

A TALE OF THE NORTH

A shadow fell across the room. In Meteetse redeemed it from shame, He the doorway stood a newcomer. Gor was neither a profligate nor a equadon had a sensation as if a lump of tee man. had been drawn down his spine. For This was Diane's point of view, and his engagement to Sheba O'Nelli had the man who had just come in was Big in time it became to a certain extent been denied, but it was noticed that Bill Macy, and he was looking at the that of Sheba. One takes on the color he was a constant guest at the home Sold agent with eyes in which amaze of one's environment, and the girl from of the Pagets. Young Ethot called ment, anger and triumph blazed.

you again. Mr. Elliot." he jacred real barriers that stood between her Sheba on the street. Those who want-"Seems like old times on Wild-Goose," and the Alaskan. She had been die ed to take a sporting chance on the "What you say his name is?" cut in tilustoned, saw him more clearly; and tosue knew that odds were offered sub the man with the newspaper.

"Hasn't be introduced himself, of bigness that set him apart, her spirft boys?" Macy answered with a cruet did not now do such complete homage "Now, atn't that modest of him? to it. More and more her thoughte You lade are entertaining that well- contrasted him with another man. known deteckstive and spy. Gordon Macdonald did not need to be told Elliot, that renowned king of hold that he had lost ground, but with the

apy on me."

Elliot was sitting on one of the beds. no alternative. trapped.

to lame. You can see that for your help mentioning it to her cousin. self. All I asked was a night's lodg: "Isn't be a splendid human animal?" or Elliot. The only other passenger for Nusiak" Macdonald suggested

Shebs nedded. "He's wonderful."

she just doesn't."

to kill me."

going to."

for Kusiak.

"That's up to you."

under a faise name," growled one of

man. "But I think we had all better

leave Mr. Elliot to the inw. He has

Uncle Sam back of him in his spring.

and none of us are big enough to buck

the government." Crisply Macdonald

spoke to Gordon, turning upon hin

Elliot met him eye to eye. "I've

Gordon shock hands with Dane and

loose, then he took the road himself

the way home she was strangely silent.

steamer had taken down in a mail sack

department chief. One of the passen-

submitted by the field agent. An in-

cheerful and nonchainnt greeting.

changed my mind. I'm going to walk.

the miners. "We'll beat his head off.

that why you hang back?"

He stood listening beside the car did not concede defeat.

"Under another name than your own you cussed speak."

the fury of the man, because he did love with him." not know that these miners were work clusion that he had come to get evidence against them. But he knew that never in his life had be been in a tight er hole. In another minute they would best he would be hammered belpless. But no evidence of this knowledge

outrageous things, Dt." appeared in his manner. "I didn't give my last name because there is a prejudice against me in this country." he explained in an ever

He wondered as he spoke if he had ator better try to fling himself through the

warned Macy.

Gordon fervently wished he had. But unarmed. While his eyes quested for a weapon he played for

"You can't get away with this, you It's known I left the see him. Willow Creek camp. I'll be traced

Through Gordon's mind there flashed men. They too polied up abruptly at the rigid Puritablem of her resent a word of advice once given him by sight of Macdonal land his guests. a professional prizefighter. "If you A sardoni mirih gleamed in the get in a rough house don't wait for you of the Scotaman "Ito you al-

the other fellow to hit first " They were erouching for the attack. wall. Mr. Elliot?" he asked. with one motion be don pulled out a handkerchief and stooped, snatched up by the leg s dabbed at some glass-cuts on his face. benvy stool, and sprang to the bed. "Den't let us detain you," said the and ministered indoiently to them.

The four men closed with him in a since you must go." rush. They came at him low, their "I'm not in such a hurry now. In heads protected by uplifted arms. His fact, if you're going to Kusiak, I think memory brought to him a picture of I'll ask you for a lift," returned the the whitewashed gridiron of a football field agent coolly. field, and in it he saw a vision of "And your friends-in-a-hurry -- do enfety.

they want a lift too?" Big Bill Macy came swaying for The stool cashed down upon Big Bill Macy's head. Gordon hurdled the ward, both hands to his bleeding head



to Beise Him.

ever the table went through the win dow, taking the flimmy much with him.

CHAPTER XVIII.

A New Way of Leaving a House of disgust with which

come to a jury until the time when a conviction would have most effect in the States, the gossips predicted. They did not know that he was walting for the return of Wally Selfridge. The whispers touched closely the personal affairs of Macdonald. The report of Drogheds knew to ber beart that Me there too. Almost any day one or other "I'm glad to donth to meet up with teetse and Colmac were no longer the of the two men could be seen with though she still recognized the quality ross at the Pay Streak saloon of three

Shebs rebelled impotently at the cituation. The mine-owner would not take "No" for an answer. He woodd bargaining for a team of huskies. The The enshier braced himself for the her with a steady, dominant persist man turned, and Macdonald recognized plunge, then slowly trod across the ence that shook even her strong him. will. There was comething resistions dogged determination that had carried The red-headed man interrupted him to success he refused to accept in the way he took her for granted, usual beat a bit?" he asked.

