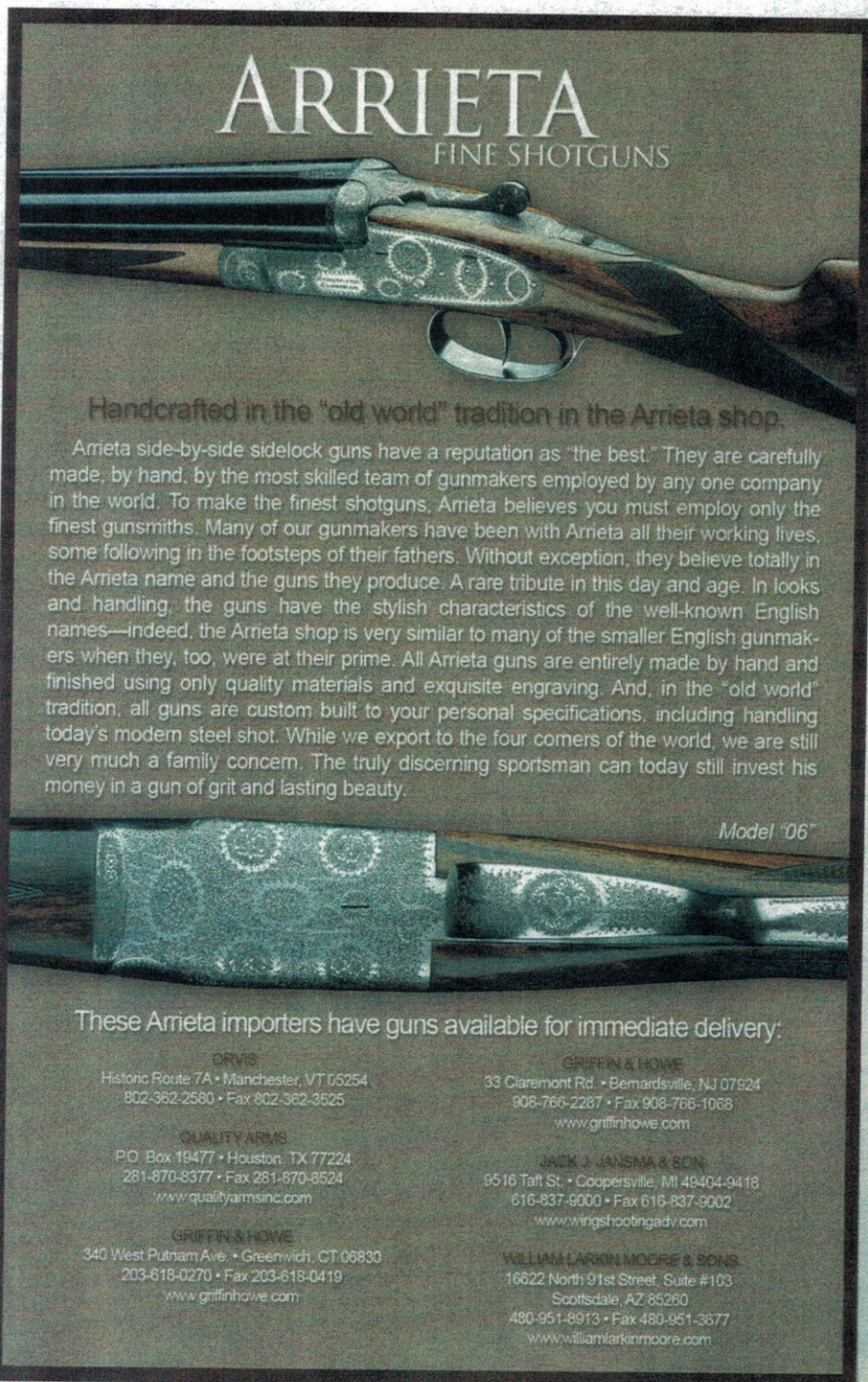
- Trade – hardbound, \$60;
- Elephant Edition – 950 leather-bound, signed and numbered copies,

each with a special print, \$150;

- Lion Edition – 520 leather-bound, signed and numbered books, each with a hand-colored giclee print, \$250;

- Black Mane Lion Edition – 30 leather-bound, signed and numbered books, each with hand-colored print and original 8x10-inch acrylic painting, \$950.

To order, call (800) 849-1004 or visit www.sportingclassics.net.



ARRIETA
FINE SHOTGUNS

Handcrafted in the "old world" tradition in the Arrieta shop.

Arrieta side-by-side sidelock guns have a reputation as "the best." They are carefully made, by hand, by the most skilled team of gunmakers employed by any one company in the world. To make the finest shotguns, Arrieta believes you must employ only the finest gunsmiths. Many of our gunmakers have been with Arrieta all their working lives, some following in the footsteps of their fathers. Without exception, they believe totally in the Arrieta name and the guns they produce. A rare tribute in this day and age. In looks and handling, the guns have the stylish characteristics of the well-known English names—indeed, the Arrieta shop is very similar to many of the smaller English gunmakers when they, too, were at their prime. All Arrieta guns are entirely made by hand and finished using only quality materials and exquisite engraving. And, in the "old world" tradition, all guns are custom built to your personal specifications, including handling today's modern steel shot. While we export to the four corners of the world, we are still very much a family concern. The truly discerning sportsman can today still invest his money in a gun of grit and lasting beauty.

Model "06"

These Arrieta importers have guns available for immediate delivery:

ORVIS Historic Route 7A • Manchester, VT 05254 802-362-2580 • Fax 802-362-3525	GRIFFIN & HOWE 33 Claremont Rd. • Bernardsville, NJ 07924 908-766-2287 • Fax 908-766-1068 www.griffinhowe.com
QUALITY ARMS P.O. Box 19477 • Houston, TX 77224 281-870-8377 • Fax 281-870-8524 www.qualityarmsinc.com	JACK J. JANSMA & SON 8516 Taft St. • Coopersville, MI 49404-9418 616-837-9000 • Fax 616-837-9002 www.wingshootingadv.com
GRIFFIN & HOWE 340 West Putnam Ave. • Greenwich, CT 06830 203-618-0270 • Fax 203-618-0419 www.griffinhowe.com	WILLIAM LARKIN MOORE & SONS 16622 North 91st Street, Suite #103 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 480-951-8913 • Fax 480-951-3877 www.williamlarkinmoore.com