

WHISPERING ROCK

by JOHN LEBAR

Eleventh Installment

An hour—two hours, Ruth covered by David's crib with her eyes on the door. She had been telling him stories, breathless, incoherent stories. Now he was asleep and she could watch the door unhindered.

She had placed the trunk against the door and she watched the streak of muddy water reach its top, puddle, and run along between the slats and drip. She had long before, with her husband, fixed the loops securely in the walls and the bar was now in place.

Something struck the door heavily; little drops of water showered in the air. The knob rattled and Ruth raised the heavy gun. A momentary lull let her hear the squelch of receding feet, then quick running steps, and the door crashed inward, pushing the trunk before it. The lamp went out. Ruth stood before her baby's crib, the gun held in both hands. Ann filled the doorway; the continuous lightning played upon them weirdly. Ann's hair almost covered her face; sparkling water dripped from the straight black locks. Neither woman moved. The figure towering in the doorway, muttered—chantlike guttural words which seemed a part of the storm. Then silence for a moment, before the giantess crouched low and came forward.

Ruth pulled the trigger—with both hands she pulled frantically, and remembered when the gun was knocked from her hand that she hadn't done something—cocked the hammer, she thought. Thereafter she thought no more; she became a thing of pure instinct, a furious mother animal fighting a black monster that had broken into her den.

They crashed against the crib and David called out; once they tripped and for a moment separated, but as soon as she could find her enemy again, the mother sprang. She was gripped in a crushing embrace which lifted her from her feet. The girl became a scratching, kicking, writhing demon—every atom of her body struggling with a blind ferocity which would not be quelled. Her fingers, talon-spread, searched for the eyes of the giantess and her teeth bit into a bone-like muscle. Suddenly she was flung bodily across the room. Her limbs tingled numbly and for a moment she could not move. It was during this moment that, by a quivering flash of lightning, Ruth saw a dark, jagged crack running from the upper corner of the window to the ceiling. Without thinking, she knew what the crack meant, and heedless of Ann, she started through the sudden darkness to the crib where David lay huddled. The mother stumbled and as she was trying to rise to her feet, the lightning came again. Ruth screamed: lightning shone like a livid snake through the jagged crack. The snake squirmed its way along the top of the

wall above the crib and reached the door. Slowly the earthen wall swayed inward, broke into great, ragged chunks and fell. The stout timbers of the crib creaked under the weight of a slab and all was blackness, grinding earth, and pelting rain.

A sheet of blinding light filled the sky. Ruth saw Ann a few feet away, half sitting, half kneeling, a chunk of abode propped against her. The big face with its matted hair was stupid, stunned. The mother screamed at her, "David—my baby!" When next the lightning flashed, the stupid face had not changed its expression, but Ann was looking at her. Again the girl screamed. The next flash showed Ann scrambling to her feet and from the quick-thrown blanket of blackness thundered a great, sobbing voice: "My baby!"

Ruth felt Ann beside her, big hands fumbled over her own, a great shoulder edged itself under the end of the fragment. When light came again the giantess was holding up the slab and inside the crib David lay wide-eyed and gasping.

Mingled with the memory of two small arms around her neck, there stood out in Ruth's mind the picture of a livid, tortured face, matted with straight black hair.

This memory seemed to have been with her for a long time—since last month or last year or perhaps in last night's dream. Now she was quite comfortable—she had always liked to be rocked, especially when the chair squeaked at every rock like this one. . . . It was strange, she thought, for a little girl who liked to be rocked to have a memory of a great, straining face with matted hair. . . . No, it wasn't proper, somehow, to be rocked to sleep with one's mother crooning that old colored people's song, and at the same time keep feeling those little arms and seeing that terrible face which oddly enough was a lovely, welcome face.

Ruth opened her eyes. Everything swirled about confusingly. Then slowly, taking one thought, one thing at a time, she knew where she was. She was in the sitting room of the Dead Lantern ranch house; David lay asleep on a pile of comforts before the grate fire; the clock on the mantel said five minutes to four. . . . She was being rocked and at every swing forward she was being patted gently just where she herself patted David. . . . She turned her head and looked into the face of Indian Ann.

The face smiled sadly. "Lie asleep, honey, lie asleep."

