

FIRST LIPVITCHES

by FELIX RIESENBERG

Second Installment

SYNOPSIS: Johnny Breen, 16 years old, who had spent all of his life aboard a Hudson river tugboat plying near New York, is tossed into the river in a terrific collision which sinks the tug, drowns his mother and the man he called father, ignorant, uneducated, and fear driven, he drags himself ashore, hides in the friendly darkness of a huge covered truck—only to be kicked out at dawn—and into the midst of a tough gang of river rat boys who beat and chase him. He escapes and, exhausted, tumbles into a basement doorway. Later, he hears the trap door slammed, a padlock snapped down—and he is trapped.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY!

"Becka! Becka!"
 "Yes, Pa."
 "Will you shud de vawter off?"
 "Papa, it iss off."
 "Vot you dell me, Becka? Id don'd run? I heard id. Do vot I told you; vill you?" Channon Lipvitch hobbled back through the basement, to the rear room. He shuffled, his feet at an angle, his bearded face assuming an air of comical severity. It was an occasion and Channon Lipvitch, certain of his ground, determined to correct his daughter. Conversation, in the rear living-sleeping room, came to a stop; the loud voices quieting while the splash of running water sounded from without. "So, you told it lies to me on Shabbas?" He bristled, but Becka, more voluble than her father, instantly replied.

"It's in back, Pa. Don't be so sudden with calling me a liar. It's in the house in back. I hear it splashing, like you."

But Channon Lipvitch was right. Water was splashing, if not in their apartment, then near by. Ha, he was right; his ears were not stuffed up. Water was ever in his mind when faucets flowed. "Vell," he said, "shud id off, y'vould you? Dell me, who iss making souch a splash on Shabbas?" He was a strict man with his family—in the presence of visitors.

The girl, fit for her age, and plump, with an almost premature development, laughing and giggling, climbed to a rear window of the Lipvitch home, the living, sleeping, eating-room in back of the Clothing Emporium—New and Second Hand. She had to make a high step, a very high step, for they were on the basement floor, and the sills were high. Her skirt was tight and long, in fact, as she stretched one leg through the window, the other was uncovered far above the knee; a plump shapely leg.

Becka, standing on tiptoes, her skirts lifted unnecessarily high, peered across the narrow area between the buildings. Through a broken window pane she saw a boy splashing over a rusty sink, under a tap of running water. He held a piece of hard yellow laundry soap and was working up a lather; his hair and face were streaming wet. The boy caught a glimpse of her, his eyes were wide with fear—blue eyes. She smiled at him. Then she turned hurriedly, her skirts up over her knees—her stockings were new and she made the most of the occasion. Breathlessly she jumped down into the Lipvitch living-room.

"It's a boigler," she declared, almost fainting. Tremendous excitement prevailed in the Lipvitch home.

"Quick, Papa, quick!" Mrs. Lipvitch and Mrs. Yartin were urging and helping the reluctant Lipvitch at the window. Suddenly the water stopped. Lipvitch, in the area, caught a glimpse of a boy's face at the broken window. The little man, he was a head shorter than his wife, struggled to command his voice. He did not look formidable in his black silk skull cap. His features worked convulsively.

"Vot iss! Vot iss!" He exclaimed excitedly. The boy looked harmless, frightened. "Vill you come out?" Lipvitch screamed. "Or if you don'd, I—call polize!"

"Papa, it's only a boy." Becka was again climbing through the window. "Here, boy, come out to us." She rapped and rattled the weathered sash.

"It's only a boy. Only a boy." Mr. Lipvitch announced, as if terribly disappointed. He greeted Johnny with a smile, and held out a scrawny hand to the strong fist of the boy who leaped up without effort, a ragged, desperate wail with wet hair and shining eyes. But Channon Lipvitch was triumphant. He had proven himself, with the help of circumstances. Before one's family and friends, bravery is a virtue.

The Lipvitch Clothing Emporium—"New and Second Hand"—was not unlike the barge *Cavalier*, in shape, at least.

