

THE WRECK.

Across the night a gray moon fell Through bars of shifting cloud, to rest Where iron reef and white wave met Sullenly at the doors of hell.



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CHAPTER XXI.

THE RESCUE OF ANGIOLA.

The next day, as the big gun from the citadel boomed out the twelfth hour and all the bells of the town clanged forth the time, five horsemen rode through the gate of St. Angelo, whose doors were spread wide open.

"Is the Cavaliere Paolo Baglioni within?" I asked, as I dismounted, taking it for granted I was to be received, from the preparation I saw was made.

"Will you be good enough to announce the Cavaliere di Savelli—on an urgent affair?" The man turned round to a closed door behind him, rapping at it with his mailed hand.

"His excellency's bear—do not fear it—else it might injure you—cospetto! But it is a perfect fiend if you run from it. It killed a poor woman the other day."

"The Cavaliere di Baglioni?" I inquired. "At the Cavaliere di Savelli's service," and a tall figure rose from a lounge chair and surveyed me.

"Well, and to what do I owe the honor of this visit?" "You would prefer no beating about the bush?" "It is my way."

"I was playing a risky game. If I did succeed in inducing this man to listen to my proposals, and he actually persuaded his cousin to do likewise, it would be a terrible blow to the Borgia. On the other hand, I ran the immediate risk of being arrested and kept a prisoner or killed outright."

"I can offer you none. In matters like these one does not carry evidence about—but if you like to send a trusted messenger to Rome, to the Cardinal d'Amboise—see the

reception he will get—or, nearer still, to Tremouille?" "And why come to me?" "Because of your influence with your cousin, and because you are a man who will play for a big stake, and I risked the shot."

"I did not like the part I was playing, but I knew enough of the state of affairs to be certain that D'Amboise would richly reward the person who could detach Baglioni from the Borgia. I said no more than the truth, therefore, when I added, quietly:

There was an altercation at the door; my host went out with his pet, and for a minute or two I was left alone. I moved my seat nearer to the small table beside Baglioni's lounge, and, taking up the pack of cards, began to shuffle and cut them.

"Down, Pluto!" and Baglioni turned to me: "The king again. What was that you said?"

"Cutting left hand against the right. I lost three times." "I lost ten thousand one night over cutting—but help yourself," and he pushed the



My sword was up to the hilt in his side.

flask towards me, and then filled his own, which he drained at a gulp.

"Come, cavaliere—you are in no hurry—cut me through the pack."

"With pleasure, but my purse-bearer is downstairs—will you permit me to see him?" "By all means—the heavier the purse the better for me."

"I rose and went down to Jacopo, and found him and Bande Nere already on friendly terms with the guard. I took my purse from him and found time to whisper a warning to strike the moment he heard my whistle. When I came back I was relieved to find the bear fastened by a chain to a ring in the wall. The chain itself was weak and could have been snapped with ease, but the animal made no effort to strain at it, and lay down as contentedly as a dog."

"Back at last," he said, and his voice had lost its measured cadence; "heavens, I have not spread the cards for a whole year—what stakes?"

"Simply cutting the cards?" "Yes. It is the quickest game I know." "Say a crown each turn to begin with."

"The moment had come for which I had been watching. Time after time I felt inclined to strike a sudden blow, but held myself in."

"Tush!" I replied, "the word of Baglioni is enough—but if you want a last try for your revenge I will cut you—"

"A moment, cavaliere. I said in your presence. I did not include Messer Pluto there in the interview."

"Very well," he said, and, taking a large key from his girdle, went on before me. It cost me a great effort to keep cool; up to now my luck had been so great that every moment there was a temptation to put all to the hazard of one stroke. I smiled under my beard as I thought of the imposed fool Count Carlo had placed in charge of his prize, and when I saw the huge shaking hand clutching the key I could not help thinking that nerves like that would never hold a sword straight, and that for all his size and courage the cavaliere was not a very formidable foe.

In a few steps we reached the door he wanted, and Baglioni, after knocking once, simply turned the key and pushed open the door.

"A visitor for you, madam." She did not seem to recognize me, but at the warning gesture I made a faint flush came into her cheek. She stood looking at us half frightened, half indignant, and at last spoke.

