

# WOLVES of the SEA

By RANDALL PARRISH

## Peace or War? Dorothy Is Forced to Choose.

Synopsis — Geoffrey Carlyle, master of sailing ships at twenty-six, is sentenced to 20 years' servitude in the American colonies for participation in the Monmouth rebellion in England. Among the passengers on board the ship on which he is sent across are Roger Fairfax, wealthy Maryland planter; his niece, Dorothy Fairfax, and Lieutenant Sanchez, a Spaniard, who became acquainted with the Fairfaxes in London. Carlyle meets Dorothy, who informs him her uncle has bought his services. Sanchez shows himself an enemy of Carlyle. The Fairfax party, now on its own sloop in the Chesapeake bay, encounters a mysterious bark, the Namur of Rotterdam. Carlyle discovers that Sanchez is "Black Sanchez," planning to steal the Fairfax gold and abduct Dorothy. He fights Sanchez and leaves him for dead. In a battle with Sanchez' followers, however, he is overpowered and thrown into the bay. In a desperate effort to save Dorothy, Carlyle decides to swim to the Namur. By a ruse he gets aboard and mingles with the crew. The pirates return to the Namur with Dorothy, the captured gold and Sanchez, badly wounded but still alive. Carlyle finds a friend in Watkins, an English sailor. Estada, acting captain, makes Carlyle first mate of the Namur.

### CHAPTER XV.

#### The Cabin of the Namur.

Both huge, black hands grasped the spokes, and it was evident that it required all his giant strength to control the bucking wheel. He was an ugly-looking brute, the lower portion of his face apelike and the wool growing so low as to leave him scarcely an inch of forehead. His eyes lifted an instant from the binnacle card to glance at me curiously. They exhibited no flash of recognition.

For half an hour Estada hung about aft, apparently paying no attention to me, and yet watching my movements closely. There was little to be done, but I thought it best to keep the watch reasonably busy, so they might thus learn that I knew my work. They proved prompt and capable enough, although I was eyed with some curiosity when I first went forward, and, no doubt, was very thoroughly discussed behind my back. The idlers amidships were a totally different class—a mongrel scum, profanely chatting in Spanish or swaggering about the deck, their very looks a challenge. However, they kept out of my way, and I found no occasion to interfere with their diversions. After Estada left the deck the majority amused themselves gambling, and as I had received no orders to interfere I permitted the games to proceed. Mendez interfered only once on occasion of a brief fight. My only instructions from the Portuguese on his going below was to call him at once if a sail was sighted. Apparently he was satisfied of my ability to command the deck.

No occasion to call him arose during my watch. It was still daylight, but with a purple gleam across the waters, when LeVere arrived on deck for my relief. We were talking together about the wheel when Estada appeared in the companionway.

"Every promise of a clear night," he said, glancing about at the horizon. "Better change the course two points, LeVere; we are lying in too close to the coast for our purpose. The table call will come very shortly, Senior Gates."

I washed up hastily in my stateroom and came out into the cabin perplexed as to what might occur within the next few moments. Yet whatever the result there was no avoiding it. My every move was one of extreme caution.

Estada and Estevan awaited me. The latter was all rigged out, and with smooth black hair oiled and plastered down upon his forehead. I never beheld a more disagreeable face, or one which so thoroughly revealed the nature of a man. As I touched his hand, at Estada's brief introduction, it was as if I fingered a snake.

"This is your chair, Gates, and you will find we live well aboard the Namur—wine, women and song—hey, Manuel! Why not, when all are at command? Steward, you told the lady what my orders were. Then bid her

We stood in silence, as Gunsauls crossed the deck and inserted a key in the after stateroom door. Manuel was grinning in full enjoyment, but the expression on the face of Estada was that of grim cruelty. I felt my hands grip like iron on my chair back and my teeth clench in restraint. God, but I would have liked to grip the fellow where he stood—all the bottled-up hatred in my soul struggling for action. Yet that would only mean the death of all hope, and I turned my eyes away from him and stared with the others at the opening door.

Out into the full light of the cabin the woman came and halted barely a step in advance of the steward, her head uplifted proudly, her eyes on us. Never before had I realized her beauty, her personality, as I did then. Her posture was not that of defiance nor of surrender; she stood as a woman defending her right to respect, sustained by a wonderful courage. I caught her glance, but there was no recognition in it; not by the flicker of an eyelid did she betray surprise, and yet in some mysterious manner a flash of intelligence passed between us. It was all instantaneous, for her gaze seemed to concentrate on Estada as though she knew him as leader.

"You sent for me? For what?" she asked, her Spanish clear and well chosen.

"To join us at meal," he answered unmoved. "It is better than to remain alone."

