

Bride of Destiny

by Jackson Gregory

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brood, heavy-set Mexican, swarthy, hard-faced, keen-eyed, was waiting. He bowed deeply as they entered.

"Senorita," he said brusquely, his eyes regarding Stanway and rest upon the girl's face in a keen regard. "It is an unpleasant duty which brings me here this morning."

"Be seated," she said quietly, going to a chair. "But first, Captain Juez, this is my friend, Stanway of the Painted Rock ranch."

The two men bowed coldly. Stanway remained standing near the girl's chair, while Juez sat down.

"We of poor Mexico," said the captain, "are fighting hard for a dear cause. We sacrifice ourselves, our hopes, our homes for the thing we love most, senorita."

"And that is our country. We do things which we do not like to do simply because it is our duty to take any opportunity which chance gives us to free the neck of our land from the foot of the tyrant."

Teresa bowed.

"And you have called this morning," she said, "to cross the border."

"At the behest of a Mexican's duty. Senorita, your grandfather is well and sends his love to you."

"Tell me," she cried impetuously, "his friend is here?"

"Many miles beyond the border," he answered succinctly. "In the hands of friends—if he accedes to our demands," significantly.

"These demands?" curiously.

"I have not as yet made of him," returned the captain. "Allow me to explain, senorita. I know Senor de la Guerra, if not personally at least very well by repute. I know that he does not love our Mexico, and that he is very stubborn."

"Our cause needs money and he has it in great, unnecessary quantities."

"Had I made a demand upon him for a note to you, stating that he was held for ransom and asking you to pay it, I know that he would have refused. So I come straight to you, without so much as a word to him, informing you that unless the money is sent immediately—"

He broke off, shrugging his shoulders.

"You realize, senor," broke in Stanway coolly, "that this is rather an unusual sort of thing at this day? That it is not without danger to you? If the senorita were not disposed to give what you ask, if on the other hand we held you, for the crime you have committed—"

"The captain shrugged.

"It would mean imprisonment for me, or perhaps death," he answered promptly. "Things which a soldier faces every day of his life and grows to think nothing about. And—pardon me, senorita—I would not wish the death of the Senor de la Guerra."

Again a little shiver trembled through the frame of the girl. Stanway, his eyes steady upon the Mexican, was silent a moment. Finally he said, turning to Teresa:

"Before you give this gentleman his answer, senorita, may I ask for a few words with you?"

"May I interrupt again?" It was Eduardo Ramon Torre, insolent and debonair, bowing in the doorway, a fresh, unlighted cigarette between his fingers. "Buenos dias, Senor el Capitán."

Captain Juez stared at him fixedly, his hard eyes as insolent as those of Torre, and made no answer.

"I think," said Torre, "that you are in mock courtesy, still lounging in the doorway, that it is with me that you wish to deal. Am I not right, prima mia? Lightly to Teresa."

The girl's eyes darkened. Juez looked from one to another curiously.

"I think," he said slowly, "that I can have business with no one except a senorita. She is the one to speak in a case like this one, since the old senor is not here to speak for himself."

"Let your keen eyes rest on this," Torre drew the will from his pocket and carelessly tossed it into Juez's lap.

"Mexican looked at it swiftly, his eye ran down the written sheet, and he started palpably when his glance rested upon the name Eduardo Ramon Torre.

"I have been misinformed," he cried, looking at his feet. "The senorita is not the heiress. It is Senor Torre who inherits!"

"Ségueme," replied Torre, putting out his shapely hand for the will. "And I, in turn, will tell the Senor Torre. Now, what do you want?"

"This is true, senorita?" Juez, whirled about, his eyes bright and hard upon Teresa's.

"You spoke from papa's grave," she answered him guardedly. "Did he not tell you of a change in his will?"

"We did not speak," Juez reminded

ed her. "As I have said, I know that it would be useless to talk with him. He knows only that he is being held; he does not know why. I know only, and he resorted to the shrewd so much a part of his method of speech, 'that rumor has it that you are his heiress, and this paper states that Torre inherits.'"

