

THE TEXAS RANGER

By

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CHAPTER 1

The woman of ill repute was shouting from pain as she strained to force her unborn baby out into the world. The nurse, Lillie, was beside her trying to encourage her to push harder on the little unborn baby. She finally screamed loudly and pushed harder, and the baby emerged into the hands of Lillie. The baby was a little girl with a mop of black hair, blue eyes, and a very loud voice.

Once the baby began nursing, Lillie disposed of the afterbirth, and cleaned up the mother. Unfortunately, two days later the mother passed away and was buried in the town's cemetery in an unmarked grave.

That same day Mrs. Eagen gave birth to a baby girl, but unfortunately the little one was stillborn. It too was buried in the town's cemetery in an unmarked grave.

Mrs. Eagen was filled with grief, and her husband, Jack, did his best to soothe her. Finally, she was completely exhausted and fell into a restless sleep.

Jack sat beside her bed and tried to think what he could do to soften his wife's grief. Finally, he came up with a plan that seemed impossible to fulfill, but he was desperate and decided to try to bring it to pass.

So he went to Lillie and explained his plan: give the prostitute's baby to his wife and put the name "Shirley" on the birth certificate, and put the names "Jack Eagen," and "Marie Eagen," as the baby's parents.

Then he said, "Look at it this way ma'am, if we get the baby she will be raised just like she was our own, and she will never know any different. On the other hand, if we don't get the baby what will you do with her? She would have no family and would grow up in an Orphanage, and there is no way of knowing how she would turn out as an adult. Would she follow in her mother's foot steps and become a prostitute?"

Lillie thought a moment, and then hurried to Dr. Rogers's office and told him Jack's plan. Dr. Rogers was amazed at the plan and pondered it for a few minutes before answering her. Then he said, "Lillie, this is a hard decision to make, but I believe for the sake of that innocent little baby, we should do as Jack has suggested." So the Eagens took the little baby home with them five days later.

CHAPTER TWO

A few years later Jim Marvel gave up his life as a cowboy and became a Texas Ranger. He was very proud of his new badge, and rightfully so. He had worked hard to earn it; and as a Ranger he was given full authority anywhere in the State.

His first assignment was to go to the Ranger Headquarters at Winslow to get information about two thieves who had been holding up banks and other businesses all over the State. The thieves seemed to prefer robbing banks and businesses that always had a large amount of money on hand.

One of those places was the Sales Corral ten miles west of Winslow, where livestock and other farm animals were sold. The sales were conducted every other Wednesday, and were attended primarily by ranchers, many of whom had come several miles to buy or sell livestock.

Jim arrived at Sales Corral shortly before the buying and selling started. He got a seat on the fourth row, the highest one, so he could see everybody at the sale. After the sales began, he noticed that most of them were for a small herd of cattle.

But a little later a wealthy rancher had one hundred steers for sale, and Jim got very interested. He watched the rancher who had owned the steers follow the Sales Corral owner to his office; and when he came out, Jim noticed that the deputy sheriff was with him.

The two men left the building together, got on their horses, and headed toward the City Bank in Winslow. Jim got on Daisy and trailed them at a reasonable distance so they would not notice they were being followed.

The men arrived at the bank and went inside. In about ten minutes they came out, and the rancher was carrying a small leather pouch under his arm. He shook hands with the deputy sheriff, mounted his horse, and rode away towards his home five miles west of Winslow.

Jim suspected the leather pouch was carrying the money the rancher had received for his herd, so he followed him at a reasonable distance to be sure he had not been noticed. But about one-half mile from the rancher's home, two men came out of the trees along the road and started following the rancher.

When the rancher got to his home he dismounted and went inside. Immediately the two men rode up in front of the house, dismounted, and with their guns drawn, they charged into the house. Instantly they came back out of the house carrying the six-year-old daughter and the leather pouch. They mounted their horses and raced away with the little girl sitting in front of the man who was holding her in his saddle.

Jim spurred Daisy and arrived at the house just as the thieves disappeared over a hill. He quickly dismounted and ran up to the door and knocked. He knocked louder and still got no response; so he kicked the door open and rushed in. He was not too surprised at what he saw—the little girl's mother and dad sitting in chairs

with a gag in their mouth and their hands tied together behind the back of their chair. As he removed the gags and ropes, he said, “My name is Jim Marvel and I’m a Texas Ranger.”

As soon as Jim got the gag out of the man’s mouth, he said, “Thank God you are here, Jim. My name is Jack Eagen and this is my wife Marie. Those stinking outlaws took our daughter, Shirley, and a leather bag with one thousand dollars in it. And to make matters worse, they said if we tried to capture them they would kill her.”

Jack continued, “What should we do, Jim, notify the sheriff and get a posse together? And then ride after the dirty bastards?”

Jim said in an understanding voice, “Please control yourselves the best you can; just sit down and let me say a few words.” The couple sat down on the couch, ready to hear what Jim wanted to tell them.

“I know that what I’m about to say will not be something you want to hear, but it is something that must be said. I was sent to this part of Texas with the order to find and capture these same two men.

“Unfortunately they got the jump on me so I will now have to hunt them down again. I hate to tell you this, but those two men are heartless killers who would have no reservations about killing your daughter if they thought you were trying to track them. So I suggest you allow me to do things my way, and I believe I can get your daughter back for you. I have had experience in dealing with similar circumstances, and thank the Lord I was successful in rescuing the victims of the bandits.

