TWO

A DAUGHTER OF THE SIERRA

BY CHRISTIAN REID

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CHAPTER VII

AN APPEAL The room into which the two

Americans were presently conducted proved to be a large apartment, bare of all furniture except two small, hard beds, one or two chairs, and the most primitive possible lavatory arrangements. But their portmanteans were on the floor, and Lloyd assured Armistead that such quar ers were for the Sierra luxury itself

In fact, this house astonishes me." he said. 'I did not think there was anything like it in the Sierra, though I heard in Canelas that Dona Victoria had built a casa grande on the hacienda.'

Dona Victoria seems to be running things altogether according to her own sweet will," Armistead remarked, as, having wiped his face on the square of rough toweling provided for the purpose, he made ineffectual efforts to discern his vided image in a small, green mirror by the light of a single tallow candle. "But although the house is literally a But casa grande, it seems to have only the rudest furnishing." yond all else on earth

Naturally, when everything must be made on the spot, or transported a hundred or two miles on the back of a mule. Besides, those who have never known luxuries don't miss them.

Luxuries, no-but comfort !" Comfort is a relative term, also. This, you may be sure, is a palace in all respects compared to the house in which these people have hitherto lived. But Dona Victoria has been to Culiacan, perhaps even to Lur-ango: she has observed ways of living in those places: and, being a progressive young woman, she has seen no reason for continuing to live log house in the Sierra, since sun-baked bricks can be made any.

the base of the hills. I wonder if this progressive young woman is afraid of what her mother may say or do, that she doesn't want her to be seen ?'

think she simply wants to shield her from pain." "Pain!" Armistead scoffed. "You

can't really believe that she is still suffering from Trafford's desertion ! The feelings of people closely allied to savages are very elemental and

transitory, you know." "I know that you had better get rid of your idea that these people are help me a little.' in any sense savages, or else keep it more carefully to yourself," Lloyd returned. "You've had a lesson of the imprudence of taking for granted that nobody around you understands English. That young fellow who translated your remark about a room and supper-

ntound his impudence !' As much as you like, but he was

at least good enough to put you on your guard. It will be well to remember that he has keen ears, a good comprehension of English, and evi-dently no love for gringos—especially those who come on such an errand as ours.

I can imagine nothing of less importance than the opinion of a whippersnapper like that." 'Even whippersnappers have their es. What Don Arturo is young

them." "I have tried to do so," he enough to express, you may be sure that everyone else is feeling." "I don't care a hang what they

are feeling! I am here on Business the manner in which Armistead pronounced the name of the great American fetich is very inadequately represented by capitalizing its initial letter,—"and I propose to accom-plish what I have come for, if the asked. whole Calderon clan rises up to

assented.

and San Fernando Mines. The Santa day? Twelve thousand feet? Not strange that one shivers at that height night-without fire, too! I'd Cruz he shall never touch. like to build a rousing blaze in the middle of this patio. Since that can't be done, I'm off! Buenas noches, Observing that Don Mariano wa

their crests outlined against the

star-sown sky, their serene and

mighty steadfastness embleming be

that eternal rest

We can not compass in our speech

whoever sought it must pass. The

air was filled with resinous, aromatic

odors from the breathing earth, the

vast encircling forests; and the only

sound which broke the stillness was

the music of flowing water, the song

which the stream was singing to the

night and the stars as it flowed along

taking his pipe from his lips.

Senor !'

"Well, that is all," Lloyd added also yawning, and knowing the early hours kept on haciendas—where the day for all begins at or before the after a moment. "So now you can that Dona Beatriz had requested him prepare your mother, and you can to be present at the interview. breaking of light, -- Lloyd likewise said good-night, but he did not fol-low Armistead to his refuge of bed decide whether or not she should see