It was a nice little business, buying and selling. In the back, branching from a dark, narrow hallway with a splintered pine floor, were the work rooms lit by naked yellow gas jets and crowded during ten hours of the day with operators on pants and vests. Lipvitch took in piece work on the less difficult parts of manufacture, hiring his help from the tenements of the street. His stock did not spoil, he bought cheap and sold at a profit, even

when protesting with vehemence that his loss was great. Back of the two work rooms came the kitchen, small and dark, opening to the living room in the rear. At one side of this, back of a sink, to save plumbing, was the bathroom. And the back room, the home of the Lipvitch family, where they entertained their friends, ate their meals, and slept, stretched the full seventeen feet from party wall to party wall. Here father, mother, Recka and the twins, Muriel and Constance, the latter just able to walk, were sheltered.



He was suddenly confronted by a crowd of toughs.

In the living room there were two beds, covered by colored spreads by day and shoved against the wall farthest from the windows, to get away from the night air. Becka and the twins slept on one of these and Mr. and Mrs. Lipvitch occupied the other. With the advent of Johnny Breen a cot, from a nearby second-hand store, was placed beneath one of the windows.

Channon Lipvitch, like the heads of many families preponderant on the female side, felt himself overshadowed by the growing impudence of Becka, added to the volubility of Mrs. Lipvitch. A shrewd general in a trade, he was limp in the hands of his wife and daughter. To him trade was art; it was life, and life depended upon the teeming, crowding multitude who swarmed and squirmed in the alleys of the town—it was a good place, this city, so full of customers always close at hand.

On the Saturday afternoon of Johnny's introduction to the city his reception in the back room of the Clothing Emporium took on the proportions of an event. Johnny's story, given amid greedy inquisition of seed rolls and gulps of tears and lukewarm coffee, thrilled the company with a sympathy grown quick through the age-long persecution of their race—a sympathy leading to monumental works of charity within the city. Tears coursed down his cheeks as he repeated, "My mother is drowned, my mother is drowned!" The "ay, ay, ay" of Mrs. Lipvitch and Mrs. Yartin punctuated the story. Mrs. Blumgren, with large, wandering brown eyes, cried in sympathy, while Becka dried his clothes and sewed on buttons.

"You are staying by us, now," Becka spoke to Johnny, smiling, her face close to his. Tears welled in his eyes. He was terribly tired; kindness cut through him like a knife.

Johnny slept on a cot in the corner. He drifted off into oblivion, exhaustion and exaltation crowding back the events of the previous day and night.

Days of bewildering complexity followed on his establishment in the family of Channon Lipvitch, as a cousin from the farm, for so Elkan Nesser, a malamud, advised. Slowly the river dimmed. Johnny Breen learned of synagogues and rabbis. He thought the whole world consisted of the river and the Ghetto, nothing else. Becka became a dominant force in the direction of his emotions. He burst out of his clothes, his strong body never tired. He could lift Becka high up so she might reach the top shelves in the shop; she was often needing things there, and then, suddenly, he refused to lift her, but climbed up himself and found nothing.

John had achieved a prime requisite for worldly success. He was known four and five blocks away as "Fighting Lipvitch." He became a celebrity, nothing less, elevated above the boys on the street; on a par, in fact, with young men four and five years his senior in point of age and a decade beyond him in worldly lore. The Grogan Gang, out for revenge, cruised the Ghetto. John Breen, with brass knuckle dusters in his pockets, a reckless light in his eyes, fought when there were no more than two or three

and took to his heels before a gang. He rather liked fighting, it added to his popularity. He began to absorb the philosophy of the Ghetto, the kindly brotherhood of those who live within the pale. He also absorbed a tremendous stock of self-conceit and confidence. Once he hit a rash young man such a terrific crack, the blow landed on his chin, that the victim lay for a half hour unconscious. The story grew by telling and the fame of John Breen took on added stature.

Fighting kept his mind alert and made him wary, while dim thoughts



He was suddenly confronted by a crowd of toughs.

of things beyond the tenements, of wide avenues and great mansions, crossed his consciousness in dreams. John learned that millionaires were in the city, powerful, kindly, and immensely rich, looking about for worthy daughters of Israel. He suspected that tales and miles beyond them lay vast territories unexplored.

