

# Why the Jugos Kidnap Pretty Girls and Defy the King

Details of Three Romantic Cases of Prenuptial Abductions in a Land Where Tradition Permits the Odd Old Custom in Spite of the Law



**SHE DIDN'T MIND**  
Pretty Leposava Vukasinovic: Two Swains Tried to Kidnap Her, but Fortunately the Man She Loved Won Out. She Is Shown Above in the Typical Wedding Headgear Worn by Brides in Her Country.

By DR. JOSEF BOBEK, BELGRADE.

ONE of the gravest problems confronting officials in this capital of Yugoslavia has been the custom among romantic swains of kidnaping their prospective brides.

With the advent of a new king it was expected that the practice would be abolished. But recent widespread reports of wholesale abductions throughout the kingdom have convinced authorities it takes more than a royal frown to stamp out what virtually amounts to a native tradition.

Particularly in Bosnia, usually staid and loyal to the throne, there is reported a persistent flouting of the king's expressed attitude against such abductions. There, it has been learned, swarthy he-men still persist in galloping away with their ladyloves even before seeking parental blessings. In some instances girls and widows were carried off in the midst of fierce struggles. Brothers and fathers tried to resist the onslaughts of the kidnapers and in one case four men were killed as a result.

Frequently girls are stolen in the dead of night and taken right out of their warm beds, without a chance of packing a toothbrush or a pair of embroidered slippers. The squealing victim is roughly flung across a saddle and held in wiry grip until she reaches the abode of her bold abductor. Usually this abode is in the mountains or in a remote village where he and his prize will not be discovered—until such time as the swain sees fit.

It might be supposed that this unusual caveman practice would arouse the people to a demand for protection. But the fact is that relatives of a kidnaped girl, while somewhat alarmed, realize it is just an old Yugoslavian custom.

For instance, when papa learns that his daughter has languished twenty-four hours in the den of a love robber, he almost invariably agrees to a hasty marriage. In fact, he often gives the kidnapers a bag of gold to boot. Sometimes the girl makes an escape after her abductor has locked her up for the night. But she soon realizes that papa doesn't want her to wait for a second swain to come along—that would cost a bigger bag of gold or



MON HOMME

Behold This Bold, Handsome Caveman Lover. He Is Hassan Beg Dznic, Who Kidnaped His Bride Before Her Parents' Eyes. No Wonder She Dared All for Such a Resplendent Figure. Just Look at the Eyes, the Mustachio, the Garb, the—Umbrella! Could Any Girl Ask More?

perhaps several additional bushels of wheat.

One romantic and rather amusing story which illustrates the prevalence of caveman tactics in this country comes out of the delightful village of Aleksinac. It concerns a young planter named Milos Radovanovic, who had fallen madly in love with the beautiful Leposava Vukasinovic.

Milos was the richest and strongest young man in the community and Leposava felt she would be happy with him. But she could see him only at great intervals and in secret. For she had a maiden aunt who had the eyes

of a lynx and wanted her to wed a man of her own choosing. To this the girl would not agree.

