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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAP-

A feud has existed between Colonel Ar-nur Stanley and his cousin, Judge Lamar tanley, over an heirloom, the diamond om the sky, found in a fallen meteor by ancestor. Also the succession to the h ancestor. Also the succession to the tanley earldom in England mây come to in American. When a daughter is born to colonel and the mother dies the colonel buys a gypsy boy and substitutes im. Three years later the gypsy mother, having had no part in this bargain, steals he girl, Esther, reared in secret, and eaves her son undetected as the heir. The typsy has obtained possession of the diamond from the sky, and a document with he Stanley secret. Years later Hagan. mond from the sky, and a document with the Stanley secret. Years later Hagar, gypsy queen, returns to Virginia with Esther. Dr. Lee, the late Colonel Stanley's friend, adopts Esther. Arthur Stanley, son of Hagar, falls in love with Esther, and so does his companion and cousin, Blair Stanley, rightful male heir of Stanley. In stealing the diamond Blair causes the death of the doctor and tries later to put the blame on Arthur, who takes the gem. he blame on Arthur, who takes the gem. Arthur Stanley eludes his pursuers and oins Hagar, who reveals his identity and ripbraids him for his wild life. Needing noney, he pawns the diamond in Richard.

money, he pawns the diamond in Richmond. At a ball, at which an adventuress, Vivian Marston, wears the borrowed gem, Luke Lovell, Hagar's gypsy guard, steals the diamond. Arthur leaves Richmond and goes to the west. Quabba, organ grinder, befriends Esther.

Tom Blake, a detective of Richmond, who is hired by Hagar, produces finger prints convicting Blair. Hagar proposes silence to Mrs. Stanley as the price of Hagar's and Esther's being received in Fairfax society. Blair strikes down Hagar and steals the finger prints, leaving the gypsy queen demented. Marmaduke he gypsy queen demented. Marmaduke the gypsy queen demented. Marmaduke Smythe, lawyer, arrives to announce Arthur is heir to the deceased Earl of Stanley. Learning Arthur is a fugitive, he seeks Blair instead. To win Vivian, Blair steals the diamond, later marrying her and leaving for the west. Their train is robbed, Vivian losing the diamond, which a slain train robber drops in the desert. slain train robber drops in the deser siam train robber drops in the desert.
the \$100,000 he stole is found by Arthur,
ow known as John Powell, sheep herder.
uke Lovell, driven from the camp after
arning Hagar's secret, leaves to seek
lair. Hagar is under treatment, and Es-

ther is in Richmond society. Abe Bloom, nbler, knows Blair's guilt and covets the diamond.

The diamond is later picked up by an Indian woman. Dr. Lee, Arthur learns, died of heart disease. Becoming very rich, he buys Stanley Hall, sold at auction,

mond, but loses it in a fight.
Vivian is saved from drowning by Powell, who is infatuated by her. Smythefinds the diamond and gives it to Esther Blair joins Vivian in Los Angeles. Du-Blair joins Vivian in Los Angeles. Durand, "king of diamonds," a crook known to Vivian, goes to a saloon to try to discover the diamond. There he meets Luke Lovell. Esther and Arthur appear on the scene. The diamond is lost in a melea. Esther saves Arthur, who is injured, and Esther saves Arthur, who is injured, and he goes to Los Angeles in care of the play-sician-crook, Durand. Esther follows and is refused admittance to see him. In the meantime the diamond is found by two billposters, one of whom murders the other for it. Arthur is "doped" by Du-

other for it. Arthur is "doped" by Durand, De Vaux and Vivian.

Blair makes Arthur believe he suffered from hallucination in thinking he saw Esther. Luke is "railroaded" to prison by Blair. Arthur buys the diamond. Blair, trying to take the gem from Durand, who steals it from Arthur, hurls Durand from a window, killing him. Esther and Smythe twindow, Rilling him. Esther and Smyther eturn to Virginia, the girl rejoining Ha-gar at the sanitarium. The diamond is tiolen by De Vaux, who assumes the name Lancia and hides with it. He is struck down and the diamond taken after Luke, aided by Quabba, escapes. Esther will not leave Hagar and takes her rightful place in society. Smythe examines an old parchment bearing Hagar's pedigree. The diamond is given by Luke to Esther, who will not keep it, but sends it back to Arthur. Hagar and Esther, rejoining the gypsies, travel westward. Arthur, repentant and informed of the treachery of Vivian and Blair, is about to take noison just own and the diamond taken after Luke, ian and Blair, is about to take as Luke breaks into his room.

