



The Shepherd of Guadaloupe

By Zane Grey

The Story Thus Far:

The Story Thus Far:

The Forrests and Lundeens have always been enemies. The Lundeens, formerly very poor, are now very rich, Mr. Lundeen having, by various crooked methods, succeeded in getting Mr. Forrest's wealth and home, Cottonwoods, away from him.

Young Clifton Forrest, back very ill from the war, and Virginia Lundeen, not at all in sympathy with her father, are fast falling in love with each other though Cliff will not admit it. Clifton has been told by his doctors that he has only a month to live and he is now fighting for life against the odds of poverty and his parents broken hearts. He is doing his best to manage a supply store for the natives around their little home in New Mexico.

Virginia's father is determined to have her marry Malpass, a half-breed, who seems to have control over Mr. Lundeen's property.

Mrs. Forrest is very fond of Virginia and willing to admit it. Mr. Forrest is bitter a:ainst her and her family. She is very kind to Cliff and tries to make the Forrests accept her income in partial payment of the money won unfairly from the Forrests by her father. Mr. Forrest refuses haughtily.

Virginia tells Cliff of her father's plans and he suggests that marrying someone clse immediately would be a way out. She tells him that he is the only man she would be willing to marry. He is horrified at the idea of her throwing herself away on a shell of a man like him.

Y JUNE the hideous ordeals Clifton had to invite and endure daily began appreciably to change. He discovered that by imperceptible degrees he had passed the climax of his trial for life.

June brought summer to Cottonwood Valley, and that meant it was hot in the sun, cool in the shade. He was alone one Sunday in the corner by the wall where Virginia had found him that unforgettable day, when he reached the definite conclusion that he would recover. He slipped away from the open, into a shady nook, where vines and brush grew thick under a giant cottonwood, and here he lay down hidden even from the eyes of birds.

The sunny, drowsy hours of that golden summer day passed by unno-ticed. Like an Indian he communed with the visible things about him. There were intervals when the stream of his consciousness seemed suspended, and he had no thought at all. He felt, he heard, he saw, he smelled the physical objects of nature about him. The warm brown earth throbbed against his palms, the wind sang softly in the cottonwoods, the white clouds sailed across the azure sky, tipping the gray peaks, the sweet breath of sage filled the air.

That was the spell of enchantment which had transfixed him when intelligence, and not spirit, told him that he had not to bid farewell to the earth. The ghastly cold, mocking thing that had haunted him sleeping and waking folded its gray mantle and stole away. He was not to give up the sweetness of life, the beauty of nature, the strife with obstacles. The joy of nesting birds, the return of the swallows, the swoop of the eagle, the looming, calling mountains, the wind-swept range were still to be part of his experience.

But that night, in the dark little

room, when the ecstasy of his soul became subdued by thought and reason, he confessed that he had thrown off his burden only to take on another. Virginia Lundeen had won him to hate hate and to love love. It had not been joy nor hope, but an unabatable fuel that had kept burning the fire of his

One by one returned the Indians and

Mexicans who had visited Clifton's store during the past weeks to get the fair sale for some commodity and the small gift he never failed to hand out. There was no profit in the low price, to say nothing of an additional gift, but Clifton was gaining the confidence of the natives. He would never make a success as a trader, from the point of view of business. They had been cheated long enough. His generosity was not unmixed with the desire to prove the difference between a Forrest and a Lundeen. Every native on the range hated Lundeen for the tight rein he had held on them. Malpass, though he was employing many, was earning a harder repute. Little by little Clifton won his way into the hearts of these simple people.

It was from a vaquero who rode for Malpass that Clifton learned of the arrival of Virginia Lundeen's guests from the East. A fiesta was held to welcome them, the lights burned at Cottonwoods half the night, and strains of music floated down the valley on the soft night wind.

