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CHAPTER XII.

was appalled at the swiftness of Kennedy's deduction. He stared nervously over the gray man's head at Armitage. Armitage seemed cool enough, but as a matter of fact he was in the clutch of a mild form of hypnotism.

"Well, I'm waiting," said Kennedy. "Which of you two took Jeanne Beau-

fort away from me?"
"Kennedy," returned Lowell, "we admit you to be the shepherd of this flock; but sometimes you go a little too far. We're not under your orders, you know. And yet you storm into this room and demand—as if you had authority!—to know who snatched Jeanne Beaufort out of your claws. She came into the city, at the risk of her life, for no other purpose than to ask me the name of the man who married her. I refused; but I gave her twelve hours in which to leave the city. I consider that I acted as a gentleman, and with honor, military or civil, whichever you will."
"I too," said Armitage.

Kennedy, choking with insane rage whirled upon Armitage. "You were the man?"

"Yes. And I would do the same "Yes. And I would do the same thing over and over, as many times as you contrived to catch her. Is that frank enough?" Armitage got up, throwing off his dressing gown. "Let us have the truth while we're about it. What is the North or South to me, so long as I love Jeanne Beau-fort?"

None of them could ever recollect how it started, that terrific contest which carried all three of them here and there about the room, toppling chairs, banging into bookcases, surging into corners, two against one, the two oddly enough, fighting desperate

ly for their lives.
At length, bruised, panting and dis heveled, they drew back from this Hercules. The battle came to its end quite as abruptly as it had begun Kennedy staggered over to a chair and fell into it, covered his face with

"Kennedy?" said Armitage.

"Yes, son! I-I guess I'm quite mad. It came over me with a rush I had to do it.... Quite mad!" Kennedy dropped his hands from his face. "I might have killed you both. I'm sorry, but I couldn't help it. I'd

tter be getting along-dizzy."
"Drink this sherry," said Lowell. Kennedy drank it and rose. Then he picked up his hat and left the room without turning his head. On a certain spring morning, Mor-

gan rode madly along the pike toward the Beaufort plantation. He did not stop until he reached the commanding

"General," he said, "I have to re port that the Yankees, ten thousand strong, are within an hour's march, perhaps less. Their cavalry will be the eleven. Can't on us in half that time. Their object one? What then?" is to outflank us and cut us off from joining Lee.'

"Five or six miles away?" cried the eneral, astonished. "I received in-General, astonished. formation last night that the Yankees were still in camp, thirty miles away."

"They have marched all night, sir. I know—because I marched with them. I got away by the barest chance," said Morgan, indicating his forehead. "I He threw out his hand unexpectedwere still in camp, thirty miles away." could not cut for it any sooner. I've been inside their lines for three days. I was discovered by a man named Parson Kennedy. He seized the nearest musket and tried to skewer me I caught the bayonet in time to pre-

vent its going into my skull. I knocked him flat with the butt. Any-body got a drop of whiskey? I'm about done."

He sat down on a camp-stool, accepted a flask, and drank rather deep-ly for one who wished merely a tonic The nide who had offered the whisky had seen men drink this way when they sought for something called "devil-may-care."

Morgan returned the flask, ripped of the rude bandage for the cut on his

The General was already issuing tion and a thousand men were to re-main with the guns to hold the Union forces in check until the little army were beyond the danger of a flanking suddenly realized, as doubtless Mormovement. "Major Morgan," called the Gen-

"You shall have it, sir—that is, if they don't blow us out," Morgan sa-than Morgan's.

After her escape from Parson Kennedy,—an escape which she still credited to Lowell,—Jeanne returned to Her military career was ended, fin-ished. But she did think of Armi-defending herself, tage constantly. She was thinking of The terror in her face resolved it-

comprehending what it signified.

The general explained the situation She and her aunts must pre pare at once to leave the house "Then there will be battle here?"

asked Jenne.
"Yes. And this spot will be particularly dangerous."

Jeanne turned gravely toward her aunts. "You two go. Take the things that you want.' "But you?" cried the aunts.

"I shall remain."

Jeanne saw a fountain of water ed Morgan to die. spring up from the river where the

She saw the negroes scurrying southward like a flock of frightened geese. She was alone. She went back bounds of caution. For a few mo-into the house and brought out ban-ments Armitage was hard put to it to

dages, basins, water and sponges.

The deep sound came from the north again, once, twice, three times, A shell burst in the garden. A tattoo

rattled against the side of the house. Shrapnel, she thought.

She experienced not the least fear. ing, do we?" Shrupnel, she thought.

She experienced not the least fear. Indeed, her sensation was one of detachment; she was here and yet not here; it was only her soul, her body was elsewhere, and so nothing could head—that Morgan should die at her hurt her. hurt her.

