MOON of DELIGHT
by Margaret Bell Houston

SYNOPSIS: Juanita's discovery that her chaperone, the marquesa, is responsible for the robbery of a number of her friends, causes them both to leave Kirk Stanard's home without a word to him or Nelly Belaise, his grandmother. Protesting at being thus used, Juanita returns to the gambling resort run by Divitt, who reveals his discovery that she, Juanita, is Beatris Montega, wanted for a Vera Cruz crime. Juanita prostrated by the knowledge that Divitt knows her past, heeds the death-bed request of his wife, Molly, to resume her work as the resort's veiled cigarette girl. Meanwhile, Gabreau, Divitt's servant, tells her that Kirk, knowing and loving her as Senorita Flores, has been told by Divitt's Hotel Tijon that she and the marquesa have departed.

Chapter 34

THE MARQUESA'S PLANS

SPIKE, reflected the marquesa, was a widower now. What was to prevent their combining as they had once combined?

Not here in New Orleans; that was out of the question. But Philly again——Jersey . . . .

The thought had kept her a willing prisoner in her room. For that she stayed inside, did not venture downstairs where Divitt feared she might be recognized.

Divitt, she told herself, was straightening already after the blow of Molly's death. Today he had even seemed to see her as they passed each other on the balcony.

"How are you, Mister Divitt?" she had asked, and he had answered, "Oh, well' enough." She would go in to see him.

Rain—rain—droning on the balcony, dripping from the eaves. Who would have supposed the heavens could hold all this rain?

They did not play so late in the parlors now. Spike would perhaps come up earlier to the office where he counted his gains every night and put them in the safe. Not many gains these nights and he was not long counting them.

She would listen for him to come, give him time. . . .

The marquesa dressed her opulent curves in the red satin gown, combed her black hair carefully, thrust in a jeweled comb, fastened the crescent-shaped earrings. . . .

She waited by the window till Divitt came up the stair. The office door closed. She waited ten minutes more while the rain droned. Then she laid the beaded red cape about her and went along the balcony to Divitt's door. She knocked.

Divitt asked first who was there.

"It is me—Carlota."

He opened then, and she stepped in, smiling.

"Where've you been?" he demanded.

"Nowhere," softly. "I'm just going." He closed the door and she added, "If you will let me. I am so lonely."

The evening's gains, a neatly counted pile of bills, lay on the desk. Divitt thrust them into a drawer, banged the drawer shut.

"Let you? he said. "You've probably been going out every night."

"I have not," protested the marquesa. "But a man—a man I met at the Cranshaws wrote me that if I come back in time I mus' come up to his rooms for a li'l supper tonight. He send the 'letter' to the Tijon."

The allusion to the Cranshaws was unfortunate. Divitt had reason to be nervous regarding Umberto and the Cranshaw diamonds tonight. It was past the hour when Umberto should have telephoned him. "Uptown 0667?" "No. Wrong number." Then he would have known everything was all right.

The marquesa went on softly.

"I am so lonely I say to myself, 'I can go to the supper and tell him I am leavin' again tomorrow.'"

"That," said Divitt, "is an idea entirely worthy of you. Who is this man?"

The marquesa liked the question and the way Divitt asked it.

"Mr. Eric Ledbetter," she answered with dropped eyes, having chosen carefully.

Divitt nodded. "Ledbetter is not in New Orleans," he remarked. "He sailed for Paris and the Orient something like a week ago."

"He mus' have gone sudden," said the marquesa.

"Just as well you found out, isn't it?" observed Divitt.

"I do not want to go," she answered, laying by her cape. "I am jus' so lonely. I would much rather talk to you. . . . It is too bad the parlors have go down—"

"Who says the parlors have gone down?" demanded Divitt.

"But have they not? . . . So many people do not come any more."

"It's the new chief of police. They're afraid."

Divitt had risen, walked to the window. This Cranshaw job. . . . Things had been too easy for Umberto. . . .

Ever since Juanita and the marquesa had come back he had had a lurking premonition of evil.