Mr. Armistead to-morrow." "Victoria brought her brows toand blankets. On the contrary, having seen both that gentleman and Don Mariano disappear, he filled his gether in the straight, resolute line with which he was already familiar. For the first time briar with a fresh charge of short cut, and, plunging his hands in his looked away from him, out over the pockets, walked out of the great front door of the house, on the thresstarlit valley to the solemn encircing heights ; and there was a pause in which he heard again the song of hold of which a mozo, wrapped to his eyes in his blanket, crouched half the stream. It lasted only a mom ent. Then the girl turned her gaze Wonderful was the beauty of the

night which met him as he stepped outside,-wonderful and full of an will be best that she should see unspeakable charm of tranquillity. The moon, late in rising, had not yet him. "I think so," Lloyd answered,

struck by the quickness of her de-cision. "There can then be no appeared over the eastern heights but the starlight of these high regions has a radiance so bright that every feature of the landscape, every fold of the distant hills, could be clearly doubt that the answer given is her own. "It is not that only," Vectoria said. I'll tell it to her again." And, turn-ing to Dona Beatriz, Lloyd repeated "It is that she has a right to speak for herself and to tell that man"discerned. Steeped in repose, the lovely valley stretched to the feet of the mountains which surrounded it,

raised her arm and pointed she northward—"how she scorne and how she defies him. In all these years "I am ready to hear whatever the she defies him. In all these years she has never told him. She has kept

silence ; she has submitted to indig. nity and robbery ; she has asked only to be left in peace here in her own home. But now that he has not left

her in peace, that he is trying to carry And it was not only the picture spread before the eye which conveyed robbery still further, it is right that this impression. Lloyd thought of the deep, majestic woods, the towershe should speak for herself, and not through another. "It is best," Lloyd agreed again,— although he could not but wonder if ing heights and dark gorges spread ing for hundreds of leagues around this spot, and through and over which

the mother would be able to express herself half as forcibly as this ture of fire and energy would speak for her. He thought of Trafford as he had seen him in his office in San Francisco, an embodiment of all the qualties which go to make the success

ful man of business; and wondered afresh over the link which bound such a man to these people in the far Sierra : to the Indian woman whom he had married and flung aside

Lloyd started and turned sharply. Unheard, Victoria had come to his side, and stood looking at him with her eyes full of an expression which for the first time struck him as wistcome so reluctantly began to interest him deeply. More and more he found himself becoming a partisan, ful and appealing. "Senorita!" he responded quickly, all his instincts of chivalry stirred in behalf of these women fighting for

"I saw you go out," she said simply; "and as I watched you standing here thone it seemed as if you were wait-ing for some one, and so it occurred to me to some one, and so it occurred their rights. If necessary, he felt that he would fight for them, aid them to defend what was theirs by every rule of equity. Something of this must have been written on his to me to come and ask if you will Nothing could give me more face, for Victoria suddenly held out

"Thank you, senor !" she said "Thank you, senor !" she said gratefully. "You have told me what pleasure than to help you in any way," he answered. And indeed the sympathy which he had felt for her I wished to know; you have helped me very much. Thank you and from the first was now quickened to a chivalric desire to assist her good night !"

in the fight which was before her unless she yielded to the demand about to be made; and no one could If he had wished to profess his readiness to serve her further-to look at Victoria and imagine that explain, perhaps, why he was there —she gave him no opportunity to do

she would tamely yield anything. " I thought it possible that you would," she said ; " because I remem-bered that when I talked to you at so. As noiselessly as she approached she went away, flitting like a shadow from his side, vanish Guasimillas and again at Canelas, you seemed different from others leaving him again alone with the Notes leaving him again alone with the You great golden stars, the steadfast mountains, and the singing stream. who come into our country. seemed to feel, to understand things almost as we feel and understan

CHAPTER VIII.

DONA BEATRIZ SPEAKS If Lloyd had found Armistead

awake when he finally retired to the room which they shared, he would probably have told him of his interview with Victoria and the infor

The liquid, brilliant eyes uplifted mation he had given to him in the starlight were now almost beseeching ; but Lloyd found Armistead was sound asleep under does he say ? himself somewhat taken aback by the girl's appeal to him. After all, Beatriz.

