# Thrilling Tales of Love and Adventure

By Annette Angert



than any mule that sons, his wife's people. lived. other Minders: seemed like it jest twins. But they got

deured of it. pap and mother had for twenty years; and then along come another'n, a boy -and a boy so fine-lookin' and so promisin' that he made up for all the years between him and Dave and Jon. His pap and mother named him Bill.

for his Grandpap Minder; and the way they went on over that thar boy did shore tickle everybody. It was Bill this, and Bill that; the sun rose and set in Bill—as well as the moon and stars; the world turned only for Bill's And as the years begun to add their-

selves together on the boy's head, he growed still finer-lookin' and still smarter. His hair was as yaller as gold, and it curled up like the feelers of wild grapevines, and he wore them thar curls until he had to cut 'em off hisself, too! His eyes was as blue as the sky, and his akin was as soft as a girl's. And not only did the old folks dote on little Bill; Dave and Jon, great hulks of men and as brown from sunburn as Indians, worshiped him.

Well, when Dave and Jon each took to hisself a wife, of course, they left the old cabin on the Blackfern's crest. Jon went down the east slope a little ways, and built hisself a house amongst the Buckners, who be had

Dave went down the thing. heap contrarier west slope to live amongst the Simp- app'inted than mc, Dave Minder!"

When Bill was about twenty-four. fool streak didn't their pap he up and died, and soon aftrun in any of the er that their mother she follered him. So Bill found hisself alone in the cabin on top o' the Blackfern. Biti centered in Dave didn't like to be by hisself a bit; he open-faced and as bright when he had

> big and strong as his two brothers. When the old woman's funeral had been held by a preacher from acrost the state line, and fresh dirt had oncer more been banked up under the big beech that spread out over the little buryin' ground of the Minders, which was square on top o' the mountain. Bill started back to his lonesome home. He hadn't no more'n got thar afore his brother Jon, now forty-someodd years old and a-turnin' gray in his hair and beard, come up to him and put one hand on his arm.

> "Bill," says he, "you must come down and live with me from now on. You cain't stay here by yoreself." Jest at that minute into the door of

the cabin steps Dave. "No," says Dave, "Bill must come down and stay at my house."

"I be durned if he does, neither," says Jon, a-puffin' out like a peacock. "He's a-goin' to stay at my house!" "I've done laid my plans," says my side o' this here mountain Dave, appealin' to Bill hisself, "to understand that, Dave Minder?" build an extry room to my cabin, jest

for you. You shorely won't disapp'int will you, Bill?"

"Disapp'int nothin';" Jon hollers. 've done laid plans to do the same

You hain't no better to be dis

Bill seen then that things was gettin clost to the fightin' place. brothers' shoulders and gives 'em a

"Now jest listen at that!" he tells "Hain't you fellers ashamed o' and Jon, who was was one o' these fellers what likes to that thar fussin' right afore pore old a place; but we can keep the ram off have comp'ny around. And he was as mother's got good and still in the Be ashamed o' yoreselves, They was the only childurn their got to be a young man as he was Jon and Dave! You needn't to bother when he was a boy. But he wasn't as to fight about me; I'm a-goin' to stay

right here, what I am. And when he said that, they know-

ed he'd done spoke. Jon turns back to Dave. "It was yore fault, consarn you!" he says, astickin' his fist up under Dave's nose. "Hadn't 'a' been for you, I'd 'a' got

Bill to come down to my house!' "Don't you git too durned promiscuous with your gab, Jon Minder!"

you're li'ble to git a maulin' for it!" Jon stands thar for about two minutes without movin' even his eyes, aat his twin brother like he could 'a' killed him and slept good

'Don't you worry none about me a'speakin' to you any more," he says to Dave, when he could talk for his madness. "As long as I live I'll never speak to you ag'in, by gyar! And don't you never let me catch you on right to his door, most of it already

Dave he was that contrary

to Bill and says to him: Bill, you've heerd what that thar durn fool than had to say to me

live and breathe the breath o' life; and him Bill, he'd better never show his weasel of a head on my side o' the Blackputs one hand on each of his hig fern, neither, if he don't want holes shot in it. And if you eain't come down and live with me, Bill, why you can shorely come down and see us now and then. We bain't got much of when it's a-rainin', and we can feed when you're hongry. Good-by. Bill. Remember the latchstring at my

> With that he makes a face at Jon and stalks off down the mountain with some of his wife's folks.