“This might take from one week to one year; but I give you my word that with the help of the Lord, I will bring back your daughter.”

The mother spoke up as she dabbed away her tears. “Thank you Mr. Marvel, we will be praying that you will be successful in capturing those thieves and bringing back our Shirley.”

Then Jim said, “I must leave now because the sooner I leave, the sooner I will get your daughter back; and I thank you for your prayers.”

Jim shook the hands of the parents and hurried out of the house. Then he grabbed the saddle horn, swung up into the saddle, and rode off.

CHAPTER 3

The nearest town was Ardillo, twenty miles from Winslow; Jim arrived there a little after sundown. Being very tired from the incidents of the day, he rode into the town looking for a place to spend the night.

As he continued riding further into town he came to a Cottage Court. He dismounted, and then he noticed two horses tied to another hitching rail close by. He thought, "I wonder if those two horses are owned by the men I'm after."

He walked over to them and ran his hand over their chests and found them very damp. So he concluded they were the horses of the bandits, and they had ridden them at a fast pace in order to outrun anyone who might be in pursuit of them.

Jim walked into the office and asked if they had a vacant room. They said "Yes, we do." So Jim signed the attendance sheet and paid the three dollars for Cottage Number 1.

Then the clerk said, "To get to your cottage just go out the door and turn to your left. Your cottage is the first one in the line."

Then Jim asked, "By the way, do you have a room with two men and a little girl in it? I was to meet them here tomorrow, but I guess they came a day early; they are my brothers who were to bring my little niece to meet me so I can take her back home to her parents in Winslow."

The clerk answered, "Yes, I guess they were a day early, but we put them up in cottage Number 2, and you will not have any trouble finding it. It's just to the north side of yours."

"One more question, sir, do you have a sheriff in this town?"

The clerk answered, "Yes we do, his home is just three blocks down the street, and his house is Number 8. He should be at home this time of evening because he usually leaves his office about sundown."

Jim thanked the clerk and went out the door. He hesitated for a few moments trying to decide what to do. "Do I go get the sheriff now, or do I wait until morning to go get him?" Jim thought for a few seconds, and then started down the street towards the sheriff's home.

When he got to Number 8 he noticed that the front window was emitting light, so he walked up to the front door and knocked. Immediately the door was opened by the sheriff.

"Good evening sir, my name is Jim Marvel and I'm with the Texas Rangers. I have located two bandits who kidnapped my friends' daughter, and I am wondering if you could help me arrest them."

The sheriff said, "Come in Jim, and tell me all about it; and my name is Tom Saleder."

So Jim went in and told the sheriff the story about his reason for being in town. The sheriff listened very attentively as Jim told him the whole story. When he finished telling it, he asked the sheriff, "Tom, what do you think we should do?"

"Jim, I'll be glad to help you arrest those two. It sounds like the two bandits we have been trying to get for some time.

"And it would be my suggestion," Tom continued, "that we go arrest them right now so we get them before they go to bed. In any case, I can knock on the door and one of them will probably open the door just a crack. When he does, we can quickly shove the door open with our guns in hand. Then while you hold your pistol on them I will put on the handcuffs.

"The jail is just across the street so we can march them over there and lock them up; and we can take the little girl with us so you can take charge of her as soon as we get the thieves behind bars."

Jim thought Tom's suggestion was a good one, so they carried it out; and in about ten minutes the thieves were behind bars and Jim had the bag of money and Shirley.

As soon as they got the thieves locked up in the jail, the sheriff said, "A state prison wagon comes through here once a month to pick up any prisoners we might have and take them to the state penitentiary. They are due here next week, and I'm sure that I can put up with those two thieves until that wagon gets here."

"Tom, I thank you so much for all your help. I'll take my little girl now, and go to my cabin at the Cottage Court and spend the night. It's only twenty miles to Winslow, but I'm tired and I'm sure Shirley is too. So we'll just wait until tomorrow morning, and then we'll have plenty of time to make the twenty miles before the sun goes down." He said "Goodbye" to Tom and he and Shirley headed toward the Cottage Courts.

On the way, he stopped at a restaurant and got a supper for Shirley. She was so hungry that Jim had to order her a second dish. He was also very hungry and ordered a big meal for himself.

After they finished eating, they walked the short distance to Cottage Courts, and Jim paid the extra two dollars for Shirley to stay with him.

Then he took Daisy to the barn owned by the Cottage Courts and paid the keeper to feed and water her. Then he picked up Shirley and carried her to his cabin.

The next morning they got up and got dressed, walked back to the restaurant, and had a good breakfast. As soon as they had finished eating, they went outside and walked the short distance to where Daisy was penned.

Then Jim said, "Shirley, do you want to ride Daisy in the saddle with me?"

Shirley's answer was very quick. "Yes, Uncle Jim, I really do want to sit in the saddle with you." Jim didn't tell her that he was no relation to her, but he really wished he was her uncle.

Jim put Shirley in the saddle and climbed in behind her. She grasped the saddle horn and said, "Uncle Jim I'm going to really enjoy this ride home with me in the saddle with you, because I love you."

Jim's eyes got moist with tears upon hearing what the precious little girl had said. Then he said to himself, "I want to get married one of these days and have a little Shirley of my own."

When they were almost to Shirley's home, she said, "Uncle Jim, I'm thirsty."

"All right my sweetie, but we will be back home real soon, and then you can get all the water you want."

In just a few minutes he spotted the Eagens' home; he lifted Shirley up high in his arms and said, "Can you see your home now?"

