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SYNOPSIS: Slim Loyale is paroled from prison after serving 18 months for a crime he did not commit. He returns to his Circle L ranch to find his father dead and sinister forces at work, trying to make him violate his parole so that he can again be railroaded to prison.

The Break TALMENT

gwunted Spud, "'ceptin' they're gonna they're gonna open that government land along the Kicapoo River up north. The paper here says the final date of opening ain't quite been decided on yet, but that it'll probably be the fifteenth of next month.

"Shore, there's gonna they're gonna they're gonna they're gonna to began idly punching the balls about.

Presently came the thud of hoofs and a lone puncher rode down the street, stopping before Jigger Starbuck's office. He dismounted and went in, to reappear pear about five minutes later and it was a diminutive, shriveled In the balls about.

The Brockwells and their gang are plotting to gain possession of Circle L ranch and the property

kota Blue and his cowboys, Slim Loyale defies the landgrabbers to do their worst.

nothin' in particular,'



PHONE 70

powerful good range up there an' almost square. He had a pair of humans are funny about free beady, button, black eyes, set in Circle L ranch and the property land. Go just as crazy over it as of Mona Hall, a neighbor and life-long friend of Slim Loyale.

Slim discovers that Sheriff Starbuck has joined the plot against him. With the help of Dalagainst him. With the help of Dalagainst him. With the help of Dalagainst him with the help of Dala er have printed it.

right hand dropping until his thumb was hooked in his belt. "Arthur claims it'll shore boom this range. Says a lot of cattle-men down in the Big Bend coun-The newcomer grinned crookedly. "Go on with yore readin', Blue," try are gonna pull stakes an' bring their herds up through here to the new range. Understand that voice. "All I'm after is a shot of sheep interests have got 'em just about licked down in the Big Bend. Sounds good; but me, I don't take much stock in what George Arthur says. He kin lie faster'n a good hoss can run."

Slim nodded, rather absently.
The proposed opening of the gov-

The proposed opening of the government lands along the Kicapoo River had been a much discussed item for several years that he knew of. It was a subject that

ELKIN, N. C.

puncher, rocking up to the bar. "Blue, will yuh an' Loyale have ne with me?"
Dakota shook his head. "Thanks

"What'll it be?"
"Bourbon,"

growled Dillon.

the

announced

half face him, his eyes wary, his

we just turned Spud down on the same offer."
Cinder Alton shrugged. "Okay! Lots of fellers don't care for liquor before noon. Me, I'm different. Any time is drink time to And again he smiled that

crooked, twisted smile.

When Alton finished his drink he turned, leaning his shoulders against the bar, hooking a negligent heel over the bar rail. As he rolled and licked a cigarette, his eyes rested steadily upon Slim "Don't know where the Half Dia-mond B could pick up a new foreman, do yuh, Loyale?" he

"Naw!" exploded Spud Dillon before Slim could answer. "Yuh don't mean it? How'd it happen, Cinder?"

"Stopped a slug. It broke Ran-go's neck, clean as a whistle."
Dakota smiled thinly. "That's tough. Some fellers seem born to stop lead. Yuh'd thought Deale would have learned that, long time

"Yeah," agreed Alton, "yuh would at that. How'd yuh get the hole in yore hat, Loyale?" A subtle change came into Al-

ton's voice at this question. It grew flat and toneless to a degree. His hands had dropped to his hips with the words and his eves were hard as obsidian. Suddenly Slim knew he was looking straight into the eyes of death, but he did not quail. He squinted carefully along his cue, made the shot and dropped the six ball into a corner pocket.

"Rango Deale put it there with a .45, Alton," he drawled. "It was rotten shootin."

"Yeah," agreed Alton coldly, "it was, Me, I allus could out-shoot Rango. Don't move, Blue, or. I'll spatter yuh against that bar like rotten tomato."

By some uncanny legerdemain

Alton had slipped one of his guns free and now held it bearing directly upon Dakota's belt buckle. He flicked out the other and couched it at his hip, the muzzle king Slim directly in the eye.

