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picturized edition of **ZANE GREY'S**

FORLORN RIVER



The BRONC PEELER

and FREDERICK S.



WHEN THE SPRING ROUNDUP IS OVER, CONBOYS TAKE ON THE DIFFICULT TASK OF CATCHING AND TAMING WILD HORSES. THE MAGNIFICENT STALLIONS OF THE OPEN RANGE OFTEN GIVE THEM A WILD TUSSELE BEFORE THEY ARE FINALLY LEO INTO A CORRAL. IT USUALLY TAKES FOUR TO SIX WEEKS TO TAME A WILD HORSE. AND EVERY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO TREAT HIM AS GENTLY AS POSSIBLE. IF A WILD HORSE IS MAN-HANDLED TOO MUCH IN THE EARLY PART OF HIS TRAINING, HE OFTEN BECOMES A PERMANENTLY UNMANAGEABLE OUTLAW.

HOWEVER GENTLE A HORSE IS TREATED DURING TRAINING, HE IS NEVER ALLOWED TO HAVE MUCH OF HIS OWN WAY. THE CONWARD MUST BE BOSS, AND THE SOONER THE RANGE HORSE REALIZES IT, THE BETTER. THE FIRST STEP IS TO GET THE HORSE TO WEAR A SADDLE AND A BLANKET WITHOUT GETTING EXCITED. THEN COMES THE MOMENT WHEN THE BRONC PEELER VAULTS INTO THE SADDLE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT IS A RARE ANIMAL WHICH CAN'T BE TRAINED BY CAREFUL HANDLING AND GOOD RIDING. ONCE THE CONBOY GETS ON HIS BACK, THE REALLY INCORRIGIBLE BUCKERS SOMETIMES WIND UP IN RODEOS.



ZANE GREY'S FORLORN RIVER

THE MOON SOARED WHITE ABOVE THE LAVA BEDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA! IN THE MIRELESS SILENCE AN UNSHOD HOOF CLICKED AGAINST STONE... A STALLION'S SLENDRO FORM STOOD OUTLINED, SUDDENLY... THE WILD HORSES WERE COMING TO DRINK:



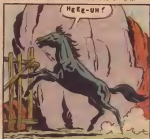
IN THE SHADOW OF A LAVN BLOC, THREE HORSE HUNTERS LIE IN WAIT... BEN JOE, "NEVADA" AND MOOGG THE INDIAN.

AFTER A PAUSE, THE STALLION HEADS DOWN TOWARD THE CAVE... AN OLD VOLCANIC BLOWHOLE... THAT SHELTERS A POOL OF GOLD, PURE WATER. A LONG LINE FOLLOWS HIM... FLEET, WILD CREATURES OF EVERY COLOR...





IN FUTILE FURY, THE LEADER'S MIGHTY HOOF DRUM ON THE IMPRISONING GATE ...



THREE DAYS OF HARD WORK FOR MEN AND PACK HORSES, SUPPLY THE HORSE HUNTER'S CAMP WITH HAY, GRAIN, ROPE, HARDWARE AND GRUB...



MORE TIME IS USED UP, BUILDING A STRONG
BREAKING CORRAL...



AND THEN THE TOUGHEST WORK OF ALL BEGINS
---BREAKING THE TRAPPED HORSES, A FEW AT
A TIME...



TAMING THEM ENOUGH FOR THE TRIP DOWN TO
BEN ICE'S RANCH ON FORLORN RIVER 'AS THE
HOT WEEKS OF SUMMER PASS, THE PARTNERS
GROW LEAN AND WEARY...



NEVADA, WE'VE ONLY A
FEW MORE TO BRING
DOWN FROM THE LAVA
BEES! IT'S THE START
THAT I'VE WORDED AND
DREAMED TO GET---

BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
WORRYING
YOU, BEN?



YES---THE FEAR---THE HUNCH---THAT
SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO
SPOIL IT ALL! I CAN'T ASK INA
BLAINE TO LEAVE A HOME WHERE
SHE HAS EVERYTHING---AND
MARRY A BUSTED HORSE HUNTER---
A MAN OUTLAWED BY HIS OWN
DAD---AND HERE!



