

THE SACRED DAGGER

by Rita Mohler Nantm

Chapter 33 Fight For Life

TO SEE your own mother weeping, if she is a hardy woman, is one of the most terrifying experiences on earth. It ties the heart into knots of unendurable pain.

"Mother," Anne pleaded, "we'll be all right. We'll work things out. I know a way."

The natives had risen in a body. Soldiers sprang forward, fearing to touch her, yet waiting for a word from the high priest. Anne rose and looked at the pair steadily. "I stay beside my parents."

The man rose and ordered the native spectators to quiet themselves, the soldiers to step back. Then through the interpreters, he spoke to Anne sternly. "What are we to believe? The dagger killed the man you told our people was to be your mate."

"I told them he was the man I had come to marry," she answered quietly. "He was the man my parents expected me to marry."

"As he your husband?"

"No."

"You dare come to us alone, yet demanding the gift of our treasure. You shame and condemn your parents and bring death upon your own head. There was a murmur among the natives. The translator added, "He says you may speak now."

"You see that I carry the dagger," she said, holding the weapon up before them. "It recognizes my mastery. It has kept me secure through hunger and treachery and threat of death."

The high priest acknowledged her argument. "The dagger knows you. The dagger has its place. You have your place. But still you fail us."

Anne knew she was fighting for her life. She glanced at the lama, but he was staring down his nose and gave no sign. She went over beside Sherwood, sitting at the end of the column beyond her father, and deliberately put a hand on his shoulder. Her face was flushed, her eyes bright with determination. Her voice rang clear.

"Now I show them a son. I declare this man, your prisoner, to be my husband. Sherwood gave her a look of sharp surprise, and rose. Following the translation of her words, a commotion broke out once more among the tribesmen. Some cheered, some growled, there was a flash of swords and barbed spears.

Beth was staring at Anne in delight—Larry and Mackey in doubtful surprise—Diana, with anger and contempt. Dr. Martine, the silent, suddenly laughed aloud. Anne's parents gazed at her with mixed emotions.

When quiet had come again, the high priest addressed her once more.

"We have been warned to watch for trickery. You tell us one man is yours; then you tell us another man is yours. What are we to believe? Without waiting for her to reply he reminded her, through the interpreters, the first had come to his death and now she was subjecting the second to the same ordeal. Think carefully. If you speak not truth, you condemn him to death and make no gain for yourself."

Diana rose to her feet impetuously. "Blaze, tell them the truth or I shall!"

Before he could reply Anne answered, "I have told the truth. He is my husband."

"You lie," cried Diana and appealed to the high priest. "She hates this man. She desires his death. Her marriage is a mockery. She has vowed to betray him."

The priest listened to the translator and regarded Anne gravely. "What have you to say?"

"He is my husband," she repeated coldly. "But ask him. Let him make his own declaration."

The high priest asked him, "Does this woman speak the truth?"

Irrevocable Decision

SHERWOOD took his time. Anne's heart began to pound; he was capable of springing something entirely unforeseen on her. The place had become exceedingly quiet as if the natives sensed a tension not yet comprehended.

"She speaks the truth," he said quietly. "We are man and wife. Will you accept us?"

The priest listened to the translator and scanned a paper one of the scribes had handed him. "The stars accept you," he said. Anne gave Dadda a look of gratitude as the priest continued, addressing Sherwood. "Yet in man is an inner guide. If you are the man of this destiny foretold in our prophecy, the task I now give you will prove it." He pointed to the paving stones. "You see blood evidence that others have tried and failed."

Further trials. Anne's spirits sank as she watched a soldier slash the cords that bound his wrists and then free her parents' hands. The four of them were led across the wide platform to the massive door with its seal of a human figure.

task, the defeat of Germany," in a speech in the house of commons Tuesday.

Eden urged the British nation to forego political considerations in facing the situation raised by Germany's drive into Russia.

Communism is not the issue, he said, adding, "We have always hated the creed."

But, he went on, what counts is that the Russians "are fighting the man who seeks to dominate the world."

"That also is our sole task."

MARSHFIELD HIGH TO HAVE NEW PRINCIPAL

Marshfield, June 23.—(P)—Harry S. Parker, principal of the Corvallis high school for 10 years, today was elected principal of Marshfield high. He succeeds Martin J. Elle who goes into the state department education.

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On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Where to find them on the dial

KEX, 1190, Portland; KFL, 610, Los Angeles; KGA, 1510, Spokane; KGO, 810, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 1000, Seattle; KNN, 1070, Los Angeles; KOA, 850, Denver; KOIS, 970, Portland; KOMO, 930, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time shown is PST

Wednesday

8:00 p. m.—Beld Tanner's Orch., KOIN, KSL; Southerners, KGO, KJR; Summer Serenade, KEX; Eliot Wright, KGW; Boulevard Interviewer, KNN; Playground News, KGO.

8:30 p. m.—Concert Favorites, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Big Town, KNN, KSL; KOIN; Concert Music, KGO.

9:00 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNN, KSL, KOIN; Author's Playhouse, KGO, KEX; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Scandinavian News, KJR.

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Thursday

8:00 p. m.—Music Hall, KPO, KOMO, KGW, KJR; Major Bowes' Amateur Hour, KNN, KOIN, KSL; Tommy Dorsey's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Dr. Christian, KNN, KOIN, KSL; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX.

8:00 p. m.—Time to Smile, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJR; Star Theater, KNN, KSL, KOIN.

8:30 p. m.—Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Chuck Foster's Orch., KGO, KJR; Baseball Game, KEX.

9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KNN, KOIN; Music in the Night, KGO, KGW, KOMO; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KJR; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KJR; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KJR.

9:30 p. m.—Don Kay's Orch., KGO, KJR; Don Kay's Orch., KGO, KJR; Don Kay's Orch., KGO, KJR.

10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Dick Jurgens' Orch., KSL, KNN; Jay Burnett, KJR, KEX; Musical Baseball, KGO.

10:30 p. m.—Hemisphere Revue, KGO, KJR; Ozzie Nelson's Orch., KGW, KOMO; Reid Tanner's Orch., KSL; Behind the Headlines, KEX; Masterworks of Music, KNN; Eyes of the World, KOIN.

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9:30 p. m.—Neil Bonduch's Orch., KOMO; Dancing with Glancy, KGO; By the Way, KNN, KOIN; News, KJR, KSL; Good Neighbors, KGW.

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