

The Challenge of the Yukon
by Geo. W. Trendle.

Pot Luck Killers
by Fran Striker

Number 554

Date 9/27/48

Fran Striker

Preston

King

Judy.....ingenue, 23

Stevestraight, 27

Jake.....very tough crook.

Charlie...tough crook. Might be dialect.

Ma Ridgely...matron.

Voice.....bit

voice 2....bit

TO BE USED AS PLUG ON PRECEDING SHOW.

Preston; When the great dog, King, rescued a girl from drowning, he started us on a trail that ended when I found myself unarmed and a captive of six ruthless men who were bent on murder. Be sure to listen to the story of the "Pot Luck" Killers on _____ at this same time.

The Challenge of the Yukon

by Fran Striker

POT LUCK KILLERS

Number: 554

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(USUAL OPENING)

Annrc; Sergeant Preston and his great dog King huddled close to their small campfire on the bank of a navigable stream that flowed down from the Klondike region to empty into the Stewart River, south of Dawson.

(RUMMING WATER AND FIRE CRACKLING)

The Mountie was nearly asleep when he was alerted by a nudge and a soft whimper.

(SOFT WHIMPER)

Preston; What's the matter, King? What is it, Boy?

(WHIMPER)

Judy; (DISTANT CRY FOR HELP, BARELY AUDIBLE)

(KING REACTS)

Annrc; It was a barely audible cry that came from somewhere on the dark river.

Judy; (CRY OUT AGAIN)

Preston; (EFFORT) I hear it, King. It sounds like a woman. We'll investigate.

(FEW FAST STEPS AS:)

Anncr; Hurrying to the water's edge, Sergeant Preston saw something that was darker than the water that surrounded it. Presently, as the two mile an hour current brought the object abreast of where he was camped, he made out a figure in the water clinging to a capsized canoe.

Judy; (SLIGHTLY NEARER) Help! Help me!

Preston; Go on, King! Go help!

(SHARP BARKS, FADING FAST)

(SPLASHING AS DOG HITS WATER)

Preston; I'll join you boy if you need help!

Anncr; The Sergeant threw off some of his clothing, ready to plunge in to King's assistance if necessary, but the great dog knew his business well. Swimming strongly, he soon reached the side of the girl and waited until his master shouted from the shore.

Preston; (BACK) (SHOUTING) Grab that dog! Grab his harness! He'll bring you in!

(SPLASHING CLOSE)

Judy; (GASPING) Grab -- grab him -- he says --

Preston; (BACK, SHOUTING) Let the canoe go!

Anncr; King felt a firm hand clutch his harness. On shore he saw his master moving downstream to keep abreast, and then he heard the Sergeant's voice call out again.

Preston; (BACK) (SHOUTING) All right, King! Bring her in, boy!

Judy; King. King, he calls you. Take me in, fellow. Take me in, King -

(WATER AND SWIMMING SUSTAINS AS:)

Anncr; The current had carried King and the girl a hundred yards downstream from Preston's camp when the big dog and his burden came to shore.

Preston; That's it, King. Great work, boy. Another rescue to your credit. (EFFORT) Here, let me help you.

(STEPPING FROM WATER)

(DRIPPING WATER)

(KING SHAKING HIMSELF, ETC., WHIMPERING)

Judy; Oh that - that wonderful dog -

Preston; Are you all right?

Judy; Y-yes, I - I guess so. B-But c-cold.

Preston; We'll get back to the fire right away.

Judy; I - I had just about given up hope when I - I saw your campfire.

Preston; Come on, King.

(SHARP BARK)

(STEPS SUSTAINING)

Preston; Are you sure you can walk all right?

Judy; Oh y-yes.

Preston; Were you traveling alone when your boat capsized?

Judy; I - I was alone, yes. I - I capsized the boat on purpose.

Preston; You what?

Judy; (WEAKER) It - it was the only way.

(STEPS HALT)

Preston; Steady there. You're all right.

Judy; I - I --- so weak. They - they were shooting at me.

Preston; Shooting?

Judy; Capsized - capsized the canoe. They - they think I'm dead. (PASS OUT)

(KING WHINES)

Preston; Fainted.

(WHINE AND WHIMPER)

Preston; It's all right, King. You've done your part. (EFFORT)
I'll carry her to camp.