"I do not recognize—" "Ugo di Savelli, madam," and I bowed. Her lips curled a little as she answered: "Well, Messer Ugo di Savelli—Cavaliere Ugo di Savelli, I should say—is it not so? May I ask your business? If it is any message from your master I decline to hear it, and she turned away with a motion of supreme disdain, thinking no doubt that I was a follower of Count Carlo."

"Ho! ho!" laughed Baglioni at my look of discomfiture; "the future countess can speak her mind. I pity Carlo. You had best cut short your five minutes, cavaliere, and come back to the cards."

"A cry, a movement, and I kill you like a dog," I gasped out, my breath coming thick and fast; "throw the key to the lady—pick it up, girl—quick—now run to the door and stand there—I am here to save you."

"The Burglar Was There All Right." St. Louis, April 8.—While two detectives sat in wait for the expected arrival of a burglar in the residence of Justice of the Peace Cline, 4321 Olive street, and while the family was at dinner, the expected visitor entered the home, walked up to the second floor, passed through the hall in plain sight of the spot in which the officers stood, and, after stealing \$1,400 in valuables and money, effected his escape as easily as he had entered.

"China Duly Warned." London, April 8.—A special dispatch from Shanghai announces that the American, British, German and French ministers sent a joint note to the Chinese foreign office demanding the total suppression of the society of Boxers within two months and announcing that otherwise the powers mentioned will land troops and march into the interior and northern provinces, Shan Tung and Chi Li, in order to secure the safety of foreigners.

"Agricultural Bill Carries More." Washington, April 8.—The agricultural appropriation bill reported to the house carries \$4,116,400, being \$390,778 more than the law for the current year. An additional allowance of \$40,000 for seed distribution is granted upon the petition of 225 members of the house.

"Dewey May Go to Kansas City." Kansas City, Mo., April 8.—John R. McLenn, brother-in-law of Admiral Dewey, has engaged commodious quarters at one of the leading hotels for the democratic convention in July. The rooms are choice and it is hinted that they are to be shared by Admiral Dewey.

"Pattison for Vice President." Chicago, April 9.—From the inner sanctum of the national democratic committee comes word that the running mate of Mr. Bryan has been selected, and that it is no other person than ex-Gov. Robert E. Pattison, of Pennsylvania.

THE DAM GAVE WAY.

Awful Disaster at Austin, Tex., Caused by a Cloudburst.

Colorado River Rose 50 Feet in an Instant After the Break and Many People Were Swept into Watery Graves.

Austin, Tex., April 9.—The great dam across the Colorado river, which was constructed seven years ago at a cost of \$1,000,000, was swept away Saturday by a flood. The break occurred at 11:15 o'clock and caused a rise of 50 feet in the river below the dam. Twenty-three persons are known to have been drowned. The power house of the municipal water, electric light and power plant, situated immediately below the dam, was flooded, and eight persons, men and boys, were caught in the power room and all except one were drowned. Frank Jones, an engineer, escaped by grabbing a belt and hauling himself out hand over hand through an opening in the roof of the building before the water reached him.

At the time the masonry work of the dam gave way about 500 persons were near the east end of the structure watching the flood pour off over the crest. Without warning a break occurred near the corner of the dam and a stretch of the masonry work about 500 feet long swung out. The great bank of water in Lake McDonald formed by the dam instantly leaped into the wide opening and with a roar that was heard for several miles, the flood tore down into the valley.

A few hundred yards below the dam, a point of land extended about 200 feet into the river. There were on this point at the time the break occurred a number of persons, including a woman and two children, and a party of university students. Before these people could gain a position of safety, the water struck the projection, covering it instantly. The woman and two children, six men, names unknown, and one university student are known to have been drowned. Some of the others were caught in the stream, but managed to escape the main current and gained the shore after a desperate struggle.

Several hundred persons were at the foot of the wagon road bridge across the Colorado river when the cry reached them that the dam had broken loose. A minute later, and before many of the panic stricken spectators could take to flight, a solid wall of water 50 feet high swept down the valley and struck the bridge with terrific force. Owing to the absence of driftwood the bridge did not give way under the powerful blow.

On the south side of the river the flood spread itself over the valley for a distance of a mile. Men and houses and thousands of head of live stock were caught in the torrent and washed away. Many men, women and children abandoned their homes, when they heard the roar of the water coming down upon them and saved their lives by flight.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Hubby Holds the Record.

Polite Shopman (showing goods)—Here is something I would like to call your attention to, madam. It is the very latest thing out.