

DELL

NO 531 10¢

Have gun, will travel

... Richard Boone





The name is Paladin, sir.

I'm a gentleman by choice



...and a gunfighter by trade!

If you want my services, I...

**HAVE GUN,
WILL TRAVEL!**

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Have gun, will travel **THE BRAVE MAN**

IN THE BUSTLING GROWING CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, A CITY OF RILY MEN, GET-RICH-QUICK SCHEMERS, ROAD AGENTS AND GUNSLIERS, ONE MAN HAS STAKED OUT THE FASHIONABLE LOBBY OF THE CARLTON HOTEL, AS HIS HOME GROUNDS—RALADN!



...A MAN WHOSE UNUSUAL BUSINESS IS PRINTED ON HIS EVEN MORE UNUSUAL CALLING CARD!



ON A ROAD LEADING INTO SAN FRANCISCO...



LATER, AT THE
CARLTON...

HERE PAPER, MR. PALADIN! BANDIT
STOP STAGE COACH OUTSIDE CITY!
THEY SAY FOREIGNER HIT BANDIT
OVER HEAD WITH CANE, AND TOOK
HIM TO JAIL! FOREIGNERS, THEY CRAZY!



I SAY
PORTER!

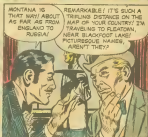
WOULD YOU BRING IN
MY BAGG AND THEN
YOU CAN TELL ME WHICH
WAY IT IS TO MONTANA!

PERHAPS
I COULD
HELP YOU!



MONTANA IS
THAT WAY! ABOUT
AS FAR AS FROM
ENGLAND TO
RUSSIA!

REMARKABLE! IT'S SUCH A
TRIFLING DISTANCE ON THE
MAP OF YOUR COUNTRY? I'M
TRAVELING TO PLEATOWN,
NEAR BLACKFOOT LAKE!
PICTURESQUE NAMES,
AREN'T THEY?



FROM 'YOUR WALK-
ING STICK, I SEE
YOU ARE THE MAN
WHO STOPPED A
STAGE ROBBERY!

HARDLY WORTH MEN-
TIONING! BUT I'M
SURE THERE'S NO
PLACE I CAN HAVE
MY STICK WENDED!



THAT EVENING...

SO YOU SEE, MY ELDER
BROTHER INHERITED THE
FAMILY DEBTS AND TITLE--
EARL OF BRUSHWICK! FATHER
HAD INVENTED MONEY IN THE
RANCH IN MONTANA AND HIS
SHARE WAS LEFT TO ME!

AND NOW YOU ARE
GOING TO TAKE IT
OVER, JAMES?





LATER, IN
PLEATOWN...

MORNING, CHIEF HARRY!

MORNING, MISS
CARRON!

H.G. SMITH
GENERAL STORE



HOPE YOU'VE
GOT MY ORDER
READY, M.G.!

JUST SITTING AND WAITING
FOR YOU, MISS CARRON! BUT
WHY NOT LET OLD WADDO GET
HIMSELF DOWN AND HAVE A
CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE HE
LOADS THE STUFF?

THANKS, M.G.
COFFEE'D
BE REAL
NICE!



HE-HEY!

HAH! HAH!



THAT'S NOT FUNNY,
M.G. MATTER OF
FACT, NONE OF YOUR
JOKES ARE FUNNY!

AW, COME OFF IT, MISS CARRON!
NOBODY'S HURT! WADDO'D
HAVE BEEN LAUGHING IF
SOMEONE ELSE FELL FOR
THE TRICK!



ALL THE SAME, I WONDER HOW HARD YOU'D BE LAUGHING IF SOMEONE PULLED THE TRICK ON YOU!

DROP IT, WADDY! N.E. WILL NEVER GROW UP AND STOP THESE BILLY SCHOOLBOY TRICKS!

WISS FELICIA, I THINK YOUR COUSIN JUST GOT HERE!



MORNINGS! IF THIS IS FLEATOWN, COULD SOMEONE DIRECT US TO KING'S ARMS RANCH?

RECKON YOU'RE MY KINFOLK, JAMES!

NO. G. 5 AM



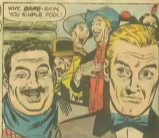
COUSIN FELICIA! WHY, THIS IS DELIGHTFUL!

PLEASUED TO MEET YOU!

THIS IS MY FRIEND AND GUIDE, MR. PALADIN!

BOYS, WATCH WE PULL THAT DUDD'S LEG!





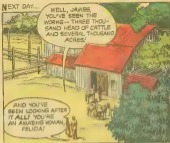
HARRY, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO EARN A BOTTLE OF FIRE WATER APRICE? I'VE GOT A JOKE IN MIND THAT'LL MAKE THAT DUDE RUN RIGHT OUT OF HIS RANCY BRITCHES!