Jon told Bill goodby, and told him the same things Dave had told him about comin' down to see him, and then told him good-by ag'in.

So that's the way the twin brothers says Dave, a-pushin' Bill, pore little got at the outs. I reckon little Bill feller, out o' the way. "If you do, got more good things to eat, though, on account of it, than anybody to the state; Dave and his wife and Jon and his wife got to pullin' and hawin' to see which could git up the best grub to send up on the mountain to Bill, and each time they'd come they'd try to git Bill to say somethin' ag'in the 'tother side, But Bill would never do that.

So the boy got to takin' life easy. All the things he wanted to eat was brung my side o' this here mountain-d'ye cooked; and if he fell short any time, he jest took his rifle and went out into the woods and shot some game. wouldn't make no answer. He turns To keep from gittin' lonesome, he traded around and got a banjo and a bound dog; and he'd set thar in the door for

with that thar hound a-layin' aside of another after the boy had gone

arm, both the same day.

So Bill decided to leave, to see if it seen a long pine box. wouldn't quiet the fussin' some. He house hangs on the outside. Goodby, He let 'em know that he'd decided to see leave on account o' their fussin' about he'd shore left for town. He left some wet spots on the back of its anything about it.

> the Blackfern after the boy had gone. The hound wouldn't stay at neither beech, whar they dug a grave. Dave one o' the twin brothers' houses, but and Jon hadn't spoke yit, though. But at the foot, with the name land moped around a-lookin' for Bill, jest both of 'em was a-takin' it to heart ards. like good dogs will do. Jon was afeard pow'ful; both of 'em was a snubbin o' goin' into the home cabin on account o' runnin' upon Dave thar, and durn what's been whupped. They hat-Dave was the same way; so they let ed theirselves for it. They didn't open the old house alone.

leaves begun to turn brown on the preacher, who happened to be a-viachestnut trees-and the chestnuts itin' in the community, come to preach theirselves was a-beginnin to git ripe, the funeral. He was a' old man and Then the leaves begun to fall, and the mighty plain in his talk. He'd been chestnuts begun to drap off. The two told how Bill come to leave his peobrothers missed little Bill more'n ever ple. And he shore brought out some then; it was the first time in years of his mind in that thar sermon thar that they'd set out to gether chestnuts on top o' the Blackfern Mountain! without him. And each of the sides stayed on their own side of the mountain; thar was no more shootin' at one door and put his head on his wife's

wagon from town come Then a And then things got serious on the a-drivin' along the windin' road and cabins that was still a fee Blackfern. Dave's wife's people and stopped on the crest o' the mountain, Jon's wife's people took matters in and the driver axed for to be showed their own hands, and got to watchin' either to Dave or Jon Minder's. Dave for one another with guns. One of got the word first, and he come a-run- git and took em out under Jon's side got shot in the shoulder, nin' up to the town wagon with a rifle and one of Dave's side got it in the in one hand and a gray squirrel in nin' up to the town wagon with a rifle the t'other. And in the wager be

Jon got the news at about the same was mighty down in the mouth about time it reached his brother Dave. He it Besides, he had a little bit of an come a-cuttin' the mustard up the idee about makin' some money in mountain-aide, with the big old icars town, which was about eight miles off. a-blindin' him until he couldn't hardly

They set the box out on the ground. him. And the first thing they know- and the town wagon drove back. The Minders had axed the driver how it couldn't take his dog along; but he happened; but the driver didn't know

They carried the box out along the It seemed mighty lonesome along top o' the mountain, and to the old buryin' ground under the spreadin' into their half-gray beards like chilthe box, for they felt like they couldn't The summer drifted on, and the bear to see pore little Bill. The

When Jon had got to his house after it was all over, he set down in the

done the same thing. At sach s ioned flowers left, what all o' the flowers they had a in' beech

sat in his house and carved on name on a slab of slate-red along in the shank of the rees of 'em took the stones to the yard to put 'em up. They me at the fresh grave. And that, the mound atween 'em, each r's thar gray-headed men but of hand; and the tother took hand;

shook it mighty hard. Then they spoke at the same to and each one of 'em said the same thing:

"What durn fools we was!" With that they set the stone w the grave, one at the head and the

And then who should step outer bushes right afore their era has real, livin' Bill Minder, drawl store-bought clothes and all show as smooth as a button! He'd son in town until he'd got money ear to start the venture he'd been sen in' on for several years.

