

The Long Arm

his part. It was a small part, easily carried out by the most ordinary intelligence, and I saw the motive in either avarice or revenge—revenge on the part of young Holden because of his thwarted attentions to Miss Byrne, or greed in the man who was for some reason contesting for the possession of this property. From here I could follow the matter with closed eyes. I adopted the simplest method. I sent an engineer to look for signs of oil upon the property, and put an advertisement in the paper, which I felt sure would attract the attention of Mr. Holden. It did, with the result which we have seen. Jasper Holden does not know how certain I am of his guilt, but, knowing it himself, promptly confesses. He dare not do otherwise. Edgar Holden will not probably return at once, but he will make his continued existence in the flesh known to the authorities, and Mr. Jasper Holden will hasten to accept the proposition I made to him. I advise you to consider it, Mr. Byrne. The price is a good one, and you are entitled to a measure of damages. His suggestion as to Texas has its merits. It is not only a great State," and here he looked at Miss Millicent and smiled, "but Lieutenant Randall is ordered there."

He was right. Three days later, when the Vinings returned to New York, they had to tell us that Jasper Holden had accepted the proposition for the farm, and the authorities had heard from his