Shirley gave a little scream and said, "I see it, I see it. Uncle Jim, can Daisy run a little faster?"

Jim answered, "Yes she can, sweetie," and he gently kicked Daisy's flanks and she broke into a run. In just a couple of minutes they were in front of the house.

Jim loudly hollered, "Is anybody home?"

Instantly the front door opened and Jack and Marie came running out shouting, "You're home, you're home. Thank God you're back home!"

Jim handed Shirley down to her mother who was shedding tears of joy. Marie hugged her tightly, kissed her on the cheek, and then she handed her to her daddy. Jack hugged and kissed her, and he too had tears in his eyes.

Then Jim handed him the bag of money; he took it, and then said, "Thank you Jim, I didn't think I would ever see that money or my little daughter again."

Jim was still standing in the doorway, so Jack said, "Jim, come in this house and tell us all about what you did to get this little doll and our money back home."

Then Marie said, "I know you two must be hungry and thirsty, so I will fix you something to eat and get you some water to drink; it won't take me but a few minutes. And Jim, please don't start your story until I get your lunch prepared because I want to hear your whole story."

In about five minutes Marie appeared with two trays in her hands. She gave one to Jim, took the other one to the couch, and then sat down by Jack and Shirley. She held the tray on her lap while Jack fed Shirley.

Then Jack said with a grin on his face, "Well Jim, why don't you start your story now? Start back with the date you became a Texas Ranger. You can talk a little between bites, can't you?"

Jim laughed and said, "I guess I can, but if you don't mind, I would like to finish my sandwich first; it will only take me a few minutes."

Jack laughed and said he was only kidding, and for Jim to take all the time he needed to finish his meal.

About ten minutes later Jim had finished his meal and said, "I'm ready to start my story, and I hope it is not so boring that you all will go to sleep on me."

Jack chuckled and said, "Jim, there is not any danger that we will doze off because I know this story is going to be a real interesting one; so let her go!"

Jim finished his story in about twenty minutes and both Eagens, and little Shirley, had listened with great interest; then they thanked him.

Jim said, "Thank you for that fine meal, Mrs. Eagen, and I guess I had better get on my way to Winslow so I can get there before it gets too dark.

Then he continued, "It's been a pleasure folks, and I look forward to seeing you again the next time I'm in this part of the country.

"And now little Shirley, can you come to Uncle Jim and give him a big hug and a little kiss before he leaves?"

Little Shirley jumped off the couch, ran to Jim, and gave him a big hug and a kiss. Then she said, "Uncle Jim, I really do love you, and will you really come to see us again?"

Jim hugged her tightly and said, "My little Shirley, I promise to come to see you anytime I'm in this part of the country."

Then he set her on the couch, said goodbye to her and her parents, and made his way out the front door. He mounted Daisy, and waved to the Eagens as he rode off.

CHAPTER 4

Daisy galloped along at a good pace, and Jim got into Winslow shortly after sunset. He was very hungry so he stopped at the City Diner and ate his supper.

It was only a short distance to the corral, so he led Daisy to it and gave her some feed. Then he walked to his room in the Ranger Headquarters and went to bed.

The next morning he ate breakfast at the City Diner, and then walked to the office of the Director of the Ranger Headquarters to get his new orders.

When he walked into the office he was greeted by Bert, the Director in charge, who was seated behind his desk near the door.

Bert stood up, extended his hand, and said, "Good morning, Jim, we have been expecting you. We have heard about your heroic rescue of that little girl, and the arrest of those two robbers. The completion of a few more assignments like that one, and you will get a raise in pay and a raise in rank!"

Then Bert continued his greeting. "Okay Jim, just pull a chair over here and take a seat while I explain your new assignment.

"This one will require a bit more riding as your destination will be to 'No Man's Land' which is just outside of the Texas Panhandle. You will know when you cross from Texas into No Man's Land because there is a hedge that marks the Texas State Line. As you probably know, there is no law enforcement in No Man's Land, so you will be in a very dangerous situation just as soon as you cross the State Line.

"Now for your assignment: The man you will be looking for fled from Austin last Friday after he robbed the bank of over fifty thousand dollars and killed a cashier who tried to stop him.

"He left Austin on the road that goes through Winslow and leads to the town of Heathen's Nest, which is just over the line into No Man's Land. We figure that's where he is because that's an ideal place for someone running from the law. And by the way, there is a ten-thousand-dollar reward for his arrest, so there may be several men trying to nab him.

"At this point we don't know his name; so we just call him 'Jake.' And unfortunately, we don't have a good description of him because he wore a mask during the robbery.

"But we do have one good identification mark, thanks to the other cashier. He got close enough to the bandit's face to see a tiny scar over his left eye. The cashier also said the bandit was about six feet tall, and was wearing regular cowboy pants, shirt, and boots.

"He snatched a little eight-year-old girl from her mother just as he was leaving the bank, and he said if anyone tried to follow him he would kill her. Fortunately for the little girl, the bandit released her unhurt, probably because he got tired of her crying.

“By the grace of God, it was only a half mile to a farm house from where the bandit dropped her. So she walked to it and told the owners what had happened.

“So they fed her a meal and put her to bed; the next day they took her back to her home in Winslow.

“And now back to the bandit problem. We’ve no proof that he was headed for Heathen’s Nest, but it is a favorite place for outlaws running from the law.

“One reason it is so popular with lawbreakers is because it has a population of twenty-five thousand people to hide among. It also has various stores where anything needed for living can be purchased. Now Jim, do you have any questions?”