He had not moved an inch since Macy The motor-car picnic to the Willow tions. She wanted to be let alone. So off the reservation." had appeared, but the brain behind his Creek camp was a case in point. Sheba when an invitation came from her "I recken you travel where you want at the threshold. Hve eyes was taking stock of the situ did not want to go, but she went. The little friends the Husteds, signed by all to, Gid-same as I do." was no escape for him. He was lit the fire, and cooked the coffee with "bance to escape for a time from the the old man retorted with a manner in think masked faces were turned

out the least waste of effort. In his decision being forced upon her. throat, he looked the embodiment of until after she had gone, so that Miss the words and in the light of what took bred him with a weapon "I'm not spying on you. My horse masculine vigor. Dinne could not () Neill was able to slip away on the place later thought them significant. stage unnoticed either by Macdonald "Aughow, it is quite a sexial event was an elderty woman going up to with a smalle of irony "If I were a little Irish colleen and the Katma camp to take a place at Without more words Holt turned

he had done me the honor to care for cook. The field agent did not understand me, I'd have fatten fathous deep in Later on the same day Wally Sel man went on his way recombered Sestroy him. He wanted to lie down fridge, coming in over the ice, reached that he wanted to see the cashier of guietly in a faint. But his mind as-The Irish colleen's eyes grew reflec. Kusink with important news for his the bank which he collect he ing the claim under a defective title tive. "Not if you had seen Peter first, chief. He brought with him an order promptly forgot the side of the and that they had jumped to the con Di. There's nothing reasonable about from Winton commissioner of the gena girl. I do believe. She loves-or else eral land office, suspending Elliot pend. The old man concluded his purchase ing an investigation of the charges and drove up to the hotel behind one

I tinue fired a question at her point- against him. blank "Have you met your Peter? In Oddly rarugh, it was to Genevieve Gideon asked a question of the por-Mallery that Macdonald went for con ter. by way of the hills. Macdonald drew that a rival had americal his senio to

of a man projected through the broken this morning." "That's a good sign. She was afraid

The man swept himself free of the to stay. he pulled up in his stride, as amated to see those in the cur as they were to Out of the hour poured a rush of last marry Sheba after wearing away

well as now. Her point of view was years in the Alaska sweepstakes to "Drop That Gun," Came the Low, no natir no rennomable. It maked for Macdonald's great Siberian wolf no impossible virtues in a man. There hounds. The leader. Butch, was the ways come out of a house through the was something restful in her geniut here of a dozen races and a hundred body. In spite of his terror, of his "Only when I'm in a hurry." Gorderinter understanding of him. Mbhand a milerat divisantions of his smoonto "Lee you think so? Ought I to ful-

Alaskan satirically. "We'll excuse you. low her?" he asked. She showed a row of perfect teeth in a low ripple of ammement. The sit by. He winked mysteriously at Goruntion at least was piquant, even

though it was at her expense. "No. Give the girl time. Catch her impulse on the rebound. She'll berred to death at Katma and she will

come back ductie." "He's a spy, curse him. And he tried challenge of the smoldering eyes, the eyes. "I'm going to put a crimp evenly. "What were you doing to him?" warmth of her laughter, all invited him. Colby Macdonald. That's what I aim to forget the charms of other women to do with it." "He can't sneak around our claim The faint feminine perfume of her was

wafted to his brain. He felt a besieg ing of the blood. "I've had notions like that myself Stepping behind the chair in which she sat. he tilted back the head of tue trous bronze, and very deliberately

kissed her on the lips. For a moment she gave herself to his embrace, then pushed him back rose, and walked across the room to a tittle table. With figgers that trembled cold, hostile eyes. "Get in if you're slightly she lit a cigarette. Sheathed

> in her close-fitting gown, she made strong carnal appeal to him, but there was between them, too, a close bond of the spirit. He made no apologies. no explanation.