Through the broken window she aw men in butternut running, turn-

ing to fire as they ran.

A man pushed in through the door A bloody bandage was bound around his head at a rakish angle; the grime of battle was upon him. He ran to the window and emptied his revolver at the shadows pouring into the smoke. He turned back to reload and discovered Jeanne.

"God in heaven, you here yet?" "Morgan," she murmured.

The house rocked. A rubble of Before he could rise, Morgan whirl-brick and mortar came piling into the ed and was upon him, death in his fireplace. A shell had struck the chimney.

"So you wouldn't run away? That's like you!" Morgan laughed sardonically. "We're beaten! But what of that sweetheart?" While there's life there's hope!" He laughed again.
In the face of this new danger eanne forgot all about that outside. The man was battle-mad, shorn of

which always accompanies a mortal stroke. He tried to speak; his saber rlipped from his fingers; he stag-gered backward and fell headlong in ront of the table, at Jeanne's feet. Out of the ruck of fighting beyond the house, Fate had marked a wild bullet as her own and had directed it at Morgan's breast. "What is it?" asked Jeanne, still in the dark. "A chance bullet through the win-Jeanne was still the woman these wo men had fought for. She crept ground the table and silently caught Armitage's arm in her tense hands. "He is dead?" "I am tired." And she laid her head

civilization's veneer, reckless and pri

Henry Morgan-"Yes, I understand. You've found out the truth. Yes, I was there in Richmond that night. I was one Can't you guess which

He walked ove rto her. She stepped behind the table. She was unarmed; and she was no longer without fear "Do you know why I am here, Jeanne? Have I not told you a thou-

ly and caught her by the wrist, drag-ging her from behind the table. "It is I, sweet wife, I, Henry Morgan! Home sum: I am the man!"

She struggled fiercely to release her wrist-and saw the symbol on the I man's forearm! Outside were blue-clad figures

among them one she knew. Morgan was pressing her head back to kiss her lips, when she screamed. "John, John!"

Armitage came in through the bro Armitage came in through the broken window, grim and disheveled. It took him but an instant to understand. He seized Morgan and flung him against the wall. Jeanne ran back of the table again, her eyes wide with

"You?" eried Morgan, running his ongue over his lips. Yes. Defend yourself. I'm going Federal officers and a gang which

to kill you, Morgan." The two men stared at each other with death in their glances.

gan did, that there could be no true "Major Morgan," called the General, "will you take command of a
battery? This battery guards the
river. I want an hour."

gan did, that there could be no true
satisfaction in steel; he wanted to
tear and rend and break yonder man
with his two bare hands. And this
desire became registered in his face,

Jeanne felt something vaguely pri-mordial stir in her heart. She knew. They were going to fight for her; and the victor would sling her over the plantation and remained there. his shoulder and make off with herthat is, if she could find no means of

him this very morning as she watched the hurlyburly outside without fully comprehending what it signified. self into something akin to eagerness. She dropped her hands from her cheeks and caught hold of the edge

of the table.

Armitage's blade rose and fell violently but without gaining any advan-tage. Morgan was quite his equal, if

not his master, with the sabre.

They pushed each other backward and forward. Armitage wanted his man with his back to the fireplace. Morgan was maneuvering to crowd Armitage against the table behind which Jeanne stood.

"The bricks!" cried Jeanne. "Push him back!"

She was without mercy; she want-

"Thanks, sweetheart!" said Morgan. His fury, roused to its highest pitch by the sound of Jeanne's voice and its significance, leaped beyond the

sides, the mark isn't quite identical to the true one. See!" He rolled up Morgan's sleeve.

"Girl, do you think that I'll ever let you go again, now that I've got you? What's the North or the South to you

the shattered French window. He was a grisly object, covered with wounds, and the greenish pailor on his unshaven face foretold that he stood on the Brink. "Jeanne Beaufort-

him aside,
"I am dying!" A strange gentle

Jeanne heard these words, but the who once preached of the Lamb, have were the dinner guests of Mr. and lived as the Wolf. . . Christ said: 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And I—have not always known what I did! . Poor child!" He beckoned to Jeanne, then to Armitage. "Kneel, children. God point in them passed over her. There was only one clear thought in her has given you love; I will give you benediction. Kneel!" Armitage returned no answer. With every ounce of skill and strength he possessed, he succeeded in driving

"She is mine!" cried Morgan.
"You lie! She never was and never

Morgan among the fallen bricks by Morgan lowered his point and ran

to the left. In his endeavor to follow

up the advantage, Armitage ran afoui his own trap, tripped over a brick and

smile of assurance.

Jeanne cried out and leaned for

on his heels, his face twisted with that expression of intense surprise

His saber clattered to the floor, and

he did what the stone-age man would have done; took the woman in his

rms and kissed her. And Jeanne re-

Boom, Boom, Boom! They were ending shells across the river, mak-

ng their last stand. The tumult bout the house had ceased.