"Rango should have put his slug just about four inches lower," he observed with a chill laugh. "That's where I aim to put mine."
He flared into sudden fury, his thin lips peeling back over his teeth in a grimace of hate.

"Damn yuh!" he whispered.
"Yuh killed Rango—killed my pal. Did yuh think I'd let yuh get away with anythin' hat? Not by a jugful. I'll give yuh now, in about ten seconds, what yuh gave to him"

Spud Dillon's voice broke in, a little thick and wheezy, but very determined. "What yo're gonna do, Cinder, yuh poison whelp, is drop them guns, now!" And with the beginning of his words, Spud showevd the gaping muzzle of a bulldog revolver against the back of Alton's neck.

The leer on Alton's face persisted, a frozen grimace, His eyes flickered, "Yuh ain't got long," flickered, "Yuh reminded Spud.

Alton dropped his guns, shrug-ged and laughed. "I didn't think yuh had the nerve to butt in, Dillon," he observed, "knowin' all

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had grown cold to him. And besides, just now he was wondering what angle of approach to use on George Arthur about that mortage.

Dakota Blue, however, with a sudden gleam in his eyes, pulled the paper to him and began reading it carefully. Slim rolled a cigarette, lit it, then went over to the pool table and began idly punching the balls about.

The time, o' course, that yo're signin' yore death warrant."

"Yore thinkin' is plumb outa this saloon order," observed Spud sturdily, order," observed Spud sturdily. From now on, what I told Sarg an' Leo Brockwell goes for their whole danged outfit. None of yuh are wanted in this saloon. Next of yuh to show in here, I meet with a sawed-off shotgun, Now rattle yore hocks."

AUSTIN

AUSTIN

Again Alton shrugged, then sauntered to the door and out. Without a backward look, he crossed the street, swung into his saddle and rode off. Spud Dillon replaced his weapon on the shelf behind the bar. "Gimme his guns, Debota", "drawled Spud Dakota," drawled Spud.

"I wanta keep 'em as souvenirs—souvenirs of the time fat, ole Spud Dillon got the best of the

to the place. His cold eyes flick-ered around and saw Alton's guns. "Yuh fellers seem to be rushin' the Half Diamond B boys around pretty heavy," he observed. "What's this I hear about yuh pluggin' Rango Deale last night,

"News to me," answered Slim. "I ain't seen Rango Deale since I to her home from the Elkin hosgot home. An'," he added pointedly, "I ain't shot a gun, either. Yuh
notice I ain't even packin' any.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Brown Yet Cinder Alton flipped his guns just now with the intention of killin' me. He would have, too, except that Spud discouraged him.

"Now lemme tell yeth somethin' Rev.

'Now lemme tell yuh somethin' last. Certain folks railroaded the to prison for somethin' I never done. An' me, gettin' a parole they never figgered on, arrived back home before they thought I relatives buried at Knobbs Baptist Certain folks railroaded the ing talk.

Next Saturday, June 5, everyone in this community who has reason, they be the church is averaged to at-

outa the way.
"Last night they tried it; only it happened that Roy O'Brien was wearin' this hat an' ridin' my gray hoss. Rango Deale tackled in?" asked the visitor of the Roy, thinkin' it was me. When he small boy who opened the door. found out it wasn't, he was so "They was in." said the chil sore he took a shot at Roy, plug-gin' a hole in my hat. Roy beat him to the next."

Slim's face had grown cold, and his eyes flinty. There was the set of unalterable decision about his lips, "I'm carryin' my guns all the time from now on, Starbuck. I'm carryin' 'em to use, savvy? No more do I run around like a fool, unable to defend myself an' let-

tin' good men take over my scrap.
"The first son-of-a-goat who makes a pass at his gun in front of me, I'm rockin' off. An' if yuh sons holding claims against said come after me for defendin' my own life, I rock yuh off. To hell own life, I rock yuh off. To with yuh an' yore crooked law that works only one way! I'm through playin' the goat."