"Ann, I'm awake now."

"Hush, little white girl, lie asleep. He asleep."

Ruth put up one arm and drew Ann's tear-stained cheek down against her own. It was half an hour before Ruth spoke again.

"It's all past, Ann, and I'm hungry—I think."

Reluctantly the giantess placed the girl beside the sleeping child and went into the kitchen. Minutes passed and Ruth became aware that Ann was not moving about in the next room. Painfully, she stood up.

In the kitchen Ann was sitting on the woodbox, her big hands over her face.

The girl went to her. "Please don't, Ann—it's all past—please, Ann dear."

"I ought to be kill dead."

Ruth stood in silence, her arms drawing Ann close against her. After a time she said, "Come on—let's get some coffee. I'll make the fire."

A moment later Ann was making the fire and Ruth stood at the sink, measuring out the coffee. "Ann," she asked, "why did it happen?"

Ann nodded and two great tears welled from her eyes. "Ann, why must you obey the voice?"

The Indian woman spoke, her eyes fixed through the window where the eastern sky was faintly tinted. "I doan know why I must—it is the fear"—she touched her breast—"it pulls an' I go."

"But what is the voice?"

"I doan know—different things." Ann's voice dragged slowly, tonelessly. "It's the ol' medicine man who was with my mother's people—he have the power over all his people an' the blood of his people—he have power on my blood which is the blood of them people."

"But that old medicine man must be dead long ago."

"That is why he speak so close 'thout our seein'—his body is no more in th' way."

"Ann," said the girl, rising and reaching her hand up to the great shoulder, "when you cried out you said, 'my baby'—have you a baby?"

She nodded. "It seemed to me it was my baby under there. I never knowed until I brought her in here—I grabbed her away from you—I brought her in here an' built the fire an' put her down. Then I seen she was white—David. Afterwhile I went out an' found you."

"Your baby is a girl?" asked Ruth.

"Yes."

The girl looked from the window. The ancient adobe was now a mound of earth. "Ann, how did we ever get out of this alive?"

"It didn't fall all to once—the side towards th' barn jest went down. First it was only th' wall with th' window—then jest as soon as I went back an' got you th' other parts fell."

The girl shuddered. "Ann, why did I stay behind after I pulled David out of the crib?"

The giantess hung her head. "I didn't know how it was—I thought you was stealin' my baby whilst I was a-holdin' up the wall. I hit you an' took th' baby; when I seen it was David, I went back an' got you."

"Ann," said the girl impulsively, "you couldn't help what you did. And you saved both our lives—I'm sorry I bit and scratched you—"

The giantess smiled sadly and her huge arm went round the girl's waist. "You feisty little ol' wif' cat!" Then her face was filled with despair. "I ought to be kill dead."

"Ann, I'm so happy! I've always been afraid of this place and of you and of—of him. But now! With you on my side—why! I can do anything! We'll stand together and we'll go ahead and make this the biggest ranch in the world for you and me and David. I'm bound to win now, Ann!"

A strange look came into the giantess' face. She shook her head and stepped away from Ruth, her eyes fear-filled. "No! No, Miss—"

"Why, Ann?"

The huge woman spoke hastily. "You tell Mr. Snavelly that you done come in th' house before th' 'dobe fell an' stayed with me—doan say nothin' 'bout th' voice talking nor th' fight nor nothin'—I got to—I got to—"

Ann did not finish but turned and left the kitchen, crossed the back porch and entered her room.

anything, are you angry with me?"

Ruth waited before the silent door, then a muffled voice cried out, "No, Miss Ruth, no! 'Fore Gawd, I loves you!"

The key turned in the lock and there came a sound of heavy footsteps moving away from the door.

A few hours later the two women were working silently among the remains of the old adobe, salvaging Ruth's belongings. The giantess said nothing unless it was absolutely necessary. To all intents the relations of the two women were the same as on that morning when they had first cleaned out the rooms.

Yet, Ruth knew that never again would she fear Ann—beneath exterior she felt that she and Ann were closer than sisters.

Search as she might, Ruth could not find the big revolver which Old Charley had given her; it was hopelessly buried.

Snavelly returned about noon and without any Mexicans. He gave as the reason, that no one in the little border town wanted to come very badly, and then, as he was spending the evening trying to persuade an old man and his son, the storm began.

