TWO

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A ROMANCE OF THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

BY JOSEPH J. QUINN

CHAPTER XI.-CONTINUED

Louise stumbled but gained her footing. The gripping fear was robbing her of breath. Joy leaped to her heart when a little farther on she saw her goal—the clearing. When she arrived there her weary senses told her that Thunderbird had disappeared. She continued to run but on the plain Pemella stead-ily gained on her. Louise, seeing his advance, swerved with the hope of once more gaining the under-brush—her only refuge. Almost at the edge of the trees she stumbled, sending a shower of dust into her eyes. She could not rise. Death seemed to catch up with her and hind her muscles into the and bind her muscles into the bone-like hardness. She was paralvzed with dread.

Though stiffened with fear Louise felt Pemella pounce upon her. His large rough fingers sank into the clothing on her back. She imag-ined she could see him frothing at the mouth and flecking foam down upon her neck and shoulders. To struggle would be useless. So she lay face down with het forchead huried in the hot proder cost buried in the hot, powdery earth just as a few years before she lay with face in the leaves with the men-acing form of Nava poised over her. Pemella gloated for a moment over his prize, undetermined what

to do. She was in his very fingers, his possession. He could do with her as he pleased. He crouched over her form watching it quiver and heave like the pulsating breast of a bird. For years he had waited for this supreme moment and here she lay at his feet, alone, helpless, a broken creature in the sand. A queer light of exultation, of desire, of quickening hope came to him. The beast within him was lunging passionately at the bars of his restraint, only in turn to be driven back by the tender affection that he back by the tender allection that he had nurtured in his breast for years. Nava's cold eyes, glinting with jealousy, were not upon him now. He felt secure here from interfering hands or law, only a conscience ground fine by pure love stood guard. Yet he wanted to be slone with her to whimer the out alone with her, to whisper the out-pourings of his inner soul, to dis-suade her from her new life and to return to the old. After moments of indecision, moments when the man's brain was inflamed under the man's brain was inflamed under the heat of conflicting forces within, he great dust clouds will flatten, there arose, fearing watching eyes. But the Rio Grande to sunshine always

there was no soul in sight. Louise felt herself lifted. She closed her eyes. Half dead with fear a new blight overspread her heart. In the shelter of the trees Paralle storped Louis felt the Never, never, shall we look back Never, never, shall we look back to Oklahoma, our eyes shall feast on mountain peaks in Mexico. The desert will be back of us and the hot winds and dry moons. But a head there will always be valleys and sunshine and you. And you shall say come or go and the gypsy he will come or go. That is for you.
"My heart is full of love for I I have waited long. We have been from Pocatello to Shreveport and now you come like the Springtime. Pemella stopped. Louise felt the virile force of the man in the strain of his body as he held ber close in both arms and pressed his hot lips close to her dust-stained cheek. Inert and lifeless as far as physical movement was concerned, her soul receded in horror at the desecramovement was concerned, her soul receded in horror at the deserra-tion. Crushed with dread and des-pair she seemed to see herself let down into the bottomless shaft of darkness where furious gusts of passion and throes of racking pain if you run away I will follow you-contended between the material and the spiritual of her being. III fated and cursed with nameless existence, further ill fated and cursed with instinctive desire for a cursed with instinctive desire for a

[©] Pemelia knelt at the entrance of the cave. The opening was low but once inside a vast chamber appeared that led to another. He lay his description of the start of the sta

that led to another. He lay his burden down on the rocks and rested. Strong as he was the climb up the hill had been fatiguing. The gypsy in wonderment and pleasure watched her soft white throat throbbing. It moved up and down like a lily in the morning breeze. For minutes he knelt beside her, hesitating between tak-ing her in his arms or being satis-fied with mere watching. Then he arose hastily, ran to the entrance and looked out. What he saw made

arose hastily, ran to the entrance and looked out. What he saw made him return quickly, rend his neckerchief in pieces and bind her arms and feet. He felt certain that she was unconscious, she was breathing as quietly as a goddess in sleep. Then lifting her he sat her down near the inner wall. Pemella went to the opening again, peered out and returned to bend over Louise. The riders left the table and ran to the door. More convinced than ever that something was afoot Jack wheeled his pony and started toward the village. Surmise after surmise crowded into his puzzled brain. At drew rein suddenly and gazed down at the road. There in the sand were the half-obscured foot-prints of a horse headed toward