he had told her only what she had a Senorita," he said again- then "They'll hardly be satisfied with hesitated-" do you not think it would be better to let my friend speak for himself ?" Your friend has refused to anwer my question once," she said, and I shall not ask him again. But swer I thought that you might understand that what I wish to do is to shield my mother-to know whether or not it is necessary for to see this man." "She does not wish to see him Lloyd was conscious of the folly of the question as he asked it. There was a flash in which floods of brilliant sunshine Senor !' the liquid softness of the eyes. were pouring, showing its spacious "Could she wish to see him ? But pess and bareness; for a number of "Could she wish to see him ? But ness and bareness; for a number of she will do whatever I say, and I chairs, ranged stiffly around the know not what to say; but I thought you might help me to decide—" all the furniture it contained; while And so I will !" said Lloyd, with on the brick floor were only spread sudden determination. "There is one skin of a monster toro and no reason why you should not be several of the beautifully-striped told what concerns you so much. You know that Mr. Armistead has come here as the agent of—" mountain tiger. Everything breath-ed the simplicity, austerity and re-moteness of a life as far removed

"And therefore," she went on

you may be willing to tell me

what it is that the senor, your friend,

wishes to say to my mother.'

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She acknowledged the salutations of the two men with the usual mur-"I hope that you can hold it mured formulas of politeness; and against him," said Lloyd; "but I am then, inviting them to be seated against him," said Lioya; but the wave of her hand, sat down men afraid you must prepare for a fight." with a wave of her hand, sat down men She lifted her head with the air of her lips, but merely bo wed to them her lips, but merely bo wed to them who accepts a challenge. We will fight," she said; and the silently, sat down beside her; Don swords expressed much. Well, that is all," Lloyd added their rear, having already explained Santa Ciuz."

There was an expectant pause; and Lloyd, glancing at Armistead, had a sense of satisfaction in recognizing that the latter was at last conscious of the awkwardness of the situation. she

'I almost wish that I had staved in Canelas and sent a letter," he muttered. "Confound it, Lloyd! You'll have to explain the matter." "I shall do nothing of the kind," that

Lloyd returned. "I am here to tran-Trafford's agent in the business slate whatever you wish to say, but "Dona Beatriz replies that she is back to meet his. "I have decided," she said. "It I haven't a single word to say for aware of that," Lloyd reported a moment later ; "and adds that she hopes you will remain at La Joyas myself." "You're extremely disobliging, I

must say! Well, tell Dona Beatriz that I have been sent here by-er-Mr. Trafford to see her with regard "She is exceedingly kind, but I so." "She is exceedingly kind, but I

to-er-a matter of business." "She has heard that before, but any excuse for remaining longer, since I suppose they wouldn't let us the words in Spanish. Dona Beatriz bowed with a manner

to Mexican courtesy." "Then say all the complimentary

senor has come to say to me," she answered. Then tell ber." said Armistead.

making a strong grip upon his most business like manner, " that I have business like manner, "that I have come to remind her that the Santa Cruz Mine is the property of Mr. Trafford, and to inform her that he been duly said in stately Castilian, and responded to by Dona Beatriz with a dignity and grace which would intends to assert his rights of ownership over it.'

A moment's pause followed the repetition of these words. Don Mariano uttered a quick ejaculation, but Victoria's hand on his arm silenced him; and it was Dona Beatriz who "Adios, senor !" she said. "I sh not forget the service you did me. again spoke, quietly : "The Santa Cruz Mine belongs to

traught with significance, and then the full, sweet tones went on.

throw away the Santa Cruz

tead replied.

shall keep it.

will sustain.'

must know this.'

had

away

remember that I am at your com-mand ?" he asked. She looked surprised. "But you are with him !" and she me. senor : and I do not recognize that Mr. Trafford has any rights of ownership over it." "Remind her that the mine was given to him by her father," Armis-

glanced at Armistead. "In this matter no longer than we leave your gates. In fact, I have never been with him further than Other things were also given him merely to serve as his interpreter by my father, senor," she answered. "Some of these he has kept—to his own profit; some he has thrown but I shall not bear even that part in any steps which he may take against you. There was another pause.

'In any steps which he may take against us we can defend ourselves," she said proudly.

