

THE BODY OF THE CROSSING

"With Miss Henderson, Mathers' sister-in-law!" announced *The Koolenay News*.

Sam stared, for a second or two bereft of speech, and then—"Not a bit surprised!" he said again. Marsden emulated his calm exterior, and succeeded so well that the reporter thought it necessary to add explanation. His news seemed to fall flat.

"Didn't you know her?" he asked. "You must have seen her around—tall, dark, bit of gyp about her, terribly pretty, but spoilt by being too sure."

"I guess I know the woman you mean," said Marsden.

"Thought you would!" declared the reporter. "So-long!"

He fled upon his exciting business, and when he had gone Sam's head turned slowly toward Marsden, Marsden's turned slowly toward Sam. Their eyes met. They both spoke the same phrase—and it was entirely Western.