STEADY, BEN! WE'RE NOT GOING BROKE,
FROM HERE ON! AND INA KNOWS THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND WHAT
SOME FOLKS HAVE TRIED TO MAKE
YOU! SHE'S KNOWN YOU SINCE
SCHOOL DAYS!





NEVADA? THEN HE'S POOLED
MY QAD...AND IMA'S? HE AIMS
TO RUIN THEM? I'LL KILL HIM
IF...



EASY, PARDNER? I TOOK
THE LAW INTO MY OWN
HANDS ONCE...BUT ALL IT
DID WAS MAKE ME A MAN
WITHOUT A NAME, TRYING
TO ODDGE MY PAST? MAYBE
WE CAN GET THE LAW TO
HANDLE LESS SETTER?

HOW?



OVER THERE, BETWEEN THE SAGE
MOUNTAINS AND THE NEVADA PEAKS,
BILL HALL'S GANG ARE STEALING
STOCK RIGHT NOW, BEN?

THAT'S NO
NEWS?



BUT IT WOULD BE NEWS
IF WE CAPTURED 'EM
AND TURNED 'EM OVER
TO SHERIFF STROBEL?
I RECKON HALL COULD
BE MADE TO TURN
STATE'S EVIDENCE...
AGAINST SETTER, TOO?

HMMM? THERES
A LOT OF "IFS"
IN THAT IDEA,
NEVADA? BUT
I'LL SLEEP ON IT?



GOOD? IN THE MORNING WOODS AND
I WILL GO FOR THE LAST OF OUR
WILD HORSES... YOU STAY HERE, BEN,
AND GUARD WHAT ARE IN THE
PASTURE! FORLORN RIVER IS OUT
OF HALL'S TERRITORY... BUT YOU
NEVER CAN TELL?



NEXT DAY, AT THE BLAINE RANCH ACROSS FORLORN RIVER, INA HEARS AN UNWELCOME VOICE...



---AND IF YOU OWNED
THE WORLD, YOU
WOULDN'T BE FIT TO
CLEAN BEN IDE'S BOOTS!

AAH!
SPUTT...!

THAT AFTERNOON, BEN IDE SPOTS THE APPROACH
OF VISITORS

HUMPH! HERE
COMES LESS SETTER
AND A COUPLE OF
BLAINE'S RIDERS!
WONDER WHAT BUSINESS
THEY'VE GOT...?

BUT BEN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO NOTICE LESS
SETTER'S APPROACH. YOUNG MARVIE BLAINE, AGAINST
HIS FATHER'S ORDERS, HAS HIDDEN OVER TO ENJOY
BEN'S FAVORITE TROUT HOLE...

GOLLY! IT'S SETTER, CALLING ON BEN!
I RECKON IF BEN KNEW HOW THAT
CURLY WOLF HAD TRIED TO KISS INA
HE'D KNOCK SETTER'S HEAD OFF!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM

RIDERS ON THE TRAIL BEHIND
ME --- HEADED FOR BEN IDE'S!
I WONDER WHO...?



A WORD WITH
YOU, IDE!

I'M LISTENING, SETTER!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?



YOUR LAND! MY PARTNER, BLAINE,
AND I AIN TO BUY YOU OUT, ALONG
WITH SIMS AND HIS NEIGHBORS! IF
THOSE HORSES IN YOUR PASTURE
AREN'T STOLEN, YOU CAN THROW
THEM INTO THE BARGAIN.



I'M NOT SELLING! AND SIMS
AND HIS NEIGHBORS CAN'T
SELL, BECAUSE I'VE BOUGHT
THEM OUT, LONG AGO! NOW
EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEANT
BY SAYING THAT I'M A
HORSE THIEF!

WHY--BLAST IT!--
YOU ARE! AND IF
YOU WON'T SELL
OUT, YOU'LL BE
DRIVEN--



YOU'VE SAID
'ENOUGH!

YEE-OH!



HOW--
FIGHT!

GOH!



YOU FOOL! NO MAN
HAS LAID HANDS ON
ME AND LIVED
TO TELL--



BUT SETTER'S DRAW IS SLOWER
THAN BEN'S LEAP!





TIP, TIP, TIP!
KY-BEE-OOOOOO!



MARVIE BLAINE?
WHAT'S ALL THE
CELEBRATION?