A month in the Clothing Emporium—New and Second Hand—found John

Breen part of a routine that included every phase of the business, that is, every phase of it but the receipt of wages. John lay awake at night reviewing the bitter struggle and worked the harder by day. He arose at five-thirty, an hour before Lipvitch, and in the dark, murky room he slipped on his trousers, and with shirt in hand, went to the littered tub.

In those mornings John worked hard and fast to get out on the street and then he idled about until the coming of Lipvitch. The street was an endless show, a constantly changing tapestry with human figures hung on frames of brick.

As the mornings followed each other and his fame expanded, John Breen kept a wary eye for ruffians trudging to and from the river. His stay at the Clothing Emporium became more and more perilous. The Grogan Gang was "laying" for him. He avoided the river front and kept away from the Bowery. Once, on a Saturday night, walking with Becka, arm in arm, and deep in the my series of river lore, for John told her everything he could remember, he was suddenly confronted by a crowd of toughs.

"That's 'im! That's tha fightin' kyke!"

Set on from front and back he was unmercifully beaten, kicked and mauled. Becka, screaming, ran to the corner crying, "Moider, perlicet!—moider!—perlicet!" Her frantic screams were heard for a block and a cop, potentially near, rushed to the scene in time to save John Breen from complete annihilation.

Becka supported him, carried him home, a bloody battered gladiator. Becka was his nurse, tended him, washed his cuts and bruises, and got raw beefsteak from Mrs. Yartin for his blackened eyes. She sat on his couch and cried over him, caressed him, her hero.

And so the months went by in a smother of smells and chatter and continuous struggle.

As the summer waxed to its fullest heat and high humidity thickened the air with oppressive damp, the Lipvitch family moved out of their back room into the rear area of the tenement. Here, with their mattresses close together, they lay gasping through the nights. John, prone on his back, gazed upward on clear nights at a slit of heaven. Frequent domestic arguments sounded back and forth down crowded light shafts and weird fancies filled John's mind as he fretted through the hot nights amid the close incense of the city slums.

Continued Next Week

TRESPASS NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that hunting and other trespassing upon our lands in Sylva township is hereby forbidden, and that we will prosecute trespassers.

A. B. DILLS,
 A. J. DILLS,
 W. U. GARRETT.

NOTICE OF RESALE UNDER ORDER OF COURT

THAT WHEREAS, the lands hereinafter described was duly sold at public sale on the first day of August, 1932, to J. A. Miller for the sum of \$1,300.00; and again on the 29th day of August, 1932, to Nellie Mae Ritter for the sum of \$3,815.00; and that whereas, said bid was reported to the Court, and within ten days thereafter was raised five per cent, and the Court having made an order to the undersigned Commissioner to readvertise and resell said lands:

NOW, THEREFORE, Under and by virtue of an order, judgment and decree of the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, made in a case or proceeding entitled:

Atlantic Joint Stock Land Bank of Raleigh, A Corporation, plaintiff

Against
 Lewis J. Smith and wife, Gertrud Smith, Ida J. Smith, Mrs. F. W. McGuire, Administratrix of the Estate of F. W. McGuire, deceased Mrs. Nellie Mae Ritter, Herber Hooper and wife, Ethel Hooper H. H. Hooper, T. C. Smith & Co. Chas. C. Cullen & Co., Faucett & Co., R. M. Mumpover, Allied Drug Co., Palm Olive Co., Muncie Airtex Overall Co., Cincinnati Cag Co., Earnest L. Rhodes Co., H. F. Briscoe, Shoe Co., Whitaker Holtzinger Hardware Co., Devo Nelson Co., S. H. Christian Co. and Ever Best Products Co., defendants.

Said judgment being duly docketed in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jackson County is docketed "—" at page — which said judgment appoints and fully authorizes and empowers the undersigned commissioner to sell the land hereinafter described to satisfy said judgment:

Now, Therefore, I, W. R. Sherrill, Commissioner of Court, will, on Monday, October 3rd, 1932, at 12:00 Noon, at the Court House Door in the town of Sylva, Jackson County North Carolina, offer for resale and sell to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said judgment all that certain tract or parcel of land situated and being in Cullowhee Township, Jackson County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of Mrs. Nellie Hooper, Mrs. Lena Wallace, heirs, and others, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING on a swampy area at the mouth of a branch, Lena Wallace's corner, and runs N. 43 and 3-4 deg. E., 24 poles and 14 links to a stake hence S. 52 1/2 deg. E., 22 poles and 18 links to a (post-and) in or near Lena Wallace's line; thence N. 6 1/2 deg. W., 39 1/2 poles to a white-oak beside an old road; thence N. 63 1/2 deg. E., 36 poles to a stake; thence N. 36 deg. E., 11 poles and 19 links to a double poplar; thence N. 27 deg. E., 7 poles and 20 links to a black-oak; thence N. 70 deg. E. 31 poles and 10 links to a white-oak; thence S. 27 deg. E., 21 poles and 5 links to a black-oak; thence S. 57 and 3-4 E., 58 poles to a white-oak; thence S. 51 deg. E., 21 poles to a stake; hence East 21 poles to a white-oak; thence N. 49 deg. E., 40 1/2 poles to a black-oak; thence N. 81 deg. E. 14 poles to a stake; thence N. 3 deg. E., 12 poles to a stake; thence S. 87 deg. W., 50 poles to a stake; thence N. 4 1/2 deg. E., 100 poles to a hickory; thence N. 35 1/2 W., 80 poles to a stake; thence S. 4 1/2 deg. W. 30 poles to a stake; thence N. 87 deg. W. 54 poles to a hickory; S. 29 1/2 deg. W. 66 poles to a black-oak; thence S. 69 1/2 deg. W., 46 poles and 18 links to a stake; thence S. 1 deg. E. 26 poles to a stake; thence N. 65 deg. W., 24 1/2 poles to a stake; thence S. 21 deg. W., 26 poles to a stake; thence S. 16 deg. E., 38 poles to the beginning, containing 123 acres more or less.

This the 12th day of Sept., 1932.
 W. R. SHERRILL,
 Commissioner of Court.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND UNDER DEED OF TRUST

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by Bud Webster to W. R. Sherrill, Trustee, for G. R. Moss dated January 13, 1931, and recorded in Book 114, at page 293, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Jackson County, North Carolina, and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and the holder thereof having directed that said deed of trust be

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a deed of trust executed by J. H. McCosnell, Trustee, under and by virtue of the authority of the undersigned trustee, dated September 18, 1925, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, North Carolina, in Book of Deeds of Trust 94, page 262, and default having been made therein secured, whereby the power of sale became operative, the undersigned trustee will on Monday, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1932, at 12:00 TWELVE O'CLOCK NOON, at the COURT HOUSE DOOR IN SYLVA, JACKSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, sell to cash, at public sale, to the highest bidder, the following described piece or parcel of land, lying and being in said County of Jackson, North Carolina, described as follows:

FIRST TRACT: Beginning at a poplar in a branch and runs up with said branch to the ford below the L. W. Hooper house; thence a North-East course to a chestnut near the little gate; thence Eastward by a rock house to C. L. Hooper's line; thence with the outside boundary line of L. V. Hooper's lands back to the beginning, and being the same land conveyed by will by L. W. Hooper to C. R. Hooper, which said will is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to which reference is hereby made for a more complete description of said lands.

SECOND TRACT: Beginning at a double sourwood on top of the mountain in C. L. Hooper's line and run hence S. 82 deg. W., 41 poles to a stake in Estela Moses' line; thence S. 8 deg. E., 24 poles to a stake near the top of the mountain; thence S. 3 deg. and 45 min. E., 40 poles to a stake on top of the mountain in C. L. Hooper's line; thence South 7 poles to the beginning, containing 4 acres more or less.

To satisfy said indebtedness, interest and cost of sale.
 This the 3rd day of September, 1932.
 W. R. Sherrill, Trustee.

W. R. Sherrill, Trustee.

NOTICE OF RESALE

NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in a certain deed of trust, executed the 30th day of March, 1927, by Wade Galloway and wife, Eulah Galloway, to A. J. Dills, Trustee for the Sylva Coal and Lumber Company, which deed of trust is recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, North Carolina, at book 101, at Page 129, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured:

Now, therefore, I, A. J. Dills, Trustee, will on Monday, September 26th, 1932, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, at the Court House door in the town of Sylva, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate Being lots Numbers 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the W. L. Henson farm, in Cullowhee Township Jackson County North Carolina, as shown by a plat of said farm made by O. B. Coward Surveyor, November, 1924 and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, North Carolina, in Book of Maps No. 1 at page 28; to which said plat reference is made for a further description of said lots.