"Better! You must have a strange opinion of me to believe I would sit with murderers and thieves."

"Harsh words, senorita," and Estada grinned grimly. "Yet I expected them. There are many trades in the world by which men are robbed. We only work at the one we like best; nor will I discuss that with you. However, senorita, I can say that we have taken no lives in this last affair."

"No lives!" in sudden, incredulous surprise. "You mean my uncle lives?"

"If you refer to Fairfax—the one in whose room the chest was hidden, I can only reply truthfully that he lives."



"Peace or War?"

One of my men struck him down, but it was not a death blow. If that be the reason of your disdain there is no cause. This chair is held for you."

"But why was I brought away a prisoner? To be a plaything? A sport for your pleasure?"

"That was but the orders of our chief; you await his recovery to learn his purpose."

"Sanchez! Was he your chief? A pirate?"

"A buccaneer; we prey on the enemies of Spain. It was at Captain Sanchez' orders we waited the arrival of your vessel from England. He loved you; he would no doubt have dealt with you honorably; I have reason to believe that to be his purpose now. Nothing will change his purpose. He is that kind, and he has the power. He determined that if you would not come to him by choice you should be made to by force. You are here now by his orders and will remain until you consent to his purpose—all that remains for you to decide is whether you choose to be prisoner or guest aboard."

"And if he should die?"

Estada shrugged his shoulders indifferently.

"Who knows?"

Her lips tightened as though to hold back a cry while one hand pressed to the open door steadied her. There was a look in the searching eyes I did not like to see. It was a moment before she could control her voice.

"I have heard them call you Estada. Of what rank in this company are you?"

"I am Pedro Estada, formerly the first officer, now, by occasion of Captain Sanchez' wound, in full command."

These are two of my officers—Senior Gates, one of your own countrymen, and Manuel Estevan. And now that I have answered your questions, what is it to be between us—peace or war?"

Her eyes dropped, and I could distinctly note the trembling of her slender figure. When she slowly raised her glance once more it rested on my face as though seeking approval, guidance.

"If there be only the one choice," she said quietly. "I accept peace. I cannot live locked in that room alone, haunted by my thoughts and memories. If I pledge you my word, senior, am I to enjoy the freedom of this cabin and the deck?"

Estada looked at us, a shade of doubt in his eyes. I made no sign, but Manuel nodded.

"Why not?" he asked in his harsh croak of a voice. "So long as we be at sea? What harm can the girl do?"

"Perhaps none; I will take a half chance, at least. You shall have the freedom of the cabin. So long as you keep your word, while as to the deck, we will consider that later. Prove you mean what you say by joining us here."

My recollection of that meal is not of words but of faces. Estada's eyes sought constantly the girl's face, and to my consternation exhibited an interest in her personality which promised trouble. I know not whether she noticed this awakening admiration, but she certainly played her part with quiet modesty. I believe that even the Portuguese reached the conclusion that she was not altogether regretful for this adventure and that it was safe for him to relax some degree of vigilance. His manner became more gracious, and long before the meal ended his language had a tendency to compliment and flatter. I contented myself with occasional sentences. The young woman sat directly across from me, our words overheard by all, and as I knew both men possessed some slight knowledge of English I dare not venture beyond commonplace conversation in that tongue. With quick wit she took her cue from me, so that nothing passed between us, either by word of mouth or glance of eye, to arouse suspicions.

Believing the feeling of confidence would be increased by such action, I was first to leave the table, and it being my watch below immediately retired to my room, noisily closing the door after me, yet refraining from letting the latch catch, thus enjoying a slight opening through which to both see and hear. Manuel did not linger long, making some excuse to go forward, but Estada remained for some time, endeavoring to entertain. His egotism made a fool of the man, yet even he finally became discouraged of making her comprehend his meaning, and lapsed into a silence which gave her an excuse to retire. This was accomplished so graciously as to leave no sting, the fellow actually accompanying her to the door of her stateroom, bowing his compliments as she disappeared within. The fool actually believed he had made a conquest and preened himself like a turkey cock.

"Gunsauls, you need not lock the senorita in her room or guard her in any way hereafter. She is permitted to come and go as she pleases aboard."

Estada entered his own stateroom, leaving the door ajar. When he came out he had exchanged his coat for a rough jacket. Thus attired for a turn on deck, he disappeared through the companion.

### CHAPTER XVI.

#### In Dorothy's Stateroom.

I stood crouched, with eye at the crack watchful of every movement in the lighted cabin, my own decision made. I must see and talk with Dorothy. Gunsauls turned down the light and departed along the passage leading amidships. A moment later I heard the sound of dishes grinding together preparatory to being washed. No better opportunity for action was likely to occur, although the situation was not without peril. I crept along close to the side walls, lifted the latch noiselessly, and slipped quickly within. There was no light, except a glimmer of stars through a large after port, but against this faint radiance she stood vaguely revealed. Her first thought must have been Estada, for there was a startled note in her challenge.

