

BLACKSHEEP!

By Meredith Nicholson

Illustrations by Henry Jay Lee



COPYRIGHT CHARLES SCRIBNERS SONS - RELEASED THRU PUBLISHERS AUTOCASTER SERVICE

Label Perry recommends a life of crime, adventure, romance and excitement as a cure for Archibald Bennett's nerves. Archie goes to Bailey Harbor to investigate a house for his sister—and spends the night in the empty house. He is awakened by footstep during the night; the intruder fires at him and misses. Archie fires in return. He doesn't know whether he has killed or only wounded the man, but fearing the publicity, plans to make his escape. In his flight he meets "The Governor"—a master mind criminal who mistakes him for a fellow criminal. Archie, afraid to tell the truth, falls in with "The Governor." A series of events leads him to believe he has shot Putney Congdon—the owner of the house. They proceed to New York, where they are visited by Julia, the Governor's sister. Archie promises her he will stick with the Governor through the strange phase she claims he is passing through. While strolling in the park, Archie sees Mrs. Congdon who has two children, and is witness to the kidnapping of the little girl, Edith. He learns from the Governor that the father-in-law of Mrs. Congdon—a very wealthy man—is engaged in the circulation of counterfeit twenty-dollar gold pieces. They go to Rochester, where the Governor recruits Archie from Ruth, the girl he loves, in which she tells him he may be able to serve her.

At a dance at Ruth's home Archie meets Label and they are reconciled. Archie and the Governor promise to find Edith Congdon and whisk her away to Label's camp. They secure work on Eliphabet Congdon's farm, where Edith has been taken. They learn that Putney Congdon—the man Archie shot—was on the way to Archie is teaching Edith to ride the Governor kidnaps her.

When Putney Congdon leaves the farm, Archie follows him. They become friendly and Archie agrees to go with Putney to Huddleston, where they meet the Governor. The Governor tells Archie that Putney is Label's cousin, has blocked the camp and they are unable to get supplies. Label and Ruth attempt to run the blockade. They are run down by Carey's launch and the canoe overturns. Archie, Leary and the Governor, on the way to the camp, rescue them. The next day the Governor's tug runs through with a cargo of supplies.

toward him out of the shadows and paused by the bench.

"I haven't yet had the opportunity to say how happy I am that you are able to be up. I'm grateful for this glimpse of you. I'm always just glimpses. But those glimpses do funny things to my heart."

"That heart of yours! How did it ever manage to survive the strain and excitement of last night?"

"Oh, it functioned splendidly. But it was at work in a good cause. I love you, Isabel, I love you!" he said softly.

"You must never say that to me again," she said slowly and determinedly. "After my stupid, cruel thoughtlessness you must hate me. I've had time to do a good deal of thinking, and my opinion of myself isn't very high. Out of sheer concentration that night in Washington I teased you into doing things that led you into danger—and the danger is still about us. I'm sorry; with all my heart I'm sorry! If anything should happen to you it would be my fault—my very grievous sin! And maybe there are other men that I may have said similar things to—oh, you were not the first!" she laughed forlornly. "They, too, may have plunged into the same pit I dug for you. Oh, how foolish I've been!"

"I want you to promise," she was saying, "that you won't in any way interfere with my cousin here. I can't have you taking further risks."

"You would have us run just as the game grows interesting. Of course we're not going to quit the field and leave that fellow here to annoy you! He's a dangerous character and we're going to get rid of him."

She was depressed, much as Ruth had been a few hours earlier, and his efforts to win her to a happier frame of mind were unavailing.

She jumped up quickly and hurried away, her head bowed.

He watched her until she was swallowed up in the darkness.

Shortly before midnight Archie and Leary left the Arthur B. Grover and paddled cautiously toward the point fixed by the Governor for their rendezvous. They were fortified with a rifle, a shotgun, and several packets of rockets for signaling the tug. Leary, restless because he couldn't smoke, was silent. He managed his paddle so deftly that there was hardly a drip that could announce their proximity to any one lying in wait on the bay. Several minutes before Archie caught the listless wash of calm waters on a beach. Leary heard it and paused, peering at the opaque curtain of the woodland beyond the lighter shadow of the shore.

