



CHAPTER XII

Two Bullets Left.

She and the rocks reeled together. That was my eyes, giddy with rush of blood, surging and hot. "Never, never, never!" I was shouting. "You shan't go, I shan't go. But wherever we go we'll go together. We'll stand them off. Then if they can take us, let 'em."

um and swish. The lead whined and smoked, the shafts streaked and clattered. "You must stop some of those fends from sneaking closer," she counseled. "See? They're trying us out."

"A little lower—" she pleaded. And I fired again. She crept out joyfully. The snake had hopped from its hollow, plunged at full length aside; had started to crawl, writhing. A recruit took his place into the hollow; and the courier snatched the snake from the ground. The fellow in the foreground lurrowed cleverly. I fired twice—we could not see that I had even inconvenienced him.



Through star shine eve we cantered side by side down old freighting road, eastward.

should always be, come weal or woe, life or death. I leaped before her, answered the hail of the pausing chief. "No," I shouted. "You go to hell!"

"Seven for them." We looked one upon the other, and smiled. We faced a future together, at least; we were in accord. The Sioux retired, mainly to sit dismounted in close circle, for a confab.



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ish. "They'll rush us at sundown; maybe before." "I believe," said I, blurring the words, for my tongue was getting unmanageable, "they're making ready now."

as bizarre, no doubt, as any animated caricature. It had been a trumpet note, and a cavalry guidon and a rank of bobbing figures had come galloping, galloping over an imperceptible swell.

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