Whether he intended to keep or to "Yet a friend is not to be despised," Lloyd urged, a little to his own surdoes not matter. It is mine and I Tell her that she can't hold it !" said Armistead, impatiently. "Traf-ford has a title to it which the law

> and the one that disobeyed his com mands knew that he courted death. senor," she answered hastily; for those around were looking at them with some surprise. Then, another murmured "Adios!" "'Hum! So we're getting monkeys into the camp now, are we? It's with she turned away with her mother. pretty low specimens of humanity And so a little later they took their I've been getting lately, but I'll no

TO BE CONTINUED

"We have paid them in the name of Dona Beatriz Calderon, Senor." I doubt if that would stand

You

against Mr. Trafford's title, senor ; especially since the—ah—tie between Dona Beatriz and himself remains unannulled in Mexico." nannulled in Mexico. Don Mariano's face fell. '' he said. '' We did not

have paid the taxes on the

mine," Don Mariano interposed be-

fore Dona Beatriz could answer this. "It does not matter who paid them,

senor, as long as they were paid.

replied for himself.

"It is true," he said. "We did not think of that. We should have let the title lapse and denounced the But who could have anticimine. pated the audacity-the shameless of such a claim ?'

Lloyd shrugged his shoulders. " It seems to me that you might have anticipated it," he said. What are you talking about ?'

But Armistead asked sharply. He says that the taxes have been his blankets, and by the next morn-ing Lloyd decided to say nothing of paid regularly in the name of Dona

"What difference does that make?"

justice, and he shall have none of correctly ?-for his soul and that it would be better even than prayers." "Yes," said the priest, "Catholics always pray and have Masses said She rose to her feet-a superb figure in her noble beauty, her right-cous indignation. "I swear it !" she it by the holy cross that stands over firmly believe that they are greatly it by the holy cross that stands over firmly believe that the mine ! Neither he nor any one benefited thereby.'

"And you will say this Mass ?" "I shall be very glad, indeed, to do whom he sends shall ever enter the "I suppose there is nothing for me

so. Have you any particular date in mind or shall I say it as soon as posto say in reply, except that I will communicate with Mr. Trafford," Armistead observed when these sible ?' Father Frazer reached for Armistead observed when these words were repeated to him. "What steps he will direct me to take I tieth of this month." 'He will de dead a year the twen-

w, but I do know that he's to yield his claim.' I am anniversary Requiem High Mass for don't know, but I do know that he's sorry that they are going to put up a the repose of his soul. The name

fight, but I suppose it was to be ex-pected. Tell Dona Beatriz that I please, "Jimjim is the only one I can give regret extremely to have had to you, Father. I cannot remember his annoy her with this demand, but real name, and could not pronounce am only acting as Mr. it if I did. Jimjim was a poor l's agent in the business." a Beatriz replies that she is "Jimjim," mused the priest, as he

wrote the name in the book. queer, isn't it ?"

"If you have time to listen. Father, I would be glad to tell you the story; but if duty calls you elsewhere please do not hesitate to say so."

will leave immediately. We haven't and I would like to hear the story." "After leaving college," his visitor began, "I secured a position with a see the mine." "I certainly wouldn't advise you to ask to do so. There is a limit even register the foreign laborers as they came in, herded together like cattle, hundreds at a time. It was no easy things that are in order, and let us task, I assure you. One day after bid them good bye and get off.' The complimentary things having X's and Z's I waved the fellow imfinishing an impossible jumble of patiently aside to make way for the next one. Then my eyes fell upon the little hunchback. His monswith a dignity and grace which would not have misbecome a royal person age, Lloyd found himself looking into Victoria's eyes, which met his own with a very friendly glance, as she held out her hand in farewell. "I shall fingers almost touching the ground ; d me." and then I saw his eyes-gleaming, 'If I can serve you again, will you expressive, black eyes that burned with the fire of a big human hear

within. "'Starting a kindergarten ?' I asked of Jack, whose father was the highest authority in the camp.