“Yes,” Jim said, “I do have a question; do you have a map that shows the route from Winslow to Heathen's Nest?”

“I sure do,” Bert said as he pulled a map out of his desk drawer and unfolded it on top of his desk.

Then he said, “Here is the route, Jim.” He placed his finger on the map just above Winslow and ran it along a black line that led to Heathen’s Nest.

“Personally, Jim, I believe that Heathen’s Nest is where he is hiding because it’s a big town with no laws; and towns like that are ideal places for outlaws to hide out.”

Jim shook hands with Bert and said, “Thank you Bert, for all your help and information. The Lord willing, I’ll see you again in the not-to-distant future.” Then he turned around and walked out the door.

He went to a nearby store, carried in a saddle bag and filled it with Jerky, canned beans, and canned peaches. He paid the bill and took the bag out and fastened it to the saddle. Then he mounted Daisy and rode out of town, headed for Heathen’s Nest.

CHAPTER 5

At sundown Jim rode a short distance into the woods next to the road and found a small creek. He dismounted and let Daisy get a drink. When she finished drinking, he put hobbles on her, removed her saddle, and set it on the ground next to a tree. Then he removed her bridle so she could eat the grass that was plentiful there.

He sat down on an old log, ate some jerky and canned peaches, and drank some water from the water bag that was hanging on Daisy's saddle. Then he unrolled his bedroll and stretched out on it with his head against the saddle. In just a few minutes he was sound asleep.

Just before sunrise the next morning, Jim woke up feeling rested and hungry. So he got up, opened his bag, and got out some jerky and canned beans for breakfast.

When he finished eating he removed the hobbles from Daisy and put her bridle and saddle on her. Then he climbed into the saddle and resumed his journey.

He arrived in Heathen's Nest about four o'clock in the afternoon, and rode down the main street looking for a Cottage Court. He finally found one, dismounted and went inside; and being optimistic, he paid for a Cottage for only one night.

Then the manager told him he could put his horse in the near-by corral as it was owned by the Cottage Court, and there was no extra charge for using it. He thanked the manager and went back outside.

He took his saddle bags off Daisy and carried them into his cabin. Then he went back outside and led her to the near-by corral.

He returned to his cottage and went inside. Then being vary tired, he slipped off his pants and shirt and climbed into bed; in just a few minutes he was sound asleep.

Jim awakened about six thirty the next morning. He got out of bed, cleaned up, put on clean clothes, and then went to a near-by café and had breakfast.

While he was eating he gave some thought about what he should do to increase his chances of finding the bandit. He decided that it would be a good start to ask a likely-looking man where most of the gambling took place.

Fortunately for Jim, there was a man in the café who looked like he just might be a gambler. So Jim went over to his table and asked him for directions to the best gambling parlor.

The stranger very kindly gave Jim directions on how to find the most popular gambling place in town. So Jim thanked the man for the instructions and went back to his table and finished his breakfast. Then he paid his bill and left.

He walked back to the corral, got Daisy, and rode to the gambling house. It was open and doing a good business. So he sauntered in and found four tables with gamblers seated at them. He walked over and stood behind one of the players.

The man did not do anything about it for a few seconds; then he turned around, looked at Jim, and said, "You damned fool, don't you know there is a rule that says

a person can't stand behind a player unless the player gives him permission? And I sure as hell ain't giving you no permission!

Jim backed away from the table and said, "Please excuse me sir, I'm new to town and didn't know anything about the rule." Then he walked slowly around the tables looking for a man with the tiny scar; to Jim's disappointment, none of the men had it. So he went back outside and rode to another gambling joint that was nearby.

There were four tables with gamblers sitting at them, so Jim slowly walked around the tables looking for the bandit. The men were so engrossed with their poker playing that they paid no attention to him.

Jim was going around the third table when he spotted the bandit. He moved up closely behind the killer, jerked out his pistol and said in a loud voice, "Get your hands up you bastardly killer, or I'll blow your head off!" The bandit quickly raised his hands and hollered, "Don't shoot, don't shoot!"

Jim made him stand up and hold out his hands so he could handcuff him. The other men in the room were stunned by the arresting and remained quietly seated.

Then Jim marched the bandit out of the house and made him get on his horse. Being very cautious, he took a short piece of rope and tied the killer's handcuffs to the saddle horn so he couldn't jump off.

Then he took the reins of the bandit's horse, climbed on Daisy, and rode back to his cabin. He dismounted, tied the horses to the hitching rail, and went into the cabin. He got the two saddle bags, took them outside, and put them on Daisy.

He untied the horses, took the reins of the bandit's horse into his right hand, and mounted Daisy. Then he started down the road that led back to Winslow—with the killer in tow.

He knew they could get to Winslow shortly after dark if they didn't stop riding. So they kept travelling even though the bandit kept cussing Jim for not giving him anything to eat or drink. Jim just ignored him and kept riding.

Shortly after dark Jim reached Winslow. He rode directly to the jail house and turned his captive over to the deputy on duty. Then he went to his room at the Rangers' bunk house, and ate some jerky and beans.

He was completely worn out, so he removed his outer clothing, climbed into bed, and dropped off to sleep in just a few minutes.

CHAPTER 6

The next morning he went to the office of Bert, the Director of the Rangers, and walked up to his desk. Bert stood up and greeted Jim with a handshake, and then said, “Jim, I’m sure glad to see you back; and I assume you brought the killer back with you.”