"I'd like for you fellers to tells he says, a-smilin' in his poiway, "jest when I died. And Rim like for you fellers to tell my goes on, "jest what you doze why thar box o' fruit trees I sent mile yisterday!

## Naming The Day

By Enos Emory



the girls over" for the afternoon, and, insisted that she

merrily, and the girls in their light frocks chattered as girls always will. Soon, with much teasing of a rosyfaced Helen, the little party broke up, ed at her gravely, and she came into the house with a faraway look in her eyes that told only too well the subject of her thoughts. It was only a few minutes "ber" Robert, strode into the room, and took her hands in his. long they were deep in discussion of the little house they had selected, and of other subjects dear to the hearts of those who are going to be brides.

On the other side of the room the telephone bell tinkled, and tinkled again, and with a little pout Helen got up to answer it.

Yes, yes. Of course." Her face white and drawn, her hand at her throat, she turned to Robert. as she put back the receiver.

her candy seemed til the still form on the stretcher was mere necessities of life. one hand in Robert's the other playing nervously with her handkerchief. At last the doctor came out. He look-

> "It is very serious, Miss Brown, but I think he will live."

In after years, the days that followed seemed like an evil dream to Helen. make candy and sell it?" before the door bell rang, and Robert. The long struggle for life, the fight won, but leaving merely the shadow Before of the strong man that had once been. She did not feel very hopeful, but at her father, the final verdict of perma-least it was better than nothing. Renent invalidism.

After that he had to give up his pothe other side of the town, where they way when they saw her on the street mother could give their time to directcould rent a small house for less than were none the less eager for her can- ing it.

station to say that father has been they began to wonder how to make 50 pounds. hurt and they are bringing him home." the ends meet. The comfortable bank In service During the bustle of preparation, account that her father had accumuand breaking the news to her mother, lated through the years was leaking kitchen, and the familiar processes of such a nice old man, why not see if

better than anyone brought in. The doctor arrived almost They must do something to bring in think things over. She had been won- done. She ran to the telephone and else's, so the little at the same time, and went into the some money. But what? Helen had dering why Robert had not come over called him up. He said he would see meant success, it meant almost wealth were being measured out with a lamp under the sunny room where they had laid her been brought up in luxury; before she so often recently. He seemed preocher Monday afternoon, and told her to them, after the last few months, ning like rapidity, when Helm be chaffing dish danced father. She waited outside the door, could master shorthand or bookkeep- cupied and strange when he did. She to bring along a sample box. had still kept up her friendship, as her? Had he loved her at all? many others had not, was talking it he trying to "break off" with her? Was over with her.

the more she felt inclined to try it. solved to make the attempt, at least, she spent part of their fast vanishing Friends of her friends, hearing about sition, and the question of a Eveli- hoard for the necessary pots and pans her new venture, were sending in orhood faced them. They decided that and supplies, then she started around ders. It was almost more than she they could not keep up the home that among her friends to see if she could could do to fill them. If she could had been theirs for many years, and, get some orders. The result rather only get a standing order, that she with a heart wrench, they packed surprised her. Even those who had could be sure of, she could hire a girl their pretty things, and moved over to been a little inclined to look the other, to do the actual work, and she and her a quarter of what they had been pay- dy, and she came back from her first and finally she remembered the restau-

Even then, it was not long before afternoon's work with orders for about

In serviceable gingbam aprons she and her mother set to work in the hot ing they would be without a cent in had tried to keep the thought out of ashamed of her poverty, and the "Why don't you and your mother district she was obliged to live in?

He was coming over the next Mon-The more Helen thought this over, day evening, and she decided that she would have a serious talk with him. and find out how he really did feel.

All that week she and her mother were busy at the candy making. Helen was anything but dull,

rant she had been accustomed to eat lunch at when she was in town shopter than theirs, and the manager was make candy, for Helen scarcely had time to think, un- away in a horrifying manner, for the grating chocolate, measuring sugar she could not get a regular order from somehow. and milk, gave Helen a little time to them? No sooner thought of than

> the world. There was not time for her mind, but now it came back with whirl. Monday! She might get that that. One day one of the friends who renewed force. Was Robert tired of order from the restaurant, and Rob Was was coming over. She hoped she of Rob returned. What would she find for his derelictions. At last the great

her heart in her mouth, she went in him to want her, so much, to see the manager. He laughed and joked with her, talked about everything but business, and ate candy from her box voraciously, at the same time looking her over keenly, though she did not notice it. At last he said:

You are a pretty young girl to be doing business with. How do I know an aching heart, and the tears would day you would get the stuff here on time, come, whether or no. What was the if I did order a little?"