This property was sold on the 29th day of August, 1932, and the highest bid has been duly raised as required by law, and the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County has ordered said land to be re-sold to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust.

This the 9th day of September, 1932.
 A. J. DILLS, Trustee.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the authority conferred by deed of trust executed by B. O. Painter and wife, Lenora Painter dated the 15th day of January, 1929, and recorded in Book 108, Page 208, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, Jefferson E. Owens, substituted Trustee will at twelve o'clock noon on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1932, at the Court House door of Jackson County in Sylva, North Carolina, sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder, the following land to-wit:

BEGINNING at an iron stake 450 feet from the intersection at Allo Street; thence South 67 degrees, 30 mins. East 100 feet; thence South 22 degs. 30 mins. West 150 feet thence North 67 deg. 30. min West 100 feet; thence North 22 degs. 30 min East 150 feet to the beginning. Being all of lot No. 16 and part of Lot No. 17 of the McCombs Addition to the town of Sylva, N. C.

This sale is made on account of default in payment of the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust. A ten percent (10) cash deposit will be required of the highest bidder at the sale.

This the 16th day of August, 1932
 JEFFERSON E. OWENS,
 SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

By virtue of the power of sale conferred by law, I, G. L. Jones, Tax Collector, will on Monday, September 19th, 1932, at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Court House door in the town of Sylva, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy the delinquent taxes and interest thereon, the following real estate:

SYLVA TOWNSHIP
 I. H. Powell, J. T. Powell & C. W. Denning, 4 lots \$43.00
 I. H. Powell, 3 lots \$29.00
 H. E. Buchanan & I. H. Powell, 1 lot \$12.00
 H. E. Buchanan, (4 years) 3 lots \$17.00

CANEY FORK TOWNSHIP
 Fred Queen 11 acres \$8.00

DILLSBORO TOWNSHIP
 Lee Conley estate 5 acres \$27.00

WEBSTER TOWNSHIP
 J. H. Bradley 114 6/10 acres \$5.00

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP
 Mrs. R. G. Moore 158 acres \$19.00
 Will Pruitt 40 acres \$12.00

JOHN J. MANEY
 Tax Collector for Jackson County.

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of P. C. Henson, deceased, late of Jackson County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Cullowhee, North Carolina, on or before the 19th day of August, 1933, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 16th day of August, 1932.
 LOUISE HENSON, Administratrix of the Estate of P. C. Henson deceased.

Rev. I. N. Demy says:

"I have found nothing in the past 20 years that can take the place of Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills. They are a sure relief for my headache."

Sufferers from Headache, Neuralgia, Toothache, Backache, Sciatica, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Neuritis, Muscular Pains, Periodic Pains, write that they have used Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills with better results than they had even hoped for.

Countless American housewives would no more think of keeping house without Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills than without flour or sugar. Keep a package in your medicine cabinet and save yourself needless suffering.

At drug stores—25c and \$1.00

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NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

Under and by virtue of the authority conferred by deed of trust executed by C. B. Sutton and wife, Dortha Sutton, dated the 7th day of May, 1928, and recorded in Book 106, page 223 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, I, James W. Nations, Trustee, will, at 12 o'clock noon, on Saturday October 3, 1932, at the court house door of Jackson County in Sylva, North Car-

olina, sell at public auction for cash, to the highest bidder, the following land, to-wit:

Beginning on a stake in Dortha Sutton's line running thence south 62 degrees East 84 poles to a stake in East boundary line of the 61 acre tract at the bank of the public road leading from Barker's Creek to Wilmot, thence a N. W. direction running with the meanders of the public road leading toward Wilmot to a stake in

Dortha Sutton's line, thence with Dortha Sutton's line to the beginning, containing three acres more or less.

This sale is made on account of default in payment of the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust.

A ten per cent (10) cash deposit will be required of the highest bidder at the sale.

This September 1, 1932.
 JAMES W. NATIONS, Trustee
 9-1-4ts JCo.