Copyright 1924 by Joseph J. Quinn All Rights Reserved WOLF MOON

A ROMANCE OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

BY JOSEPH J. QUINN

cannot withhold it any longer. I just couldn't get up courage in the past to tell you. In the first place I worked for them, slaved for them, wandered everywhere from California to Tennessee. Sometimes we followed the edge of the desert for months, later we came to the hills and mountains. They called me Bluebonnet after the Texas flower because they said I was born in Texas. Nava claims that Rasboi was my father and Lodhka my mother. Lodhka died when I was very small. I remember they buried very small. I remember they buried her out between two big moun-

tains and they never went back."
"Who is this Nava?" "She is the gypsy queen—the same one you met in camp. She beat me until it grew unbearable. She would lumber into my tent in the morning, drag me off the cot and throw me on the ground. My screaming awoke the gypsies. She world under this evening that you may receive information about your family. Will you promise me, Louise?"

World can beat it and I guess the governor's right there. You've got to promise me this evening that you'll say some prayers that you may receive information about your family. Will you promise me, Louise?"

"Jack, I will promise you any." abominable filth, everywhere. But the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry Pemella."

"To marry that brute?" Jack

demanded, explosively.

"Yes; to marry him; that was his command. But on the evening of his return from Arizona when we ran, ran. It was dark and raining but I knew just about where the railway tracks were. I rain, ran. It was dark and raining but I knew just about where the railway tracks were. I thought if I reached the station there might be a chance of someone helping me. I was really despend to the letter in the mail pouch much longer they would have come walking up under the trees and metally despend to the letter in the mail pouch much longer they would have come walking up under the trees and metally despend to the letter in the mail pouch much longer they would have come walking up under the trees and metally to dishelping me. I was really desperate. There was a freight train standing in the distance and train When I awoke it was daylight and the train had stopped. I looked out of the car and there was a rider So that's how I came to be here.'

would get down like a witch and hiss, 'You're a gypsy. Your father was Rasboi, your mother Lodhka.'
Then she would strike me or spit chimes from far-off belfrys. in my face but it never stopped me from asking the question because I feit I was not a gypsy for the simple reason that I was different from the other children."

other children." directly. "At Louise answered directly. "A least they stole Nadina at Denver."

"But don't you think they stole you? Haven't you a reason to believe that you were kidnapped?" wou? Haven't you a reason to believe that you were kidnapped?"
"Sometimes yes, sometimes no.
I have a haunting memory of a cotton field and of a mother. She always appeared to me in my day dreams with the same smile, always so sweet and tender. I never dared mention this to Nava although at times I was sorely tempted. These dreams always with me. Wr. and Wrs. Gallaghers and Janet.

"Just before the fall of Diaz however, our lay brother, Aloysius, had a stroke of paralysis that made work in the future impossible for him, so we wrote to the Provincial to ask for a new chapter. In our Order at that time there was a great shortage of lay brothers, and we were not surprised therefore, with me. Wr. and Wrs. Gallaghers. although at times I was sorely tempted. These dreams always tempted. These dreams always with me, Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher appeared to me when I was tired and Janet." and lonely and they comforted me.
I would slip off into the groves or thickets until Nava called my name again and again. Yet in the end his brow. Her face was drawn and they tortured my soul. I had no one to turn to, nor confide in. one to turn to, nor confide in. Why, for weeks and weeks when crossing Arizona or New Mexico, we rarely saw a soul. Just a cow-boy or Indian in the distance and said boy or Indian in the distance and they looked upon us—those Mexicans and Indians—as beggars. They often set fire to the fields in which we were camped just to get rid of us. They suspected us of stealing horses, children, anything we set our hands on. Then we would move on for weeks through the Southwest, nothing in sight but mesquites with big rattlesnakes coiled around the roots. I was always glad to see the mountains for from a distance I fed my sould." Jack country in the for from a distance I fed my sould." Jack country in the for from a distance I fed my sould." This is the best country in the west of the seed and they looked upon us—those Mexicans and Indians—as beggars. "It surely is wonderful to see you attempts at brushing. "As I said before, I sometimes envied him, at others I pitied him. I envied his youth and fervor, but I pitied that same splendor of youth which seemed too lovely to endure in this world. He always came to me for confession, and his soul was as clean and beautiful as his body. "One evening early in summer, as with a frown.