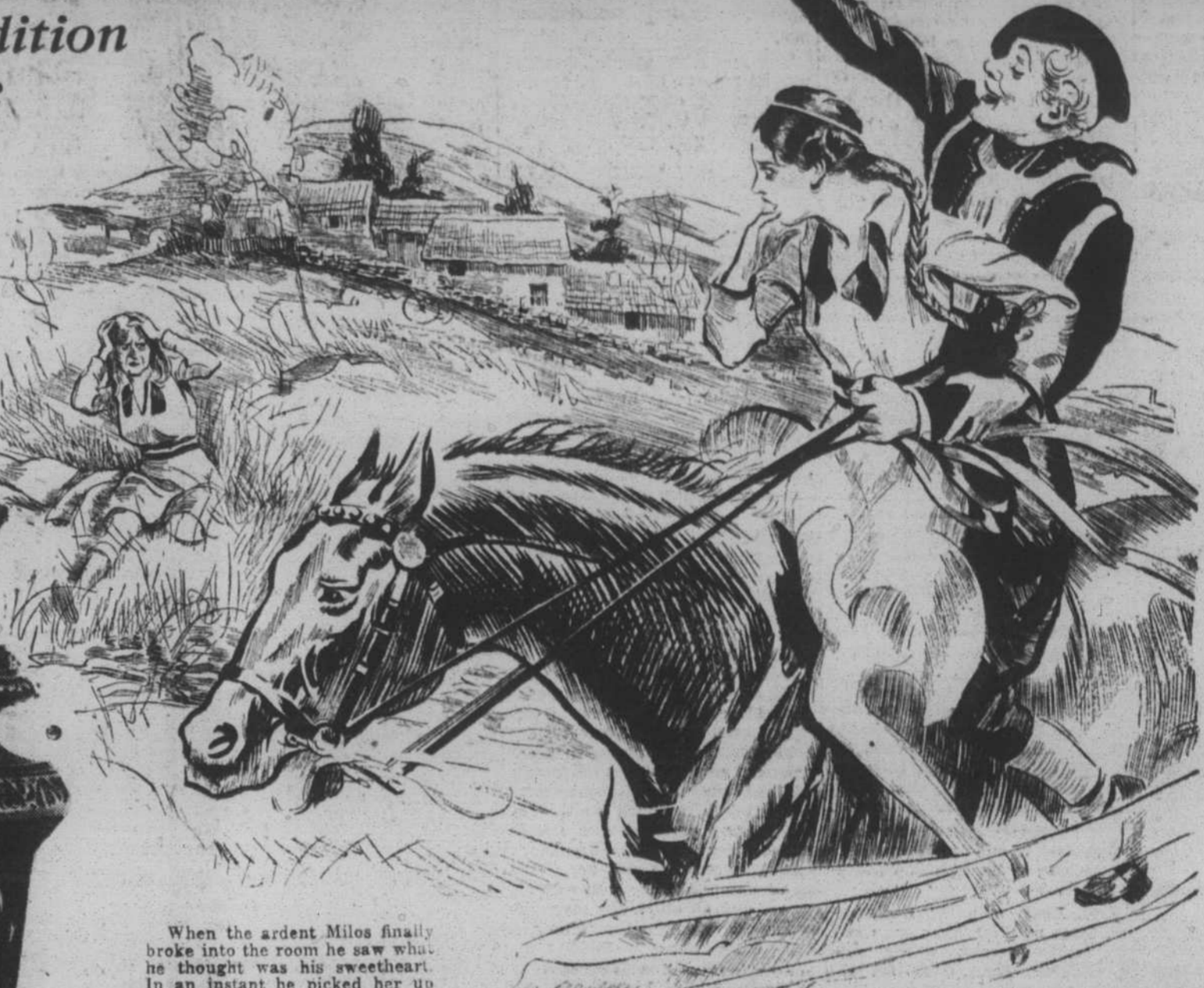
One night the aunt learned that Leposava's lover was planning to abduct the girl and, in the usual fashion, to come back a few days later and ask the aunt's permission for their marriage. The wise old aunt decided to outwit them. She hastily notified the man she had chosen as Leposava's future husband and practically ordered him to kidnap the girl. And just to make the hoax complete the aunt disguised herself as her niece, wearing the latter's clothes, and waited to outwit Milos.

But during the night Mara broke through a window in her prison and ran home. Later, the gendarmes surrounded the inn and put the whole drunken band—including Mara's would-be husband—in jail.

The outcome of all this was that Jacob's dream of marrying Mara vanished behind iron bars. And, except for her memory of that night when she was left alone in a strange prison, Mara forgot all about Jacob—for she never loved him, in the first place.