NEXT DAY...

BELL, JARVIS, YOU'VE SEEN THE WORKS-- THREE THOUSAND HEADS OF CATTLE AND SEVERAL THOUSAND ACRES!

AND YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER IT ALL! YOU'RE AN AMAZING WOMAN, FELICIA!



I'M AFRAID SHE DOESN'T TAKE MY PLAN TO SETTLE DOWN HERE SERIOUSLY!

THAT'LL CHANGE! AT THE MOMENT, YOU'RE SORT OF UNUSUAL TO HER!



TO EVERYONE! I GUESS THAT STOREKEEPER WAS TESTING ME, TOO!

THE THEORY IS THAT A MAN WHO CAN BE TRICKED IS A FOOL! YOU SEE, TWO HANDS OF PEOPLE AREN'T WANTED OUT HERE! CONARDS AND FOOLS! IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION, A CONARD WILL RUN OUT! A FOOL WILL MAKE A FATAL MISTAKE!



HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT FITTING AN

TAKE YOUR ENGLISH SADDLES! IT WAS MADE FOR REDS-- NOTHING ELSE!



BUT THIS WESTERN SADDLE WAS MADE TO CARRY ALL A CONBOY'S TOOLS! EVERY PART OF IT DOES A JOB! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN WHAT JOB YOU CAN DO HERE!











NEXT MORNING...



HE COULD LEARN TO HELP YOU! HE NEEDS THE RANCH! IT WOULD GIVE HIM A PURPOSE IN LIFE! AND YOU NEED HIM!



SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING!

GET INTO THE RIG! I HOPE THE INDIANS HAVE COOLED DOWN BY NOW!



BUT SOON...

HOW IS HARRY?

HE WILL LIVE! BUT WE WANT "CRAZY CLOTHES!"



WE WANT "CRAZY CLOTHES!"

YOU ALL SEEM TO HAVE DONE A BIT TOO MUCH CELEBRATING OVER HARRY'S RECOVERY! WE'LL TALK IN TOWN!



YOU SHOOT OUR CHIEF, THEN OFFER TALK? WE WANT "CRAZY CLOTHES!"









HARRY, CALL THEM OFF! WE COULD HAVE SHOT YOUR BRAVES BY NOW, BUT THAT WOULD HAVE STARTED A WAR! IF YOU KILL THAT MAN, THE SOLDIERS WILL COME AND THERE WILL BE A WAR ANYWAY! HE'S BEEN HURT ENOUGH!

HE IS BRAVE,
'ORAZZY CLOTHES'

ONLY A FEW MEN WEAR CLOTHES LIKE THAT! IT IS A PROUD UNIFORM OF A FAR-OFF LAND! ONLY BRAVE MEN WEAR THOSE CLOTHES! GREAT AND WISE LEADERS! SEE - NOW HE BEHAVES!





Have gun, will travel

THE GIRL FROM PICCADILLY

IN THE LOBBY OF SAN FRANCISCO'S CARLTON HOTEL, PALADIN SCANS A NEWSPAPER UNTIL



WESTROPE'S SON, A CAVALRY OFFICER, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MARRIED SHORTLY BEFORE HIS UNLAWFUL DEED.



SORRY BREAKFAST LATE! DELIVERY MAN SLOW BECAUSE OF BIG STORM!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, HEY BOY! WHILE YOU ARE HERE, I HAVE A CARD I WANT YOU TO DELIVER.



THIS GOES TO MR MARTIN WESTROPE!







I ONLY KNOW THAT SHE IS SOMEWHERE FROM LONDON - NEAR PICCADILLY! I LOVED MY SON VERY MUCH - I WANT TO MEET HIS WIFE!



BUT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A GUNMAN TO FIND HER! IT WILL REQUIRE A MAN WITH INTELLIGENCE, INSIGHT -

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT YOURSELF, MR. WESTROPE! YOUR IMPORTING FIRM HAS THE HIGHEST CREDIT RATING! YOUR BANK BALANCE AVERAGES FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! YOU HAVE SECURITIES AND HOLDINGS IN EIGHT PROMINENT COMPANIES!



FASCINATING! DO GO ON!

YOU ARE A MAN OF REGULAR HABITS! YOU RETIRE AT TEN NIGHTLY. YOUR DOCTOR IS JOSHUA MCKINLEY! YOU SUFFER FROM A CARDIAC WEAKNESS - BUT TIME IS PRESSING! WILL I DO?



YES! AS TO YOUR FEE - FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, PLUS EXPENSES! IF YOU FIND MY SON'S WIFE!