Annex; In his camp, Sergeant Preston built up the fire and bundled the attractive girl in warm blankets. He administered stimulants, then when she became conscious, gave her a bowl of warm broth which she drank eagerly.

- Judy; (FINISHING DRINKING) You are a Mountie.
- Preston; The name is Preston. Sergeant Preston. You'd better finish your broth before you try to talk.
- Judy; (DRINKS) There - it's gone.
- Preston; Feel better?
- Judy; Oh yes. Ever so much better. I - I guess luck was with me when I saw your fire. I -- I had been clinging to that canoe for - well, hours. I - I couldn't have held out much longer in that cold water.
- Preston; It's remarkable that you held out as long as you did. You're new to this country, aren't you?
- Judy; How did you know?
- Preston; Your clothing for one thing. It's new, and it was purchased in the States. And your hands - - they won't be quite as soft after you've lived in this country for a time. Is your name Judith Clark?
- Judy; (SURPRISED) Yes it is. How did you know that?
- Preston; I heard Dan Clark's niece was to come from the States to take possession of the Potluck Mine.
- Judy; Did you know my Uncle Dan?
- Preston; Slightly. He kept pretty much to himself after he struck it rich.
- Judy; You knew he was killed a few weeks ago?
- Preston; Yes. A cave-in, wasn't it?
- Judy; No. He was murdered.

Preston; (SHARPLY) Murdered?

Judy; Murdered by Jake Bascomb and the other men who worked for him.

Preston; I didn't know that. Jake Bascomb was his right hand man.

Judy; It was he who wrote to me to tell me that I had inherited the mine, and suggesting I come up here as soon as possible.

Preston;! You said someone was shooting at you.

Judy; That was Jake Bascomb. He and a man called Charlie.

Preston; Charlie Pike. You'd better give me the details, Miss Judy.

Judy; But there's nothing you can do about it, Sergeant Preston.

Preston; Let me be the judge of that. Tell me what happened.

Judy; Well I came alone as far as Dawson. There I was met by Jake Bascomb, and a younger man - one called Steve Martin. They had a canoe to take me upstream to the Potluck mine. Even though Bascomb and Martin were strong paddlers it took a long time to make the trip.

(SNEAK IN PADDLING OF CANOE)

Bascomb paddled in the bow and Steve Martin in the stern. Little was said during that trip. I noticed Steve looked quite concerned, and several times he acted as if he wanted to tell me something. Pretty soon Jake started singing while he paddled.

Jake; (BACK) (SNEAK IN SINGING OLD SONG RAUCOUSLY)

Judy; Then Steve leaned over and spoke close to my ear.

Steve; Miss Judy, slide back a little bit so I can talk to you.

Judy; I was sitting on the bottom of the canoe. I turned, and when I saw Steve's face, I knew he had something important to tell me. Jake's back was to us.

Steve; Miss Judy, I don't like to tell you this. You shouldn't have come up here at all.

Judy; But I -

Steve; Let me do the talking while there's a chance. Bascomb and Big Charlie murdered your uncle.

Judy; (GASP)

Steve; Don't say anything Bascomb can hear. Just listen to me. They killed him so's they could take over his gold mine.

Judy; But - But Jake wrote me a letter. He told me to come up here. He said I - I had inherited it.

Steve; He wants you here just long enough to sign your name to a paper that'll transfer the mine.

Judy; Oh!

Steve; As soon as they get your signature they'll stage another accident - this time it'll be you ^{who dies} ~~that is~~ killed.

Judy; But - But I shan't sign any such paper.

Steve; You'll sign it. They have a way of making you sign it.

Judy; But -- but the law --

Steve; The law can't help. The only law around here is the Northwest Mounties, and they're spread thin. Even if you got to a Mountie, it wouldn't do any good.

Jake; (BACK) (STOP SINGING)

Steve; I'll do what I can to help you. You get away at the first chance.

Jake; (BACK) Hey there, Steve. Are you restin' on the paddle?

Steve; (CALLS) (EFFORT) No.

Jake; (BACK) Never mind talkin' to the girl. Just keep bendin' that oar. We don't want to keep Charlie and the others waitin'.

(PADDLING FADIES OUT)

Judy; (FADING IN) Jake didn't sing again, so Steve didn't have another chance to talk to me until we reached a small dock --

(PADDLING STOPS)

Jake; (BACK) (EFFORT) I'll tie 'er up.