---THE WAY YOU HANDED
SETTER! BEN, IF I HADN'T
BEEN AFRAID THAT SOMEBODY'D
TELL DAD I WAS OVER HERE,
I'D HAVE BEEN RIGHT BEHIND
YOU, CHEERING!

WELL?
WHAT HAS
SETTER BEEN
DOING TO YOU,
MARVIE?



TEE-HEE-T-T-T! IT'S WHAT
HE TRIED TO DO TO INA!
TRIED TO KISS HER THIS
MORNING! ONLY, SHE LET
FLY WITH AN
INKWELL, AND--

THE HOUND!
I'M GLAD I
DIDN'T KNOW
THAT! I MIGHT
HAVE KILLED
HIM!



MAYBE THIS OL' TROUT
WILL MAKE YOU FEEL
BETTER! I CAUGHT IT
FOR YOUR DINNER, BEN!
GOT THREE MORE TO
TAKE HOME--FROM
YOUR FISHING HOLE!

AN EIGHT
POUNDER! IT'S
MORE THAN I CAN
EAT, WITH NEVADA
AND MOOSE
AWAY--BUT I'LL
MAKE TWO MEALS
OF HIM!

TELL INA I—ID GIVE
AN ARM TO SEE HER!
BUT MY COMING WOULD
JUST MAKE A FAMILY
RUCCUS—YOUR FATHER
FEELING THE WAY
HE DOES, MARVIE.

DON'T WORRY—
INA UNDER-
STANDS! AND
SOMETHING'S
BOUND TO
HAPPEN, TO
GIVE YOU AND
HER A BREAK?



TWO NIGHTS LATER, WITH BEN'S PARTNERS
STILL ABSENT...AND A LATE MOON RISING OVER
THE RIVER ..



TWO HORSES—COMING UP
TO THE CABIN! IT'S NOT
WOODCOCK AND HEVMO.

THEY'VE LEFT THE
HORSES IN THE TREES!
ONE OF 'EM IS COMING
ROUND THE CORNER
OF THE CABIN NOW!



THAT'S FAR ENOUGH—UH?
MARVIE BLAINE? WHAT—?

TUTT-TT-TT! YOU
SURE ARE SUGGEN,
BEN—WITH FISTS
OR GUNS? INA WOULD GIVE
YOU WHAT-FOR, IF YOU
STUCK A GUN UNDER
HER HOSE!



INA? IS SHE
WITH YOU,
MARVIE?

SHE'S WAITING
IN THE TREES!
COME ON!



HERE HE
IS, SIS!

INA? THIS IS
A TREAT! I DIDN'T
DARE TO HOPE FOR—

I HAD
TO COME,
BEN!
EVEN AT THE
RISK OF DAD'S
FINDING OUT.





I AIM TO FIGHT BETTER TO A FINISH!
IF HE KEEPS HIS HANDS OFF YOU, I'LL
STAY WITHIN THE LAW... PROVE THAT
HE IS THE CROOK WHO HAS SCHEMED
WITH RUSTLERS TO CONTROL
THIS RANGE---CLEAR MY
NAME, AND THEN---

OH,
BEN...



...THEN I'M GOING TO
ASK YOU TO MARRY ME,
MRS. BLAINE! I LOVE
YOU AS MUCH AS A
MAN CAN LOVE!



ASK ME, NOW,
BEN! FOR I
LOVE YOU, TOO
FOREVER...



EARLY NEXT DAY, NEVADA AND MOOGG ARRIVE
WITH THE HALF-BROKEN HORSES...

HI-YI! SET IN THERE, YOU
GREATAS! THAT'S THE LAST
OF 'EM, BEN!

FINE,
NEVADA!



WHAT'S NEW AT
FORLORN RIVER,
PARTNER?

PLENTY, NEVADA!
YOU AND MOOGG
ROPE A FRESH
HORSE A PIECE!



WE'RE RIDING
AGAIN---THAT
QUICK?

YES---AFTER HALL AND
HIS GANG OF RUSTLERS!
I'VE GOT THE PACK HORSES
READY---AND A COLO
LUNCH TO EAT IN THE
SADDLE.



NOBODY! I WANT YOU TO RIDE TO HAMMEL NOW, WITH A LETTER TO FRISSE. HE'S BEEN ASKING TO BUY OUR HORSES! HE CAN SEND MEN FOR THEM AND PUT OUR MONEY IN THE BANK!