Molly's death had overshadowed it for a while; later it had returned. In the marquesa's presence he seemed to feel it more. She was like a red omen of disaster.

"I am so sorry for you, Spike." The marquesa's husky murmur. "We had a nize place in Philly, no?"

He did not answer, standing by the window. The marquesa rose, stole to him softly. Her arm was about him before he knew that she was there.

"Spike—*caro mio*, let us be as we were before."

Divitt turned with such violence that she fell against the desk, staring at him with startled eyes.

The telephone rang behind her.

Divitt picked it up. "Get out," he said, motioning with his head to the door.

The marquesa's eyes began to smolder.

"Pay me what you owe me," she said.

A strange voice was coming from the telephone in Divitt's hand. Divitt pressed the mouthpiece against his chest, spoke again to the marquesa.

"Get the hell out of here.

Toward evening of the next day the sun came out, went down clear and red. That night there were stars.

Juanita dressed almost automatically, so binding was Molly's last request, so close seemed the prospect of release. Gabreau stopped at her window as she pinned her veil.

"Umberto get caught last night," he said and grinned.

Juanita paused. "Where?"

"A house call de Cranshaws. It is de papers. De marquesa show it to me. I think she glad."

Juanita sat down on the window sill. Release seemed very close. Umberto caught.

"You might have been there, too, Gabreau."

Gabreau shook his head. "If I be dere he would not be caught. Divitt need me in de parlor."

"What will they do with him?"

"I don't know. Mebbe it will get us all in trouble. De papers say Umberto will tell nothin', but mebbe dey will trace him here. Dat what de marquesa say. She is pack' her tronk."

"De paper say it think Umberto have to do all de robberies, but he will not tell what he do wit de loot. He will not tell nothin'. . . . Look! What I tell you?"

Juanita looking, saw the marquesa's trunk being carried down the stair. She arranged her veil, fastened the pearl ring on the cord that dropped inside her breast, followed Gabreau down the stair.

The marquesa opened her door softly and looked out. Yet she knew that Divitt was not there. He had been gone all day. Now he was in the parlors.

The marquesa had been gone also, had finally secured reservations on a steamer bound for Spain. Her passport she had had for months. This was the moment she had awaited when every one should be in the parlors.

In the dark of the balcony the marquesa crept to Divitt's window, broke a pane. Quickly she unfastened the catch, crawled in. Divitt the night before had thrust the counted bills into a drawer, rather than work the combination of the safe in her presence.

Immediately after the telephone call she had heard him leave the office. In the disturbed hours that had followed there was a chance that he had not thought of the money again.

The marquesa laughed softly as she opened the drawer. She pushed the bills into her bag, opening the other door, going out by way of te Tijon.

Boarding a taxi, she saw the Stanard limousine passing toward Rondeau street. Kirk was inside, and Nelly.

"Back at her old tricks," laughed the marquesa.

At the dock she took time to scribble a note:

"The DuBois crown jewels, the Fouché pearls and other things you seek are in the room over the kitchen at 8 Michel street."

She wrote on the envelope the name of the new chief of police, put on a special delivery stamp and dropped it in a box.

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A broken bank . . . a woman's faint . . . police—then from Divitt's place Monday a scream!

APPLEGATE GRANGERS WILL PLANT BULBOSA ON BURNT OVER LAND

Agriculture committee of the Applegate Grange set Friday, September 25 for the new members of the grange to meet on Humbug creek to distribute the seed of the winter bluegrass (poa bulbosa) developed by Messrs. Hanley and Hoover and contributed by them for planting on the burnt-over ground adjoining ranches on Humbug. Lunch will be served by the H. E. C. committee at noon.

The last open meeting of the season will be held September 25 in Applegate hall in the evening. A covered dish supper will be served by the committee appointed at 7:00 p. m., in honor of the Grange's first birthday anniversary. Immediately following the supper, the lecturer will present a program suitable for the occasion. Remainder of the evening is to be spent in playing games, cards and dancing.

Grangers, their friends and the community are invited to bring their covered dish basket and join in the celebration in regular Grange style.