(STEPPING OUT OF CANOE)

Judy; It was Uncle Dan's dock right near his house. The entrance to the mine was just about a hundred yards away.

Jake; Steve, you unload the canoe. Pile the girl's duffle and all them supplies on the jetty. I'll go to the house and get a couple of the boys to carry it.

Steve; All right. (LOW) Stay here, Miss Judy. Make believe you're helpin' me unload this stuff so I can talk some more.

Judy; You - You, Steve. You're in with the gang.

Steve; I know that and I wish I wasn't. All I can do now is try to help you get away from here alive.
(EFFORT) I'll get these cases of canned goods out of the canoe.

(HANDLING CASES)

Judy; How many are there in the gang?

Steve; Jake Bascomb, Big Charlie, and I worked for your Uncle. Since his death, three of Jake Bascomb's pals have moved in.

Judy; Then there are six men - five, not counting you.

Steve; That's right. And they're holdin' poor old Ma Ridgeley a prisoner in that house.

Judy; Ma Ridgeley?

Steve; The grandest, finest old lady you ever knew. She kept house and did the cookin' -

Judy; But why are they holding her?

Steve; Look over yonder at the house, Miss Judy. You see that dinky little window facin' this way?

Judy; Yes.

Steve; It's a sort of a storeroom. That's where they're holdin' Ma Ridgeley and they'll take you there, too. They'll let you get acquainted with the poor old lady, and then give you to understand that if you don't sign over the gold mine, you'll watch her die - slow and painful.

Judy; (GASP)

Steve; There, I've unloaded enough stuff to make the boat real light, and Bascomb is out of sight. Now hurry up. Move fast.

Judy; But what --??/

Steve; Into the boat with you. I'll shove you off.

Judy; But I - I can't paddle a canoe.

Steve; Step in and do as I say. You don't have to paddle. The current will carry you downstream right to Dawson. Now hurry up before those killers show up.

Judy; But I -

Jake; (BACK) Come on, Charlie. You and a couple of the others.

Judy; (EFFORT) Oh -

(STEPPING INTO BOAT)

Steve; That's it! Now lie low. Here you go. (EFFORT)

(BOAT SHOVED THRU WATER)

Jake; (BACK) Hey, Steve! What are you doin'?

Charlie; (BACK) The canoe!

(RUNNING STEPS COMING IN AS:)

Jake; (COMING IN) Why you double-crossin' polecat!
You helped her get away!

Steve; All right, Jake, I helped her get away. I told you
at the outset I was against killin' that girl.

Jake; Maybe this'll teach you I'm Boss! (EFFORT)

(HARD BLOW)

Charlie; Jake! Jake! She'll get away!

(FALLING BODY)

We've got to get after that girl!

Jake; How can we, you muttonhead! There's only one canoe
around here and she's in it!

Charlie; We can't let her get away!

Jake; That doublecrossin' Steve has probably told her
too much. Give me your fife, Charlie.

Charlie; Here.

Jake; There's only one thing to do. We've got to make
sure that girl don't squeal.

(TWO SHOTS)

Judy; (BACK) (CRY OUT)

Charlie; You got 'er, Jake! You got 'er!

(SPLASH) (BACK)

(FADE OUT STREAM - FADE IN CAMPFIRE)

Judy; (FADING IN) You see, Sergeant Preston, Jake missed with both of those shots, but I knew he could keep on shooting, and sooner or later he'd get me. So I made believe I had been struck. I threw up my hands and fell out of the boat. I -- I hope they've given me up as dead.

Preston; I wonder if Ma Ridgely is still alive.

Judy; Oh I don't know. I - I'm afraid they'll kill her when she's no longer of any use to them.

Preston; I've been in your Uncle's cabin. I'm familiar with that yoom you spoke of.

Judy; The storeroom?

Preston; Yes.

Judy; If you could get help -- perhaps surround that cabin and capture those men.

Preston; Miss Judy, it would take a long time to go to Dawson and get back to the cabin with help. Even if Ma Ridgely is alive at this moment, her life is measured in minutes and hours rather than days.

Judy; I - I suppose it is. But you can't go alone.

Preston; King is as good as another man.

Judy; But even so, it would be five against you and King -- not counting Steve Martin.