peered out and returned to bend over Louise. "A pretty little gypsy." Pemella spoke softly after a minute of transfixed gaze. "Tonight you'll be my bride. We'll leave this dry western land for California and there under the big palms we will travel back and forth. Won't we little Bluebonnet ?" "And if you wish we will go down into Mexico, to Sonora and Sinoloa, down, down, past the

down into Mexico, to Sonora and Sinoloa, down, down, past the Sierra Madres in Durango and there in the quiet valleys we will camp and have the world our own. You will be my queen. And when the great fiesta comes in Orizaba we will go there and you will tell the fortunes of the finest. They'll look upon my little blue-eyed queen and say, 'Ah, she is from Heaven.' "But tonight we shall go. Before the moon comes up we are gone and Alsak will gnash his teeth in anger. He will look for you as I have

He will look for you as 1 have looked for you. But it will be too late. We shall cross into New Mexico, to the mountains, travel late. We shall cross into New long before Oklahoma Territory Mexico, to the mountains, travel was thrown open in 1889. He was the desert by night, then to Cali-fornia and you will be by my side wandered from tribe to tribe, from to smile. "My pretty little flower. Rasboi the Choctaws and Creeks on the East to the Apaches on the West.

Some had said he was a spy and for this reason had been barred from named you right, you are a flower. Not his but mine. A smile from you will be like the rain to the tribal meetings. With the influx of pioneering whites Oklahoma graddesert. It will be green and happy under it all. Pemella has missed ually smoothed under civilization. you as the night misses the moon. We have had ill-fortune since you The Government took charge of the Indians and built schools for its went away. The rivers have dried, the flowers have been burnt to stalks, the horses have no feed. In the big cities, too, they have turned wards. Towns and cities sprang up on the prairies. The plains blossomed under cultivation. Then came oil. Barren lands' spewed forth liquid gold. Indians became on us like dogs. But with you Pemella can hope for better things. immensely wealthy, so rich, indeed, that guardians were appointed to protect them from designing will be rainbows and we will cross sharks.

TO BE CONTINUED

THE LESSON OF THE ROSE

The lines of Ruth Graham's life had fallen in pleasant places. She found it very enjoyable to be a young and attractive girl-full of buoyancy and vigor—and to possess withal, a fair amount of brains—

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

fided to her, under pledge of the greatest secret. But Ruth had termed it " a foolish scruple."

It was just about this time Ruth wanted to own a car for her private

of everybody giving me a 'lift' as they call it." "You must remember Ruth, that

my salary is much smaller, these days," (he had taken up his old pro-fession of teaching) " and we must economize instead of plunging into fresh extravagance."

It isn't extravagence-" began his daughter, but observing the watchful mother with her finger on her lip, she had desisted, to walk impatiently out of the room, but not before she heard her father Ruth you're very selfish !--con

sider William, who is giving up his college course and going to night school, that he may help me !" William was Ruth's elder brother —" A plodder " she called him—as

indeed he was, compared with her quickness of intellect. But William was a thoughtful lad, unselfish and considerate, yet shining only by reflected light, as his clever sister semed wholly to occupy the lime-

Ruth never considered that there was anything wanting to her character-she was so bright in all her studies and had been so much indulged by her mother as to time to give them—she was first in so many things that "Give it to Ruth" came to be a by-word among the

pupils when it was question of problem or prize.