Dakota nodded quietly to this.
"I been advisin' Slim to steer clear of trouble, Starbuck," he put in.
"But what happened just now This t shows me that he's up agin a pack of yellow polecats who are willin' to shoot him even if he is unarmed. What he just said goes for me, too. I'm backin' Slim's play every turn of the trail.

"There's five more boys out at

the Circle L who are gonna back it the same way. Lessen yuh see that Slim gets the protection he's entitled to, this couny is gonna bury a sheriff. That's plain talk, but every word of it is gospel."

For some time Starbuck was silent, his face unreadable. "I could arrest both of yuh for that kind of talk," he observed present-

Dakota laughed sarcastically. "Try it, an' yuh go outa here on a board. Funny yo're allus talkin' about arrestin' Slim or me. Why don't yuh exert some of yore precious authority on that Brockwell gang? Why don't yuh trail along after Cinder Alton an' throw him in the jug for a time? He tried to start the argument in here.

"Yuh cain't tell me my business," snapped Starbuck. "Okay," shrugged Dakota, "An' yuh cain't tell Slim an' me ours. We've kept faith with yuh, so far, but yuh ain't returned the compliment. From here on out, the Circle L rides its own trail in its own way. 'No trespassing signs are hangin' on every one of us. C'mon, Slim; I just saw that law-

shark go past the door, Reckon he's haided for his office. Slim nodded to Spud and Joe Rooney, but walked past Jigger Starbuck as though he did not exist. Dakota followed suit to the letter.

"But my dear man," expostu-lated George Arthur, rubbing his thin hands together, as he paced back and forth across the narrow width of his office, "Don't you understand that I cannot trans-

width of his office, "Don't you understand that I cannot transfer the mortgage on Miss Hall's property to you without her consent? It would not be regularnot at all regular, Besides, I wish to hold that mortgage myself."

"Oh yeah," drawled Slim. "That's kinda funny. If yo're so satisfied to hold the mortgage, why in hell are yuh pressin' Miss Hall for the money? Can it be that what yuh want is the ranch an' not the money?"

The lawyer's pale eyes narrowed. "My affairs are my own," he snapped. "Definitely and finally, that mortgage is not for sale. Good day, gentlemen." He went to the door and held it open. Slim laughed coldly as he stepped out, "Yo're shore draggin' yore rope if yuh figger to steal the Dot H Dot Ranch. Yuh'll never do it. An' the next time yuh hit Miss Hall up for the money, she'll surprise yuh by handin' it over. C'mon Dakota. I'm sick of talkin' to sidewinders an' polecats. Let's ride an' get some fresh air."

George Arthur watched them until they had disappeared, jogging easily out of town. His thin lips were writhing with anathema,

ing. He saw Jigger Starbuc slouching across to his office ar

Next Sunday will be the regular preaching day at Knobbs Baptist The public is invited to attend.

Miss Eudra Crabb of Winston-Salem, spent the latter part of last week with her mother, Mrs. James Crabb.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Hawkins were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Lyon Sunday.

wickedest gun-slinger in this neck of the woods."

Dakota nodded gravely and was and daughter, Mary, of Elkin, about to pick the weapons up, spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. when Jigger Starbuck stepped in and Mrs. L. M. Hawkins of this community.

Miss Dorothy Lyon was the guest of Mrs. Delah Baker at Elkin, Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Dameron

announce the birth of a son May 29, 1937. Mrs. J. Z. Adams has returned

Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Cox atpreaching services at Cherrylane church, Sunday.

Rev. Harrison Hayes was a visitor at Austin church Sunday evlast. Certain folks railroaded me ening. He made a very interest-

would. For some reason they tist church is expected to at-seem damned anxious to put me

"They was in," said the child,

"but they is out." "They was in. They is out. Where's your grammar?" "She's gone undairs," said the

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of George P. Gray, late of Surry county, North sons holding claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned within one year from date hereof or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate set-

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