

OH, DIANA!

Touchdown

THE SECOND QUARTER HAMBERT'S STAR HALF SHOOT A PASS

WEAVING AND DODGING THE SHIFTY RUNNER

STOOD HIM! GRAB THAT BUN!

SWADES EVERY HAMBERT TACKLER AND RACES TO A TOUCHDOWN

NO GOAL!

SKIDMORE FAILS TO MAKE THE EXTRA POINT AND THE HALF ENDS

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OH, DIANA!

A LAST CHANCE

YOU FELLOWS PLAYED LIKE A BUNCH OF PANTY WAISTS

SLURP THAT LITTLE SKIDMORE TACKLE PUSHED YOU ALL OVER THE FELD, GET IN THERE LOW AND FIGHT!!

WE WANT A TOUCHDOWN

THE HAMBERT COACH SLICES OFF A PIECE OF HIS HAND AND TOSSES IT AT HIS PLAYERS

AT THE END OF THE FIRST HALF, THE GAME BETWEEN THE OLD, TRADITIONAL RUNNER, THE SCORE IS— HAMBERT-O-SKIDMORE-0

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OH, DIANA!

OUR HERO

WITH THE GAME WON, SKIDMORE PLAYS SAFE WITH AN OFF TACKLE PLAY

WE WANT A TOUCHDOWN

IT'S A FUMBLE!

IT'S ANYBODY'S BALL AS THE PLAYERS ALL RUSH TO RECOVER IT, BUT—

GET THAT BALL

IT'S SLURP, THE HAMBERT TACKLER, WHO GRABS THE PIG SKIN—

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OAKY DOAKS

IT'S MORNING, THE STORM IS OVER, AND OAKY IS HAVING BREAKFAST WITH THE DUKE OF DOUBLOON.

YOU CAN TELL KING CORNY THAT YOU DID AN EXCELLENT JOB FOR ME, SIR OAKY!

SHUCKS, YOUR HIGHNESS!

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH THAT PIRATE IN YOUR DUNGEON?

TURN HIM OVER TO THE SHERIFF!

GOOD MORNING, FOLKS!

YES, FATHER— I CUT MY HAIR AND GAVE MYSELF THE WORKS!

BY JOVE, BESSIE! HOW YOU'VE CHANGED!

KINDA PRETTY, ISN'T SHE, SIR OAKY?

G-G-G-GOSH! SHE'S SOME DISH!

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OAKY DOAKS

TELL KING CORNY I'M SENDING MY CHECK FOR A LARGER LOAN THAN HE ASKED FOR, SIR OAKY!

GEE! I'LL TELL HIM, YOUR HIGHNESS!

LOOK AT ME, OAKY!

NO! IF I DID, I MIGHT NOT WANT TO GO AND I'VE GOTTA GO!

GIDDAP!!

FASTER, NELLIE! I'M SCARED TO TURN AROUND TO WAVE GOODBYE!

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OAKY DOAKS

SLOW UP, NELLIE! I GUESS I'M SAFE NOW— BESSIE IS MILES BEHIND US!

LEAVING HER WAS THE HARDEST THING I EVER DID!

SHE'S THE NICEST, SWELLEST, PRETTIEST GIRL I EVER KNEW!

GOSH ALL HEMLOCK! BESSIE, ARE YOU HERE AGAIN?

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SCORCHY SMITH

MY FATHER WISHES YOU AND SAHIB SYKES TO SHARE THE JOY OF HIS REINSTATEMENT AS RAJAH.

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HERE IS SAHIB-SCORCHY AND SAHIB SYKES AS YOU DESIRED, FATHER!

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SCORCHY SMITH

SAHIB SMITH AND SAHIB SYKES, YOUR ALERTNESS AND PROMPTNESS HAVE RESTORED JUSTICE TO RITZANPUR! I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU BOTH.

BUT WHERE IS SAHIB SYKES?

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SCORCHY SMITH

I THOUGHT SYKES WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME WHEN HE CAME IN?— MAYBE HE'S SHY.