Presently she turned and looked at him. Only the deeper color beneath her eyes betrayed any excitement. "Unless I'm a bad prophet you'll get

took it as a token of forgiveness and

The days grew short. The last river boat before the freeze-up had long Why was it not Genevieve Mallory owner carried with him back the preliminary report of Eilliot to his gers on that trip had been Belfridge. marry Mrs. Mallory. She has sent out to counteract the influence the noghisticated graces of I of the evidence against the claimants much of the natural charm mally attractive personality. formation had been filed against Gordon for highway robbery and attempted



than who had his men to him was revolver that lay in a drawer.

with a howl of rage. "If you're telling the verdict. She was a woman, there Gordon Elliot had not mentioned love. The little miner looked him over imwas so strong in him that he could see her heart fluttered for fear he would, hig mogul himself-and wantin' to the lock and opening the door. The She did not want any more complica know if I've got permission to travel hinges grated and the floor squeaked

ation. Big Bill blocked the doorway, picuic was a success. Macdonald was three of the children, asking her to "Maybeso, I shouldn't wonder if grating which protected the big safe The table was in front of the window an outdoor man rather than a parior come and visit them at the camp back you'd find out quite soon enough what that filled the alcove to the right. One Unless he could fight his way out, there one. He took charge of the luncheon, of Katma, the Irish girl jumped at the I'm doing here. You never can tell," ... is nic and the other a candle,

that concented volumes. Quietly Gordon looked from one to shirt sleeves, the neck open at the Shehn piedged her cousin to secrecy. Those who were present remembered toward Milton, and each of their cousin to secrecy.

back to his bargaining. The big Scots. bank cashier ruse out of his panic to

of the best dog tenine in Alaska.

up in front of a cubin to fill the radi- ber slender waist. For Mrs. Mallory "Well, I'll be hanged! What are you

doing here, Old-Timer?

"How did you persuade Tim Ryan to lend you his huskles?"

"Why don't you take a paper and huskies don't belong to Tim." "Meaning that Mr. Gideon Hoft to

"You've done gnessed it," admitted

the miner complacently. He had a right to be proud of the tenm. It was a famous one even in Macdonald had hever liked her so the North. It had run second for two

> savage fights. "What in Halifax do you want with the team?" asked Elliot, surprised. "The whole outfit must have cost a

> small fortune." "Some dust " admitted Gideon prouddon. "I got a use for this team, if

anyone was to ask you." "Haven't taken the government mail contract, have you?"

"Not so you could notice it. I'll tell you what I want with this team, as the Her scurlet tips, the long, unbroken old sayin is." Holt lowered his voice, lines of the sinuous, opulent body, the and narrowed siyly his little beadlike

and whispered in his ear.

CHAPTER XIX.

In the Dead of Night. electy snow. From dark till dawn the fore morning heavy drifts had wiped virgin white unbroken by trails or fur-

the activities of a Southern city made dwellers. Roads were cleared, paths does." The effervescent little woman shoveled, stores opened. Children in had never had an original idea in her parkes and fur conts trooped to school life. and studied through the short after

noon by the aid of electric light.

to open the draft of the stove when a sound stopped him halfway. The cashier stood rigid, still crouched, waiting for a repetition of the noise It came once more—the low, dull rasp ing of a file.

Shivers ran down the spine of Milton and up the back of his head to the roots of his hair. Somebody was in the bank-at two o'clock in the morning-with tooks for burginry. He was a scholarly old fellow, brought up in New England and cast out to the uttermost frontier by the malign tragedy of poverty. Adventure offered no appeal to him.

But though his knees trembled beneath him and the sickness of fear was gripping his heart, Robert Milton had in him the dynamic spark that makes a man. He tiptoed to his deak and with shaking fingers gripped the

room to the inner, locked door. The "Hello, Gid. Aren't you off you painted fingers of his left hand could

scarce turn the key. It seemed to him that the night was beneath the fall of his foot as he stood

Two men were in front of the wire

"W what are you doing here?" sunvered the cashier "Drop that gun came the low,

marp command from one of them. Some old ancestral instinct in the terted its mastery over the weakling



Sharp Command.

He was guardian of the bank funds. At all cents be must protect them. His foresrm came up with a jerk.

Two shots rang out almost together. The casifier sagged back against the wall and slowly slid to the floor.

The guests of Mrs. Seifridge danced well into the small hours. The California champagne stimulated a gayety that was balm to her soul. She wanthave the atmosphere she had found the New York cabarets. If everyteedy talked at once, she felt they were having a good time. If nobody listened to anybody eise, it proved that the affair was a screaming success.

Mrs. Wally was satisfied as she bade her guests good-by and saw them pass, toto the beavy snow that was again falling. They all assured her that there had not been so bilarious a party to Kusiak.

One old-timer, a trifle lit up by reasen of too much hospitality, phrased his enjoyment a little awkwardly. "It's been great, Mrs. Seifridge.

Mrs. Mallory hastily suppressed an internal smile and stepped into the asked her hostess enviously. "My dear, if you say it was a suc-

"What else could one say?"

Genevieve Mallory always preferred to tell the truth when it would do just ber that Mrs. Selfridge made him think of the saying, "Monkey sees, monkey

of more snow. Mrs. Belfridge ened again tate a bowling gale. Nor at the club that did they know the two bits of news The | main street and being telephoned from to make the of | house to house. One of the Items was f the season. | that the stage for Katma had failed to

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