FAIR ENOUGH!



HOW SOON CAN YOU BEGIN CHECKING AT JACK'S ARMY POST?

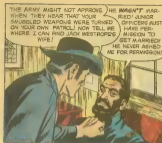


THE TICKET I BOUGHT ON MY WAY OVER IS FOR THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN!



LATER







OPENING THE REGISTER, PALADIN FLIPS BACK A FEW PAGES...



THAT EVENING, AS PALADIN GOES TO CHECK AT THE LOCAL CHURCH...





"PLEASE COME TO THE SIDE DOOR OF THE CHURCH AT ELEVEN."



LATER...

"I'M NOBEL WESTROPE—
JACK'S WIFE!"



"THANK YOU FOR COMING!"

"I'M WONDERING HOW YOU
KNEW WHO I WAS TRYING
TO FIND, SIR!"



"AS I STARTED INTO THE
RECORDS OFFICE TODAY, I HEARD
YOU TALKING TO THE CLERK! YOU
WERE LOOKING FOR PROOF OF
JACK WESTROPE'S MARRIAGE!
I TOOK THE CHANCE THAT
YOU WERE A FRIEND!"

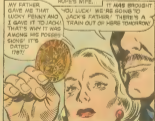
"WHAT DO
YOU MEAN—
CHANCE?"



"YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY
PERSON LOOKING FOR
NOBEL! AN ATTEMPT
WAS MADE ON HER
LIFE THE WEEK SINCE
THEN, I'VE KEPT
HER HIDDEN IN
THE PARISH!"

"I CAME TO THE
REVEREND HAM-
PTON FOR HELP
BECAUSE HE
MARRIED JACK
AND ME!"

MINUTES LATER, AS WALDEN SETS THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT PROVE NOBEL WAS JACK WESTROPE'S WIFE...



"MY FATHER
GAVE ME THAT
LUCKY PENNY AND
I GAVE IT TO JACK!
THAT'S WHY IT WAS
AMONG HIS POSSIBLE
GAINS! IT'S
DATED 1887!"

"IT WAS BROUGHT
YOUR LUCK! WE'RE GOING TO
JACK'S FATHER! THERE'S A
TRAIN OUT OF HERE TOMORROW!"

THE NEXT
DAY...

"YOU DON'T
HAVE YOUR
MARRIAGE
LICENSE?"

"NO, IT WAS BURNED IN
THE FIRE! SOMEONE SET
FIRE TO THE COTTAGE
JACK RENTED! I BARELY
MANAGED TO ESCAPE IN
TIME! I THOUGHT IT WAS
AN ACCIDENT--TILL ONE
GAVE ME ONE SHOT AT ME!"

THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY AT
STAKE! THE FAMILY HAS A SIDRABLE
FORTUNE--AND OBVIOUSLY SOMEONE IS
TRYING TO PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING
ANY OF IT WHEN MR. WESTGATE'S HEAVY
HEART FINALLY TAKES ITS TOLL!

"DON'T MOVE--
EITHER OF YOU!"

"HOW MUCH
ARE YOU GET-
TING PAID
FOR THIS?"

"SHUT UP!"

"IT'S A NASTY JOB--SHOOTING
A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL! YOU
DON'T GET AWAY WITH IT! THE
SHOTS WILL BE HEARD!"

"I'LL BE GONE--AND
IT'LL BE DONE BY
YOUR OWN HAND!"

"GUESS!"

SUDDENLY THE TRAIN LURCHED AS IT ROUNDS A CURVE...





DID YOU
KNOW HIM?

N-NO... I DON'T
THINK I'VE EVER
SEEN HIM BEFORE!



HE ISSUED YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE! I'M
GOING TO STOP THE TRAIN! MAYBE WE CAN FIND
SOME PAPERS ON HIM THAT WILL TELL
US WHO BENT HIM!

A FEW DAYS LATER...

MR. PALADIN, COME IN! I'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT TO UNCLE MARTIN! HE'S BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

HE HAS?



DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU! I REALIZE THIS MEANS YOU GOT MY TELEGRAM!

TELEGRAM? NO, I RECEIVED NONE!



OH? WELL, NO MATTER, YOU'RE HERE! I WANT TO PAY YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND TROUBLE! SORRY YOU MADE SUCH A DIFFICULT TRIP FOR NOTHING!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FOR NOTHING?



TWO DAYS AGO, SHE CAME! I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER! JACK'S WIFE IS HERE!



LATER...

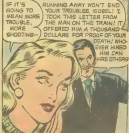
I'M USED TO LOOKING AFTER MYSELF! I'LL GET A JOB SOMEWHERE! I'VE BEEN TOO MUCH TROUBLE ALREADY!

