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USE COURIER WANT ADS.

**The Diamond**  
**From the Sky**

By **ROY L. MCCARDELL**

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In one of the Pullmans Vivian Marston, who was now Mrs. Blair Stanley—the two traveling as "Mr. and Mrs. Guy Peyton"—were among those held at pistol point. An envious woman passenger to whom Vivian had shown the diamond from the sky had betrayed the fact she possessed it. Despite her pleadings, cajonements and even curses—curses that were chorused by the chagrined Blair—the chuckling robbers bore off the great gem with their other booty. Laden with a sack of valuables, and taking also \$100,000 in bank notes from the express messenger, the robbers decamped.

Within a few hours the sheriff and his posse of deputies and railroad detectives were hot on the trail, and "John Powell," sheep herder, after being lionized a few brief moments, was back at his lonely occupation.

Vivian, despoiled of the jewel for which she would have risked her soul, reproaches herself and her raging bridegroom that they did not die gloriously in defending it. In her bitter rage Vivian taunts Blair by telling him she only married him to gain the diamond, and, now that it is gone, he must go and regain it or see her no more.

In vain he protests. She threatens to give him over to the police and deserts him at Los Angeles and writes to Abe Bloom in Richmond telling of the loss of the diamond and asking for funds. The deserted and raging Blair pawns what possessions the train robbers have left him, and under his assumed name of Peyton hides in a mean hotel after writing to his relative, Mrs. Burton Randolph, to intercede for him with his mother.



Like Edmond Dantes He Cries, "The World is Mine!"

horse drops dead in its tracks. As this horse falls the treasure sack with the banknotes falls half under the dying animal.

The bulk of its prostrate body masks the treasure sack of banknotes and hides it from view of the posse that gallops almost over the dead horse's hoofs as the pursuit of the three surviving desperadoes goes on.

A month later John Powell, sheep herder, is sent to the desert to find a strayed flock. Beneath the skeleton of a buzzard's feast, a dead horse, he finds the stolen treasure. In a wild frenzy of hysterical delight John Powell remembers "Monte Cristo," which, as the wild young master of Stanley hall, he had read with greedy eagerness. And so, like Edmond Dantes, he stands erect and cries in the burning desert waste, "The world is mine."

The diamond is lying near. It gleams in the sun on the desert sand, among rattlesnakes and cacti, but John Powell, blinded with the treasure that he grasps from the bones of a mauling horse, sees it not. And there it lies! Who will get it next?

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You are advised to see the continued photo play in the theaters where it will be shown—to read the story as it runs every week and then send in your suggestion. Contestants must confine their contributions for the sequel to 1,000 words or less. It is the idea that is wanted.

**SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.**

A feud has existed between Colonel Arthur Stanley and his cousin, Judge Lamar Stanley, over an heirloom, the diamond from the sky, found in a fallen meteor by an ancestor. Also, the succession to the Stanley earldom in England may come to an American. When Blair Stanley is born to the colonel and the mother dies, the colonel buys a gypsy boy and substitutes him. Three years later the gypsy mother, having had no part in this bargain, steals the girl, being reared in secret, and leaves her son undetected as the heir. The gypsy has obtained possession of the diamond from the sky, and a document with the Stanley secret. When Esther is grown a beautiful young girl, Hagar, now gypsy queen, returns to Virginia with her. Dr. Lee, the late Colonel Stanley's friend, adopts Esther, but demands that Hagar turn over to him the diamond from the sky. Arthur Stanley, son of Hagar, falls in love with Esther and so does his companion and cousin, Blair Stanley, right male heir of Stanley. In stealing the diamond Blair causes the death of the doctor. Outside is Arthur sending Esther, Blair, escaping, infers that he has left Esther's room. Arthur forces him to duel in the desert. Blair is only stunned. He tries, with the aid of his mother, to place the blame for the murder of Dr. Lee upon Arthur, who now has the diamond. The sheriff attempts to take Arthur, but he eludes his pursuers and joins Hagar, who reveals his identity and aids him for his wild life. Needing money, he pawns the diamond in Richmond. Blair is in Richmond, and he, too, is forced to visit the pawnshop. At a ball, at which a supposed New York belle is the guest of honor, they are stunned to find the diamond on the visitor. She is an adventuress who has borrowed it.

Luke Lovell, Hagar's gypsy guard, steals the diamond and to avoid detection drops it into a mail box. A sheriff tries to arrest Arthur on the murder charge. He escapes from Richmond on a freight train. The diamond passes into a mail bag, picked up by Quabba, organ grinder. Quabba's monkey steals the diamond. Arthur seeks for it at a farm. Hagar takes Esther to live at Stanley hall. An old time tournament is held. Arthur attends in disguise, but is later betrayed by Blair to the sheriff. By using daring horsemanship Arthur escapes. Later he leaves the farm. Tom Blake, a detective hired by Blair, is under the impression of convicting Blair. Hagar proposes silence to Mrs. Stanley as the price of Hagar's and Blair's being received in Fairfax society. Blair strikes down Hagar and steals the fingerprints, and money from his mother. The diamond is found by a negro boy and is taken by a train. The latter is murdered by Hung Li. It is stolen just as a slumping party enters Hung Li's den. Hagar, mentally unbalanced by Blair's blow, is again with Esther among the gypsies. 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 takes in the desert. The \$100,000 he stole is found by Arthur, now known as John Powell, sheep herder. Vivian deserts Blair, telling him he must regain the diamond for her. Luke Lovell, driven from camp after learning Hagar's secret, tries in vain to sell it to Mrs. Stanley, and he leaves to seek Blair. Hagar is under treatment and Esther is in Richmond society, protégée of Mrs. Stanley, who suspects her real name, and Mrs. Randolph, Abe Bloom, gambler, who knows Blair's guilt, covets the diamond and calls it the price of his secrecy.

**CHAPTER XXI.**  
"The Web of Destiny."

REGGIE at the Van Marston's cool dismissal of him after admitting she had married him only to gain possession of the diamond from the sky, Blair Stanley was not wholly pleased at receiving money from his mother in Richmond and news that he might return.

He had half a mind not to go back to Richmond, but he felt sure that there was small hope of getting trace of the diamond now that it had fallen into the clutches of the train robbers. "But if Vivian gets it—and she will get it if she hears of it—and such a gem will make its presence known," he thought, she must send for me.

"Only as my wife can she hope to have any claim on the Stanley heirloom. And if she will not have me without the diamond she will have to have me with it!"

So Blair Stanley paid his bill at the second rate Los Angeles hotel and, taking his valise, proceeded to the depot to take the train back east. He wondered if anything had been heard in Richmond or Fairfax of the missing Arthur Stanley, the rightful heir.

He smiled as he thought of Arthur's quixotic nature in fleeing as a fugitive accused of a crime he was guiltless of—the murder of Dr. Lee.

"I would like to see myself he such a fool simply because I had gone broke through wasting my money," was Blair's inward comment. He had always hated his debaucher supposed cousin, although he had always disguised it, but now his hatred was mingled with contempt.

(To be continued.)

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