



The Free Traders By Victor Rousseau

top, along the trail leading into the range beyond the valley. The girl and Lee looked after them till they were out of sight. Then she rode slowly up to where Lee was sitting on his mount.

"I supposed," she murmured. "You men, with your professions of loyalty and service—you're all the same when it comes to the test."

CHAPTER IV

The Trap Is Sprung

In the morning she greeted him with a forced gaiety. She nodded and smiled when she came out of her tent. "Well, we shall ride on together to day, I suppose," she said. "I have told you that I do not desire your company, and that your enterprise is probably a dangerous one. You have taken the responsibility upon yourself. With the understanding we go as companions instead of enemies. Is that not so?"

And all that time he lay, hardly waiting, his automatic beside his hand, walking and wondering. "That's the understanding," he answered. "I intend to see you to your destination, wherever that is, and after that you need not be afraid of my troubling you any more."

sure. He dared not call to her, for fear of starting her. And, indeed, there was no reason to call, although that baseness instinct was now becoming so strong that it almost amounted to conviction.

Then suddenly there came the roar of an explosion, muffled underground; the next the rocks over his head seemed to upheave. An enormous crack appeared in the face of the wall of solid rock, which trembled and appeared to move toward him, as if pushed by a gigantic hand; and before the reverberations had died away Lee heard a faint, crepitating sound, like the rustling of paper—the sliding of the interior strata, one upon another.

CHAPTER V The Severed Strands

And the returning scene of consciousness was at first only the dim knowledge of pain, in terms of which he visualized existence. That pain seemed to have existed from all eternity, filling all space and time. It usurped all the functions of the body. He was the nucleus of it, sprawling like an inert being at the heart of creation, and out of him pain radiated through the universe.

STRAIGHT TALKS WITH AUNT EMMY ON "SUCKER LISTS"

"Ever since I bought that \$500 electric company bond, Aunt Emmy," said Helen, "I have been pestered by all sorts of bond salesmen to buy other things. I should like to invest again, but I am bewildered. Every day or so I see something that sounds so good. But I don't know what it is."

CHAPTER VI

With a little bright growing weather well drained land will become firm enough for manuring and plowing. Advantage need be taken of good weather as freezing has resulted in much spring work to be done.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR TODAY

March 14 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.—Gal. 5: 22, 23.

QUESTIONS AND BIBLE ANSWERS

Why are we admonished to be watchful?—Matt. 24:42. To what did Jesus liken the Kingdom of Heaven?—Matt. 13:33.

My Favorite Stories

Combating the Yellow Peril Every time the government takes a census this story is revived, which means it enjoys a rejuvenated popularity at intervals of exactly ten years. When I catch myself laughing at it, I know that another decade has slipped by me unawares.

QUESTIONS AND BIBLE ANSWERS

Why is it wrong to boast?—Prov. 27:1. Is it profitable to tithe?—Malachi 3:10.

Announcement

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Have A Joint Account In Our Bank By a "Joint Account" we mean an account into which either a man or his wife may put money or from which either may draw money.

Lee moved to her side. "Do you know," he said, "we have to trust people in this life, even if they deceive us. It doesn't harm us to be betrayed." But he was thinking of Estelle as he spoke, and he wondered how far that was true. Estelle's betrayal had changed the whole settling of his life for him. "Trust me," he said.

And, as he vainly grasped at her an impact shot him over the precipice as if he had been hurled from the mouth of a cannon. He felt himself hurtling into space, he grasped at emptiness and went tumbling far down into unconsciousness.

CHAPTER VII

Lee became aware that his eyes were open. And very slowly he grew aware of his own identity. He began looking about him.

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