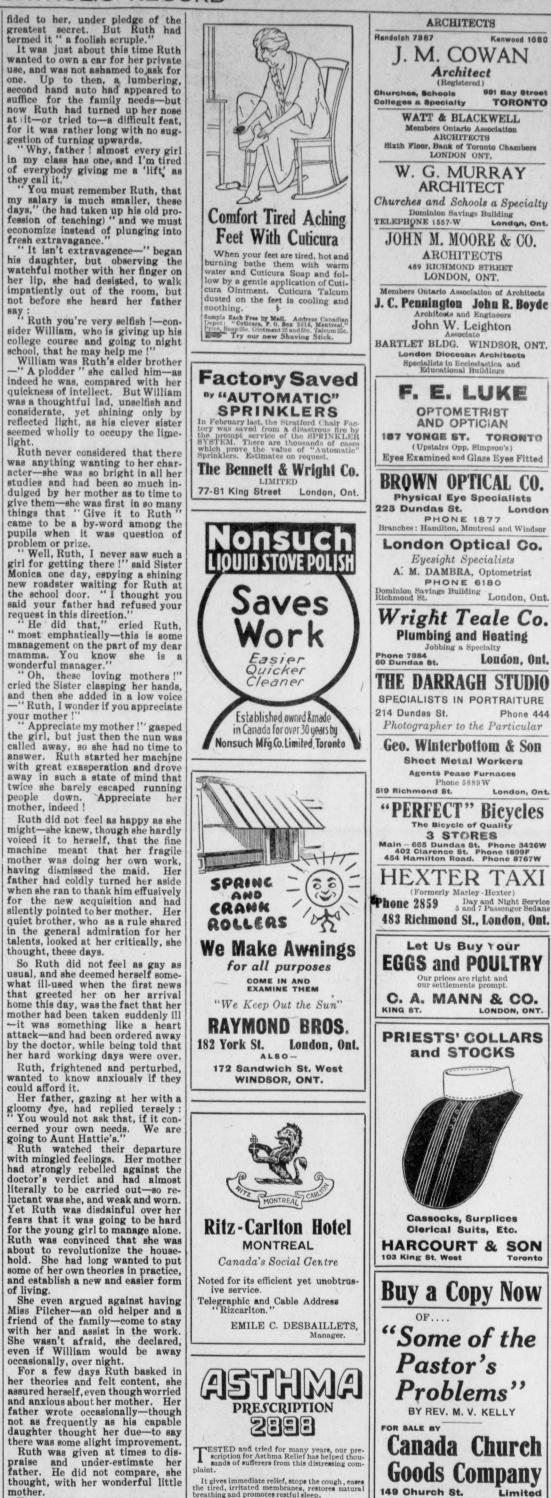
"Well, Ruth, I never saw such a girl for getting there !" said Sister Monica one day, espying a shining new roadster waiting for Ruth at the school door. "I thought you said your father had refused your request in this direction." "He did that," cried Ruth, "most emphatically—this is some management on the part of my dear management on the part of my dear mamma. You know she is a wonderful manager." "Oh, these loving mothers !" cried the Sister clasping her hands, and then she added in a low voice -"Ruth, I wonder if you appreciate your mother !'

"Appreciate my mother !" gasped the girl, but just then the nun was called away, so she had no time to answer. Ruth started her machine with great exasperation and drove away in such a state of mind that

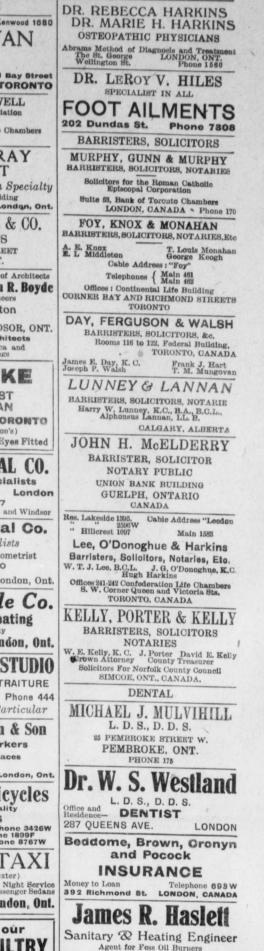
twice she barely escaped running people down. Appreciate her mother, indeed !

Ruth did not feel as happy as she might—she knew, though she hardly voiced it to herself, that the fine

machine meant that her fragile mother was doing her own work, having dismissed the maid. Her father had coldly turned her aside when she ran to thank him effusively for the new acquisition and had silently pointed to her mother. Her