"This is the best country in the fed my out and the provided in the total pitied him. I envied his youth and fervor, but I pitied that same splendor of youth which seemed too lovely to endure in this world. He always came to me for confession, and his soul was as clean and beautiful as his body. "One evening early in summer, as with a frown."

"This is the best country in the fed my out all out here. You'll like this attempts at brushing.

"As I said before, I sometimes envied him, at tempts at brushing.

"As I said before, I sometimes the view of the sum out of the sum out of the sum always glad to see the mountains for from a distance I fed my soul on their snows. It was cool near the mountains while down in the desert it was hot, hot always. You know how the land bakes and cracks in Oklahoma; well it's worse further west. There was absolutely with a frown.

With a frown.

"This is the best country in the best in our bit of garden after the evening meal and watched the stars come out slowly in the calm stay, Raphael spoke up and said, ame with me to meet you."

Down the cinder walk of the land bakes and cracks in Oklahoma; well it's worse further west. There was absolutely as a single body.

"One evening early in summer, as we sat in our bit of garden after the evening meal and watched the stars come out slowly in the calm stay, Raphael spoke up and said, 'My father! I often envy the martyrs and wish that I too might die for the sake of the dear Christ."

"No, I don't, but Nava swears that I am. Jack, I have wanted to tell you a secret for a long time. I cannot withhold it any low of the course she could not have been your mother. Louise, your parents are American and some day you will know all. By the model of the course of the cou you will know all. By the way do you ever pray to find them?"

Louise shook her head. She had past to tell you. In the first place I didn't know just how you would accept it. Again, I really never knew if you cared. It's this: I lived with that gypsy band for years, ever since I can remember. I worked for them, slaved for them, randered everywhere from Caliseen churches on her travels, adobe chapels on the plains or along the mountain roads, little ones surmounted by crosses whose meaning remembered having prayed until she met the Trichells. The gypties of course had their Supreme Being

"Well, you just wait until Dad comes. He's a stickler for prayer. He declares that nothing in the world can beat it and I guess the

screaming awoke the gypsies. She continued this every day of my life even until the end. Jack, it was perfect—misery. I grew moody, anemic, despaired of all hope. What was there to live for? Filth, abominable filth, everywhere. But the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the most dreadful thing of all was that I was marked to marry the merchant of the model. It was the most dreadful thing for I realize you know best. If I could only tell you my name I would be the happiest person in the world. But you must help me find my parents, too, Promise me?" Her plea came from the great desire that burned within her, the desire to know from whom she sprang, their name and her name.

"Willingly. Now when Dad comes I'll just say, 'Dad this is Louise,' and he'll place his arm around you like this." Jack caught lay further out in the Panhandle, I couise to him and pressed her close. Louise to him and pressed her close. Louise experienced a feeling of protection, a sense of being posafter he arrived he walked into Nava's tent and I heard him quarrelated the course of the cour

ate. There was a freight train standing in the distance and I ran toward it. The appearance of a majestically up the sides of Roundmoved in circles and eddies through pools of purple and salmon. Doves began their calling from the cottonwoods. The brown stretch of mesa who later proved to be Tulane. I was frightened at first glance for I thought he was Pemella. He brought me here to the Trichell's. started to settle. Jack and Louise

CHAPTER XVII.

THE TWILIGHT SERENADE simple reason that I was different from the other children."

"But they stole you when you were young from some American family," Jack spoke his surmise.

It was an unusal sight to see the men after God's own heart. Our house too was a little paradise. Stop at Terlton. It threw on its family, arranged, that we, the nated the townspeople to fire on the rebels. Without even allowing us a word in our defense, were saintly old Jesuits arranged, that we, the nated for the poorer classes, were shiple house too was a little paradise. Some American stop at Terlton. It threw on its family, arranged, that we, the nated for the poorer classes, were shiple house too was a little paradise. Some American stop at Terlton. It threw on its family, arranged, that we were found guilty of the townspeople to fire on the rebels. Without even allowing us a word in our defense, were saintly of the townspeople to fire on the rebels. and coasted toward the little red station slumbering in the sunshine. The iron shoes screeched, the air whistle screamed and with a loud mechanical sight the coaches came to a stop. Far down the train a norter appeared in white duels care

she seemed to grow older as he looked. Perhaps it was the long trip that made her appear fatigued.
Welcoming them to the west with

a sweep of his bronzed arm Jack

know how the land bakes and cracks in Oklahoma; well it's worse further west. There was absolutely nothing to brighten my life expect the magazines that Pemella brought me. You see he taught me to read and write in English so brought me. You see he taught urged it so strongly that he was me to read and write in English so carried to the station in his wheel

Long gray fingers of mist began to steal up from the valley, choking out the last rusty glow of the sunset. Far below the broad porch of the Jesuit College where we were sitting, the Potomac shone dully through the haze like an unsheathed sword dropped in the smoke of

battle.