CHAPTER LV.

A Romany Rye. TRANGE irony of fate! The gem desired, the great jewel that from "a charm against harm" had come to be a curse, was grasped again by Luke Lovell's gypsy hands that, strong as they were, were never to hold it!

John Powell, sometime Arthur Stanev of Stanley Hall, born son of Hagar Harding, sat collapsed in his chair. As Luke Lovell grasped the diamond the prayer of Hagar fluttered to the table. Luke growled and tore it from Arthur's resisting grasp, glanced at it

and tossed it back in scorn. "You live soft!" he sneered. "Live soft in your luxury while I have wandered like a hunted wolf in the wilds. But now I shall live soft, and you shall be my servant and my banker. First,

you shall feed me!" food that had been brought the master of the house hours ago, but which that soul shattered wretch had not the heart

stood without hope and without fear. Without hope and without fear! Yes, he had reached the end of everything. The prayer of his mother had come home as a curse in this hour of his shame and humiliation.

He had been the sorrow and sacrifice f her young motherhood and the heartbreak of her maturity. Esther, whom he had despoiled of birthright and patrimony, her steadfast faith outraged at last, had left him in scorn and

Blair, for whose sake he had borne indeservedly the brand of Cain and by his flight from Virginia had accepted the onus of Blair's guilt for the murder of Dr. Lee-Blair, too, had been false and faithless to every trust! Vivian? The scales had dropped from his eyes. She, too, was false, as

she had always been. Without fear and without hope! Crushed, dazed, the so called John Powell gazed at the poisoned glass of brandy with which he had stood to pledge a toast to death when Luke had burst in upon him. Then his eyes turned upon Luke bolt-

ing his food like a ravenous animal. "I look strange to you, huh?" said Luke, answering the look and speaking with a mouth full. "They shaved me and they clipped

me in the pen, where you and Blair Stanley sent me. The express slip was all the proof that was needed against the poor, ignorant gypsy. "They shut me up like a rat in a

trap from the light and air in a rotten prison for stealing the money that you stole, the money from the train robbery! Oh, I went back over all our tracks and I found the dead horse, and I found the empty cache. There were clews plain enough, when I got out of prison and went back.

"That stolen money you found in the desert was the start of your fortune, Mr. John Powell. The money was secretly repaid by you, but when they caught one of the poor robbers-as they thought-in me, they sent me to

"I don't look like I used to, do I? of the desert couldn't wholly take silence.

"I'm thinner, too, but I'll fatten on from their open roadster to the shelter you. I'll spare your life, for you are of a roadhouse by the rain, Blair and Hagar's son, but if I go to prison again you will go with me, for I have the proofs you found and used the stolen money, and I know you left Virginia as Arthur Stanley, accused of

"Where is your so called cousin, your pal and fellow crook, Blair Stanley? Out with the fair lady, I suppose? He shall feed and clothe me and be my banker too.

"Durand, who helped you two railroad me to prison is dead, I hear. All fine gentlemen, eh, the whole of you! Well. I shall be a gentleman, too, a regular Romany Rye. You know what that means-it means gypsy gentleman. And now that I have fed, come



out Fear. and clothe me. Your flunkies are asleep, so you shall be my flunky! One Romany Rye as valet to another!" And Luke rose from where he had gorged, and Arthur followed him without a word to his suit of rooms and wardrobe upstairs.