Jim replied with a grin, and said, “Yes sir, I put him in jail last night without a scratch on him.”

Bert sat back down at his desk and said, “I’m glad to hear that, Jim; pull up a chair.” So Jim pulled up a chair and sat down near the Director’s desk.

Then the Director said, “Jim, I’ve got some good news for you. There are forty thousand dollars in reward money here in my safe; and it’s all yours.

Jim looked at Bert with a stunned look on his face, and asked, “Bert, are you kidding me?”

Bert laughed and said, “No, Jim. I’m not kidding you. And with all the dangers you have been exposed to while keeping the law, you deserve every penny of it. I’ll keep it here in our safe until you call for it. And now that we have that little item taken care of, let me tell you about your next assignment.

“We are going to send you to Juarez because you speak very good Spanish, and we have reliable information that Juarez is the home of the bandit we want.

“We realize the difficulty of this assignment, and that you will need to stay in Juarez for an unknown length of time. But we have a bank in Juarez called ‘The Ranger’s Bank,’ and we have deposited ten thousand dollars there for you’re operation money; and here is your checkbook. And now I’ll tell you about your assignment.

“The man you will be after is wanted for murdering a teller in the process of robbing a bank in San Antonio last week. He had a sidekick with him, but he did nothing but hold a gun on the bank employees while the other bandit collected the money.

“But when the bandits were leaving the bank, the head teller pulled a gun from a drawer and fired two shots. He missed one bandit but he hit the other one in his shoulder, and he fell to the floor—unconscious.

The other bandit whirled around, fired a shot at the teller, and killed him; he is the one you will be looking for.

“So on your way to Mexico, I want you to stop in San Antonio and go to see Ranger Joe Arnett. He has been given the authority to get as much information as possible from the bandit in the hospital; and that information may be of great benefit to you. He also has a document that shows that our lawmen can go into Mexico after any lawbreaker, and he will give you a copy in case you ever need it.”

Jim thanked Bert, and then returned to his room.

CHAPTER 7

He packed his clothes in a bag along with the Mexican clothes he had purchased. Then he went out to the corral and put the bag on Daisy's back, mounted her, and rode off toward San Antonio.

When he got there he went directly to the office of Ranger Joe Arnett. He introduced himself, and told Joe why he was there. Then Joe moved a chair up close to his desk and motioned for Jim to sit down in it.

After a few minutes of getting-acquainted talk, Joe said, "After the bandit that got shot was taken to the hospital, we questioned him for a few minutes. But he was very incoherent and all we got out of him was his name, Bart. But now that he has had time to get fully coherent, let's go to the hospital and see what we can find out from him."

They left the Ranger's office, mounted their horses', and rode to the hospital. On arriving they went directly to Bart's room and found that he was awake and quite alert.

They told him that his sentence would be reduced if he "spilled his guts" to them; so he accepted the deal and began pouring out his story.

"The other bandit's name is Claude Borneo. He is an American citizen about six feet tall and would probably weigh around one-hundred-ninety to two-hundred pounds.

"And while we were planning the holdup he told me that after the bank robbery in San Antonio we would flee to Juarez, Mexico, because he had bought a house there. He went on to say that he also planned to retire there, and use some of the money from the robbery to buy three businesses.

"Then he said he was going to hire an honest man to manage his businesses under the honest man's name, because if he used his name, sooner or later the law would come looking for him.

"He also said that having an honest man as his manager would release him to spend more of his time playing poker and giving the ladies of ill repute a lot of business.

"And finally he said he was going to lay low while he changed his identity by dying his blond hair to black, and growing a mustache. He said that should enable him to roam the city without being afraid of getting arrested for the robbery and murder he had just committed.

"But there was one thing about Borneo that I'm sure you lawmen need to know; he has a habit of slightly twitching the left corner of his mouth every two or three minutes. And the twitching is so slight that you have to be looking for it or you'll never see it."

Bart finished his story with that statement, and the men two went back to the Ranger's office.

When they got there, Joe said, “Jim, now you know a lot more about the bandit, and that should help you in your search for him. However, we realize that Juarez is a big city, and you may have an extremely tough job finding Borneo; in fact it may take several months.

“Now, one last thing that we know will be of help to you. We are giving you a badge that shows you to be a Mexican Lawman. We are also giving you the official papers that go with the badge in case you ever need them. Now do you have any questions, Jim?”

Jim laughed and replied, “No, I don’t have any questions now, but I dare say that when I get on the job in Mexico, I will accumulate a lot of them!”

With that comment he went back to his room in the Rangers’ bunk house, slipped off his shirt and pants, and went to bed. Even though it was just getting dark, he wanted a good night’s sleep so he could get an early start in the morning while it was still cool.

CHAPTER 8

The next morning, before daybreak, he put on clothes and shoes like most Mexican business men wore. He then packed a bag with his other Mexican clothes, the envelope that contained his carefully-folded official papers, and a few cans of beans plus some wrapped-up jerky.

He put the badge on the inside of his shirt pocket where it could be reached quickly if he ever needed it. Then he ate some jerky and a can of beans for his breakfast.

When he finished eating, he packed up, slipped quietly out of his room and out of the bunk house. Then he walked over to the hitching post, fastened his bag to Daisy's saddle, and mounted her.

He headed out of town on the road that would take him to Juarez. He had been down that road many times, so the scenery was familiar to him, and not worth looking at again.

He arrived in Juarez about midnight and went directly to the Cabins Excellus where he had resided many times in the past. By mere chance the same cabin was available that he had occupied the last time he was in Juarez. So he signed in for the cabin, and paid the corral rent for Daisy for a month.