"Jeanne, how could I help loving ou? How could any man? But you

nell not live in dread and doubt any nger, oath or no oath. I was not

the man who stepped out and first offered to marry you. It was Mor-gan. He knew who you were. "But—the mark on his arm!"

Educated Fingers

urned that kiss.

notes was caught.

he window behind Jeanne. At the same moment Morgan spu

will be yours."

the fireplace.

came to his knees.

Wonderingly the two knelt. Armi-tage had never seen Kennedy's face ike this; never had there been that benign note in his voice. Jeanne dropped to her knees in a blind won-

"Jeanne Beaufort, the man you mar ried is dead. No, not Morgan,"-as Jeanne mechanically turned her head toward the quiet form by the table. "It was Armstrong, the man who died in your garden. Presently God—will judge us both together." Kennedy stretched out his hands, on eupon each head. From the gray ward. And then a miracle happened. There came a shattering of glass from

nan's lips came with incredible evenness of tone the marriage ritual. When the last word was spoker there came a deep suspiration. The ands slipped limply to his knees

Both Jeanne and Armitage looked up quickly. Parson John Kennedy's stormy soul had passed out into the quiet Harbor of Eternity.

THE END.

Upright, respected, married, a hard worker, a good job and, with life holding out promise of a happy and peaceful exist-ence, Edison Forbes closed the book over which he had been laboring. Carefully arranging all records on the desk, he turned, put on hat and coat, switched off the lights, stepped through the door, locked the door, dropped the key in his pocket and faced about-into the cool spring evening-for

Fate stalked him. An automobile turned the corner at a low rate of speed; at its wheel a friend-a fellow-townsman. Greetings were exchanged; the car pulled up to the curb-and Edison Forbes

stepped to its side.
It was the last care free hour of either of the young men for many months to come. They did not know that the chance meeting was Fate's sealing of tragedy-and heartaches. Within three short hours-the grim hand of destiny had

placed them as pawns upon a chess board—and the story of "Cedar Swamp" was begun. Don't miss this interesting

serial—complete in 12 chap-ters—from the pen of Michael J. Phillips. It starts next week in the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES.

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MORGAN

Martin Bauernfiend met his wife in Arlington Wednesday. She had been consulting physicians in Portland for A. F. and W. F. Palmateer, H. O.

Ely and C. L. Rodgers were in Arlington Wednesday, viewing the flood Beulah and Geneva Pettyjohn ac

companied Mr. and Mrs. Cole Smith of Ione to Walla Walla Friday to pend the Fourth. Miss Eudora Hardesty of Heppner pent the week end with her parents. Mrs. Bert Palmateer and children

returned Sunday from the valley where they had been visiting for some Madge L. Lockwood, 22, of Zeig-er, Ill., deteced counterfeit \$20 Those who spent the Fourth at Parbills by the feel-as she worked in the local bank She tipped-off kers Mill from Morgan were the fol-lowing: Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Misner, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Morgan and family had circulated \$400,000 of spurious Eckleberry and Mr. and Mrs. H. E

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"It was made recently. God knows what dark idea he had in mind. Be-Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Pettyjohn and sons spent Sunday at the coal mines above Heppner. Delbert Cool is working for Gue

A. C. Crowell had the misfortune of losing five of his best milk cows last week from getting into rye.
David Ely of Estacada, arrived of Parson Kennedy lurched in through

Sunday to work during harvest. He now working for Alfred Troedson. Mrs. George Mahoney was the dinner guest of Mrs. Jim Hardesty Mon-

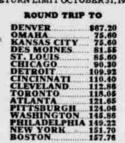
day. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Rodgers and Ralph Turner spent Monday at Lost "Kennedy!" Armitage ran toward the gray man, but Kennedy waved him aside.

Valley.

Franklin Ely spent the week end at La Grande with his wife, who is at-

tending summer school.
Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Ely and daugh "I am dying!" A strange general ness formed about his mouth and Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Ety and usugness. "Jeanne Beaufort, forgive! I, ter Margaret and Mrs. W. G. Farrens were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. The dinner guests of Mrs. The dinner guests

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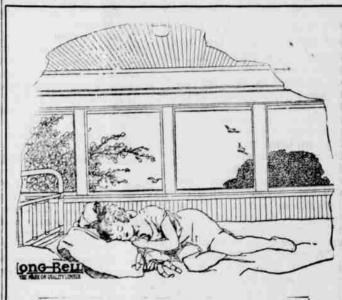
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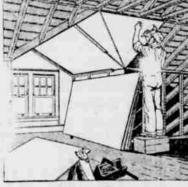
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