WHY?



WHERE I MEET YOU AND NEVADA?

WE'LL WAIT AT THE CEDARS...THE ONLY WATER HOLE THIS SIDE OF SILVER CANYON.



DOES THAT SUIT YOU, NEVADA?

IT WAS MY PLAN TO BEGIN WITH, BEN! ONLY—WHAT'S THE AWFUL HURRY?



SETTER HAS FOUND HIMSELF TWO DEPUTY SHERIFFS! THEY'RE STOPPING AT THE BLAINE RANCH ACROSS THE RIVER!

WHO TOLD YOU?



INA BLAINE! SHE AND MARVIE CAME HERE LATE LAST NIGHT. INA THINKS THOSE TWO WILL SHOW UP HERE SOMETIME TODAY WITH WARRANTS FOR OUR ARREST---ON SETTER'S CHARGES. WE'RE NOT RUNNING, NEVADA---WE'RE JUST OUT-SMARTING 'EM!



NEAR SUNDOWN, AT THE END OF A THIRTY-MILE RIDE, BEN AND NEVADA REACH THE RENDEZVOUS



PLENTY OF FRESH WILD HORSE TRACKS HERE, NEVADA—BUT I DON'T SEE CALIFORNIA RED'S TRACK!

BE TOO BAD IF YOU DID, BEN!

TOO BAD? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FARMER? EVERY HORSE HUNTER HAS DREAMED OF CATCHING RED FOR YEARS! HART BLAINE HAS OFFERED THREE THOUSAND FOR HIM!

YEAH! THAT'S JUST WHAT I MEAN!



HORS HUNTING COMES FIRST WITH YOU, BEN IDE! I BET IF YOUR GIRL, MA, WAS HANGING BY ONE FINGER TO THAT CLIFF, YOU'D LEAVE HER TO CHASE CALIFORNIA RED!—YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, ALREADY!

HEYADA, YOU'RE RIDING ME PRETTY HARD—BUT I RECKON I DESERVE IT!

MODOC WILL BE HERE DAY-AFTER-TOMORROW, OR SOONER—AND HE SAYS HE KNOWS WHERE TO FIND THOSE RUSTLERS, BUT THEN, WHAT?

THEY'VE GOT TO SLEEP! HALL'S GANG IS TOUGH BUT SMALL! WE'LL SNEAK UP ON 'EM, BEN!



IN THE MORNING, BEN AND NEVADA RIDE OUT TO LOOK OVER THE WILD JUNGLE OF RIDGE AND CANYON...



THERE'S SILVER VALLEY!



THAT FAR RIDGE MARKS SILVER CANYON---
WHERE MOODO SAYS THE RUSTLERS DRIVE
MOST OF THEIR CATTLE ACROSS THE
DIVIDE!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK
OVER THERE! IF HALL'S
BEEN GATHERING COWS
FOR A DRIVE---



---MAYBE WE CAN SAVE
TIME IN LOCATING
MR. BUNCH!

AN EASY RIDE BRINGS THE MAN HUNTERS TO
FRESH SIGN.



HERE'S WHERE SILVER CANYON
COMES INTO SILVER VALLEY! AND I
SEE COW TRACKS!



HERE THEY ARE---
FAT AS HAWKS!

---AND WEARING THE A-I BRAND---
AWOG IDG'S, MY FATHER'S STOLEN
BEEF! THAT MEANS HALL'S GANG
IS MIGHTY CLOSE!



WE'LL RIDE THE RIDGE
AND LOOK FOR SIGN OF
THEIR CAMP, NEVADA!

UH-HUH!
I RECKON
IT WON'T
BE FAR.



LATE THAT AFTERNOON

SEN! I SEE SMOKE!
DOWN IN THAT PATCH OF
TREES, NEAR THE
LITTLE SIDE-CANYON

MOVE ALONG,
AND WE
CAN LOOK
RIGHT DOWN
ON 'EM! BRING
THE HORSES!



WHÉE-EE-NA! NA-MON!

QUIET---YOU
ORNERY CAYUSE!
WANT TO GIVE
US AWAY?



BELOW---AT BILL HALL'S RUSTLER CAMP.

A HOSS---OH THAT
RIDGE! BE READY TO
RIDE, BOYS! IT MAY
BE A POSSE!