Of all the recent abductions, the case of pretty Danica Forkapic is the most romantic. In little town of Banjaluka in Bosnia lived the aristocratic Josef beg Dznic, vice-burgomaster and rich Mohammedan land owner, with his wife Halida Begovic. The latter name means wife of a beg and a beg means count.

Their only son was Hassan beg Dznic. One day Hassan met the fascinating Danica Forkapic in the street. He knew immediately she was a Christian from Croatia because her face was unveiled. It was a pretty face, and young Hassan at once felt its charm. Soon he realized he wanted to marry her, but he knew he could



WHEN THE TABLES TURNED

"As the two lovers swept through the countryside on their steed they saw, in the early dawn, the figure of the frenzied aunt sitting up in the ditch. With a joyous shout and a wave of the hand Milos bade the woman who had tried to trick him goodbye."

When the ardent Milos finally broke into the room he saw what he thought was his sweetheart. In an instant he picked her up and carried her off. As they galloped through the night the young giant tore the veil from the girl's face and prepared to kiss her. But just then the moon broke through a cloud and Milos saw that the woman he had kidnaped was not Leposava—but her aunt!

In his anger and impatience, he unceremoniously pitched the hatchet-faced aunt into a ditch and he tore back to the house of his enamored. He arrived just in time. The aunt's choice had just seized the beautiful Leposava and was going to fling her over his shoulders when Milos broke into the room. He fired two shots to frighten his rival and then, seizing the girl, he once more dashed into the night.

As he and Leposava swept through the countryside on horseback they saw, in the early dawn, the figure of the aunt, sitting up in the ditch. With a joyous shout and a wave of the hand, Milos bade her goodbye. Of course, he and Leposava are married now and are living, thus far, happily.

Another unusual abduction occurred in the mountain village of Kolednica, near Spalato. There the pretty Mara Petrov was carried off by Jakob Barina. She was the daughter of the richest olive planter in the vicinity, while Jakob was only a poor forester.

This difference in their social stations should have been enough to warn Jacob away. For a person of the poorer classes to kidnap the daughter of an aristocrat is a serious thing. Indeed there have been too many instances in which wealthy girls have been taken away and held for ransom. The result is that all such abductions are viewed by officials as the work of ransom bandits.

But Jacob was determined to marry her, so one night he and a band of friends attacked the house where Mara lived with her parents. They broke in and after gagging the parents seized the girl and took her to Jakob's lodgings. There she was locked up. She scratched and kicked in rage, but her abductors merely laughed and retreated to the inn next door to celebrate their victory with a few jugs of red Dalmatian wine.

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SHE ESCAPED

Pretty Mara Petrov of the Village of Kolednica, Daughter of an Olive Planter. She Was Kidnaped, But Made Her Escape. Her Would-Be Husband Was Jilted.

not make her his wife because he himself was a Mohammedan.

Hassan's love for Danica finally got the better of him. Religion and love clashed and love conquered. One night he adopted the usual method of love-stricken swains and stole into Danica's boudoir. Her parents, aroused by the noise, rushed into the room. But Hassan was determined. Right before the eyes of the gasping parents he carried off Danica. He took her to Constantinople, and there so impressed the girl that she finally consented to become a Mohammedan and be his wife.

Hassan, however, did not figure on the reaction his deed would have on his parents. When old beg Dznic learned of the kidnaping he started proceedings to disinherit his son. The father of Danica at the same time started to disinherit his daughter.

This would have been a terrible blow to the two young lovers. It meant that not only would they be left practically penniless, but the girl would never be forgiven by her parents. For while they might have become reconciled upon knowing she had married into luxury and security, they would have been furious if she became the wife of a Mohammedan pauper.

But a strange fate intervened. Just as irate old Dznic, the Mohammedan, entered the office of his solicitor to sign his last will and testament he dropped dead. Young Hassan and his bride returned to Banjaluka and took possession of the late vice-burgomaster's vast estates. Meanwhile Danica's



O DARING LOVER!

