

The Half Breed



RIGGER Trove came to Coeur d' Alene on a pinto cayuse, mounted behind his father, a squaw-man. The young breed still wore a bit of faded crape around his hat, and seeing this, the one woman of the camp received him kindly; his father, meanwhile, fraternizing with new friends in a nearby "glory hole."

The elder Trove soon found employment in the placer mines and set up his household in a deserted cabin, where he remained, a good citizen, to the time of his decease. This was the result of a dispute over certain placer ground with "Two Gun" Bates, a man of twin shot notoriety. After the killing, Bates hurriedly left Murray and moved to the lead mining side until the smoke should blow away, there, in time, locating the Melbourne, upon which he settled.

His victim was buried by the miners, who also extended sympathy to the young half breed, in the form of a well filled purse. Trigger refused this, with thanks, and retired to the seclusion of his cabin for several weeks, his dry eyed grief and impotent desire for revenge, lending a darker flush to his brown face—peculiar contrast to Caucasian curls and light blue eyes.

Trove was from New England, an ostracised son of good family, and during the time he lived, a parent, he had instructed his son in some of the things gentlemen know and do. As a consequence the offspring ate soup from the side of his spoon, and one day measured the height of the town flag-staff by the use of mysterious angles, thus gaining the respect of his miner friends. After his father's death he became morose and unsociable; the sly cunning of his Nez Perce mother flowed into and mingled with the sound Yankee knowledge of his father; and in the woods of the upper gulch he became a two gun artist, from the fearful need of revenge where the law had failed to reach.

At twenty, he could shoot the eye out of a magpie with either hand, and while practicing with his comrades, had several times drawn and emptied two pistols into a can before the most rapid of them could fairly take aim. Finally he came to the south side of Shoshone, located a lead claim, the Coyote, on Bates' end line, and settled himself, confirmed "sourdough". Being a man now, his