You just try me and you'll see."

see; you can start with-

He named an amount that made ping. She thought her candy was bet- Helen gasp, and wonder how she was going to get that much out. But she said nothing. She would manage it

After a grateful thanks, she walked be right out. The fire was me out, her head in the clouds. This the sugar and butter and the The rest of the week passed in a could almost see herself behind a mahogany desk in a real candy factory.

As she neared her home, the thought would find that there was a real cause out from him, what would be the result of the evening? Well, she could not affect the result, and would not Arrayed in her remaining best, with if she could. If he did not want herbox of candy under her arm, and but her bravado left her. She did want

Eight o'clock came, struck on the clock in the hall, rang out from the clock in the dining room, and boomed out from the big church clock in the to see you any more. I'm to be square. Then half past, then 9, but

At last she crept into her bed, with use of it all? What did her success of joy, and I am sorry to say matter, as long as she would not talk "You might let us have a few pounds it over with Rob, as long as Rob did then, to be delivered every day. Let's not care for her any more? Tired and

Tuesday morning came Shemir mother started in on their big pil orders, and after a siege at the phone. Helen succeeded is this satisfactory girl, who said she wa

no car, she knew. Then chere was a wild ringing a bell, and with shouts of joy her p big Rob came tearing around the ner of the house and into the kinds He wrapped his arms round bet gardless of her protests.

house.

Who could it be!

"Helen, darling, I've got the prise of your life for you. want to tell you until it was sen but I have been so busy I was the you would think I did not like unt ager of our Boston branch, and signed the lease for the little los All you've got to do is to same

Whereupon Helen gave a little ceeded to smear butter and ches all over the back of Rob's new mi with one great big, joyous bus

### Their Vacation

By Will Seaton



beside The open car grat-

her before coming to a stop. Indignantly, she moved after the rascibility. car; at the same time consuring the conductor.

foot upon the running board.

extending an assisting hand. With a disdainful jerk of her shoul-

she snapped. with one Sorry ma'm." apologized the cheerful-featured, slim little wearer of brass buttons. "All aboard," he added,

stepped der, she avoided the hand and flounced the into the end of the seat. There she he would be unable to leave for the wire sat, with her forehead drawn into an mountains until the 14th of the month pole, with its band irritable frown and with her lips at the carliest, and she had wanted to have me flat financially in a week." Andy perpetually. Andy tries to apof white, to the pressed grimly together, as the car have them go on the fifth. Some deal, street and raised a lurched forward and proceeded upon some business with a realty company commanding finger its way. Her eyes were searchlights, had to be settled before he could leave. flashing their rays about in quest of her husband had told her. annoyance, ever vigilant for trouble; ed along for some for though but barely 50. Lucretia was business so as not to interfere with ten feet or so past gradually banishing the attractiveness our vacation?" her thoughts reasoned.

On this afternoon her forehead was contorted into more wrinkles than ed to a man of big proportions, roused were customary; her lips were press- her from her ill-humored reverie. ed more tightly together than usual and remembrances of their conversa- the Peak House the Peak House is tion were far from agreeable to her, too expensive," the stout man on the Her thoughts boiled. Andrew was so seat ahead was saying to the man with aggravating? Why didn't be ever do an exceedingly long neck, who was things the way she wanted him to-? seated beside him.

Her husband had informed her that

"But why couldn't be arrange his of her girlhood beneath a mask of ir- petulantly. "He never cares for my A burst of laughter, naturally relat-

And I says to the missis. She had just left her husband's office. 'You'll have to go to Scaview 'stead of

Lucretia saw the latter sway forward his neck in a nod of approval. "If I catered to the missis, she'd continued the fat man. "She's the

most extravagant woman on earth "Oh, all of them are always kickin' about something or other," was the to wear a tuxedo around the house and smoke college boy cigarettes. Slippers, shirtsleeves and a pipe shoel, her

"Say, it's a funny thing about Andy," ie exclaimed. "To hear him boast about his wife, you'd think he'd married the paragon of all virtues, yet he

doesn't look so happy. The anort of lengthy-necked Sam was perfectly audible to Lucretia. "Paragon!" he ojaculated. "Tonimy-Didn't you ever notice that fired.

hunted sort of look in Andy's eyes? itself from her forehead. She recalled comment regarding his tarded Why, my daughter Nellie knows his wife: pear cheerful, but you can bet that his bed of roses is mattressed with

Lucretia's nails bit into the leather pessimistic retort of him with the of her handbag. The impudence of elongated neck. "My wife expects me the man! To speak of her as "nag-" Andrew! "Nagging" indeed!