The cabin was in good shape just like it was the last time he stayed in it. So he removed his outer clothing, and went to bed. He quickly went to sleep and didn't awaken until nine o'clock the next morning.

He was very hungry so he got up, shaved, washed his face, and put on his special Mexican clothing. Then he slipped his snubbed-nose pistol into a holster fastened inside his right boot where it could not be seen.

He remembered from former visits that there was a nice eating place just a few blocks from his cabin. So he locked the door to his room and walked to the restaurant.

He chose a booth in a corner and sat down. In just a few minutes a lovely young lady came over to the booth, handed him a menu, and said, "Good morning, sir; my name is Julia and I will be your waitress."

Jim replied, "Thank you, Julia, my name is Jim. And if you will give me a minute or two I'll give you my order." He quickly scanned the menu and ordered two scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, and a cup of black coffee. Julia thanked him for the order and headed for the kitchen.

While Jim was waiting for his order to be filled, he scanned the inside of the restaurant. It was all very clean and nicely decorated with flowers in various places, and with colorful curtains on the windows.

But at one of the tables there were three rough looking customers, laughing and slapping their hands on the top of the table. When Julia came by their table carrying Jim's food tray, one of the men reached out and swatted her buttocks.

She almost dropped the tray, but regained hold of it and proceeded to set the food on Jim's table; then she started back to the kitchen.

Unfortunately the tables were so arranged that she could not avoid going by the drunken man's table. When she passed it he reached out, grabbed her arm, and attempted to pull her onto his lap. She dropped the tray and tried to free herself, but was unable to do so.

Jim quickly jumped up and rushed to the drunken man's table. He pulled Julia free from the drunkard's grasp and swung her behind himself. Then he grabbed the drunkard, pulled him up out of his seat, and said in a threatening voice, "Mister, I'm going to throw you out the door, and don't you even think about coming back!" Then Jim turned him around, pushed him to the door, and shoved him out.

Then he walked over to where the other two drunkards were sitting. But before he could say anything to them, they hurriedly left the table and headed out the door.

Julia, who had been standing by watching Jim oust the drunkards, came over to him and thanked him for rescuing her. He smiled at her and said, "Julia, I'm going to walk you home after work this evening just in case those drunks are planning to harm you when you leave for your home."

At eight o'clock Julia got off work, and Jim was waiting to escort her home. The distance to Julia's home was about a quarter of a mile; and while they walked, Jim told her about his life as a cowboy in Texas, and about his family.

He didn't tell Julia that he was a Texas Ranger who was in Juarez to arrest a murderer; he just said he was there on a business trip. However, he did tell her he was from Winslow, Texas, and where it was located in relation to Juarez.

Julie responded by telling him that she was born and raised in Juarez. She also told him that she had never had an opportunity to see much of Mexico or Texas because her family was always a bit short of money.

She said her father had died when she was only eight years old; and since that time her mother had worked as a housekeeper in a Cottage Court to get money to live on.

Jim asked her for the name of the Cottage Court and found out it was the one in which he was staying. He told Julia about the coincidence, and said, "It's a small world, isn't it?" Julia laughed and agreed with him.

Then Jim asked her what her mother's name was, and she said it was Margareta Juncos. Jim made a mental note of the name because he was sure he would soon be meeting her mother.

About ten minutes later they arrived at Julia's home and walked up on the porch. Julia took hold of Jim's hand, and said, "Jim, I thank you so much for defending me and walking me home; and I will see you tomorrow when you come in for breakfast."

On the way to Julia's home the next evening, Jim said, "Julia, I would like very much to meet your mother;" Julia was flattered by Jim's request.

So when they got to Julia's house she opened the door and ushered him inside. Her mother was sitting in the living room; so she got up to greet them.

Then Julia said, "Mother, I would like for you to meet Jim Marvel; he's the one who saved me from that very bad situation at work last night."

Her mother walked over to Jim, extended her hand to him, and said, "How do you do, Jim. I'm very glad to meet you. And if I am not being to presumptuous, could I treat you as my son as I have always wanted one—and you may call me Mom."

Jim said to Mrs. Juncos, "I am honored to be called your son and humbled to be able to call you Mom."

Mrs. Juncos put her arms around Jim and kissed him motherly on his cheek. Jim was a little bit embarrassed, but very happy about becoming a member of the Juncos family so soon.

Mrs. Juncos took Jim by his hand and led him over to the sofa where they both sat down.

Then she looked at Jim and said, "Jim, I want to thank you for what you did for Julia yesterday, and I hope to see you again soon; and anytime you feel like visiting with an old lady, just come to see me."

They all laughed, and then Jim said, "Well, I guess I had better be going because Julia has to go to work early in the morning. And Mom, I can assure you that you will see more of me; that is, if Julia keeps letting me walk her home."

Julia said, as she extended her hand, "Jim, I will be very honored if you will walk me home every evening."

Jim replied with a smile, "It will be my pleasure. And Julia, I will see you tomorrow at breakfast." With that remark he gave her a hug and said goodbye.

CHAPTER 9

Early the next morning he hurried to the restaurant, hoping that Julia would be there—and she was.

When he walked in Julia greeted him with a smile and escorted him to a table in a corner. When he got seated she said, “Good morning, Jim. It is so good to see you again. And now what can I get you for breakfast?”