Preston; Steve. If Steve hasn't been killed, we could probably count on his help.

Judy; But - -

Preston; Miss Judy, I'm going to ask you to do something that will call for all your courage.

Judy; I - I'm not a very brave person, Sergeant Preston, but I - I'll try to do anything you say.

Preston; Our only chance of overpowering those claim jumpers lies in the use of surprise.

Judy; Yes?

Preston; You'll have to act a part. You'll have to play it perfectly.

Judy; Just tell me what it is. I'll do my best.

Preston; And King-

(SHARP BARK)

-- I'll have to rely on you, too, big fellow.

(WHISPER)

You'll have a part to play in our plan to recapture the Potluck Mine.

(BREAK)

Annrc; We'll continue our story in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL)

Annrc; And now to continue -

(RUNNING STREAM) (CAMPFIRE)

Annrc; While Sergeant Preston outlined his plan to Judith Clark, he worked rapidly in the light of his campfire.

Judy; I'll do my level best to follow your instructions, Sergeant Preston.

Preston; If this plan is successful, we'll get those crooks who murdered your Uncle. I hope we can get there in time to save Ma Ridgeley.

Judy; That means more to me than possession of the gold mine.

Preston; I'll go over the plans once more, Judy.

Anncr; While he talked, Sergeant Preston made preparations of a peculiar nature. He assembled his full armament, including short rifle, pistol and knife and wrapped them in waterproof material. To this packet he tied one end of a long, stout fish line leaving the rest of the line neatly coiled.

Preston; Now we're ready to go. If we travel fast, we can reach your Uncle's cabin before daylight.

Anncr; It was a difficult walk thru the darkness along the edge of the river, but King led the way, picking a trail over ground that was hard and firm and keeping a wary lookout for danger spots.

(SNEAK IN RUNNING STREAM - STEPS)

Because of Judy, who was unused to walking in such rugged country, Sergeant Preston had to travel slowly. It was less than one hour before the late dawn when he came within view of Dan Clark's cabin. He halted about a hundre d yards away.

(STEPS HALT)

Preston; (LOI) There's the place.

Judy; And it's lighted.

Preston; Yes.

Judy; Sergeant Preston, that little window on the left -- do you see it?

Preston; Yes.

Judy; That's the window of the store room. The place where Steve said Ma Ridgeley was being held.

Preston; Um. Even smaller than I remembered it. Window's too small for King to get thru.

Judy; Much too small. It's less than six inches square.

Preston; The room makes an ideal prison cell.

Judy; Those men have gotten up early, or stayed up very late.

Preston; They're probably maintaining an all night guard.

Judy; Oh --

Preston; They're not men who take chances.

Judy; Then you can't take them by surprise.

Preston; We'll see about that. (SLIGHT EFFORT) I'll leave the weapons right here. () Down, King.

(FAINT WHIMPER)

From here on, King, I'll travel without you. You'll stay here, boy - right here next to the weapons.

(WHIMPER)

Preston; You'll stay! Do you understand? Stay! Guard!

Judy; He's dropped to the ground, just as if he knows every word you say to him.

Preston; I think he does.

Judy; (MURMUR) Wonderful dog.

Preston; (LOW) King, I'm tying the free end of the fish line to your harness. I'm counting on you to bring it to me when I give the signal.

(LOW WHIMPER)

There. Now, Judy, we'll go on. Ready?

Judy; I - I'm as ready as I shall ever be. B-But I'm frightened.

Preston; Of course you are.

Judy; I - I guess I'm very cowardly.

Preston; Because you're afraid? That's no sign of cowardice, Judy. Everyone except a fool knows fear. The bravest soldiers know fear on the eve of battle. They go on, in spite of fear.

Judy; You - you are going to do just as you planned - and walk right up to the roor?

Preston; Yes. And you remember what you're to say. () Hold it, King.

Anncr; King had risen to his feet.

Preston; Down.

Annex; At his master's command, he dropped again to the ground, his chin resting on his extended front paws and his eyes looking up at the Mountie, for a further word.

Preston; Stay, King.

Annex; He was being left behind, and he didn't understand it. All that had gone before, the careful planning, the long walk, and the recent low-voiced conversation indicated impending battle. And when Preston went to battle, King had always gone along. But now -

Preston; Stay, King.