SHUCKS, BILL
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN A WILD
OREANA!



LOOK, NEVADA!
THEY'RE FIXING TO
MOVE OUT! YOUR
HORSE'S WHINNY
WARNED 'EM!
WHAT'D WE
BETTER DO?

IT'S HALL'S
OUTFIT, ALL RIGHT!
MAYBE IF WE SPOOK
'EM---MAKE 'EM THINK
THERE'S A BIG
HORSE ON THEIR
TRAIL---

---WE CAN SET 'EM
ON THE RUN, AND
HEAD 'EM OFF
WHERE THEY
DON'T EXPECT US---

IT'S TOO FAR TO HIT
ANY OF 'EM, EXCEPT
BY CHANCE! BUT WE
CAN KICK UP A LOT
OF DUST AND
ROCKS---



THEY'RE STARTING
TO PULL OUT NOW!

FOUR IT
TO 'EM!



WE'RE SURROUNDED!
HEAD FOR THAT
SIDE-CANYON!



COME ON! THEY'VE
DUCKED INTO THAT SIDE-
CANYON! WE'LL KEEP
'EM ON THE JUMP!



THERE THEY GO! FIVE RIDERS
AND ONE PACK HORSE! THEY
LEFT MOST OF THEIR
SUPPLIES BEHIND!



POW! POW!

THERE'S ANOTHER RIFLE
SHOOTING AT 'EM!



IT'S MOCCI! I KNOW THE
RANK OF HIS OLD 45-50!
NOW HE GOT HERE SO
QUICK I DON'T KNOW...



NEITHER DO I— BUT
HE SURE IS GIVING THAT
GANG A BAD TIME OF IT!





BACK AT CAMP, THE BOYS STILL FIND THEIR INDIAN AHEAD OF THEM...



HALL SCARED--- THINK-UM BIG POSSE CHASE-UM! SO HIM TAKE SIDE-CANYON---HARD GOING--- BAD WATER WHEN HIM REACH MULE DEER LAKE! HAVE TO GO MOODOC CAVES FOR WATER! WE KETCH-UM THERE!



DAYBREAK BRINGS THE WEARY MAN-
HUNTERS TO MULE DEER LAKE'S
STAGNANT WATERS. . .

THERE'S MULE DEER
LAKE. SURE DOES LOOK
STAGNANT AND FOUL!



LOOK-UMTRACKS.
BEN! HALL LEAD
HOSES TO LAKE,
BUT NO HOSS DRINK!

I DON'T
BLAME 'EM,
POOR CRITTERS!
IT SMELLS
VILE!



TWO MORE DAYS
TRAVEL TO MODOC
CAYES, NEVADA!
HALL'S HORSES WILL
BE MIGHTY DRY!

AND SO WILL
HALL! HE
COULDN'T
CARRY MUCH
WATER ON
THAT ONE
PACK HORSE!



HALL GO FAST, EVEN IF
HE KILL HOSES! IF
WE NO HURRY, NO
KETCH-UM IN CAVES!

ALL RIGHT, MODOC!
LET'S POUND LEATHER!

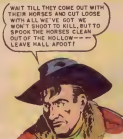


NEAR SUNDOWN, TWO DAYS LATER, THE END
OF THE TRAIL IS NEAR



STEALTHLY AS A COUGAR, THE
INDIAN MOVES AHEAD!





FOR A MOMENT, THE OUTLAWS PAUSE IN THE CAVE'S SHELTERING SHADOW

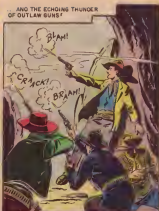


THE BELLOW OF MOOOO'S 45-50 JOINS
THE WHIP-LIKE REPORT OF THE
RIFLES...

NICKED MY EAR---THE
OLD LOBO! SPOOK THE
HOGSIES NOW---GOOO!



...AND THE ECHOING THUNDER
OF OUTLAW GUNS!



AS GUNFIRE ROCKS THE HOLLOW, THE OUTLAWS'
PANICKED HORSES STAMPEDE FOR
THE RIM...



THERE GOES THEIR
LAST HOSS! WE'LL
PLUS THE TRAIL
NOW, PARTNERS!