It was the day after the close of the laymen's annual retreat, and a number of us old students stayed over for a few days to see some of the beauties of Washington. Thus the end of a very busy day found us well content to sit quietly in the cool of the summer evening, talking and smoking. We were discussing the canonization of St. Margaret Mary, when Jim Cleary, young lawyer from Baltimore, said, "Do you know it seems strange to me that Christ and the saints appear that Christ and the saints appear so seldom in our own day. We have hardly an authentic case of such apparitions." "But," replied bluff Jack Donahue, the former great football star, "can we not account for it by the irreligion and lack of spiritual vision of today?" "What do you think, Lawrence?" he said do you think, Lawrence?" he said turning to where I could barely be seen in the thickening dusk by the light of my cigar. "Why pick on me?" I made haste to answer. "I am neither an authority on the mystical life nor a judge of the spirit of the age. I believe, foolishly perhaps, that all men are good at heart; and strange to say, I have not often been disappointed in this." "Pshaw!" said Jack with fine scorn. "you'll get over those

fine scorn, "you'll get over those quixotic notions when you have been in business as long as I have. Now in my mind there is not a doubt that Christ and the saints do not manifest themselves to men because of the irreligion of the times." This last statement Donahue gave out with such dogmatic surety of intonation, that none of us was quite ready to take up the cudgels in defense of pet opinions. Just when it seemed as though Jack would retire with the laurels of victory on his brow, Father Thear, our old Spanish professor, spoke up out of the thick dusk of the corner where he was sitting. "No, Jack," he said to Donahue in his deep

toward it. The appearance of a brakeman forced me to pull myself into one of the cars. Just as I did it started and I later fell asleep.

When I worked it was a later fell asleep. ary ways which men overlook in their expectation of the miraculous and the wonderful. Would you like to hear a story of an experience I had not many years ago? But perhaps it would bore you." Here we all chimed in with the most So that's now I came to be here.

"Well, now this is thrilling. But didn't you ever ask the gypsies who stirred under the first breath of evening wind. It was trysting hour back in our chairs and silence and consumer to the story. We all settled evening wind. It was trysting hour back in our chairs and silence and the story while the leaves of dusk wrapped us around, while the emphatic denial and after some coaxing the little priest consented dusk wrapped us around, while the crickets sang shrilly and the un-known seemed very near. "Well," Father Thear said slowly.

"Well," Father Thear said slowly.
"I had spent many years in Mexico
before the fall of Diaz, and I loved
that country very dearly. The
people among whom I worked, peons
of the poorer classes, were simple
men after God's own heart. Our
house too was a little paradise.
Good Lopez and Morales, the assist-

we were not surprised therefore, when young Brother Raphael was

sent to us.
"He was very young, scarcely seventsen, and sometimes I envied him, and again I pitied him with all my heart. He was a delight to look upon, as straight as an arrow and slimly graceful in all his move-ments. His features were beauti-fully regular and he had eyes of deepest brown, and a shock of thick reddish black hair that defied all

that we could talk without being understood by Nava. But no matter where we wandered my big obsessing thought was that I was different from the gypsies—that I was an American."

"So you never found out who your parents were?" There was a discorsolate tone to his voice.

"The station in his wheel through the night. "Be careful, my son," I replied to Raphael's eager statement, "yours is indeed a worthy desire but beware lest you grow boastful like Peter. I fear, dear child, that we know little of pain and death; our lives are so sheltered here. And who knows frontier life and pioneer country. sanctuary light glowed dimly red through the night. 'Be careful, my son,' I replied to Raphael's eager

"No, Jack, I haven't the slightest idea. I had no source of information. At the gypsy camp it was sonly Rasboi and Lodhka. I heard those two names ever since I can remember. Rasboi couldn't possibly have been my father. He was darker than the darkest Mexican. And Lodhka could not—"

"Of course she could not have been your mother. Louise, your parents are American and some day you will know all. By the way do you will know all. By the way do not the lest runty glow of the aut."