Jim replied, “I would like two eggs over easy, two pieces of buttered toast, two sausage patties, and a cup of black coffee.” Julia thanked him for his order and proceeded to take it to the kitchen.

Ten minutes later she brought him his order and placed it on the table before him. Jim thanked her and said, “I will see you tonight when I come to walk you home.” Julia thanked him and said she was very glad he would be walking her home again.

Jim finished his meal, and said “Julia, I’ll pick you up after you finish your work this evening.” Then he waved goodbye to her as he walked out the door.

He walked to the corral, mounted Daisy, and headed for the Police Station. Twenty minutes later he rode up to it, dismounted, and tied Daisy to the hitching post.

He went inside and walked up to the information desk. The sergeant behind the desk looked up from his work, and asked, “Sir, may I help you?”

Jim replied, “Yes sir, would you have a listing of where the poker games are played in this city?”

The sergeant looked up at Jim and said, “Yes, we have that information, but we can’t give it to just anybody. Do you have some identification that will qualify you to get it?”

Jim pulled out his Mexico Officer’s Badge and handed it to the sergeant. He looked at it for a moment then said, “Well, Jim, it looks like you’re qualified. Just give me a few minutes and I will go get you a copy of the list.”

About five minutes later the sergeant reappeared with a small envelope and said, “Jim, inside this envelope you will find the addresses of all the houses where the poker games are legally played.

“The list may not include all the poker-playing locations, but it will include most of them because we have been adding locations to the list for several years.” He handed the envelope to Jim and continued, “Jim, if you run into any trouble, please come to see us.”

Jim took the envelope and thanked the sergeant. Then he walked out of the office, mounted Daisy, and rode back to his cabin.

He went inside the cabin and opened the envelope. He took out the list, and counted the number of locations on it. He counted sixteen locations and noted that they were scattered all over the city.

He said to himself, “Well, I guess what I should do now is just pick me out a location and head for it.” The location he picked was the nearest one to where he was staying.

So he went to the corral, put a saddle on Daisy, climbed into it, and headed for the poker house.

When he arrived there, he dismounted, tied Daisy to the hitching rail, and went inside. There were five tables in the room, with four men seated at each of them playing poker.

Jim casually and quietly walked around the tables looking for a man who had black hair and a mustache. If a man had these two identification marks, he would then look closely to see if the man had a twitching mouth.

Since men with black hair and a mustache were very rare, Jim was able to evaluate a house very quickly. If he did not find the outlaw, he would mark through that location on the list, and then ride on to the next house on the list. Between breakfast and dinner he checked four houses. “Well,” Jim said to himself, “that’s one-fourth of the poker houses.”

Then he rode to the restaurant where Julia worked, tied up Daisy, and walked into the restaurant and sat down in his usual corner. Immediately Julia came to his table to get his order. It was obvious that she enjoyed seeing Jim, and she took comfort in the fact that Jim would be walking her home after she finished her work.

After Jim had walked Julia home for over a month, he suggested they sit on the porch for a few minutes as he had something to tell her, and a couple of questions to ask her; so they sat down on the porch.

Then Jim told her he was a Texas Ranger in Juarez after a bandit. She was very surprised when he told her, and she said, “Please be very careful, Jim; I would be broken hearted if anything happened to you.”

Jim then told her that he was well trained, very experienced, and she should not worry. He told her about some of his experiences that were dangerous, but he had made the arrests in all of them without getting a scratch.

This comforted Julia somewhat so he decided this would be a good time to change the subject to his very personal questions.

“Julia, I’m not familiar with the Mexican rules for courtship and kissing. I’m very embarrassed to be asking these kinds of questions, but I need to know the answers so I won’t embarrass you when I go to courting you.”

Julia laughed, and said, “Jim, you haven’t realized it, but you have been courting me every since you rescued me from that drunken bum. And as for the kissing rules, it is a matter of observation of how the couples feel. A good clue is the tone of the words when they are talking to each other. If they both enjoy the talking, there will be a sense of love in the conversations of the two. And Jim, lately I have sensed love in your words, and I believe you have sensed love in mine.”

With that explanation, Jim put his arms around Julia, pulled her up tightly, and kissed her. She returned Jim's motion of love by putting her arms around his neck and kissing him. When she ceased the kissing, she moved her head slightly away from Jim's and said, "Jim, I love you dearly, and I feel that you love me."

Jim responded by pulling her tightly against himself again, and giving her a lingering kiss. Then he softly said, "Yes, Julia, I have loved you ever since I first met you; I just wasn't aware that my feelings for you could be love as I have never loved a lady before. But I'm now sure that my feelings toward you are real love, and I want you to marry me."

"Oh, Jim, I'm sure I love you, but one thing concerns me. If I marry you while you are a Texas Ranger I would probably get worried about you getting shot. And if you are gone most of the time, our kids would grow up without knowing their father; and I don't think I could handle that."

Jim answered with a loving tone in his voice. "Julia, I would not like that kind of situation either. So I have a plan to solve the problem.

"As soon as I capture the bandit and get him in jail, I will go back to Winslow and get a job that will require very little travelling, or none at all.

"I have in mind becoming the Director of the Texas Rangers. The present Director is going to retire very soon, and I believe that with my excellent record I will be first in line for the position. And with the money from my bounty rewards, and what I have saved from my salary over the years, I will be able to purchase a nice home in a good location. Then I would come after you and your mother, if she would be willing to move."

Julia said, "I'm sure she would be glad to move to Winslow." Then Julia pulled Jim's head down to her level and gave him a very sweet and lingering kiss. Jim returned the kiss, and then said "Goodbye my darling," and started his way home.