--- AND STARVE
HALL OUT, IF HE
WON'T GIVE UP
SOONER!





---AND ABSOLUTE SURRENDER! LEAVE YOUR RIFLES AND THROW YOUR SIX-GUNS OUT WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM! THEN COME ON OUT, THE WHOLE BUNCH OF YOU!



NEXT MORNING, SNOW IS FALLING, AFTER A SUDDEN, BITTER FREEZE...



.. AND WHERE FORLORN RIVER WIDENS INTO WILD GOOSE LAKE THE SURFACE IS UNBROKEN ICE ... NEARLY TO THE MIDDLE...



ALL RIGHT! I ONLY HOPE YOU STARVE SOMEDAY, WITH FOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU! WE'RE LICKED!



BEN! LOOK-UM! WILD HORSES ON ICE! GET-UM CRINK AT WATER HOLE! STALLION, HIM, RED!

CALIFORNIA RED HIMSELF! I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE!



WELL, PARDNER, THIS IS THE TOUGHEST DEAL WE'VE HAD YET! CALIFORNIA RED ON ICE! WE COULD CATCH HIM, WITH HALF A DOZEN MORE RIDERS! BUT EVEN IF WE WEREN'T HERDING PRISONERS, WE'RE ONLY THREE----

WE'RE GOING TO CATCH HIM, NEVADA!

HALL! IF I PROMISE TO LET YOU AND YOUR MEN GO FREE, WILL YOU HELP ME CATCH THAT STALLION?

YES! YOU'RE A LOODED IDIOT, ICE---- BUT I KNOW YOUR WORD IS GOOD!



YOU AND ONE MAN COME WITH ME, HALL! THE REST WILL COMPLETE THE CIRCLE! WE'LL CLOSE IT SLOWLY!

I SAAVVY! I RECKON WE CAN DO IT, TOO, ICE!



SIGHTING DANGER, THE RED STALLION WHISTLES A WARNING TO HIS MARES.



...BUT THE ICE MAKES A TRICKERY SURFACE FOR UNSHOD HOOFES.



ACROSS THE RIVER, AT BLAINE'S RANCH, EXCITEMENT RINGS IN MARVE'S VOICE.

SE! COME QUICK! IT'S CALIFORNIA RED ON THE ICE--- AND BEN ICE IS AFTER HIM!

BENT AFTER RED? OH! LET ME LOOK, MARVE!



IN THE TELESCOPE'S LENS, THE RED HORSE BREAKS FROM HIS BAND. IN A DESPERATE RUN TO BREAK THROUGH THE HUNTERS' CIRCLE.



... AND SOMEHOW HE SUCCEEDS! AFTER HIM RACES BEN, HIS MOUNT'S SHOD HOOF SPUTTING LITTLE PUFFS OF CUT ICE.



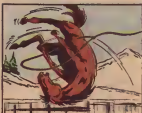
RED'S MOMENTUM STILL SHOOTS HIM FORWARD, LEGS FLAILING... BUT ABOVE HIM SWINGS BEN'S ROPE.



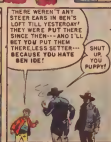
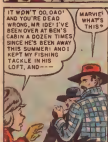
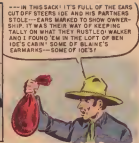
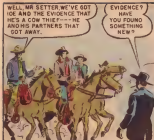
SUDDENLY HIS FOREFEET GRIP! HIS FIGHTING CHALLENGE RINGS BUSTLE-CLEAR, AS HE GATHERS HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES...



THEN THE TREACHEROUS ICE BETRAYS HIM! BEN'S ROPE NEATLY FALLS OVER THOSE STRONG FORELEGS.









BUT INSTEAD, THE TWO MEN REACH
FOR THEIR GUNS.



... AND MISS! BUT NEVADA'S AIM IS
BOTH GOOD AND FAST!



