

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

"Convict's Son"

by Fran Striker.

*Not Sent
to Skinner*

Number: 780

Date: 5/10/50

Preston and King

Constable Riorden young mountie

Jack Porter 19 yrs. old -straight

Oyler sneaky crook

Voice Bit

Voice 2 Bit

Voice 3 Bit

Voice 4 Bit

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Preston; You sent for me, Inspector?

Insp; Yes, Sergeant. ~~A year ago John Porter went to jail in Whitehorse for bank robbery.~~ ^{DO YOU REMEMBER JOHN PORTER WHO WAS JAILED FOR BANK ROBBERY IN WHITEHORSE A YEAR AGO?}

Pres; I remember the case. Porter died recently.

Insp; To the end he insisted he had been framed by a man named Oyler. Now I have word that Oyler's nineteen year old son has gone to Whitehorse. The lad may try to get Oyler. I want you to go there and make sure the son does not become a murderer.

Preston; While I'm there, I'll try to get a line on the stolen money that has never been recovered. Come along, King. We have an assignment in Whitehorse.

(KING WHINES) (STEPS FADE)

Anncr; Sergeant Preston had better be careful! He's under rating that crook. Oyler is mighty clever, but his victims are the only ones who know it. And they can't warn the Mountie. They're dead!

Be sure to listen - etc.

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Season 2 Convict's Son

(USUAL OPENING)

Annrc; Sergeant Preston ^{accompanied by} his great dog Yukon King came into the town of Whitehorse for the first time in ~~a year~~ ^{many months}. He went directly to the office of ~~the~~ Constable Riorden ~~a policeman named Riorden.~~

Riorden; Come in, Sergeant, come in. *By jove*, I'm glad to see you!

(KING BARKS)

And you too, King.

Preston; How are you, Riorden? Good to see you again.

(STEPS IN)

(KING WHIMPERING)

Now King, take it easy. *Quiet, King* ~~Go over there in the corner, boy. Down.~~

(KING SUBSIDES)

Riorden; Sit down, Sergeant.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

I'll put the kettle on for tea.

Preston; *fine!* ~~Time enough for that later. Give me a run-down on anything that's new.~~ *What's the news around here?*

Ad lib Kettle on

Riorden; Well there isn't much.

Preston; Any new development on the Porter case?

Riord: you mean the bank robbery of a year ago?

Prest: Yes.

Riorden; ~~Why do you ask that?~~ *There's nothing new here. The case was closed when Porter went to jail.*

Preston; ~~Because~~ I've never been thoroughly convinced that Porter was guilty of that bank robbery.

Riorden; There was evidence enough to convict him.

Preston; Has any of the stolen money turned up in Whitehorse?

Riorden; No. But, of course, only a small percentage of the money could be identified. ~~You knew that Porter was dead, didn't you?~~

Has Porter ever admitted the robbery?

Preston; ~~Yes. I heard that.~~

no. As a matter of fact, I understand he still

Riorden; ~~Died in jail six months ago. If he was guilty, he insists that he's innocent. died without telling where he hid the stolen money.~~

at his trial, he claimed that he'd been framed And if Oylor was guilty, he's probably in the clear. by a man named Oylor. as usual.

Preston; ~~And if Oylor was guilty, he's probably in the clear. by a man named Oylor. as usual.~~

That's right. But the jury didn't believe him. (QUICKLY) Why did you mention Oylor?

Riorden; ~~Why did you mention Oylor?~~

Does Oylor still live near here.

Preston; ~~He was named by Porter at the trial.~~

Riorden; ~~Oh yes.~~ *Yes. why?*

Preston; Porter insisted that Oylor had framed him.

Riorden; The Jury wouldn't believe it.

I heard of another case - before Oylor
Preston; ~~Riorden, I've had my eye on Oylor for a long time. In fact before he came to Whitehorse. Porter was not the first man to go to jail on circumstantial evidence claiming that he had been framed by Oylor.~~

Selfish Land

Pass: Riorden, I heard of another case. Sometime ago when Oylor lived in Dawson a man was convicted, on circumstantial evidence, of robbing a bank. And like Porter, he claimed Oylor had framed him.

Porter told the truth when he said he'd been framed by Oyler?

Riorden; ~~Do~~ You think Oyler did frame Porter for that robbery?

Preston; *I don't know*
It's possible. I wish there were some way ~~I could~~ ^{to}
find out ~~for sure~~. () Is Oyler still around town?