Snavelly knew that the heavy rain would make work on the ponds impossible. After they dried up again he'd get the Mexicans. Ruth was heartbroken—if only the work had been attended to before this rain, there would be water enough for a year. But Snavelly reminded her that the rain must have completely filled the deep pond in the south pasture, and that often held the best part of a year. There was no sense in getting any Mexicans at all now.

He made little comment on the collapse of the old adobe. Ruth and David would have to live in the commissary rooms.

(Continued next week)

"THE GREEN PASTURES" WINSTON - SALEM SOON

"The Green Pastures," most celebrated stage offering of a decade, comes to the State Theatre, Winston-Salem, N. C. on Monday, Oct. 9th, for 2 nights engagement.

Awarded the Pulitzer prize for outstanding excellence, and hailed by press, clergy and the theater-going public as the greatest show since the days of "Ben Hur," the play was written by Marc Connelly, and is based upon the delightful Southern stories contained in Roark Bradford's book, "Ol' Man Adam An' His Chillun." In 18 spectacular scenes "The Green Pastures" depicts the rise and fall of mankind as viewed by the simple but deeply religious Negro in the deep South.

Heading the company of more than 100 players is Richard B. Harrison, 69 year-old actor who portrays "the Lawd." His sympathetic and reverent portrayal of the Deity elevated him from obscurity to stardom overnight. Outstanding among the fine performances given by his supporting cast are those of Alonzo Fenderson as "Moses"; Salem Tutt Whitney as "Noah"; Mercedes Gilbert as "Zipporah"; Susie Sutton as "Mrs. Noah" and Doe Green as "Gabriel."

Except for the role of "Gabriel," which twice has been vacated by death, the cast of "The Green Pastures" is exactly the same as of the opening night in New York more than three years ago—on February 26, 1930, to be specific. There has never been a secondary company of this play, and the organization now appearing in it is the original—the one so familiar to New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia playgoers.

A particularly interesting feature of the presentation of "The Green Pastures" is the famous "Heavenly Choir," the superb singing group that renders stirring Negro spirituals between scenes of the play. In view of the tremendous interest that has been evidenced in the coming of this splendid play, it is suggested that mail reservations be made at once, the management of the theatre having announced that especial consideration will be given to mail orders from out-of-town patrons.

Gold Hoarders Dug Up Washington, Sept. 22.—Attorney General Cummings expressed satisfaction today with the progress of the campaign against gold hoarders and reported that in the last week 168 have turned their holdings over to the government. These yielded a total of \$74,108, reducing the amount of gold known to be hoarding to \$1,593,974 and the number of known hoarders to 116. Originally there were more than 5,000. By persuasion the department has succeeded in having

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by J. F. Stroud, dated May 21, 1927, and recorded in Book 146, page 56, in the office of the register of deeds for Wilkes County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and demand having been made for sale, the undersigned trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the courthouse door in Wilkesboro, N. C., at 12 o'clock noon, on the 17th day of October, 1933, the following described property, located in Wilkes County, N. C. in Traphill township:

That certain tract or parcel of land, lying and being in Traphill township, Wilkes County, on the Elkin-Traphill public road, about nine miles west from the town of Elkin, being bounded on the north by the lands of Jesse Caudill heirs; on the east by the lands of Ell Sprinkle; on the south by the lands of Byrd Snow; and on the west by lands of Byrd Snow, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a red oak on the east side of Little Elkin creek, and running thence north 11-2 degrees east 51 poles to a stake; thence north 69 degrees east 47 poles to a black gum; thence north 11-2 degrees east 20 poles to a stake; thence north 2 degrees east 70 poles to an old post oak; thence north 88 degrees west 30 poles to a blackjack; thence north 88 degrees west 118 poles to a white oak; thence south 3 degrees west 193.5 poles to a forked white oak; thence north 76 degrees east 108 poles to the beginning, containing 145 acres, more or less. The same being the identical tract of land conveyed to J. F. Stroud by deed recorded in Book 120, page 92, of the office of register of deeds of Wilkes County, and being described according to survey of G. G. Elledge made May, 1927.