(LOW WHIMPER)

Annex; King signified that he understood and would obey, but he felt resentful and somewhat jealous when he saw the girl he had rescued walking where he should have been, at Sergeant Preston's side.

(FADE IN RUNNING STREAM)

(SNEAK IN AD LIB CARD GAME)

Annex; Inside the cabins three men dozed on improvised bunks. Steve Martin sat alone while Jake and Big Charlie faced each other across a crude table, playing cards by the light of an oil lamp. The door to the store room was open. Beyond that door, a white haired woman lay on a pallet. She slept, despite the ropes that held her helpless.

Jake; ... and there's what I got, Charlie. Looks like your cards ain't quite good enough.

Charlie; : (GRUMBLES) All right, Jake. Take the pot.

(SCOOPING UP COINS)

Jake; (LAUGHS)

Steve; You oughtta know better than to play two handed, with Jake.

Charlie; Yeah, I oughtta. () I had enough, Jake.

Jake; Suit yourself. () Now, Steve, it's about time for you to let me know what you aim to do. Are you with my outfit, or out of it?

Steve; Now look, Jake, just because it went against my grain to kill a fine girl like Miss Judith -

Jake; It goes against my grain when one of my own men double crosses me!

Steve; But I -

Jake; You're either with me, or against me! There's no in-between! That right, Charlie?

Charlie; That's right, Jake.

Steve; I've always been with you, Jake. I've been with you from the start. You know that.

Jake; You were all right until you saw a pretty face. Now I'm goin' to be doggoned sure you're in this deal with me whole-hog.

Steve; But Jake - -

Jake; You heard what I said a couple of hours ago. If you want to stay with this outfit, you go into that next room and put a bullet into the head of that old woman. With a murder chalked up against your personal record, you'll stay in line from now on.

Steve; But maybe -

Jake; There's no maybe about it. We kept her alive only so's we'd have a way to make that girl sign over the property to us. Now the girl is gone. We don't need Ma Ridgely any longer.

Steve; You'd better forget the old woman and do something about what you'll do when that girl's body is found.

Jake; I've got that all worked out.

Steve; Someone's got to take the blame for that shooting.

Jake; Yeah, someone has, but like I said, I've got things all worked out. Now - -

(RAP ON DOOR)

Charlie; The door!

Steve; What the --

Voice; (BACK) I heard someone at the door.

Jake; All of you sit tight and keep your guns handy.

AD LIB: (MURMURS)

Jake; (CALLS) Come in. The door's unlocked.

(DOOR OPENS)

Steve; (GASPS) Miss Judy!

- Jake; Well look who's here!
- Judy; (BACK) I didn't return alone.
- Steve; You're not dead!
- Charlie; Look behind her. It's a Mountie!
- Preston; (COMING IN) There'll be no rough house here. You men are all under arrest in the name of the Queen.
- Jake; Oh is that so, Mountie? We're under arrest eh? Well, step right in.
- Preston; You'd better put those guns down.
- Jake; How do you figure to back that command?
- Preston; You know what backs the command of a Mounted Policeman.
- Jake; You and the girl stand over there where I can keep an eye on you.
- Preston; Maybe you didn't hear me, Bascomb. I said put the guns down.
- Jake; I heard you, but I'm not doin' it. You take a look outside, Pete. See if they came here alone.
- Voice; (GOING BACK) All right, Jake.
- Judy; Sergeant! Sergeant Preston, they - they're not surrendering.
- Jake; You're doggoned right we're not surrenderin'. () Do you see anyone else out there, Pete?
- Voice; (BACK) No.
- Jake; Then close the door and stay out there on guard. I don't aim to be taken by surprise.

Voice; (BACK) Right.

(DOOR CLOSES)

Steve; Miss Judy, I - I thought you'd been shot.

Jake; Looks like she pulled a trick to make good her escape. (CHUCKLES) That was smart, Miss - throwin' yourself into the river. Only it wasn't smart of you to come back here. You, Mountie, keep your hands where they are and don't try no fast moves.

Judy; (HALF SOBBING) Oh you should never have come back with me - especially after losing your gun when you rescued me.

Jake; (CHUCKLES) Looks like this here Mountie has been readin' stories about men who surrender their guns and quit fightin' at the mere sight of a red coat.