'He came in with the bunch and dad says to let him stay.' "With Jack's assistance as inter preter we managed to get his name which I verily believe took the whole alphabet, three times over, and two lines of the ledger. "Good-bye, Jimjim,' I cried, as he moved away and the next man took his place. What you lack in size is

stand for apes !' And, rais ng his big

foot, he deliberately kicked the dwarf out of the office, watching him as he

"When Jimjim appeared with the men next morning to be assigned to

'If you don't keep that baboo

work, his wrath boiled over again.

enough trouble without 'tending zoo !' So Jack sent him over to me.

became my devoted slave. I man-

landed in a ditch five feet away.

made up in name, all right l' And after that, he was 'Jimjim' to all of

Lloyd urged, a little to his own sur-prise; for why, he asked himself, should he wish to impress her with the reality of a friendship which after today could mean so little to after today could mean so little to the could be wish to impress her with the door, MacGawn entered. Mac-Gawn was the foreman, big, brawny and powerful; his voice roared through the wilderpess like a cannon,

departure from Las Joyas.

HEART

A MISSIONARY AT

Mary Clark Jacobs in Rosary Magazine

Father Frazer was absorbed in the preparation of his sermon for the following Sunday. The pastor of St. John's Church was ill and this young hot headed Scotchman if there were another man this side of the Atlantic man, but recently ordained to the priesthood, had come to fill his place who could manage the men as well.' And from that moment Jimjim until his recovery. But try as hard as he might the thoughts would not come. While he paced the length of ' What the room with a quick, nervous tread the doorbell rang, followed quickly by the little electric buzzer over his which was Mrs. Mallory's door, method of informing him that a visi-

the little chap couldn't do enough for me. He followed me around like a dog, anticipating my wishes in a

zoo !'

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out of my way, I'll kill him. I have King Edward "Use the poor fellow to run errands, clean up, or anything you like. I believe dad would fire that Hotel

> next time you go to TORONTO

aged to keep him out of MacGawn' way, saw that he got enough to eat Father Finn's Latest Book and a place to bunk, and in gratitude **His Luckiest**

With Jack'

protecting.'

They can do what they like. I suppose the writ of the law runs even in the Sierra ?

Possibly, but I shouldn't care to be the man who tried to enforce itat least not in the present case." "Well, I shall not hesitate a

moment to enforce it, if I find such enforcement necessary—isn't that a knock at the door ? Supper? Good? I'm more than ready for it."

When they emerged from their apartment they saw that a table, in a corner of the corridor where a lamp was hanging, had been laid for two. Don Mariano, who was seated on a bench near by, rose to invite them ceremoniously to their places, but did not join them. "It seems they won't break bread

and salt with us," Armistead ob-served, as he sat down. "Quite Arabian, isn't it ?"

"It strikes me that they are treat-ing us with a very fine hospitality ; all the more because they make no pretense of receiving us as friends," Lloyd replied.

Supper, served by a silent, rebozo-shrouded woman, being over, they igined Don Mariano where he sat, wrapped in a *zarape*, at the end of his bench; and smoked, as they shivered in the keen mountain air. while talking of mines and forests. Presently Armistead yawned.

"I think I shall go to bed," he d. "I'm not only tired, but it is plainly the only hope of getting warm. Ask Don Mariano if it never

grows warmer here?" Don Mariano answered the question with an emphatic monosyllable

me here as the agent of—" moteness of a life as far removed "Mr. Trafford," she said, as he used. "Yes, I know that. But world as that which might have paused. for what object does he come ?" been led in a bai "To assert Mr. Trafford's claim the feudal ages. been led in a baronial castle during

of ownership over the Santa Cruz Mine," Lloyd answered concisely. Mariano, entered the room, two "Ab !" she caught her breath feminine figures came from an inner sharply, and again the starlight apartment, both closely wrapped in showed a flash of fire in the dark draperies, but one much larger and eyes. "He will dare? But the santa Cruz Mine is my mother's ; she inherited it from her father ; and it had been abandoned for years, when we reopened it, worked it, made it, made it, made it, made it, made it what it is to day. What claim has Mr. Trafford upon it ?" "It appears that your grandfather gave hin a tille to the mine when when he married your mother." "And although he has put my "He will dare? But the more stately than the other, —a wom-ruz Mine is my mother's; she an of mature age and splendidly ma

"And although he has put my with which the lithe, flery creature

right to know, and what her reason Not much, I am afraid ; alth telling. So he held his peace Mexican law to speak positively."