Clifton, thereafter going to and from his work, now happily without resting every few rods, did not want to see yet could not help seeing the visitors who regaled themselves upon Virginia's

The huge cars hummed by across the valley, down the road to Las Vegas, or back again, swiftly running from the dust they raised. Horseback riding appeared to be the chief delight, which was no wonder, considering the magnificent mounts of the Lundeen stables and the beautiful beckoning range with endless levels and vistas.

SEVERAL times each day a party of riders, never less than three couples, passed by Clifton's store, to peer curiously from their saddles. He always contrived to be inside and busy when they rode by. Once he saw Ethel, who waved a gay hand at him; and again he caught a glimpse of Virginia, superb on her shining black. And she looked straight ahead, with clear-cut, cold profile, as if the trading post of San Luis had ceased to exist.

Clifton knew intuitively that these merry visitors, keen to absorb all the West possible, would call at his store

But he was wholly unprepared one morning to hear the blowing of bugles and to look out to see a tallyho rolling down the road. It appeared to be loaded with a crowd sportive in both

dress and spirit.

"I'm in for it," muttered Clifton soberly. "But if they want to buy I'll slap the old prices on the goods. I'm no good Samaritan for that outfit."

He hoped the coach would pass by, but it halted opposite the store, and a gay company of young people poured

out.

The first to enter was Ethel Wayne, very pleasing to the eye in her gay and colorful costume. She tripped in hurriedly, with anxious look, which changed to a bright smile of glad recognition.

"Clifton, I'm just delighted," she said. You look, oh, so much better." "Howdy, Ethel?" drawled Clifton, as

he took her proffered hand. "I'd sure been glad to see you-if you'd come alone."

She giggled and squeezed his hand, whispering: "Don't mind. Virginia and I framed this on our Eastern friends. So stick them good. They've got money

Then the little store became flooded with pretty girls in the latest of sport clothes and clean-faced young men in golf suits or white flannels. One of the latter said to Clifton, "We want a lot of souvenirs and a wagonload of truck

to take on a camping trip."
"Help yourselves," replied Clifton, spreading his hands.

It was pleasant to watch them. Gayly they quarreled over Indian baskets, blankets, beadwork and silver ornaments. There were eight young women, not including Ethel and Virginia, who, if she had come with them, was still outside. Ethel was the only girl to notice Clifton, much to his relief; and every little while she would give him a bright look and a wink. It became manifest to Clifton that these Easterners had not been informed about him. The young men, except one, paid no attention to him; and presently this one, a rather pale, blond fellow of twenty-five,

approached Clifton to offer a hand.
"How are you, Clifton Forrest?" he said. "Miss Lundeen told me to introduce myself. My name is Andrews."

LIFTON did not need to be told that CLIFTON and not need to the this man had been in the service, to his great detriment. Clifton greeted him. With a look and a handelasp they understood each other.

"I'm here on a visit for a few weeks," continued Andrews. "Then I'm going to Tucson. I'm not so well. The doctors want me to try a dry, warm cli-

"Gassed?" queried Clifton.
"Influenza. Then I had blood poison-

ing from shrapnel."

You'll come around all right out here," said Clifton reassuringly. climate is wonderful."

'Do you know Arizona?"

"I used to. Same as here, only more that junk."

. Suppose you ride down alone some day and we'll have a chat."
"Thanks. I'd like to."
"Is Miss Lundeen with you?"

"Yes. She drove us down. Maybe she can't handle the reins! Say, Forrest, do you know this man Malpass?

He was on the seat with her."

"Sure, I know Malpass. He used to be a vaquero here in San Luis."

"Vaquero. What's that?"
"He was a Mexican cowboy."
"Is he part Mexican?" asked Andrews, quite surprised.

"It has always been rumored."
"Well! And now he's Mr. Lundeen's partner and a very evident choice for Virginia's hand. . . . I'll tell you, Forrest, that's a funny situation up there. But I don't want to gossip about my hostess. I don't know her, except as a charming, beautiful girl who went to school with my sister. By the way, I must introduce you to Helen. She's the tall blonde there, squabbling over