* * * * * * *

The storm had passed; a few heavy drops fell from the leafage of the live oak and hissed as they died on the em- in a sealed package, and our head

Hagar was dying, slowly dying. Since their journey westward she had failed and faded, slowly but surely. Nothing but her deep love for Esther and her strong faith that she could reach her son in time and save him

had held Hagar to life. A harvest of heartaches through the years, sorrows and sacrifice had sapped her spirit and her physical strength. Only a sweet, complacent

faith had sustained her. But now the shock of the lightning stroke, the burning of the van and the exposure to the storm had hastened the passing of Hagar.

In their long journey westward. slowly but surely moving onward, they had reached within some twenty miles of Los Angeles and the end of their quest for Arthur.

Resolute in this great sorrow and ca-And Luke, placing the diamond again in his rags, sat down and bolted the helpful and loyal Quabba to mount one of the van horses and hurry back to

The New York Yankees have un-As in a daze, as in a dream, Arthur conditionally released Russell Ford.

the slower moving cavalcade of gypsies and bid them hasten. This Quabba

The caravan was not far behind them, for nearing Los Angeles Hagar had given orders to move through the



Quabba Back to the Gypsies.

day on the outskirts of the city that was their journey's end. Hearing Quabba's cries, the gypsies lashed their tired horses, and soon Hagar was in the loving care of the women of her tribe, with Esther always beside her, holding her hand and comforting the That's prison pallor that even the sun dying woman with a communion of

On the outskirts of the town, driven Vivian drank and reveled, little knowing John Powell waited opportunity in the departure of Luke to drink his toast to Death at his mansion in Los Angeles.

They drank and reveled while a score of miles away Hagar and Esther, hand in hand, waited for the end of time and the beginning of eternity for the elder of the twain.

Up the steps of the roadhouse piazza, scattering the last raindrops from his apparel, came Dick Jones. With him was a lady whom he addressed as Gert. It was not the first roadhouse these ate arrived joy riders had stopped at. Mr. Jones was thick of speech, flushed of face and unsteady of gait. The lady he called Gert was more seasoned. She was voicing the remark that she was as dry as a fish and hungry as a wolf. At the sight of Blair Stanley Mr. Jones was somewhat abashed. But some recollection came to him that steadied him, and he greeted Blair with an assumed indifference. Blair

gave the newcomers a surly, supercili-"Who are they?" asked Vivian. "I don't know the blond female with him," replied Blair carelessly, "but the boozy gentleman is Dick Jones, who was our shipping clerk at the Good Hope Oil company offices—until I fired him for coming to work after being out

sume?" remarked Vivian sarcastically "No matter what I do the night be steady the next day," Blair answered. "As for John Powell-my boss, as dope and flying machines we do not see him at the office. And that reminds me, I am sick of this whole business. "I have got the money in my own

name. I am tired of hanging on like a parasite to the poor boob until he dopes nimself to death. When do we make a getaway?" "When we get the diamond from the sky," replied Vivian. "I have set my

heart and soul on having it. It must turn up again." Nothing ever happens and everything happens. While Blair drank in gloomy silence and made no answer to Vivian's last remark, Jones, the tipsy exshipping clerk at the next table talked

with the lady he called Gert. Upon her ample bosom there hung a flashy lavalliere, suspended by a heavy chain. "Pretty nifty piece of junk, Gert!" said Jones, "But you should have seen the big diamond that John Powell got by express. It came bers of the smoking ruins of Hagar's clerk sent me up to Mr. Powell's house with it. He opened the package and Upon the ground Esther knelt, holding the head of the dying Hagar, for a case and in that case was a letter that stung him hard, and with it was a chain and locket about 1,000 years old. And in that locket was a diamond as big as an English walnut.

"I think it was the same diamond that the circus guy gave the lady lion tamer. Then the lion killed the lady, and her husband, the clown, killed the circus guy and then shot himself.
"John Powell bought the diamond at

the auction of the busted circus; then some gink stole it from him, and Powell got it back by express, just as I'm telling you. They say John Powell is crazy. He sure acted crazy when he read the note that came with the big sparkler. He give me \$50 to keep my nouth shut about it.

"But I don't have to keep my mouth shut about anything for anybody, for all I got for the way I worked in his office was to be thrown out! Wait till I see Powell: I'll get my job back all right, and nobody won't stop me!"

(To be Continued)

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