"We struck it right," he announced returning from an examination of the shore markings. They carried the canoe into the wood and lay down beside it, communicating in whispers.

An instant later the Governor threw himself on the ground beside them. He rested for a few moments—then jumped up.

"Well, boys, everything's ready!"

One by one his little army assembled, rising from the ground like specters. Leary was already deploying the men. The Governor laid his hand on Archie's shoulder. In the contact something passed between them, such a communication as does not often pass from the heart of one man to another.

"If it comes to the worst for me, you and Isabel will look out for Ruth. I needn't ask you that. Use the tug quickly to clear things up here; there must be nothing left to tell the tale. See old man Congdon keeps his promise. That way of his is in my blue serge coat in the closet of my room. If I die bury me on the spot; no foolishness about that. I died to the world seven years tonight, so a second departure will call for no flowers!"

When they reached the little stream that defined the boundary of Heart O' Dreams territory the Governor, Archie and Leary got in readiness for their dash across the bridge and over the barricade. The purl of the water eager for an entrance into the bay struck upon Archie's ear with a spiteful insistence. There was not a sound from the further side of the stream. They crawled across the bridge and Archie ran his hand over the frame of logs against which stones had been heaped in a rough wall, as the Governor explained to him. Archie had determined to lead the assault, but while he was seeking a footing in the crevices the Governor swung himself to the top. His foot struck a stone perched on the edge and it rolled down into the camp with a great clatter.

As though it had touched a trigger a shot-gun boomed upon the night, indicating that Carey had not been caught napping. Orders given in a shrill voice and answering shouts proclaimed the marshaling of his forces. Archie and Leary reached the Governor as he was crawling over the stones. Some one threw a shovelful of coals upon a heap of wood that evidently had been soaked in inflammable oil, for the flames rose with a roar.

It may have been that Carey had grown wary of murder as a means of gaining his end after the escapade of the previous night, for the first move of his men was to attempt to drive out the invaders with rifles swung as clubs. Carey screamed at them hysterically, urging them to greater efforts.

The great bonfire kept the belligerents constantly in sight of each other, sulking, dodging, engaging in individual encounters poorly calculated to bring victory to either side. One of Carey's men lay near the barricade, insensible from a crack over the head from a rifle butt. His plight was causing uneasiness among his comrades, who began drawing back

breath came in gasps, at long, painful intervals. To summon aid thru the usual channels would be to invite a scrutiny of their operations that could only lead to complications with the law and a resulting publicity that was to be avoided at any hazard. It was hardly fair to call upon the young woman physician at Heart O' Dreams, and yet this was the only safe move. While Perky and Leary were fashioning a litter for the Governor, he dispatched two messengers to Heart O' Dreams, one through the woods and the other in a canoe. They would make the crossing in Carey's launch, while the tug, now showing its lights close inshore could be sent for the doctor. Two men had already started for the beach with Carey bound and gagged and he was to be kept on the tug until some way could be found of disposing of him.

"I'll stay behind; I gotta clean up here; You don't need to know nothing about it," said Leary gruffly.

One of Carey's men had been shot and instantly killed. Another still lay unconscious near the barricade from his battering on the head early in the fight. Leary grimly declared that the others would not be likely to talk of their night's adventure.

It had been a foolhardy undertaking with potentialities and danger that added fear to the grief in Archie's heart at the Governor's fall. At best the thing was horrible, and but for the coolness with which Leary and Perky were meeting the situation Archie would have been for abandoning any attempt at secrecy.

"It was th' ole Governor's way o' doing it," said Leary, as though reading in Archie's thoughts. "Ole Governor never made no mistakes. We ain't a goin' to make no mistakes now, doin' what he tole us not to do. I'll go back and bury that poor devil and cover up the place. All you gotta do is to forget about it and take care of ole Governor."