Just Take One Look at Milos Radovanovic in the Garb of His Native Country, and You'll See the Smiling Determination That Enabled Him to Outwit a Rival and an Outraged Aunt—to Win the Girl of His Dreams.

to them as an offensive weapon, but the people seem to ignore it. Not even a king, it seems, can trifle with a tradition.

Some authorities have suggested the adoption of laws forbidding such abductions, with severe penalties of violators. Others say that an edict from the throne would serve to end the practice.

But perhaps the king and those close to him realize that any such formal measures would meet with the displeasure of the subjects. And months in these democratic days can't afford to chance that.

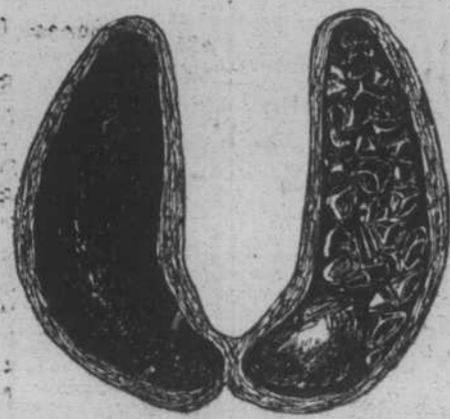
## HUMAN MECHANICS

By HERBERT L. HERSCHENSOHN, M. D. (Physician and Surgeon.)

HERE are three mechanisms concerned in the formation of gall-stones. These are (1) infection of the gall-bladder, (2) stagnation of bile, and (3) the chemical composition of the blood.

**Infection:** The gall-bladder is an extremely favorable site for the growth of bacteria. Almost any kind of bacterium may be found there, especially those that normally exist in the intestines. Many years after an attack of typhoid fever gall-stones often form as a result of the irritation set up in the gall-bladder by the typhoid germs. The simple experiment of injecting bacteria into the gall-bladders of animals demonstrates the promptness with which stones form. The mechanical presence of germs causes an inflammation of the lining of the gall-bladder. A fluid rich in lime salts oozes out of the inflamed tissues. Using a colony of bacteria as a nucleus, the lime salts become deposited all around it, layer upon layer, until a stone of variable size is formed. The greater the deposit of lime, the larger the stone becomes.

**Stagnation of Bile:** The stagnation



The Above Sketch Illustrates the Gall-Bladder Cut in Half and Spread Apart to Show the Presence of One Large Stone and a Number of Smaller Ones.

of bile does not in itself cause the formation of stones within the gall-bladder, but its presence greatly favors it. The very fact that the bile becomes stagnant at times gives bacteria a good chance to thrive and ultimately cause stones to form as already described. Any circumstances which might cause a pressure in the upper part of the abdomen, especially on the right side, may interfere with the free circula-

What Gall-Stones Are and How They Form in the Bladder

tion of the bile. Such circumstances are commonly found in women, as snug-fitting clothing, tight lacing, pregnancy and tumors. Sedentary habits, constipation and lax abdominal walls due to previous pregnancies often prevent the proper movement of the bile and render women easy victims of gall-stones.

**Chemical Composition of the Blood:** There is a certain amount of fatty substance called cholesterol found in normal blood. There are times when this amount becomes increased, in typhoid fever, and during pregnancy especially. When the gall-bladder becomes inflamed in such cases, not only are lime salts found, but a quantity of cholesterol as well. The cholesterol then combines with the lime salts in the formation of stones.

The number of stones found in the gall bladder are varied to the extreme. When only one is found, it is usually quite large. Some stones are as long as measuring more than five inches in length. When the stones are very small they may resemble sand, giving the bile a muddy consistency. In one instance over 7,800 stones were counted in a single gall-bladder.

The presence of stones within the gall-bladder often causes such discomfort and pain that the only hope of cure lies in the removal of the gall-bladder.