Yet, his remarks haunted ner. And when she left the car at the railroad station, where she was to take a train for her suburban town, she made a determined effort to expc) the man's words from her shoughts. But even on the train, they continually popped into her mind. She rebelied. She wasn't a nagger! She had a right to rebuke Andrew! Everything he did was contrary to her wishes! Then one of the wrinkles smoothed

the fact that the man with the long the evening meal. Instead she and and Nellie says that she mags neck had said that Andrew never crit- an arm about him, her hand her han icised her-that he boasted about her upon his shoulder.

Well, why shouldn't Andrew speak evenings in your stuffy little well of her, the thought. Of course and tire yourself out by overse she didn't nag

Yet she began to wonder At 7 o'clock Andrew arrived home, a half hour late for supper, or rather teenth or later, if necessaff dinner. He was hot and tired, and the look of resignation hovered nearer to the surface of his eyes.

Lucretia met him in the hallway.

I worked a little late over the Mutual Realty papers, Lu." he stated apologetically. "I came to the conclusion that if I put in so much extra time each day, why, we could leave for the mountains by the ninth or by the tenth of the month, anyway,

To his surprise, Lucretia made no

leave for the mountains on the fit And throwing her other arm a him, she pressed her face against tie and shirt front, making stea noises from her concealment. "All—all right, honey!" agree 9 bewildered husband, clasping

maintain a severity of tone.

arms about her and soothing ting her shoulder. "But what-side Her arms tightened about his the matter?" "I-I'm an old nagger!" came

between sobs

## The Old Dress

placed on

clothes which the mothers were mak- diminutive bit of sewing. "Seems to ing, so, of course, they smiled, while me that hem looks kind of crooked, I healds the little the little girls were troubled by per-brown house. Each spiring fingers, needle pricks, lost me. She's so cross today, I don't dare now you know! Alice is making a lot spools of thread and a limited knowl- to go near her. puckered up and edge of dressmaking.

to wash it 'fore she can wear it," said the little one in blue, whose name was

Why, what's the matter with her,

"Oh, she's going away next week,

"Well, then, why don't you want to

go to this party of them, but they haven't any time to

make me just one. I don't get any-thing an' she gets everything, an' I haven't had a new dress for years, an' Upstairs in the little brown house sister, Alice, was trying on one of

window, in front of the dresser, admiring her new dress.

Hearing the children's voices. went to the window and looked out. Down through the branches of the old apple tree she could see the two little heads bent over their sewing. She saw the dolls and their stiff amiles. Unconsciously, she listened to the lit-

The next day Ruth and Grace were sitting, as usual, under the old apple e dresses which caused her small tree with their dolls.

By Walt Gregg.

Ruthic, let's play house. This side of to her sister's room. the tree can be your house, an' I'll smiling. "Let's take off this have the other side. Now, I must go Gracie, and try on something the home an' get my house ready for you to come an' see me. Come. Marie.' "Gracie, your mamma's calling you."

"All right mamma. You stay here, Ruthie. I'll come right out again." She hurried into the house and up the stairs, calling, "What do you want , mamma?"

"Oh, Alice, that can't be for a new dress! Why, I thought you going to have them all. lovely. It's just beautiful. She danced about the room,

were two dolls, on whose faces, in con- Ruth. COAL CO LANGE POR DAN KEATING.

muth was each face wore a Carefully the ground beside them

WO little girls sat dollies were waiting for the new the second little mother, held up her not! I don't want to! "I think Arabella will look very Gracie" nice in this white muslin, but I'll have "Oh.

Ruth. an' so does mamma, an' nobody ce-

an' she has to have a lot of clothes, years, an' years! she says, so she sews all day long

tle girls as they talked.

"Alice has something for

Alice, hugged her mother, the glass, and then ran to the Ruthie, Ruthie, come I've got a new