

DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS



Father's troubles are only beginning

HEART of the SUNSET by REX BEACH

Author of 'The Spoilers,' 'The Iron Trail,' 'The Silver Horde,' etc.



SYNOPSIS.

Chapter I—Set afoot and alone by an accident in the desert near the Rio Grande Mrs. Alaire Austin, mistress of Las Palmas and La Feria ranches, meets Dave Law, Texas ranger, at a water hole and is compelled to spend the night there with him, as he is in ambush for a murderer and cannot leave his post. Chapter II—Next day at evening the murderer appears with a companion. Chapter III—Law captures the murderer but is compelled to kill his companion, Panfilo Sanchez, who happens to be a cousin of Mrs. Austin's horse-breaker, Jose Sanchez. Chapter IV—At Las Palmas Alaire tells her husband, Ed, that his carousal and inebriety must stop. Her cattle at La Feria, the Mexican ranch, are confiscated by Longorio, Mexican federal general, and she finds that it is because Ed has been helping the rebel junta. Chapter V—On her way to La Feria in Mexico Alaire meets Longorio, who falls in love with her and agrees to settle for the confiscated stock. Chapter VI—Entertained at their home by Blase Jones and his daughter, Paloma, Dave hears something about the Tad Lewis outfit which is suspected of cattle stealing. With Ricardo Guzman and his boys Dave and Blase go on a scout after cattle thieves. Chapter VII—Law catches two of the Lewis outfit branding a stolen calf and in a fight kills one and has his horse shot under him. He trails the other thief to Las Palmas, where he is insulted by Ed Austin, whom he knows to be very friendly with the Lewis outfit. Chapter VIII—Law follows up the trail of Urbina, the escaped thief, to no purpose except to confirm Austin's connection with the Lewis outfit. Chapter IX—On her homeward journey Alaire again meets Longorio, who openly makes love to her. She obtains the release of Juan Garcia from prison. Chapter X—Jose Sanchez swears to find out the truth about the slaying of Panfilo. Dave gets further information about the Lewis outfit. Ricardo Guzman goes to Mexico to sell horses to the federales. Chapter XI—Dave and Alaire attend the Las Palmas rodeo. She presents Dave with a horse to replace the one killed by the cattle thieves. They discuss the killing of Panfilo. Chapter XII—Guzman does not return from Mexico and his reported killing arouses Americans. Dave and Blase arrange to go to Romero across the river and recover the body. Jose Sanchez that Dave killed Panfilo and goes to join Longorio. Paloma and Alaire arrange to go to the river to await the return of Blase and Dave. Longorio appears at Las Palmas with secret and overhears Ed telephoning news of the trip after Guzman to Chapter XIII—Longorio compels Ed to go to the river with him. The girls follow and hide in the pumphouse. The Lewis outfit appears. When Blase and Dave cross the river a general mix-up is prevented by Captain Evans and his rangers who appear on the scene and support Dave. Dave arrests Urbina. Chapter XIV—Blase dodges dress-makers and fortune tellers. Chapter XV—Strange, a fortune teller, warns Dave that Jose is cooking up trouble for him and Alaire. Dave goes to see her and in a moment of emotional stress they confess their love. Chapter XVI—Ed, who had disappeared after the Guzman incident, comes back and Alaire decides to divorce him. She writes to her lawyer and to Dave. Jose carries Dave's letter to Longorio, who orders him to kill Ed. Chapter XVII—Alaire moves to divorce Ed. War with Mexico seems imminent. Dave comes to the Jones house sick. Strange warns him that