Crops Chief Farm Income.

RALEIGH, N. C. — (AP) — Crops grown on North Carolina farms supply 89.5 per cent of the farm income while livestock supplies only 10.5 per cent and tobacco constitutes two-thirds or 67 per cent of the total average income.

AUXVASSE, Mo.—(AP)—The Auxvasse quarry, besides yielding crushed rock for highways and limestone for farms, is now producing mushrooms, grown in a cavern 100 feet underground.

COUNTY BRIEFS

FERN VALLEY

FERN VALLEY, Ore., Sept. 23.—(Special)—A weiner roast will be given at Kantors on the evening of September 26. Plans are made to reorganize the Fern Valley Literary society and start holding programs and social evenings as last winter. All are urged to attend the weiner roast. Each family is asked to bring enough weiners for themselves.

As the hunting season opens most of the men rush to their favorite hunting grounds. Lack of venison this week will not mean lack of hunters.

Ellis Davis, Jim Black, Floyd Maharry, Joe and John Kantor left Saturday afternoon for Jenny Creek on the Green Springs to hunt.

Harry Steele and Bill Kantor went hunting near Climax Sunday.

Ed Marshall and Floyd Long were hunting at Hiatt Prairie.

A horseback ride was enjoyed Sunday by Ola May Spruill, Donna Monia and Joe Silva.

September 80 a baseball game was enjoyed at Kantors. Those taking part were Edna Jones, Harold Slooper, Virgil Burnette, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Helen, Lillian, John and Bill Kantor, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kantor and Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Steele, Harry Steele and Marguerita Cunningham spent Sunday at Gold Ray Dam.

Mrs. Verna Duanne, Miss Margaret Hughes and Donald Wheeler spent Monday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Marshall.

Two birthdays were celebrated this week, Mildred Marshall the 14th and Joe Kantor the 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kantor and children and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rogers and children visited relatives in Derby Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers left Thursday for Eugene after spending several days with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kantor, Jr. Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Kantor are sisters.

Mrs. Kirk started picking apples September 14.

Tom Williams has purchased a coupe.

First picking of the Delicious apples on Dr. Swedenburg's orchard is completed.

Mr. Kantor's grapes are ripe.

Mrs. Ray Ward shopped in Medford Saturday.

Those attending the fair from here were Mr. Knipper, Nellie and Wilma Knipper, Mr. and Mrs. Alford and Echo, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Spruill and family, Mary Hensler, Mr. Stewart, Lillian Kantor, Harry Steele, Nicholas De Witt, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Ferns and family, Marion, Marjory and Howard Ferns.

Mr. and Mrs. Hensler were business callers in Medford Saturday.

Ferne Reed returned to her home in Ashland September 19, after staying several weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Marshall.

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Stewart and family have moved to Grants Pass. They have leased an eight-acre place within the city limits there. They have taken their Jersey herd and will go in the dairy business. Mr. Stewart was unable to go until the rush of the fruit season was over, as he was taking care of Will Ferns' cows while Mr. Ferns was employed at the storage plant. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart hope to rent their house here.

L. C. Hill and Floyd Maharry spent Saturday with Joe Kantor.

Helen and Pearl Kantor were in Talent Saturday.

E. P. Hughes, from Sams Valley, spent Sunday afternoon with his brother, L. H. Hughes.

Dallas Reeder was in Grants Pass Wednesday.

Walter Thomas, Roy Williams and the Steppa boys have been spending their leisure time on fishing trips this past week. They report very little luck.

Alice and Mary Hensler and Marguerita Cunningham spent Sunday afternoon with Helen and Lillian Kantor.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph DeWitt with Mrs. Hughes as their guest, attended the evening services at the Presbyterian church in Medford Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kantor, Jr., and family and Dallas Reeder spent Thursday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Marshall and Fern Reed.

Margaret Hughes spent the weekend with her parents.

REESE CREEK

REESE CREEK, Ore., Sept. 23.—(Spl)—Thos. Rhein is building a new five-room house, among the big oaks.