As he walked along the road, he relived the feelings of love he had just experienced.

CHAPTER 10

The next morning Jim had breakfast as usual—except he whispered in Julia’s ear, “Darling, you will soon be my bride.”

After he had finished his breakfast, he waved goodbye to her and left with determination. Since he had checked for “Jake” in all but two locations, he was confident that he would snare him today.

Then he mounted Daisy and headed for the second and final house on the remaining list. It was nine o’clock and Jim figured the poker players would be at their tables by now.

When he got to the second house, he noticed a number of horses were tied to the hitching rail in front of the building. So he tied Daisy alongside them, went into the house, and began his usual search.

At the third table he checked he spotted a man with black hair and a big mustache. He asked the men at the table if he could join them, and they all nodded their heads.

So Jim pulled up a chair where he could get a closer look at the suspected killer, and see if he had a slight twitch of his mouth. And to minimize suspicion, Jim played several hands, some winning, and some losing.

And while he was playing, he kept stealing a look at the suspect’s mouth until he was sure the suspect was the killer. Then he carefully pulled the pistol out from under his jacket, quickly stood up, and in a loud voice he hollered, “Get your hands up, Borneo, you are under arrest for robbery and murder!”

As Borneo jumped up he pulled a pistol out of his belt holster and shot at Jim. But Jim was ready for such a trick, and he shot Borneo as he deliberately fell to the floor. The bullet hit Borneo in the chest and he died instantly and slumped to the floor. The other men scrambled up from their chairs and fled.

Jim examined the bandit to be sure he was dead—and he was. So Jim got on Daisy, rode to the sheriff’s office, and told him what had happened. The sheriff assured Jim that he would get the body and see that it was buried in boot hill in an unmarked grave.

Then he told Jim that there was a sizable reward for getting Borneo, and he was the one eligible for it. He told Jim to make himself comfortable while he got the reward money out of the safe.

He returned in about ten minutes and counted out forty thousand dollars in hundred dollar bills, put them in a leather bag, and handed it to Jim.

Jim was almost speechless, but he did manage to thank the sheriff and take the leather bag. He then walked out the door, mounted Daisy and rode back to his cottage. For safe keeping he put the leather bag between two burners on the stove; he knew nobody would be lighting them.

CHAPTER 11

That evening Jim told Julia about the events of the day while he was walking her home. She was very glad that Jim would no longer have to search for the killer.

Jim then told her that the death of the killer meant that he would be going back to Winslow very soon and he was confident he would get a new assignment—the Director's job! And therefore he wouldn't have to chase criminals any more; Julia was overjoyed.

Then Jim stopped walking, took Julia into his arms, and whispered in her ear: “Sweetie, I have a little surprise for you. I got a sixty-thousand-dollar reward for capturing the murderer, and I also have forty-thousand-dollars from previous rewards, and that will enable us to buy a new house in Winslow; Julia was ecstatic!

Then he said, rather nonchalantly, “By the way, my bride-to-be, I have something for you. He then reached into his pocket and pulled out a little box, opened it to reveal a beautiful diamond ring. He removed the ring from the box, took Julia's left hand, and slipped the ring on her ring finger.

Julia stared at the ring for a moment; then she grabbed Jim, gave him a big kiss, and whispered, “Jim darling, you have just made me the happiest girl in the world”

Then they resumed their walking and were soon at Julia's home. They went inside and Julia immediately rushed over to her mother and showed her the engagement ring.

Her mother was both surprised and pleased. “Well Jim, I guess I can now certainly look upon you as the son that I have always wanted.” Then she went over to Jim, gave him a big hug, and a kiss on his cheek.

Jim hugged her back and said, “Mom, I'm very proud to be your son and the soon-to-be husband of your lovely daughter.

When Julia ceased admiring her new ring, she said, “Jim, why don't you tell Mom about your big adventure today, I know she would like to hear about it.”

So Jim proceeded to tell her about killing a murderer who was attempting to kill him.

“Now Mom,” he explained, “since I have accomplished the job I came here to do, I will soon be called back to Winslow; and I will probably get the job as Director of the Texas Ranger Headquarters there. And if I do, that means I will have an office job only, and Julia will not have to worry about me getting killed by some outlaw.

“And that office job, and the large amount of reward money I have, means I can marry Julia and move her and you to a new home in Winslow; that is, if you want to move with us.”

Mom said, “Of course I want to move to Winslow with you two, but I want to live in my own house.” Jim laughed and said, “I'm sure that can be arranged.”

AFTER WORD

Jim got the position at Winslow as Director of the Texas Ranger Headquarters. Then he married Julia and moved her and her mother to Winslow.

Jim was a very talented Director and he was well liked by the other Rangers who worked with him. His talent for planning the best way to find and arrest all types of criminals was phenomenal, and it resulted in his getting a gold, engraved badge from the State Department of Justice.

Julia got the job as Manager of the Grand Central Hotel, which included a diner. She was very good at the job and was liked by all of the employees. But after two years she resigned because of her pregnancy.

At delivery she brought into the world twins: a baby girl and a baby boy. Both babies were very healthy, and their parents were very proud of them. They named the baby girl "Shirley," and the baby boy "James."

Margareta Juncos, Julia's mother, bought a home just two blocks from Jim and Julia. Then she got a job as Director of Housekeeping at the Grand Central Hotel. She was also the proud baby sitter for Jim and Julia when they needed one.