Well, I am sure that Trafford in with regard to the matter : and when Don Mariano informed them imme diately after breakfast that Dona that the mine is his by right of Beatriz would see them, he accom-panied Armistead to the interview a perfect title, Simply tell them this, and ask what they are going with the subdued interest of one to do. The reply to this question was

who knows beforehand pretty much brief. what will occur. We shall hold the mine, senor,' They were conducted to a large

Dona Beatriz said. "What pig-headed folly !" Armis room at the front of the house, into

tead commented impatiently. " They can't possibly understand the situa Why on earth don't you ex tion. plain it to them more clearly? If only I could talk-

Mr. Armistead thinks that I have not explained the situation to you with sufficient clearness, senora. Lloyd said, addressing Dona Beatriz. "He wishes you to know distinctly that Mr. Trafford believes himself to hold a perfect title to the Santa Cauz Mine, and that if you do not vield the mine to him he will take legal steps to assert his rights of ownership!

> 'You mean that he will force us to give it up, senor ?" 'And then-" Father Frazer sug-

" I mean just that senora."

"I have only one answer, senorlet him try! Whether or not be has a legal title to the mine I do not ested—in fact, I am hoping that she to the men he seemed but a cruel know; but this I know-that he will will be my wife-and when I showed never succeed in taking it And if her several trinkets taken from the know; but this I know—that he will never succeed in taking it And if he is wise he will not try to do so. He has robbed me of much"—she opened her arms with a wide, tragic was a Catholic as I am, and Catholics his gang, during the course of which gesture,—"and he has robbed his always pray for departed souls. I they had openly boasted that they daughter of more, but he shall not am sure he would appreciate your rob us of all. In scorn and contempt prayers.' I told her that not being a together to inspect a tunnel which we leave him such part of what was Catholic I wouldn't know how to not gone far before we found that we not gone far before we found that we tion with an emphatic monosyllable. "Nuncal" he said. "Well, I suppose it's not surpris-ing," And attolugh he has but iny with which the Rosario ing," And attolugh he has but iny with which the little, hery creature with which the little, hery creature beside her was all alive; and whether is grive armistead went on, elevation did the aneroid record to-

They

tor awaited him. "Alas, my poor sermon !" really uncanny man assistance I taught him a jargon of young priest sighed as he descended words, and we were soon able to understand each other, with the aid the stairs.

At the entrance to the reception of signs. He called me 'Beel,' for Bill. Whenever I had nothing in room he paused. Evidently unaware of his approach, a man was standing particular for him to do, he would with his back towards the door. steal away to the big steam engine greatly interested in a picture of the and at a safe distance, his black eyes "He is not a Catholic," was Father

bulging with terror and amazement, watch it. I found him there one Frazer's inward comment. "Good day when the men were filling the tank with water. "'Hello, Jimjim,' I cried. 'Some "Ah ! Good morning." The man turned from his inspection of the plc-

big drinker, huh ?' ture. "You are Father-?" "Father Frazer, at your service.

Biga drinka,' he repeated after me, shaking his head.

"'Sure,' I laughed. 'If the men did not give the engine water, every Thank you ! I will try to state man did me a great service- in fact, saved my life twice, the last time at day, it would explode and kill all of us

"'It biga an' bada lik' him.' He pointed to MacGawn.

the cost of his own. I have always been filled with a deep sense of gratitude towards him, but as he "'Far worse, Junjim,' I answered. 'MacGawn is a baby beside that big monster.' And I passed on leaving was dead there seemed to be no manner of expressing it. Of course saw that he had a decent burial. him there, his eyes glued upon th engine with renewed terror and and a modest stone over his grave, and I thought there was nothing else that I could do, until recentinterest.

"The men had been discontented for some time over some grievance wholly imaginary, and MacGawn was almost at his wit's end trying to keep

"I was telling the story to a young them under control. I knew that he tyrant, a slave driver, merciless and We had

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gested.

Sacred Heart.

Please be seated.'

morning, sir," he added aloud.

my errand as briefly as possible.