"Rumor at times is misinformed," Torre said smilingly. "You have the will and testament itself before you. If it is sufficiently plain that I and not the senorita," with an apologetic bow to Teresa, "represent my kinsman; I trust that you will state your errand concisely."

"It is this," said Juez shortly. "El Senor de la Guerra is held by my men for ransom. Twenty thousand dollars will bring him back to you promptly, without a scratch on him. I refuse to pay will be a signal for his death."

"So," remarked Torre coolly. "It is only twenty thousand dollars. You are modest, senor?"

"American money," Juez added as coolly.

"American money," nodded Torre. "That is better than Mexican pesos, at any rate. It is at least less insulting to my kinsman."

Captain Juez made no reply. Teresa and Stanway looked at each other swiftly.

Torre, smiling as though the whole matter were merely amusing, addressed himself to the girl.

"Teresa," and she flushed under the easy familiarity, "perhaps the valiant captain has not yet breakfasted. He has a long ride before him and it would be better if he should not carry away a misunderstanding of the De la Guerra hospitality. Also, while he has his coffee, you and I might discuss the situation?"

"Yes," the girl agreed slowly. "That would perhaps be best." Her hand went to the belt cord to summon Pedro. "We have just breakfasted, senor captain. If you will go with Pedro he will see that you are served. And Senor Torre, Senor Stanway and myself can avail ourselves of the time to come to a decision."

The captain bowed, and with no hesitation turned his back on them to follow the servant to the dining room. Torre came in, sat down, crossing his legs with elaborate care to the crease in his trousers, and favored Stanway with a look which mocked openly.

"An interesting situation, is it not, senorita?" he asked lightly.

"An extremely hazardous game you are playing, Torre," cried Stanway angrily.

"It? Torre lifted his brows. "It is not to who I play. It is I who watch the game."

"Watch the pawns your own one hand has set moving!" was Stanway's heated retort. "Do you think that you can get away with a thing of this kind? Why, man, it smells to heaven!"

"Recklessness aside—at least shall we postpone them? There is a crisis demanding attention. Now," lifting his hand against Stanway's words, "I have a proposition to make—to you, Teresa."

"What is it?" she asked coldly.

"Merely this: As heir to the De la Guerra estate I may be a prejudiced person. You with no personal interest, and a quick light flicked in his eyes at the girl's winning at his words, "are the one to decide. Shall the captain's request be granted? I leave it to you, senorita. Entirely to you."

Teresa bit her lip, the cold surging angrily into her cheeks. She saw the trap as plainly as did Torre, as plainly as Stanway saw it. And she did not see the answer to make.

"It is perhaps not impossible," went on Torre evenly, "that a large part of the sum mentioned is now on the premises. We all know that my kinsman has always been his own banker; he has at all times been able to produce a large amount of gold at a moment's notice."

Billy Stanway resumes command of the situation and things begin to straighten out for the time being.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Have Good Light! If you work at night be sure that you have a good light. Arc lights, because of their glaring rays, are exceedingly injurious. A shaded light is the best substitute at night for diffused light. The electric bulbs should either have a "hot" or "dark" shade. A gas light composed of mantle and bulb produces a good, diffused light and when placed high enough near the ceiling does not injure the eyes.

Tides of the Ocean. The incoming and the outgoing of the tides is caused by the gravitation of the moon. The moon, so to speak, draws or lifts the water from the depths on the same principle that a pump lifts water. And as with the pump, the water rushes in to fill the space left; so the shallow water near shore rushes out to fill the extra space caused by rising of the water, on the principle that water seeks its own level.

Long Sentences. In "Les Misérables" Victor Hugo has one sentence of a hundred lines, and earlier in the book, in one of the chapters descriptive of Waterloo, there are over 50 lines without a full stop. The longest record is held by the foreign colonist act, one section of which reaches its six hundredth word.

