

swinging lope soon put the town well behind them. The road followed by Therese, while tortuous in the extreme, bore steadily south, and so she kept it for almost an hour. Winding through the sage brush which, in the dark, loomed up like strangely graven rocks, breaking out into a stretch of crisp brown bunch grass, dipping into the gloom of a grove of red stemmed Jack pines or sombre firs, skirting the edge of tiny range lakes which reflected in their dark waters the starlit sky, the path by which she sought safety for her lover led ever higher and higher until it brought to the timbered country a long five miles from town. Following slowly the fringe of the dark line of timber she located a trail which she knew would lead them well into the roughest part of the wooded hills and almost to the door of a deserted cabin which she had discovered on one of her rides about the range. She knew that the existence of this cabin was unknown to any save a few of the older men and that its exact location was even to them only a matter of conjecture. What is more, she knew that from a jutting point of rock in front of the cabin a good view of the road below was obtainable and that in the bluff behind it an old tunnel was hidden by a slide and screened by newly-grown underbrush.

Reaching the cabin the fugitive and his guide dismounted and the girl stripped the saddle blankets from the horses and left them with the scanty supply of food she took from her saddle. There was no time for words other than the necessary arrangements for the future and it was only a few minutes before Therese was again mounted and on the way. Leading the cattleman's horse she followed the trail back to the open range and when she reached the road instead of turning towards town she faced the horses the other way and rode some distance before she slipped the rope from the neck of the led horse and started him alone towards his home corral. After some apparently aimless riding for the purpose of confusing her trail she at length faced the little pinto for his stable and leaving the reins loose on his neck allowed him his own gait until she reached home unseen, within three hours of the time when Harry Rawlins met

his death and Ralph Cousins became a fugitive from the justice he feared.

A month later Therese was again at the little cabin in the hills. The search for the slayer of Harry Rawlins had been abandoned by all except the police, who still took an official though perfunctory interest in the chase. One of the posses which had been formed to follow up every trail and road leading out of Kamloops had come across the saddled horse which Therese turned loose on the night of the escape and from this find had drawn the conclusion that the gambler had ridden to Cherry Creek and from there by some undiscovered means had taken to the water. This conclusion was generally accepted and it seemed only too probable that the murderer had escaped the long arm of the law to meet death in the rapids of the Thompson. Even the goodly reward offered for his apprehension no longer tempted pursuit.

Therese had made many journeys from town to the shelter in the fir-clad hills. None suspected her then of complicity in engineering the escape of Cousins and her frequent excursions caused no comment as she and her pinto pony were as they had long been, a familiar sight on the range for miles around. Little by little she had taken up necessities for the hiding man, who, during the month, had required almost constant care. The bullet from Dad Thompson's heavy Colt's had bitten deeply into the gambler's side and the wound was slow to heal. Time, a good constitution and the tender care of the girl who had led him to his retreat in the hills had pulled the wounded man safely through and the time had come for planning some method of leaving a country which was no longer to his taste.

Therese's knowledge of all the roads leading to ultimate safety was absolutely necessary to the success of any plan and the gambler suffered from no scruples in working upon her infatuation to insure her co-operation. This very evening he had overcome the last show of hesitation on her part and all had been arranged to his satisfaction. When tomorrow's sun had set the two were to meet at a point selected by Therese and from there they would strike by the most unfre-