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cursed with instinctive desire for a higher, happier life, hounded by hideous memories of a past of tortured slavery, further hounded by a tyrannical love-struck gypsy, gasping for breath and life and thore the part of the part of the part of the part of the torg gasping for breath and life and honor within his arms, what in the name of higher womanhood had she to live for? She had soared from gypsy filth and serfdom to sublim-ity and paradise, she had escaped the wicked clutches of foul men, she had climbed from a crater of passion marked by a smap of gread she had climbed from a crater of passion, marked by a man of greed, to the heights of sacred, pure womanhood. Now a heavy pendu-lum was pounding against her and swinging her out into space with nothing above or beneath or beyond but eternity, ready to let her fall back into the pit that somewhere must await her. And through it all her mind burned in a consuming

seemed to be heaved to and fro on an ocean of warm waves that gripped her body. Louise felt her-self being carried up, up, up. She opened her eyes into minute slits. A moving mirage like the plains was spread before her. The hot breath of the man fell upon her face like steeming vares of face like steeming vares of the set down to the table at page

breath of the man fell upon her face, like steaming vapor off of storm-drenched fields. Pemella was mounting Roundtop. A current of death-like fear ran through her. She was not being brough to camp as she surmised. She divined her destination—Belle Starr cave. But the thought, the gripping blow that sent a mantle of scarlet to her face was the tragedy that might await her. Pemella saw the crimson bound to ther face, gazed until it ran through see it is de tout de doct. Pemella saw the crimson bound to her face was the Pemella saw the crimson bound to her face, gazed until it ran through the roots of her brown hair. He watched and wondered. It made her appear like a poppy in his arms. At the very summit Pemella, stood and gazed upon the plains. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone hotly from a sky that had lost its brown. Down near the Trichell ranch he could see figures moving. There was bane signt in provention. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone hotly from a sky that had lost its agitation among the riders. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone thought for a minute that I saw agitation among the riders. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone to be some great agitation among the riders. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone to be some great agitation among the riders. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone to be some great agitation among the riders. The sir was almost caim, yet heavy and oppressive and the sun shone to be some great agitation among the riders. The sir was almost caim, yet havy and oppressive and the sun shone to postage of bottle for \$5.00, express preadid the same signe of honor, her mother con-to be some great agitation among the riders. The sire of the dust's out of the adverted the more site of the dust's out of the dust's out of the site agitation among the riders. The sire of the dust's out of the dust's out of the site agitation among the riders. The site of the dust's out of the site agitation among the riders. The site of the dust's out of the site agitation among the riders. The site of the dust's out of the site of the dust's out of the site of the dust's out of

you —" Pemella sprang from his knees and rushed toward the opening. Louise quivering under the barrage of soft words, spoken in the old tongue she knew, lay with mind throbbing with the realization that this gypsy was madly in love. His frequent kisses, she thought, must leave indelible red marks upon her checks, they were so hot, so lividly passionate. The loud drumming f and throbbing in her ears would force her to cry out; she must interpretent kisses, she thought, must leave indelible red marks upon her leaves, they were so hot, so lividly passionate. The loud drumming and nightly to them?—and when other girls were at recreation wasn't shame, visions of tragedy mingled into one burning sensation that flayed her nerves. In a moment she frequently to be found before the Blessed Sacrament, or petition-ing the Blessed Virgin and the saints?
 The first hard "knock" as Ruth leave was empty. A current of hot air swept in from the rocky mouth of the prison. But there was no sign of Pemella. Seemingly he had melted into the sun's rays that poured through the narrow entrance.
 CHAPTER XII.
 THE OUTBREAK OF THE BEAST
 "Where's Louise ?" asked Laak

back into the pit that somewhere must await her. And through it all her mind burned in a consuming fire. For a moment Louise was uncon-scious. When she awakened she seemed to be heaved to and fro on an occash of warm warm the power power

"Where's Louise?" asked Jack

-it was something like a heart attack-and had been ordered away by the doctor, while being told that her hard working days were over.

Ruth, frightened and perturbed, wanted to know anxiously if they could afford it.

Her father, gazing at her with a gloomy eye, had replied tersely: "You would not ask that, if it concerned your own needs. going to Aunt Hattie's." Ruth watched their departure with mingled feelings. Her mother had strongly rebelled against the doctor's verdict and had almost literally to be carried out—so re-luctant wasshe, and weak and worn. Yet Buth was diddinful over her

of living.

had been writing essays on the sweetness of unselfishness and selfsacrifice, later to be praised by nuns and pupils.

and pupils. It is true that sometimes in a gracious mood, she had let the baby's busy fingers unloose her hair (a favorite pastime of the child) and leaving it ripple over her shoulders, she would put on baby's cap and coat and run out to exhibit its prettiness to the neighbors. But such moments were rare. She remembered once telling her mother that she was "born for something better than to be a nurse-maid." When it was dead, Ruth had shed sincere tears of sorrow and had felt



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