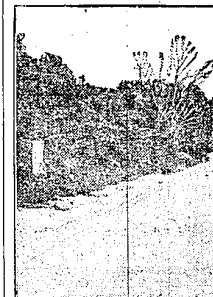
GOOD ROADS

KEEP ROADS IN GOOD REPAIR

Concrete or Special Road Brick Set in Cement Over Concrete Foundation Is Favored.

The war and the consequent railroad congestion imposed heavy traffic burdens upon our highways; burdens, in fact, much greater than the roads were built to sustain. To make matters still worse, labor and repair materials were scarce during the war, and many roads as a result are now in deplorable condition. As the preacher would say, they are "more holy than right shoes."

The year 1919 is going to witness an immense road repair movement. And the work should be at least fairly permanent. Merely throwing dirt or



Experiment Road of Vitified Brick for Paving Country Roads at Chevy Chase, Md.—Finished Pavement in Service.

roose stones in the holes is a sheer waste of time, because after a few weeks the loose material will be pushed out again and conditions are as bad as ever.

Broken stones and tar blader are the only satisfactory repair materials for macadam roads, and many improved country roads are of that type.

It is beginning to be realized that concrete or special road brick set in cement over a concrete foundation must be used for truck roads designed to carry heavy truck traffic. Anything cheaper and less simple simply means bad road and constant repairs.

For interstates or main roads in sparsely settled countries where traffic is not heavy and when the amount available for road construction is not large, tar macadam highways are quite satisfactory.

PLAN HONOR TO ROOSEVELT

Suggestions Have Been Made to Name Transcontinental Highway After Former President.

Memorials to the dead and tributes to the living in the form of highways is a plan which is catching the popular fancy everywhere. Since France christened a street in honor of Wilson, Tientsin, China, has done the same thing, and elsewhere suggestions have been made that a transcontinental highway be named in honor of Roosevelt.

Louisiana is planning a Victory oak way and sentiment is reflected by movements to rename streets and highways after heroes of the war in other states.

DURABLE ROAD SAVES MONEY

Saving of Eight Cents Per Ton Mile Can Be Effectuated in Transportation Costs Alone.

The report of the joint congressional committee which investigated highway economics in 1914 shows that a saving of eight cents per ton mile can be effected in transportation costs when a road is lifted from the dirt to the durable class. This does not take into account increased real estate valuations or social advantages resulting from the improvement.

IMPROVE ROADS FOR TRUCKS

Bureau of Markets Arrives at Conclusion Motor Vehicles Have Passed Experimental Stage.

Inadequate highways are one of the penalties with which the user of heavy transportation must contend, says Bulletin No. 770, recently issued by the bureau of markets. The department arrives at the conclusion that the motortruck has passed the experimental stage, but says that before it can attain its fullest usefulness the highways must be improved.

Good Drainage Necessary.

The most necessary requirement of a good road is a solid, bone-dry foundation. This means good drainage first, last and all the time.

Trees Along Highways.

Trees at a distance of 50 or 60 feet apart along the highway add to its comfort and pleasing appearance.

Makes Hauling Easy.

Easy to turn, and easy to ride, Make a farmer's hauling and loads fairly glide.

The DAIRY

VALUES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Leaders in Fight Against H. C. L. Judged From Economy and Nourishment Finished.

Since the high cost of living is still a problem and since New York is one of the two foremost dairy states of the union, the workers in dairying and home economics at the state college at Ithaca, N. Y., are calling renewed attention to the relative cheapness and high food values of dairy products.

To eat these products is to increase the prosperity of the state and to decrease the drain on the pocketbook, because, the folks at Ithaca say, there is a double advantage to the New York housewife, from the viewpoint of economy and of nourishment, if she makes a larger use of them in the family diet.

Not only do these foods contain the growth-promoting substances needed by children, but they are among the cheapest foods of animal origin in respect to protein and lime content. Whole milk, skim milk, cottage cheese and American or Swiss or common "store" cheese, are good, cheap foods and the workers at Cornell advocate their use.

