

THE KEEN-EDGED KNIFE

By ROSE HENDERSON

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BELOW were the gray depths that lay slumbering and mysterious beyond the cliff's ragged edge.

Above was the clear, calm, interminable blue. Cuma Ventura crouched in the warm sand, leaning her head against the rough rock at her side.

The girl sat quietly, her head bowed. The heavy, dark braids were bound with bands of glittering beads.

"So it meant not anything to him—not anything," she muttered. The truth was slowly becoming real to her and it came with the weight of death itself.

At the thought of the ugly Mexican suitor her face broke into quick angry frowns. She pulled her long braids over her shoulders.

She had taught him to know the desert and the mountains. He was often reckless in his ignorance.

Then he had gone away. His letter came explaining his hasty leaving. He would come back soon.

"He shall not go back," she said softly. Her fingers stole along the sharp blade, testing its keen edge.

"He shall not go," she repeated. She sprang to her feet with a swift, easy grace.

Jud Tunkins says everybody ought to think before he speaks, and in many cases keep right on thinks.

was so simply and so wholly a woman. And her mind was ready, eager to follow his. Sometimes he had wondered if she might not learn his way of life, but that was only when he had grown delirious with the sense of her.

Upon his return to the plains he had steeled his heart against her and she had felt the change in her first keen look.

"He shall not go," she said again and gazed over the edge of the cliff where the tiny gold locket had gone.

Then suddenly she stood erect listening. There was the quick, soft step of padded feet among the cactus bushes, a rustle, and a low growl that sent a chill through the girl's warm veins.

Her fingers tightened their grip on the knife and the breath came noiselessly through her parted lips. In a flash her mind took in every detail of the situation, the yawning chasm a few feet in front of her, the ragged mountain at her back, and the crouching beast advancing stealthily over the sand.

"Pierre, Pierre," she cried, breathlessly. He, too, had been lingering at the old trysting place.

The claws were buried in the man's shoulders, the grinning mouth was reaching for his throat, but the brown arms with their rigid muscles held the creature back.

The angered beast whirled about suddenly, dropped the man's shoulders and sprang upon his new enemy. The girl crumpled under his weight, the knife fell, her hands clutched blindly at the open jaws.

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It is popularly believed that a homing pigeon is able to find its way home from any distance merely by exercising this mysterious something called instinct.

Mr. O'Donnell cites instances to prove that it is memory and knowledge of the country, rather than instinct, that takes the birds back to their homes.

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DAIRY

FACTS ABOUT COSTS OF PRODUCING MILK

That feed forms more than 50 per cent of the total cost of milk production, and that farms where cows are kept for a city milk-production service have much higher costs, are two of the items found in a recent two-year survey taken on 20 farms in Walworth county.

In 1923 the average cost of producing 100 pounds of milk was \$1.96 and the cost of producing a pound of butterfat was 56 cents.

Good home-grown crops of grain and forages help a great deal to lower the expenses in the feed bill, and wise buying of the necessary additional feed items helps to reduce the cost some more.

Men conducting milk routes found it cost \$3.42 for each 100 pounds of milk, but the return was proportionate to costs in most cases.

Cows averaging less than 200 pounds fat formed herds which were losers in this intensive dairy region. Those making 230 to 250 pounds and over were on the profit side for their owners.

Dairy cattle, in particular, but all animals in general, require plenty of good feed. Unless this is provided, attention to other matters will be of no avail.

Clean bedding helps in keeping animals healthy and comfortable. Animals plastered with manure and filth show poor care.

The cow, due to calve, should be confined nights in a clean, warm shed or box stall. During the day it is best for the cow to run with the herd.

Just prior to calving the cow should be receiving only light laxative feeds such as bran, oats, and oil meal. Alfalfa hay is always good.

Pigs at weaning time should be getting all the grain they will eat. The ration should include tankage or skim milk.

FARM STOCK

SHEEP KILL WEEDS AND MAKE PROFIT

Sheep are first-class weed killers. They eat over eighty known species of weeds, and although not as good brush eaters as goats, can clean up light brush land in a very few years.

Of great economic importance is the fact that wool is one agricultural product of which we do not produce enough for our own use.

The Bible, however, never wears out; it never loses its appeal; it claims a wider audience with every century.

The sign by which all oaks may be recognized is the acorn. All acorn-bearing trees were given a name long years ago by the Britons.

Many farmers have looked with suspicion on alfalfa hay as a feed for horses. "This, however, is no longer true," says H. R. Cox, agronomy specialist at the New Jersey State College of Agriculture.

Farmers early found horses to be so fond of alfalfa that if the manger is kept full the animals are very apt to eat too much.

A large crop of alfalfa was produced on many farms in New Jersey this year and, though primarily for cattle feed, it will form a substantial part of the horse ration on these farms.

Pigs at weaning time should be getting all the grain they will eat. The ration should include tankage or skim milk.

Fall pigs will make as satisfactory growth and development as spring pigs if farrowed early, started right and fed a properly balanced ration.

Shoes with springs on the bottoms have been invented for children who want "leap-frog" with a thrill.

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COURTESY TITLE "Reverend" was generally used throughout England in the Fifteenth century as a title of respect.

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