I MADE A BARGAIN WITH MARTIN! HE PROMISED TO BRING ME HIS SON'S WIFE AND I'M GOING TO DO IT!



IF IT'S GOING TO MEAN MORE TROUBLE, MORE SHOOTING—

RUNNING AWAY WON'T END YOUR TROUBLES, SOBEL! I TOOK THIS LETTER FROM THE MAN ON THE TRAIN! IT OFFERED HIM A THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR PROOF OF YOUR DEATH! WHOEVER KILLED HIM CAN HAVE OTHERS!



NEXT DAY...











GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, BOTH OF YOU... FOREVER!



I'M SORRY TO HAVE PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THIS! BUT YOU WANTED TO MEET YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW SO DEEPLY, I HAD TO SHOW YOU CONVINCING PROOF THAT SHE WAS NOT JACK'S WIFE!

I JUST WISH YOU WEREN'T RIGHT! IT WAS SO NICETHEWAS I HAD JACK'S WIFE WITH ME! NOW, I HAVE -- NOTHING!



MR. WESTROPE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET YOUR SON'S REAL WIFE, BOBELL!

IS IT TRUE? IS IT REALLY TRUE?



A WEEK LATER... WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE?

YES, AND TO THANK YOU! MR. WESTROPE AND I ARE HAVING A FINE TIME! HE WANTS ME TO SHOW HIM MY HOME IN LONDON! IN YOUR HAND, YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING FOR YOU!



IN WORK LIKE YOURS, YOU CAN ALWAYS USE A LITTLE EXTRA LUCK!

A PLEDGE **DELL** TO PARENTS
COMIC

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HIRED GUNMEN



MY CALLING CARD MAY BE SMASH OUT WEST, BUT NOT MY JOB. FROM THE TIME SETTLERS LEFT THE EAST, MOVING CROSS COUNTRY, HIRED GUNFIGHTERS HAVE BEEN USED IN MANY WAYS. A GOOD SHOOTING EYE AND A QUICK HAND ON THE DRAW MAKES A MAN WANTED IN DEMAND IN THE WEST.



SOME WESTERN TOWNS, TIRED OF BEING BUFFALOED BY GUNMEN, HIRED THE DEADLIEST GUNFIGHTER TO ACT AS SHERIFF AND KEEP THE OTHERS IN LINE.



WHEAT HUNTERS WORKED WITH THE RAILROAD GANGS AS TRACKS MOVED ACROSS THE PLAINS. SHARP-SHOOTING HUNTERS WERE HIRED TO PROVIDE BUFFALO AND GAME FOR HUNGRY LABORERS.



A MAN WITH A DEAD EYE WAS QUICKLY KNOWN AND FEARED. HIRED TO FROG SHOOTING, JUST THE SIGHT OF HIM WAS SOMETHING ENOUGH TO DRIVE OFF STAGE ROBBERS.



THE LARGEST NUMBER OF HIRED GUNMEN IN THE WEST'S HISTORY WERE EMPLOYED BY WYOMING CATTLEMEN IN 1892 TO DRIVE OUT THE FEUDING LOCAL HOMESTEADERS.



"SITTING AT GAMING TABLES, I SEE ALL KINDS OF MONEY CHANGE HANDS... HERE IN THE WEST, MANY TYPES OF METAL AND PAPER SERVE AS CURRENCY. GREENBACKS, OR PRINTED GOVERNMENT DOLLARS, WEREN'T POPULAR TILL CONGRESS IN THE 1870'S SAID YOU COULD GET GOLD FOR THEM AT ANY TIME.



"DINN PLASTERS WORTH THREE, FIVE, TEN, TWENTY OR FIFTY CENTS IN PAPER MONEY HAD FEW USERS TILL CONGRESS GUARANTEED TO TAKE THEM BACK FOR GOLD.



"MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF TOKENS WORTH ONE CENT ARE POPULAR MONEY. THEY WERE MADE BY EASTERN BUSINESS CONCERNS WHEN COINS WERE SCARCE DURING THE CIVIL WAR.



STEAK WITH ONION... 1 BIT
BREAD AND BUTTER,
STEW AND ROLL DINNER
2 BITS
DESSERT— 1 BIT

"MOST THINGS ARE PRICED IN BITS. A "BIT" IS A SPANISH COIN WORTH TWELVE AND A HALF CENTS AND IS THE POPULAR CURRENCY OF MINING CAMPS.



"SPANISH DOLLARS ARE WORTH EIGHT BITS AND KNOWN AS "PIECES OF EIGHT". THEY AND MEXICAN PESOS, OR "1000 DOLLARS", I OFTEN TAKE IN AT THE PARS TABLE."