

HOSTILE VALLEY

by
Ben Ames Williams

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WNU Service.

Marm Pierce nodded, watching the girl; and she saw that Jenny's countenance was illuminated, and by much more than mere happiness; much more than the selfish happiness which, if she loved Will, she might find in the fact that now he was free to love her, too. It was as though she were committed to a task in which she found peace and pride.

While they were busy here, the rain was pitiless outside. The afternoon, though it was not yet late, was already shrouded in a sort of dusk when Jenny went at last to bid Will come in.

Will followed her into the dining room where Huldj lay; and he stood looking down at his wife's body, his shoulders bowed. Jenny was close beside him, almost touching him;



And He Stood Looking Down at His Wife's Body.

her head nodded faintly once or twice. It was as though she spoke words of comfort and of heartening; yet her lips did not move.

Then he went back into the kitchen; and the three, Bart and Will and Saladine, stayed there, huddling near the stove. Will had the dull demeanor of a man numbed by shock; he muttered ruefully: "I can't make out where Zeke has got to. He wa'n't one to go off, a day like today. Zeke didn't like rain."

And still later, he said: "I'll want her to lie at home." He added humbly: "Dunno as she'd want it so; but—I'd want it that way. I'll have to get word to Joe Matthews, over 'Liberty."

Bart suggested, helpfully: "I can go over to my place, Will, and telephone. Saladine here can drive me over."

Saladine was quick to assent to this suggestion, and for a definite reason. He himself had been wishing he had access just now to a telephone. So he and Bart set out, and when Jenny heard the car depart, she came into the kitchen and found Will alone, and asked where they had gone. Will told her, and she stayed with him. Marm Pierce, when her task in the dining room was done, left them alone.

"I'm going up and change my dress," she decided. "I'd feel more fitten in something decent."

Jenny smiled at her in grateful understanding, but Will sat silent, and Jenny came beside him. Huldj's accusation had begun to lose, in the girl's mind, its shocking force. She was prepared to let this secret of Huldj's last word remain forever

hidden, to let Huldj's death pass as accident. She herself could forget, and none other need ever know.

They still sat here, in half darkness, when Bart and Saladine returned. Jenny went to the door to meet them.

Will asked Bart: "Did you get hold of Joe?" Bart nodded. "Coming tonight, is he? What time'll he get here, you figure?"

"Might be an hour or two." Jenny heard a step in the dining room, and heard the hands drawn down; and then the door opened and Marm Pierce emerged. She had changed into black. Jenny said softly: "Yo're all dressed up, Granny!"

The old woman spoke apologetically. "Well, I know, Jenny," she admitted. "There wa'n't no real sense in putting on my best, a night like this, and me not going anywheres." She looked at Will. "But I got to thinking," she declared, "if Huldj's

going to stay here tonight, I'll be respectable to keep her company."

Will got to his feet. "I better go up to the farm and milk the cows and chore up," he decided. "Won't take me long."

Bart protested: "Sho, Will. Zeke will do the chores."

Will shook his head. "I dunno as Zeke's there," he reminded them; and he said, looking at them all, his eyes moving as though with an effort from one to the next: "Zeke will be upset about this. He'd do anything for Huldj. He's going to take it almighty hard." He was silent for a moment, said then again: "But the cows; they've got to be milked." Even in this hour of death and sorrow the small daily tasks could hold a man in bondage.

"Yes, Will," Jenny agreed. "You'd best go. I'll fetch a lantern."

She went into the shed, and he began to put on his coat and hat; but in the shed she donned her boots and oilskins, returned all accoutered to face the storm. Will looked at her, and she saw something leap in his eyes. Then she opened the outer door.

"I'm going with you, Will," she told him.

Will's head rose a little. "Why yes, Jenny," he said slowly. "With me, if yo're a mind!"

And they went out. Jenny closed the door with a sense of escape, a deep relief. Alone with her, Will was secure.

Yet if she could have read Saladine's mind, she would have been dismayed; for Saladine had taken advantage of that trip to Bart's house to telephone Sheriff Sohler in Liberty. It was increasingly clear to him that not accident nor any sudden impulse to self-destruction had hurled Huldj off that high ledge. And if murder had been done, then the sheriff should be here.

(To be continued)

Bailey News

Mrs. J. B. Barnes spent Monday with relatives near Nashville.

Miss Mae Horner and Mrs. S. A. Finch will motor to Beulahville May 6 to spend a few days.

Mrs. C. B. Taylor is in Carolina General Hospital for a gallstone operation. She is doing nicely at present.

C. H. Bunn is erecting a new building on Main street. It will house a pressing club with a dry-cleaning plant.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boykin and son, Thelbert, accompanied by Miss Ellie Glover, motored Sunday to Fremont to visit Miss Inez Barefoot a former teacher here.

J. E. Vick, who anticipated resuming his work as letter carrier on May 1, has, unfortunately, had another heart attack and is still unable to travel.

Misses Easterbelle Lamm, Mattie Saunders, Pattie Lee Cozart, Edith Farmer; Messrs. Garner Saunders and George Finch visited Mrs. Alfonso Roebuck of Robertsonville Sunday. Mrs. Roebuck was formerly Miss Ila Mae Bost and taught in the Bailey high school a few years ago.