Archie was very humble as he reflected that he hadn't done justice to the intelligence and charm, to say nothing of the professional skill of Dr. Katherine Reynolds in his hurried glimpse of her at Heart O'

Dreams. His fear that a woman doctor, who was really only a girl of the age of Ruth and Isabel, would not be equal to the emergency were dismissed an hour after she reached Huddleston. She brought the camp nurse with her and was fortified with bags of instruments and hospital supplies.

She went about her examination without a question; made it as though she were daily in the habit of dealing with wounded men; specifically called for boiling water, laid out sponges and bottles and oddly shaped trinkets of steel, and the Governor's room in the rickshack hotel was quickly transformed into a surgery. Perky had gone aboard the tug, which was to remain in the bay until the outcome of the Governor's injury could be learned. Putney Congdon kept Archie company in the hall outside the sick room.

The morning was breaking when the door was opened.

There's about one chance in a thousand," said Dr. Reynolds, looking very tired, but smiling bravely; "but we've taken the chance. There are reasons, I assume, why this matter should be kept quiet, and of course you know the danger,—to you and all of us!"

"It's splendid of you to accept the responsibility; be sure I appreciate it!"

"But I have no right to take it. I've done all I know how to do, but there should be another head and a surer hand. Dr. Mosgrove of Chicago as a summer home twenty miles from Heart O' Dreams. He's an old friend of my family and one of the most skillful surgeons in America. I've written him a note and I'm sure he will come instantly."

The note was sent to the tug for delivery and at eight o'clock the surgeon was at Huddleston. He went into the sick room immediately and it was an anxious group who silently awaited his verdict.

Continued next week.

TURKEYS—Giant broods, for sale. Toms \$10, hens \$6. Mrs. F. Burroughs, lone, Ore. 33-40

F. W. Turner & Co.

LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS

ALFALFA AND GRAIN FARMS

Good Listings in Both Morrow and Grant Counties.

CITY PROPERTY for RENT or SALE

QUALITY — PLUS — SERVICE



DON'T FORGET

—says wise old Santa, that gifts are fine, but after all, the way to a man's heart is the stomach—and the feast is a very important part of the holiday celebration. We have a store full of goodies awaiting your order. Phone or come in—either way you'll receive the best of service.

A FINE ASSORTMENT OF CHRISTMAS CANDIES

Chocolates in Gift Boxes. Fancy French and Hard Mixed in Bulk. See us for that Christmas Tree order.

Phelps Grocery Company

PHONE 53

Your Gift Photo

Those who desire photos before Christmas please call at the earliest possible moment. Ask about our Portrait Gift Certificates. See our gifts in the Art Department.

Bogg's Photo-Art

McMurdo Bldg. Studio Main Street
Heppner, Oregon

The New FORD

CAR WILL BE HERE Tuesday, Nov. 20

- Beautiful new low body lines
- Choice of four colors
- 55 to 65 miles an hour
- Remarkable acceleration
- 40-horsepower engine
- Four-wheel brakes
- Standard, selective gear shift
- Hydraulic shock absorbers
- 20 to 30 miles per gallon of gasoline
- Theft-proof coincidental lock
- Typical FORD economy and reliability

COME IN AND SEE IT between 3:30 and 9 p. m.

Chas. H. Latourell



UNION PACIFIC STAGES, INC. operating 4000

Motor Coach Service

between PORTLAND-PENDLETON

New Schedule Effective Sept. 5th

WESTBOUND
Lv. Arlington 11:10 a. m. 12:55 p. m.

Arrival Time These Points:
THE DALLES 2:05 p. m. 2:55 p. m.
HOOD RIVER 3:25 p. m. 4:00 p. m.
MULTNOMAH FALLS 4:05 p. m. 5:30 p. m.
PORTLAND 5:45 p. m. 7:15 p. m.

EASTBOUND
Lv. Arlington 1:30 p. m. 3:50 p. m.

Arrival Time These Points:
UMATILLA 2:55 p. m. 10:15 p. m.
PENDLETON 4:30 p. m. 11:50 p. m.

Connection at Pendleton with Pendleton-Walla Walla Stages

MOTOR COACHES LEAVE:
Arlington Hotel

See Railroad Agent at various points en route for tickets and information

UNION PACIFIC STAGES, INC.