This September 13, 1933. NORTH CAROLINA BANK & TRUST CO., Trustee, Successor to Atlantic Bank & Trust Company, Trustee. 10-9-4t J. S. Duncan, Atty.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust executed by C. C. Taylor and wife, Sallie Taylor, and Carl Taylor and wife, Emma Taylor, dated February 26, 1927, and recorded in Book 142, Page 532, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Wilkes County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and demand having been made for sale, the undersigned Trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the Courthouse door in Wilkesboro, N. C., at twelve o'clock noon, on the 3rd day of October, 1933, the following described property, located in Wilkes and Surry Counties, North Carolina, in Traphill Township.

Adjoining the lands of A. C. Phillips, Alex Chatham, A. D. Parks, Tom Hanes and others and being on State highway No. 26 from Elkin to Sparta about 8 1-2 miles north of Elkin, and described as follows: Beginning on a hickory, A. C. Phillips' and C. C. Taylor's corner, runs south 4 1-2 deg. west crossing two branches 19 1-2 chains to a white oak, Tom Hanes, A. C. Phillips' and C. C. Taylor's corner; thence south 81 deg. east with Tom Hanes' line 10 1-2 chains to a white oak, Hanes and Chatham's corner; thence south 85 deg. east crossing a branch with Alex Chatham's line 35 1-2 chains to a pine, Taylor's and Chatham's corner; thence north 9 deg. east 4 chains to a rock in Wilkes County line; thence south 85 deg. east 3 chains to a rock, Alex Chatham's and C. C. Taylor's corner; thence north 9 deg. east 3 chains with Chatham's line crossing the highway to a rock; thence south 87 deg. east 1 1-2 chains with Chatham's line to the E. & A. Railroad; thence north 10 deg. west 10 chains with the right of way of the E. & A. Railroad to a rock in said Wilkes County line; thence north 9 deg. east 4 chains with Wilkes County line to a rock, A. D. Parks' and C. C. Taylor's corner; thence north 88 deg. west 2 chains to a rock, A. D. Parks' and C. C. Taylor's corner; thence north 9 deg. east 1 1-2 chains to a rock, A. D. Parks' and C. C. Taylor's corner; thence north 88 deg. west with A. C. Phillips' line crossing said Highway 46.50 chains to the beginning corner, containing 99.22 acres in Wilkes County and 2.5 acres in Surry County, more or less, totaling 101.72 acres.

This August 30, 1933. NORTH CAROLINA BANK & TRUST COMPANY, Trustee. Successor to Atlantic Bank & Trust Company, Trustee. 9-25-4t J. S. DUNCAN, Attorney.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain mortgage executed by W. O. Gilbert and wife, Hattie Gilbert, dated March 26, 1923, and recorded in Book 132, page 2, in the office of the register of deeds for Wilkes County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and demand having been made for sale, the undersigned mortgagee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the courthouse door in Wilkesboro, N. C., at 12 o'clock noon, on the 17th day of October, 1933, the following described property, located in Wilkes County, North Carolina, in Boomer township:

First Tract: A certain tract or parcel of land in Boomer township, Wilkes County, adjoining the lands of T. J. Greer, W. S. Pearson and others, bounded as follows: Beginning on a beech, now a persimmon tree on the bank of a branch, T. J. Greer's corner, and runs with his and McNeill's line north 15 degrees west passing the post oak corner at 164 poles in all 202 poles to a stake in a branch; thence down the meanders of said branch 80 poles to a white oak on east bank; thence south 34 degrees east 82 poles to a black oak on rocky ridge; thence south 42 degrees east 22 4-5 poles to a stake on south side of the road; thence south 25 degrees east 52 poles to a poplar on bank of branch in Pearson's line; thence eastwardly with said Pearson's line 22 poles to the beginning, containing 51 acres, more or less.

Second Tract: Adjoining the lands of J. P. Swanson, S. S. Swanson and others: Beginning on a dogwood on the west bank of a branch, running north 81-2 degrees east 12 poles to a stake on the bank of the branch; thence up said branch with its meanders 80 poles to a willow on the bank of the branch; thence north 14 degrees east 12 poles to a stone; thence north 32 degrees west 80 poles to a stake in J. P. Swanson's line; thence south 34 degrees west 36 1-2 poles to a stone, S. S. Swanson's corner; thence south 26 degrees east 42 3-4 poles to a stone; thence south 10 degrees west 38 poles to a stone; thence south 37 1-2 degrees west 41 poles to a stake in creek at bridge; thence south 58 degrees east 37 poles with said creek to the beginning, containing 27 3-8 acres, more or less.