"The evening had grown very still. Long gray fingers of mist began to said, "I at least will stay and face them."

"The next day while we were at."

and face them.'

"The next day while we were at dinner in the refectory, the door burst open and Jose Herando, one of our parishioners, rushed in with a white face and staring frightened that the state of the cried of the state of the stat eyes. 'My Fathers!' he cried shrilly, 'hide yourselves quickly. Diaz has really fallen! The revolutionists are coming into the town, and Manuel, their hated leader, has sworn by our Lady that he will kill the priests and burn the

church. Hurry my fathers!' church. Hurry my fathers!'
"We all sprang to our feet in
consternation and looked at one
another. What was to be done?
At once I thought of protecting the
Blessed Sacrament from outrage,
and starting off I beckoned the
others to follow me.

"Raphael was at my side in a moment, his young face white and tense. 'Father,' he whispered hoarsely, 'it has come! Surely you will set the boarsely. noarsely, it has come! Surely you will not run away! We cannot be cowards now! But I signed him to be silent, and ran as fast as I could through the garden to our little

'We were too late. The soldiers were before us, and entrance into the building was denied us by a body of rough men with levelled rifles. They were led by a sneering evil faced man who spat out a volley of oaths, and commanded the soldiers harshly to take us into

custody. "We three priests gave up with out a struggle, but Raphael struck out boldly with his fists and was promptly clubbed with a rifle. promptly clubbed with a Then the soldiers, carrying meaning boy, led us through the streets of the town to the jail, a low vermin infested stone building seldom used. When we had arrived there, they pushed us rudely inside with coarse jests, and tumbling the unconscious Raphael in after us they slammed and locked the heavy

iron door.
"As luck would have it there was a big jar of cold water in the room where we were, and after I had bathed the face and hands of Raphael he opened his eyes and looked about him. Seeing me he looked about him. Seeing 'I did smiled feebly but proudly. 'I did not run,' he said softly. 'Indeed not run,' I replied. 'You are very brave, but be careful I beg of you! At any rate be more pru-dent in the future or the soldiers will surely kill you. This is only

the beginning.'
"I was more of a prophet than I had thought, for this was truly only the start of things. At about four o'clock in the afternoon the door of our prison was thrown open, and in marched Manuel with several other officers and soldiers. Chairs were placed for them at one side of the room, and they proceeded to hold a court martial over us. Many rene-gade Catholics from the town were called in as witnesses, and knowing

'murder' of several soldiers who had been killed in the looting of the

village.
"Fathers Lopez and Mørales were called first for their sentence. They were calm and untroubled and faced Manuel without a tremor. He smiled evilly. 'Well, fools,' he said with an oath, 'you have long been a burden and a pest to the country, but you will be so no longer. Tomorrow at dawn you will be shot.' At this I started forward and said, 'I am a citizen of the United States and you dare not touch me. All these others are under my protection. Be careful

of what you do.' "Manuel laughed hoarsely at this, and spat in my face. 'Yes, old pig,' he replied, 'I know you are a gringo, and we shall not bother you this time. But as for these other men, they are Mexicans and I shall do with them as I please. The two old ones will be shot at dawn to-morrow.' (Father Lopez smiled, and Morales went on saying his rosary unmoved. As I said before they were real saints and death meant nothing but joy to them.)

"Next Raphael was brought for-"Next Raphael was brought forward to receive his sentence. He was led up between two soldiers. Evidently Manuel was taking no chances. Raphael was pale but calm, and held himself proudly erect. 'Young fool,' said Manuel eyeing his graceful young figure with approbation, 'I do not hold you guilty with these old wolves. You were bred in their faith but it is not yet too late to change. You are young. I shall give you your are young. I shall give you your chance, and if you will deny your set you free and make you an officer in my army. You will have money, and pleasure and women. What more do you want?

"At these words Raphael grew tense, and his eyes fairly blazed with anger. 'Thou coward cur!' he said scornfully to Manuel, 'slayer of women and children, robber of churches and cursed of God! I shall never deny my faith



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