Preston; You'll not get away with anything, Bascomb.

Jake; We'll see about that.

Judy; I -- Oh, Sergeant, I'm so sorry. I - I've gotten you into this. I - I always thought crooks knew better than to oppose a member of your organization when when he wasn't armed.

Preston; There have been men who opposed us. Most of them soon realized they made a mistake.

Jake; I don't aim to make no mistakes. (LAUGHS)

Preston; I'm warning you, Bascomb, at the present time, there is no definite proof that you murdered Dan Clark. The only evidence consists of the statement one of your men made to Miss Judy. You might be able to beat that charge, and you might get off with a light term for making a captive of Ma Ridgeley, as well as for firing at this girl. If you go any further - -

Jake; (CUTS IN) Shut up, Mountie. You've talked long enough. From now on I'll do the talkin'. Charlie, Butch - you two put the Mountie in the store room. Toss a rope around his wrists and lock the door. We'll hold him there while we have a little talk with this girl.

Charlie; Right. Come on, Butch.

Voice 2; I'm with you.

Jake; Search him real careful. Be sure he's got no hidden weapons.

(AD LIB MOVEMENT)

Preston; You heard what happened to my weapons.

Jake; We're takin' no chances.

Charlie; Nothin' on him, Jake.

Jake; All right. You stay right here, Miss.

Charlie; Go on, Mountie. Get in there. You and the old woman will be nice and private after we get your hands tied.

Annex; Sergeant Preston offered no resistance as a stout rope was passed around his wrists and tightly knotted. Ma Ridgeley had wakened and lay watching by the light that came thru the open door.

Charlie; (EFFORT) There. I guess that'll hold you for the time bein'. Come on, Butch.

(STEPS GOING BACK, AS:)

Voice 2; (FADES) I expect you won't be with us very long, Sergeant.

(DOOR CLOSES)

Ma; Looks like you stuck your neck into a noose, Mountie.

Preston; I guess I did run a certain risk in coming here unarmed.

Ma; Did you think for one minute those crooks in the other room would surrender?

Preston; Frankly I did not.

Ma; Then why in tarnation - -

Preston; I thought they would capture me just as they have. They'll use both of us in an effort to make Judith sign over the property.

Ma; There's no use of you studyin' that window. A five-year old youngster couldn't get thru that opening.

Preston; I'm counting on help from the outside.

Ma; Help?

Preston; I think my friend will recognize a soft imitation of a coyote, *AND COME TO THIS WINDOW.*

(SOFT COYOTE WAIL)

Anncr; The faint starlight coming thru the six inch opening in the rear of the cabin fell full on Sergeant Preston's face as he imitated the sound of a distant coyote. He stood watching. Some distance away he could see the river and Dan Clark's small landing dock. He repeated the call, then waited tensely. Presently he saw a dark form creeping toward the building from one side.

Preston; It's King.

Ma; You mean -- your friend?

Preston; Yes. He knows his business well. He's coming with the stealth of an Indian.

Anncr; The great dog King advanced a little at a time while in the main room of the cabin Jake Bascomb gave Judy the ultimatum.

Jake; It's entirely up to you. You sign this here paper and your Mountie friend as well as the old woman won't be hurt.

Judy; But you won't turn them free. You don't dare let them go. You know what will happen to every one of you if Sergeant Preston is released.

Voice 2; He didn't say he'd be released.

Jake; I said I'd give you my word he wouldn't be hurt. But if you don't sign -- well, you'll see some mighty painful things in the next hour.

- Judy; You wouldn't dare - you don't dare torture a Mountie.
- Steve; These critters will dare, all right, Miss Judy.
You can take that from me.
- Judy; I -- I don't know what to do.
- Annrc; King had reached the window. Sergeant Preston was
reaching out with both hands tied together at the
wrists.
- Preston; (LOI) Up, King. Up, boy.
- Annrc; He had remembered that room from a previous visit
to Dan Clark. The window was no higher than he had
calculated. When King stood on his hind legs, front
paws braced against the building, the Mountie could
reach the thin string fastened to the great dog's
harness. He gripped it and began pulling it in.
- Preston; (MURMUR) If Judy can give us just a couple of
minutes longer, we'll have a surprise for those
crooks.
- Ma; Sergeant - Sergeant - you give me new hope.
- Preston; Just wait until you see what's at the other end
of this fish line.
- Ma; What is it?
- Preston; A knife to cut our ropes -- a rifle --
- Ma; (GASPS)
- Preston; And a six-gun.
- Ma; Oh, Sergeant, Sergeant, you didn't come here unprepared!