"Who are you? Why do you come here?"

"Speak low," I cautioned. "You must know my voice."

"Geoffrey Carlyle!"

"Yes, but do not use that name—all hope depends on my remaining unknown. You welcome me?"

She came straight forward through the dim star shine, a spectral figure, with both hands outstretched.

"Welcome!" her tone that of intense sincerity. "Your presence gives me all the strength I have. But for you I should throw myself through that port into the sea. But I know not how you came here—tell me, you are not one of these wretches?"

"No; you must believe that first of all, and trust me."

"I do—but—tell me all you can."

"Is there a divan here, or anywhere can we sit down together? I can see nothing in this darkness."

Carlyle saves Dorothy from death at the hands of a mysterious intruder but is unable to account for the sudden attack in the night. There is some dark plot behind it all. What will the morning disclose?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



## Poultry

### BETTER CHICKENS IN SOUTH

Propitious Climate Enables Owner to Produce Eggs to Better Advantage—Some Obstacles.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Increased interest in poultry raising in the general farming sections of the South, with purchase of much better stock, is reported by a specialist of the United States department of agriculture who recently investigated the status and activities of Old Mother Hen in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Producers are working not only to supply the home market but eggs are also being shipped from Mississippi, Alabama and Texas to Memphis, St. Louis, New York and other marketing centers.

The advantages of the South for poultry keeping are manifold, and include a propitious climate, which enables the flock owner to produce eggs to better advantage during the winter season, while he also can make use of simpler and cheaper houses than can his northern associates. Furthermore the favorable weather conditions in the South promote the feeding of green stuff to the hens practically the year around.

There are certain disadvantages, too, such as prevalence of insect pests, including mites, lice, and in some sections mosquitoes and stick-tight fleas, as well as the blue bug in parts of Texas. Furthermore southern markets are not high-paying consumers of locally produced eggs. This is particularly true in the resort section of Florida, where for many years the trade has been accustomed to import its eggs from the North and West. It does not readily transfer this business to local producers. In addition the



Flocks of Mixed Breeds Are Giving Way to Purebreds in South.

southern market for eggs is usually "spotted," due to fluctuations in the tourist traffic.

During the heat of summer egg losses in the South aggregate a considerable sum, largely due to the development of fertile eggs. It is essential that southern producers exert every effort to produce and market only infertile eggs in order to control this source of loss. A common opinion prevails that the leghorns are particularly adapted to southern conditions, but according to the experience of the specialists of the United States department of agriculture southern poultrymen realize just as satisfactory results—and in many instances more favorable returns—from the maintenance of the heavier, general-purpose birds.

A number of failures in the poultry business on the part of newcomers in Florida, who embarked in specialized production of poultry products, are explained by the fact that most of them were unfamiliar with local conditions and started on too extensive a scale. A beginner in chicken raising in a new locality should always start on a small scale and expand his operations as he learns more about local conditions and as his returns from the business justify. For the man who is experienced in poultry raising and who will adapt himself to new conditions readily and not take excessive risks, and who is supplied with plenty of working capital the southern states apparently offer for a fair opportunity.

### WHITE-SHELLED EGG LAYERS

Fowls of Mediterranean Breeds Best Suited for This Purpose—Classed as Nonlayers.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Poultry of the Mediterranean or egg breeds are best suited for the production of white-shelled eggs. Representatives of this class are bred largely for the production of eggs rather than for meat production. Among the popular breeds of this class are: Leghorn, Minorca, Ancona, and Andalusian. One of the outstanding characteristics of the egg breeds is the fact that they are classed as nonlayers. That is, as a rule, they do not become broody and hatch their eggs. When fowls of this class are kept artificial incubation and brooding are usually employed.

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### A Ghastly Loan.

Representative Bascom Slempp said in Richmond the other day:

"There's something ghastly about German resourcefulness, something that reminds me of Bill's silk hat."

"Bill was on his way to Joe's funeral in a resplendent silk hat. A friend also on the way to the funeral, met him and eyed the tile enviously."

"Where did you get it, Bill?" he said. "You don't own a tile—I know that."

"Sh!" said Bill. "It's poor Joe's. I borrowed it off the widow."

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### Father Dodged.

"I couldn't decide among my beaux so I sent 'em all to get father's consent."

"Well!"

"Now I'm worse off than ever. He gave his consent to every one of them."

### Catty Comment.

Belle—I'd just like to see any man try to kiss me!

Nell—Oh, nobody doubts you'd like it.

Shortly after marriage a man acquires the habit of listening.

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