W. E. Hammel returned home Saturday after a ten day trip to San Diego, Calif.

Caryle Natwick is having his house painted this week.

Tommy Nichols left for Phoenix, Ariz., last week.

Mt. Steig is adding a couple of rooms to his house.

Williard Ball has been confined to his bed for over a week on account of tonsilitis, but is now able to be up and around.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Farrin of Buena Park, Orange county, Calif., are visiting this week with Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Robertson. They all spent Sunday at Crater Lake.

Mrs. Robert Humphries had her thumb lanced one day last week on account of a felon.

More Chickens in Iowa.

DES MOINES, Ia.—(AP)—Chicken raising has become big business in Iowa. More than 48,000,000 were raised in 1929, and more than 188,000,000 eggs were produced.

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VALLEY VIEW

VALLEY VIEW, Ore., Sept. 23.—(Spl.)—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lowd of Ashland called at the Wm. Glenn home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed French and family of Medford spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Nickols, parents of Mrs. French.

Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Fenland visited at the John Mace ranch on Rogue river Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Koyl arrived last week for a visit with Mrs. D. H. Jackson, Mrs. Koyl's mother. Mr. and Mrs. Koyl have just returned from a very enjoyable trip through the eastern states and into Canada. They visited all the national parks en route.

Valley View Community club will hold the first meeting of the year September 24 at 2 o'clock.

Members of Ashland-Valley View calf club exhibited their calves at the fairgrounds on Friday and Saturday.

C. W. Glasgow accompanied Jack Terrett to Eureka, Cal., Sunday.

J. Morse was a business visitor in Sams Valley Saturday.

J. D. Tmyer of Medford was calling in Valley View Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Hurley and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed were guests at the Chas. Holdridge home at Talent, Sunday, at a wedding dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Holdridge, who were married at the Methodist church in Medford Friday. Mrs. W. Holdridge was Miss Ethel Allison of Portland.

Mr and Mrs. D. M. Lowe returned Monday from a short vacation trip to California.

Mrs. M. S. Nickols and Mrs. G. W. Nickols left Tuesday for a few days' visit at Elkton, where Mrs. G. W. Nickols will visit her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Cheever, and Mrs. M. S. Nickols her brother, Claude McDonald.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bibby of Klamath falls spent a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Garle on their return Wednesday. Mrs. Garle accompanied them and will visit them for a few days. She will also visit her son Delbert Howell, who is employed near Klamath Falls and her brother, Mr. Taylor, at Malin.

Lawrence Cushbach and mother of Watsonville, Cal., were over-night guests Monday of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Davenhill.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reed accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holdridge on a fishing and picnic trip to Gold Ray dam Monday.

Mrs. J. R. McCracken, Mrs. Jas. Lennox and Mrs. W. A. Stratton tended the Who Do class meeting at the home of Mrs. H. J Carter in Ashland Friday.

Sam Childers and Clarence Childers visited the Trail fish hatchery Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Krueggel and children called at the Stratton home Friday.

SAMS VALLEY

SAMS VALLEY, Ore., Sept. 23.—(Special)—An achievement program was held at the school September 11, during which the 4H club members gave a review of the work they had prepared for the county school and club exhibition. Mabel Mack, home demonstrator, was present and spoke to the workers on their improvement over last year. R. G. Fowler, county agent and organizer, spoke to the livestock club on work accomplished by other members. Mrs. McKinney, club leader of Bellview district, complimented the members on their work. Mr. Sacre, principal of Evans Valley school and county health leader, gave illustrations of the benefits of gymnasium in school. Other outside visitors were Mrs. R. G. Fowler of Medford and E. E. Dunick of Evans Valley.

Jim Edmiston has opened his packing house and is packing apples for the Coffee, Lyman and Leaverette orchards, besides his own.

Fruit packing at the Van Hoevenburg orchard was completed last week, which released a large crew of workers.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Straus returned last week from a coast trip with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gray of Rock Point, where they procured 20 gallons of huckleberries.