THIS IS YOUR COME-
UPPANCE, TOO, SETTER!
SHERIFF STROBEL IS
COMING RIGHT BEHIND
ME... WITH BILL HALL
AND HIS GANG IN TOW!
AND HALL HAS GIVEN
YOUR CROOKED GANG
AWAY! YOU'RE ALL
WASHED UP---

YOU---YOU
LIE! HALL
GOT AWAY!
I WATCHED
THROUGH A
GLASS, AFTER
THEY CAUGHT
THAT RED---



I MET SHERIFF STROBEL
DOWN THE ROAD---HELPED
HIM CAPTURE HALL'S GANG!
HALL'S HORSES WERE ALL
IN! LOOK DOWN THE ROAD,
SETTER, AND YOU'LL SEE 'EM
COMING! STROBEL WILL
ARREST YOU---

HUMPH! THAT'S
STROBEL AND HALL!
BUT I DON'T RECKON
STROBEL WILL TRY
TO PLAY THE FOOL---



SMOKE AND THUNDER BELCH FROM THE STEADY GUN IN NEVADA'S HAND...



NO SETTER--- I DON'T RECKON STROBEL WILL EVER ARREST YOU! YOU ARE GOING THE WAY YOU'VE SENT MANY A BETTER MAN!

HELP!
I'M---
UH---



SO LONG, BEN, PARONER! I'M LEAVING YOU IN THE CLEAR!

NEVADA! SO LONG! SOMETIME I'LL BE SEEING YOU!

STROBEL! GET THAT OUTLAW, NEVADA! HE KILLED SETTER--- WINGED WALKER AND ME--- DEPUTIES FROM REDLANDS!

I SAW IT ALL, JUDD! SETTER ASKED FOR IT!

AS FOR YOU AND WALKER, YOU'RE DEPUTIES NO MORE! THE REDLANDS OFFICE JUST NOTIFIED ME THAT YOU'RE FIRED--- BECAUSE YOUR CRIMINAL RECORDS HAVE JUST COME TO LIGHT! NOW, HAND ME THE KEY TO JOE'S HANDCUFFS! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

I--- UH--- UNDER ARREST?



BEN, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CONFERENCE, WITH HALL AND BLAINE AND YOUR GAO--- TO CLEAR UP THIS MESS, ONCE AND FOR ALL! YOU'RE FREE!

THANKS, SHERIFF! BUT I HARDLY DESERVE IT--- AFTER LETTING HALL GO AS THE PRICE OF CALIFORNIA RED!

LATER, IN BLAINE'S RANCH OFFICE, A DEEP SILENCE FALLS...

BILL HALL, SPEAK YOUR PIECE!



YOU GENTS HAVE PROMISED ME A LIGHT SENTENCE, IF I'D TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE! WELL---HERE GOES! LESS SETTER WAS THE BOSS OF THREE RUSTLIN' GANGS, INCLUDING MINE! HE FRAMED BEN AND BEN'S PARTNERS TO COVER OUR TRACKS!

BEN---SON--- I'VE DONE YOU A TERRIBLE WRONG, BY NOT TAKING YOUR WORD--- BY NOT BELIEVING IN YOU, LIKE INA DID! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

YES, DAD! I FORGIVE YOU NOW! YOU WERE JUST FOOLED BY SETTER.



---AND SO WAS I, AMOS! I WAS GREEDY, TOO! LESS SETTER GOT ME INTO SOME DEALS I KNEW WERE SHADY--- BUT I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT WITH ANYBODY I'VE CHEATED--- IF IT RUINS ME!

IT'S NOT LIKELY TO RUIN YOU, BLAINE! ANY PAPER DEALS THAT SETTER HAS MADE WILL BE DECLARED NULL AND VOID!

THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY YOU THAT THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS I PROMISED TO THE MAN WHO COULD CATCH CALIFORNIA RED! YOU'LL TAKE IT, BEN, WON'T YOU?

YES--- SO LONG AS IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY! YOU CAN CALL IT A WEDDING PRESENT FOR INA---



A MONTH LATER...

HE'S GENTLE, INA--- PLENTY SAFE FOR YOU TO RIDE, BUT STILL FULL OF FIRE AND SPIRIT!

CALIFORNIA RED--- THE ENEMY OF HALF THE STATE! AND HE'S OURS, BEN!

THERE'S JUST ONE THING--- ONE PERSON'S PRESENCE--- THAT WOULD MAKE MY HAPPINESS COMPLETE NOW, INA!

NEVADA! I KNOW, BEN--- AND I FEEL THAT WAY, TOO! WE OWE HIM ALL THE JOY WE'VE GOT! PERHAPS SOMEDAY WE'LL FIND HIM, MY DEAR!