THERE'S A RATHER GOOD TRICK A WRESTLER CHAP SHOWED ME.

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SMYRNA

Several people from Smyrna attended the Meadows-Chadwick wedding at Straits church Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. T. F. Taylor and children, Lionelle and Dianna, Mrs. Floyd Chadwick and Mrs. Hilda Gillikin spent the weekend in Southport with Mrs. Riley Willis and family.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Chadwick, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Smith, Mrs. E. H. Heady, Mrs. William Tyler and daughter, Rachel, Mrs. Herbert Hancock and Lonnie Guthrie attended services at the Methodist church at Williston Sunday night.

Miss Elise Willis, who has been

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Chapter 20

EARLY the next morning Phil Martin was buried in the fenced-off clearing on the fringe of the grove of tall cotton-wood trees beyond the big house.

George and Cathy joined Nettie on one side of the already dug grave. The coffin was unloaded and placed beside it. The punchers stood on the opposite side. Gay, her head bowed, stood behind the punchers. Ropes were slung under the coffin. Cathy nudged George and he turned to her.

"Say something," she whispered. "You must."

He frowned; moistened his lips with his tongue; drew a deep breath. He raised his head.

"God," he said. "This is Phil Martin we're burying. He was a good man. We, his wife and his friends, ask you to take good care of him. Amen."

As the first shovelful thudded on the coffin, Nettie flinched. Cathy stepped up to her quickly, put her arm around Nettie's waist. Presently the grave was filled and the dirt over it was smoothed down. There was a moment's silence, a motionless pause, then the punchers nearest the grave gathered up the ropes and the shovels. Finally the entire group of men, turning as one, tramped off. Gay moved away with them, quickened her pace and left them behind her, and fled in the direction of the house. Nettie, turning, followed her with her eyes. George came forward now. He halted at Nettie's side.

"Nettie," he said, and she looked up at him. "Nettie, there ain't much anybody c'n say 't you at a time like this. Still, I want you t' know that I'm sorry."

"Thank you," she said with a quiet smile and he marvelled at her courage. "And thank you for

Chapter 20

what you said about Phil. I know he would have liked it."

"I don't know what plans you've made," he went on. "But I'd kinda like t' have you stay here. The cottage was home t' you and Phil, and even though he's gone now, I kinda think he'd like t' know you're still around."

Tears welled up into her eyes.

"Thank you again," she replied.

They left Nettie standing beside the grave. Minutes later, when they looked back, Nettie was on her knees. They trudged along in silence until they reached the house.

"That was sweet of you, George," Cathy said.

He stopped, looked down at her, patted her shoulder, then he stepped past her and strode off toward the corral.

GAY was standing at the window as their bedroom when Cathy entered. Gay did not turn. Cathy stood beside her for a moment.

"When is she leaving?" Gay asked presently.

"She isn't leaving," Cathy answered.

Gay looked at her quickly.

"George asked her to stay," Cathy went on. "I think it was the only decent thing to do. She accepted."

There was no comment from Gay.

"Cathy," Gay said, and Cathy turned toward her again. "Phil was in love with me. You didn't know that, did you?"

"No," Cathy said. "I didn't actually know it even though I did feel that there was something between you two."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, it was after you returned from that night in the shack. I noticed that George

DICKIE DARE

DAYS ARE IN A LIQUID WARM P. J. JESSONHAST THE RIVER STEAMER

THE STOPS FOR WOOD; EACH THE SAME, YET EACH DIFFERENT

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DICKIE DARE

HARRY SAYS HE' BE IN THE ROOM BUT NOT AN' ANTS IN THAT!— HEY!— POKEE GAME!

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DICKIE DARE

HE DID!— THE BOAT'S SLOWING, AND THERE'S NO STOP SCHEDULE— THIS CAPTAIN CHIT STAND CARD CHEATERS! FOOTSTEPS— THEY'RE COMING FOR ME!

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