Sams Valley Grange drill team motored to Lake Creek Grange September 11 to put on the first and second degrees to a team of that Grange and enjoyed a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Wilson and son, Jack of Williams, were in the district Tuesday visiting and procuring pears for canning.

An enjoyable river party for 50 guests was given by Mrs. George Lyman near her home September 13.

Friends from Gold Hill and nearby districts attended.

From reports the first residents to bring in deer this season were Earl Case and the Arnold boys, who brought in a 8-point and a forked horn on the first day.

Luther East, John and Walter Cota left Tuesday for Wenatchee valley, Washington, to work in the apple harvest.

TALENT

TALENT, Ore., Sept. 23.—(AP)—Rebekah club will meet September 25 with Mrs. R. E. Newhouse.

Mrs. W. H. Higgins entertained at a farewell party honoring her mother, Mrs. Grant of Bozeman, Mont. Guests were Mrs. Twogood, Mrs. E. E. Foss, Mrs. Ed Robinson, Mrs. Fred Rapp, Mrs. Jay Terrill, Mrs. R. E. Newhouse and her house guest, Mrs. Newhouse, Sr., of Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. John Beeson have returned to Los Angeles after a two weeks' vacation with relatives and friends on Wagner creek, Mr. Beeson's boyhood home.

Mrs. Rosalee Baughman is in Medford keeping house for her son Rees. Mrs. Rees Baughman is just home from the hospital following a major operation.

Donald Tryer and Gene Connor left by motor the first of the week to attend the Oakland Polytechnical school of engineering this year.

Mrs. Roy Miller has returned from Tacoma, where she spent the past two months with her parents. She was in the north for her health.

Mr. and Mrs. Everette Bell of Bly, Ore., brought Jeff Bell home Tuesday. He has been visiting them for sometime.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Borg spent several days vacationing at Crescent City last week.

Miss Kate Estes of Oakland, Cal., spent two days last week with her father, Roy Estes.

The young son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Borg had his tonsils removed by Dr. Wood at the Community hospital in Ashland Thursday.

Miland Bernette has gone to Portland to enroll in the Portland barber college.

Chas. Ma Harry is at Nile Lake, Cal., building a house for L. I. Crawford.

Mrs. W. H. Higgins took her mother, Mrs. Grant, to Portland Thursday, where she took the train for her home in Bozeman, Mont. Gordon Higgins went with them as far as Corvalis to enroll for another year's work.

Mr. and Mrs. James McDowell and family moved to Prospect Tuesday, where Mr. McDowell has work for the winter.

Chas. Estes, Dud Estes and Marshall Edmundson left Sunday for Dog lake, near Bly, for a week's hunting and fishing.

Byron DeFord is marshal this week.

Charley Skeeters, Dave Bradley, Bill Hervey and Mr. Kendrick packed in to Red mountain Sunday to hunt.

Mrs. Ray Coleman of Jacksonville visited her mother, Mrs. Ida French, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holdridge gave a family dinner Sunday, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Holdridge, who were recently married in Medford.

Mrs. Everette Skeeters entertained the children of the neighborhood Thursday, honoring her son Perry's second birthday.

Mrs. Olive Hervey and children are staying with Mrs. Charley Skeeters while their husbands are hunting.

Invitations are out for a party at the Tiny Tavern, honoring Miss Fay Estes, Miss Ollie Hill and Miss Ila Hill on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Maxidon is seriously ill at is home here this week.

Maxie Welch, star quarterback at Clemson, out for the football season, expects to re-enter school the second semester.

SAMS VALLEY TAKES MANY PRIZES AT FAIR

SAMS VALLEY, Ore., Sept. 23.—(Spl.)—Sams Valley won many honors at the county exhibition last week-end. The school was among the county schools receiving first prize on exhibits. Club members who came home with ribbons were Dorothy and Stanley Straus and Burel Buerson, first on pigs; Monroe Davis, first, handicraft; Mary Esther and Etna Davis, Mary and Rebecca Hemsley, sewing and canning; Roger Tresham, first on ducks, Melvin Smith, first on rabbits; Monroe Davis, second on pigs, and Dorothy Straus, fourth on cake.

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