This September 13, 1933. GREENSBORO JOINT STOCK LAND BANK, Mortgagee. 10-9-4t

them turn in approximately 1,000,000.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by C. J. Holcomb and wife, Annie B. Holcomb, dated March 14, 1928, as recorded in Book 146, page 77, in the office of the register of deeds for Wilkes County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and demand having been made for sale, the undersigned trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, at the courthouse door in Wilkesboro, N. C., at 12 o'clock noon, on the 17th day of October, 1933, the following described property, located in Wilkes County, N. C., in Traphill township:

Adjoining the lands of B. D. Daynes on the north, H. F. Byrd on the east, John Lester on the south and J. H. Johnson on the west, and more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning on a white oak running south 89 1-2 degrees east 100 poles to a chestnut oak stump; thence north 84 degrees west 2 poles; north 69 degrees west 2 poles; north 42 degrees west 2 poles; north 28 degrees east 5 poles; north 37 degrees west 5 poles and 2 links; north 47 degrees west 1 pole and 17 links; north 62 degrees west 6 poles and 16 links; North 42 1-2 degrees east 111 1-2 poles to a stone; north 87 degrees west 70 poles to a sourwood root in Haynes' line; north 66 degrees west with Haynes' line 67 poles to a white oak; north 1 pole to Haynes' corner; west with Haynes' line 30 chains to a sourwood; south 10 chains to two sourwoods; east 27 1-2 chains to a blown up red oak; south 63 degrees west 87 poles to a spanish oak; south 34 degrees west 10 poles to a rock, Byrd's corner; south 38 degrees east 44 1-2 poles to a rock; south 48 degrees east 31 1-2 poles to a rock on the west side of branch; south 25 poles to a rock; south 87 degrees east 53 poles to a black oak; south 47 poles to beginning, containing 47.8 acres, more or less.

This September 13, 1933. NORTH CAROLINA BANK & TRUST CO., Trustee, Successor to Atlantic Bank & Trust Company, Trustee. 10-9-4t J. S. Duncan, Atty.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust, dated December 3rd, 1930, from T. B. Finley and wife, C. L. Finley, to secure the payment of a note therein mentioned to the North Wilkesboro Building & Loan Association, and default having been made in the payment thereof and demand having been made on me;

I will, therefore, on Tuesday, October 24, 1933, at the hour of ten o'clock A. M. at the courthouse door in Wilkesboro, offer for sale for cash to the highest bidder the following described real estate, to-wit:

First Tract: Beginning on a stake on the south side of O street 125 feet east of the southeast corner of C and Third streets, and running southward parallel with Third street 140 feet to an alley; thence eastwardly along the north side of said alley 50 feet to a stake; thence northwardly parallel with Third street 140 feet to a stake on the south side of C street; thence westwardly along the south side of C street 50 feet to point of beginning, containing 7000 square feet and having a frontage of 50 feet on the south side of C street and of that width running southwardly parallel with Third street 140 feet to an alley, said land being described as lots 20 and 22 in block 30, on the map of the Town of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

Second Tract: Beginning at a stake on the southeast corner of Ninth street an alley between C and D streets; thence south 27 degrees 37 minutes east with the east side of Ninth street 65 feet to a stake; thence north 62 degrees 33 minutes east parallel with C street 88 feet to a stake on the west side of a 12 foot alley; thence north 27 degrees 37 minutes west with the west side of said 12 foot alley 65 feet to a stake at the corner of said alley and 20 foot alley above referred to; thence along the south side of said 20 foot alley south 62 degrees 33 minutes west 88 feet to the point of beginning, being a part of about one-fourth block said block bounded by Ninth street, C street, Gordon Avenue and the 20 foot alley above described.

This 23rd day of Sept., 1933. A. H. CASEY, Trustee. 10-16-4t

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MR. BROAD OF WALL STREET



By Charles McManus