Riorden; *He's here now -*
He left for several months after the case was closed,
came back;
but he's ~~back now~~. He's living in a cabin in the
woods south of town. And incidentally, Sergeant --
~~Porter's~~ son is in Whitehorse.

Preston; I didn't know he had a son.

Riorden; A boy about nineteen or twenty. A fine looking
fellow, but bitter. Very bitter. He came here
soon after his father was convicted.

Preston; Does he work?

Riorden; He chops and sells firewood --does a little fishing
--a few odd jobs --

Preston; Do you think he's here to ^{by some} locate the cash from the
^{try to}
bank robbery?

Riorden; I don't know why he's here. He keeps apart from
everyone. He's made no friends.

Preston; I'd like to talk to him. Where can I find him?

Riorden; *living in an old*
He took an abandoned shack near the river. You'll
know it by a big pile of stacked-up cordwood. ~~You'll~~
~~probably find him chopping~~. () Now shall I put the
tea kettle on?

Preston; Not just yet, Riorden. I want to call on young Porter
before it gets dark.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

Preston; Come on, King.

(COUPLE OF STEPS AND) (DOOR OPENS)

Riorden; Want me to go along?

Preston; *No* Thanks, Riorden. I'd rather go alone. I'll see you later.

(DOOR CLOSSES) (WIND UP AND UNDER)

(FADE IN CHOPPING WOOD)

Annecr; Sergeant Preston found Jack Porter's shack without difficulty. As he drew near he saw the broad shouldered young man swinging an axe.

~~(AXE STOPS)~~

~~Jack; (MUTTERS) I ought to sharpen the axe a little bit.
I -- (BREAK OFF AS:)~~

Preston; Hello there.

Jack; *AXE STOPS* *eh - hills -*
(STARTLED) Huh? Oh. I -- I didn't hear you come up.

Preston; My name is Preston.

Nack; Sergeant Preston, eh? My name is -- (BELLIGERENTLY)
--my name is Jack Porter and my father ^{is} ~~died~~ in prison!

~~Preston; You sound as if you're ready to fight.~~

~~Jack; Tell I -- I know what everyone thinks of me -- the
son of a convict... a thief --~~

yes, I know.
Preston; This is my dog, Yukon King.

Jack; *Oh?* I - I've heard ^{of} ~~something~~ about him.

Preston; Say hello, King.

(KING WHIMPERS)

Jack; He's holding out his paw.

Preston; ~~He doesn't~~ He doesn't offer to shake hands with everyone.

Jack; Shake hands -- you mean -- () Oh golly! Hello, King. I guess you're one of the few who'd shake hands with ~~me~~ ^{with a convict's son.} (GUARDEDLY) Why did you come here, Sergeant?

Preston; I knew your father.

Jack; Well if you think my Dad stole money - - -

Preston; You ~~do~~ have a chip on your shoulder, ~~don't you, Jack?~~

Jack; Well I -- aw-w-w, I know what everyone's saying. I saw it on everyone's face when I first came here as soon as they found out who I was. ^{Now} They're all waiting for me to --to make a wrong move. Well I won't do it, see!

Preston; Do you know ^a man named -- Oyler?

Jack; Yes I do! ^{Dad told me about him.} ~~I read the account of Dad's trial in the~~ old newspapers. ~~My~~ Dad claimed ⁵ that he ~~had been~~ ^{was} framed by Oyler.

Preston; What do you think?

Jack; What's the difference? ^{what I think?}

Preston; I want to know.

Jack;

I know my Dad never stole anything
~~Anyone who knew my Dad as well as I do would know~~
~~that he'd never steal money. And even if he had~~
~~stolen it, he wouldn't try to pass the blame on~~
~~someone else! If he said he was framed by Oyler,~~ *So I know*
~~he was framed -that's all there is to it!~~ (BITTER
 LAUGH) But what's the good of ~~me saying things~~
~~like that?~~

Preston;

~~Porter~~
 Porter, I have an idea. ~~and what you like to~~
~~do - you father's name and on~~

Jack;

~~Yeah?~~

Preston;

~~You said everyone in town was expecting you to make~~
~~a wrong move.~~ *Porter* Well, I'd like to go into your house
 and discuss some plans with you.

Jack;

You're welcome to come in, Sergeant
~~You call that shack a house?~~

Preston;

(LAUGHING) ~~I've spent a lot of time in worse.~~ Come
 on, Jack. Maybe we can help each other.