Jake; (FADING IN) I'm tellin' you, Miss Judy, you can't have any longer to make up your mind.

Annor; Acting on Sergeant Preston's carefully detailed instructions, the girl had stalled as long as possible. Now she knew that Jake could be kept waiting no longer. She must make a decision. She knew what it was to be.

Jake; What'll it be, Miss? Do you sign this paper or do I bring the Mountie and the old woman in here and let you watch 'em squirm?

Judy; I - I know what the Sergeant would want me to say. He'd want me to defy you. He's not afraid of anything you can do to him. I won't sign.

Jake; All right, Butch. Open that door. Bring the Mountie in. This stubborn girl will change her tune when Charlie starts workin'.

Voice 2; (GOING BACK) I'm goin' to enjoy watchin' this.

(DOOR OPENS AS:)

(CRY OF SURPRISE)

Preston; (BACK) This is for you!

AD LIB; (STARTLED CRIES)

(SMASHING BLOW)

Jake; The Mountie!

Preston; (BACK) You're all covered! (SHOUTS) Come on, King!

Annrc; Preston dropped Butch with a blow, then brought his gun to bear with lightning speed.

Jake; (CRY OUT) Get him, boys!

Charlie; I'll show him! (EFFORT)

(RIFLE CRACKS) (AD LIB SCUFFLING)

(CRY OUT IN PAIN)

Ma; No more of that!

Jake; The woman!

Steve; She's got a rifle!

Preston; We'll accomodate anyone who wants gunplay.

(KING SNARLING AND BARKING OUTSIDE)

Jake; Pete! Bete! Come in here!

Preston; I think your guard has all he can handle. Open the door, Judy.

Judy; Right.

(JEK DOOR OIEN) (KING SNARLING)

Voice; (WILD YELLS, AD LIBBED) Help! Help! This dog!
Take him off! Take him off!

Voice 3; (YELLS) I won't go down without a fight!

(SMASHING BLOW, SCUFFLING FEET)

Annrc; Unexpectedly, one of the outlaws charged from the side. For a few moments the fight was hand to hand as Jake and Charlie and the others joined in despite their wounds and bruises.

SCUFFLING AND FIGHT. UP AND UNDER.

Annrc; King joined the fight, and the great dog seemed to be everywhere at once. He leaped and charged, he snapped at the heels of the outlaw's boots and whenever a man tried to bring a gun to bear, the dog was on him in a flash. Then Steve Martin took a hand.

Steve; (WILD YELL) I've had enough of you crooks!

Jake; Steve- Steve - help us -

Steve; I'm on the ~~right~~ side of the law!

Annrc; With Steve on Preston's side - the tide of battle quickly turned. Two of the crooks were on the floor unconscious - one of Charlie's arms hung useless - Jake was ~~badly~~ badly bruised -

Jake; (GASPING) I - I quit-

Preston; All right! Line up over there! () Down King!
On guard boy.

SHUFFLING FEET AS

Ma; We got 'em, Sergeant! We got every last man o' them!

Preston; Collect their guns, Ma!

Ma; Sure will.

Preston; Steve, I'll have to take you in with the others-

steve; I expect that, Sergeant.

Judy; But he helped me escape! And he fought on our side!

Preston; Those things will go a long way in his favor, when he comes to trial.

Ma; I'll put in a word for him, too. He was opposed to the murder of old Dan. He tried to stop Jake-- but he didn't have a chance against all the others.

Steve; (WRYLY) Maybe I'll escape the hangman an' get off with about twenty years in jail, eh, Sergeant?

Prest; You'll get off with a lot less than that.

Judy; And when you do, Steve Martin, you come here to the Pot Luck mine! There'll be a job for you!

Prest; Good for you, Judy! But right now, we've got to take these prisoners to Dawson! Guard 'em, King. I'll tie their hands.

SHARP BARKS.

Judy; Oh King, you wonderful dog! If it hadn't been for you - -

BARK

Prest Yes King, thanks to the way you saved Judy's life, and the way you armed me, - this case is closed.

theme