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BETTER TO KEEP GOOD BULLS

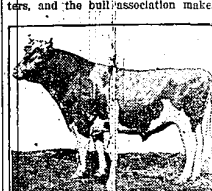
Farmer Sold Registered Holstein for \$50 That Afterward Proved to Be Worth \$5,000.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

When a certain farmer a few years ago sold his registered Holstein bull to his local butcher, no records had been made by any of the bull's daughters. Within a year 11 of the daughters freshened, and the ages of two and three years were then made of milk and butterfat production, and to the establishment of everybody the average milk production was 14,500 pounds and the average butterfat production was 83 pounds.

But before these records were available the bull was dead and his hide had become leather. Because there were no records, \$5,000 bull had been sold for \$50.

The cow-testing association tests the dams and daughters, and the bull association makes



High-Class Registered Bull.

It is practicable to keep a bull until his daughters have been tested. These two associations would have saved that bull.

Registration alone cannot guarantee production. Registered dairy bulls should be selected by good production records. Without record backing they may be very well bred, but there is nothing to prove it.

COVERING FOR CREAM CANS

Great Part of Value Is Lost If Product Is Exposed Sun While Being Hauled.

A great part of the value of keeping cream cool on the farm and at the station or creamery is lost if the cream is exposed to the direct rays of the sun while being hauled from the farm to the point of sale. Far too few people stop to realize the importance of covering their cream cans when bringing them to town.

Expensive jackets are not in any necessity to keep the cream cool. In summer weather just an ordinary piece of wet burlap thrown over cans will keep the temperature of the cream at about 50 degrees below what it would rise to if left uncovered while being transported over the average hauling distance.

DRYING UP COWS NEGLECTED

Some Animals Inclined to Keep Up Heavy Milk Flow Until Calving Time—Care Is Needed.

Some cows are inclined to keep up the heavy milk flow until calving time, and the dairyman is apt to neglect drying them up. Some cows dry themselves while others must be dried up by the milkster. Care must be taken in the drying up of the cows.

The best practice is to cut off the grain feed, giving no grain at all, and in some cases giving less of other feeds. The cow should be milked only once a day for a few days, and then the period lengthened until only once in four or five days. This should be kept up until the flow has entirely ceased.

ORCHARD CLEANINGS

TREATMENT FOR CANE FRUITS

As Soon as Fruiting Season Is Over Old Cane Should Be Pruned Out and Burned.

Cane fruits, including raspberries, blackberries and dewberries, growing under normal conditions, produce strong, vigorous shoots from the crowns early in the spring, says V. R. Gardner of the University of Missouri college of agriculture. These become the fruiting canes the following year.

When they get to be about two and one-half to three feet high they should have their terminals pinched back an inch or two to stimulate the formation of lateral or branch shoots. This makes a more compact bush that is less subject to winter injury, and that, under ordinary circumstances, is more productive. The cane fruit plantation should be gone over several times, pinching back each time the shoots that have reached a height of two and one-half or three feet since they were gone over before. The lateral should then be allowed to grow as long as they will, no heading back being afforded them until the beginning of the following season, when they may be shortened to a length of 12 to 18 inches.

If for any reason the new shoots of the cane fruits have been allowed to become four to six feet tall without pinching, they should not be headed back during the summer. Such late heading would be liable to force the production of laterals that would not mature well before winter, and that consequently would be more subject to winter injury.

As soon as the fruiting season is over the old canes that have borne fruit should be pruned out, carried off the patch or field and burned. Many growers neglect to remove these old canes until the following spring, but it is important that they be removed promptly. If left during the summer and fall months, they harbor insects and diseases that spread to the new growth, decrease the next year's crop and shorten the life of the plantation.

As a matter of fact, the best and most effective way to deal with the insect and disease problem in the cane fruit plantation is to cut out and burn the old canes immediately after each fruiting season. They have to be removed

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