S. G. GILL

S. Z. Gill, prominent business man of Zebulon, died of apoplexy on Wednesday at Mary Elizabeth Hospital, where he was carried on Tuesday. Funeral services will be held at the home of Mrs. Victoria Gill on Friday afternoon at three o'clock with Rev. Theo. B. Davis in charge. Burial will be in the Zebulon cemetery.

Rolesville News

(Too late for Last Week)

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Averitte had as their weekend guest their daughter, Miss Mildred Averitte, Misses Dorothy Crutchfield and Mary Ann Brewer of Meredith College, and Mr. Hugh Lynn of Raleigh.

Miss Larue Roberson of Meredith College was home for Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pearce, Mrs. Red Honeycutt of Raleigh visited relatives and friends here Sunday. Mrs. Ward Walters of Durham also visited in Rolesville Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Yates of Morrisville visited Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Yates Sunday.

The Wake Forest College choir gave a delightful musical program at the Baptist church Sunday night before a large audience. It consisted of songs, duets, quartets and hymns and was directed by Jay Anderson.

We are sorry that Mr. Joe Daniel, who has been ill at his home for several months seems no better.

We are glad that J. W. Bowling is improving.

The faculty play at the school building was given on May 1.

Rocky Cross News

Miss Shirley Mae Bryant is spending part of this week with her sister in Stanhope.

Mr. W. S. Strickland, Mr. D. S. Strickland and McCallum Brantley were in Raleigh Tuesday on business.

Miss Eula Pearl Strickland spent Tuesday in Raleigh shopping.

Mr. T. B. Cone and Mr. D. S. Strickland went to Louisburg Friday on business.

Mrs. T. H. Bryant, Miss Shirley Mae Bryant and Miss Ruby Bryant spent Thursday in Raleigh shopping.

Mr. J. H. Massey, Mr. T. B. Cone, and Mr. D. S. Strickland visited Mr. W. P. Taylor near Stanhope Sunday.

Miss Laura Massey spent Friday in Raleigh shopping.

Mr. Graham Wagner, Mr. Percy Massey and Mr. Bardie Strickland and Mr. Moody Strickland attended the crazy barn dance at Wakelon Saturday night.

There was a large crowd at the church Sunday. We were glad to see such a large crowd out.

There will be a homecoming Day at the new Ferrall's school building

Bunn News

The ninth grade biology class of the Bunn High School went on a field trip Friday, May 1. The purpose was to sum up all that we had studied. Some members of the class were appointed to collect insects, others to keep a record of trees, flowers and mammals seen, Collect algae, butterflies.

We went to Poplar Springs where we separated; some went up the creek and others down. A lot of interesting things were found. Some were: afrog, two water moccasins, several field mice, a phoebe's nest, green algae, and many kinds of trees and flowers.

We met again about 12:15 o'clock and roastsd weiners. Then we went to Crooked Creek about one mile

South of Bunn and fished. When we reached the school house our biology teacher, Mr. Garris, treated us with ice cream. The entire day was enjoyed by the class.
—Tuna White Hinton, Reporter.

Hen Contest Ends

You will find elsewhere in this paper the report of the judges in our "Hen Contest" for new subscribers. While the number responding to what we believe was a liberal proposition was somewhat disappointing, we feel that the publicity will be of value to us. We are still leaving the proposition open to the public—the Zebulon Record to anybody anywhere for a hen. So any one who wishes to renew and pay up his subscription now past due, or become a new reader, we shall be glad to enter his name on our mailing list for any sort of a hen. Or send us \$1.00 in "cash money" for year's subscription.

We are mailing out checks and one dollar bills today to successful subscribers. We hope they will find the Record interesting in the future and need no special inducement to subscribe. We expect to make the paper better just as rapidly as we can afford the extra cost. We believe the monthly Farmer's supplement is worth the price of the Record and you get both for \$1.00. Send us your renewal, send us the news and we will do our best to give you the best rural newspaper in the State.

WENDELL Theatre

Program For Week Of May 7

THURS. & FRI. May 7-8

WILL ROGERS

in

A Connecticut Yankee

SATURDAY MAY 9

TOM TYLER

in

Silent Valley

SUNDAY MAY 10

with

The Widow From Monte Carlo

WARREN WILLIAM

DOLORES DEL RIO

Shows At 2:00 & 9:00 P. M.

MONDAY & TUES. May 11-12

IRENE DUNN

ROBT. TAYLOR

Magnificent Obsession

WED. (Bargain Day) May 3

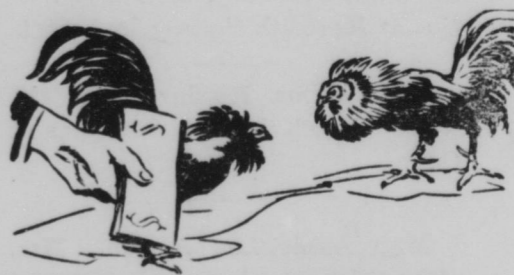
RICHARD ARLEN in

Matinee 3:30 10c to all

Night 7:30 & 9:00 — 10c & 15c

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