our only chance." Father O'Malley, who had been lost in thought, spoke up again: "Perhaps you will let me try my wits. But first, do I understand that it was he who effected the death of—Mr. Austin?" Dave recounted as coherently as he could the circumstances of Ed's death, and told how he had learned, through Jose, of Longorio's intentions. As the priest listened a spot of color grew in his cheeks, his eyes glowed with indignation. He was about to make known what was in his mind when Alaire raised her hand and in a strained whisper exclaimed: "Sh-h! Listen!" The heavy door of the hacienda creaked, a quick tread sounded on the tiles, the door to the living room was flung open, and Longorio entered. He was hot and dusty from his ride, but with a lover's impetuosity he had made straight for this lighted room. For the briefest instant he balanced himself just inside the portal, and the smile remained fixed upon his lips. Then his eyes became ringed with white and he made a swift, catlike movement of retreat. Plainly this was the supremest surprise of his lifetime, and he seemed to doubt his senses. But he recovered quickly. Thrusting his head forward, he demanded: "What is this? You—and you?" He stared from Dave to the priest, then back again. They all spoke at once, but he heard only Alaire's words: "He came to find me." Pancho appeared in the doorway behind Longorio, saying, "I heard you ride up, sir, so I ran to tell you about this fellow." But the general cut him short. "Call your men, quick," he cried in a voice that sent the soldier leaping back into the night. Alaire was clinging to Dave, merely clutching him the tighter when he tried to unclasp her hold. Her movement into the shelter of his rival's arms infuriated Longorio, who uttered an exclamation and fumbled uncertainly with his holster. But his fingers were clumsy. He could not take his eyes from the pair, and he seemed upon the point of rushing forward to tear them apart. "Don't touch her! Don't!" he began, cursing in a high-pitched voice. "God! What a reckoning!" Then he stamped his feet, he wrung his hands, he called shrilly at the top of his voice: "Lieutenant! Ho, Pancho! You fellows! Quickly!" Under the stress of his excitement the feminine side of his character betrayed itself. Alaire felt her newly made husband gather himself for a spring; he was nutting to her to release him; he was trying to push her aside, but she held fast with the strength of desperation. "You can't harm us," she declared, flinging her words defiantly at the Mexican. "You dare not. You are too late. Father O'Malley has just married us." Longorio uttered a peculiar, wordless cry of dismay; his mouth fell open; his arms dropped; he went limp all over, paralyzed momentarily by surprise and horror; his eyes troubled, he swayed as if his sight had blurred. "I said I'd never marry you," she rushed on, vibrantly. "This is the man I love—the only man. Yes, and I've learned the truth about you. I know who killed Mr. Austin." Longorio did a very unexpected thing then; slowly, unconsciously, as if the movement were the result of a half-forgotten training, he crossed himself. But now from the hall at his back came the pounding of boot-heels, and a half-dozen pluming troopers tumbled through the door. He waved them back and out into the hall again. Father O'Malley, who had been tre-

ing to make himself heard, stepped in front of the general and said, solemnly: "Take care what you do, Longorio. I have married these people, and you can't undo what I have done. We are American citizens. The laws of civilization protect us." The Mexican fought for his voice then stammered: "You are my priest. I brought you here. I offered to marry her. Now—you force me to damn my soul." Turning his eyes wildly upon Alaire, he shouted: "Too late, eh? You say I am too late! It seems that I am barely in time." Dave added his words to the others: "You are ten to one, but you can't have her," he cried, defiantly. "Jose Sanchez confessed to the murder of Mr. Austin, and told how you had got Mrs. Austin to come here. The whole thing is known in Washington and Mexico City by this time. The newspapers have it; everybody knows you are keeping her as your prisoner, and that I have come for her. If she is harmed, all Mexico, all the world, will know that you are worse than a murderer." Longorio reached behind his back and slammed the door in the faces of his listening men. "What is this? What did Jose confess?" he inquired, sharply. "He swears you hired him." "Bib! The word of a peccador." (TO BE CONTINUED)

WHY WAS IT NECESSARY To pass a law in Wisconsin compelling every man to submit to an examination? BEFORE MARRIAGE "Damaged Goods" ANSWERS THE QUESTION. "Special Assessment Notice." Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Council of the City of Ottawa, Illinois, having ordered that improvement of certain part of Cornell street in the south part of the City of Ottawa, by grading, draining, curbing and paving the same, by an ordinance passed by said Council on the 31st day of January, 1917, and approved by the mayor of said City of Ottawa, on said 31st day of January, 1917, the ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the City Clerk of said City, having applied to the County Court of La Salle county, Illinois, for an assessment of the cost of said improvement, according to benefits, said assessment being payable in ten (10) installments, each bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, and an assessment therefor having been made and returned to said Court, the final hearing thereon will be had on the 25th day of April, 1917, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., or as soon thereafter as the business of the Court will permit. All persons desiring, may file objections in said Court, before said day and may appear on the hearing and make their defense. Dated, Ottawa, Illinois, April 9, 1917. THOMAS C. WILSON, Appointed to Make Said Assessment. "Special Assessment Notice." Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Council of the City of Ottawa, Illinois, having ordered the improvement of certain parts of Adams street and other streets and street intersections and appurtenant thereto in the southwest part of the City of Ottawa, by grading, draining, curbing and paving the same, by an ordinance passed by said Council on the 1st day of February, 1917, and approved by the Mayor of said City of Ottawa, on said 1st day of February, 1917, the ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the City Clerk of said City, having applied to the County Court of La Salle County, Illinois, for an assessment of the cost of said improvement according to benefits, said assessment being payable in ten (10) installments, each bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, and an assessment therefor having been made and returned to said Court, the final hearing thereon will be had on the 25th day of April, 1917, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m., or as soon thereafter as the business of the Court will permit. All persons desiring, may file objections in said Court, before said day and may appear on the hearing and make their defense. Dated, Ottawa, Illinois, April 9, 1917. THOMAS C. WILSON, Appointed to Make Said Assessment.

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