(BREAK)

(WIND UP & TRAIL OFF)

Annrc;

Sergeant Preston talked at length with the son of the
~~man who had died in prison~~ *convict* and found that Jack was
 willing to run any risk that might result in clearing
 the ~~name~~ of his father.

Preston;

Some of the paper money that was stolen from the bank
 can be identified. If any of that money could be
 found in Oyler's possession, we'd have a case.

Jack;

But if he's kept it hidden this long --

Preston; If we could get someone close to Oyler --someone who could watch every move he makes, and perhaps have an opportunity to search his house --

Jack; But how could that be worked?

Preston; Jack, for a long time I've suspected that Oyler is ^{robbed} a bank in Dawson. There a man named Ferguson ~~is~~ guilty of a number of robberies, but he's always ~~was found guilty - just as your father was - or~~ had someone handy to take the blame. He was friendly with your father for some time before the bank was robbed. In Dawson, he was friendly with a chap named ^{Ferguson} ~~Ferguson~~. The trading post was robbed and there was enough evidence to convict Ferguson.

Jack; Ferguson went to jail --like --like my Dad?

Preston; No. Ferguson was killed. He was apparently running away to avoid arrest when his sled went into a ravine.

Jack; Oh.

Preston; Some of the stolen money was found on the sled. The rest was never recovered. I've often wondered if Oyler got away with that cash -- if perhaps he killed Ferguson.

Jack; If I could get evidence on Oyler --

~~Preston;~~ We might learn that he was guilty of other crimes ~~if we~~ as well as the robbery that sent your ~~we could once get him started on a confession.~~ father to prison.

Jack; But how could that be done?

Preston; The first problem is to get you into his house -- make you his partner.

Jack; How can we do that?
(SLIGHT LAUGH) I don't see how that could be done.

Preston; Perhaps if he thought you were a thief ---

Jack; (BITTER LAUGH) Everyone in town expects me to turn crooked.

Preston; Everyone in town will have a different opinion if our plan succeeds.

Jack; What do you want me to do?

Preston; You're to pose as a fugitive. We'll arrange for you to apparently steal some money. You'll have to run away and go into hiding.

Jack; Hide --- with Oyler?

Preston; *If he's a crook and* Yes. ~~Oyler is smart. If he thinks you're hiding from the law, he'll try to figure out some way he can use you to his own advantage.~~ *he may a way to*

Jack; Frame ^a ~~his next~~ crime on me, eh?

Preston; That's it.

Jack; I'll do anything you say, Sergeant Preston.

Preston; Then wait right here. I'll call on the Constable and make further plans ^{when you'd} ~~with him.~~ You'll hear from me.

(BREAK)

Annor; Constable Riorden sat quietly in his office while Sergeant Preston outlined his plan. ~~At first the Constable's face registered grave doubts but finally he was interested. He said ---~~ *And then he gradually*

Riorden; There's just one thing, Sergeant Preston. Oyler's a *very* suspicious ~~man -~~ individual.

Preston; He may be a ~~little~~ suspicious at first, but I think Jack can tell him a convincing story.

Riorden; What do you expect Jack to find in Oylar's house?

Preston; ~~Oylar must have the loot from a number of his crimes.~~
stolen money from 2 bank robberies
~~As far as anyone knows he hasn't spent much money.~~

Riorden; ~~That's true.~~ *um.*

Preston; *Remember* Some of the stolen money ~~could~~ *can* be identified. ~~If we can find that we'll have an entering wedge to go to work on Oylar.~~

Riorden; All right, let's try ~~that~~ *your* plan of ~~yours~~.

Preston; ~~I told you that Jack will have to steal some money.~~ *it must appear that Jack steal money from you.*

Riorden; ~~Yeah.~~ *yes.*

Preston; ~~Steal it from you. That means you'll have to have some cash for him to steal.~~

Riorden; I have a few hundred dollars in the bank. I'll draw that out.

Preston; You're willing to risk it?

Riorden; On your say so? (CHUCKLES) Sure I am. You'll be here, of course ---

Preston; No, I'll not be here. I'll be out of town.

Riorden; (CONCERNED) Oh.

Preston; If I am here with King, people will wonder why I don't put King on the trail of the thief.

Riorden; That's so.

Preston; The fact that Jack escapes would look suspicious.

Riorden; I guess you're right.

Preston; I'll leave town late today. Before I go I'll tell Jack to come here in the morning and ~~steal~~ ^{take the} cash from you.

Riorden; Very well.

Preston; ~~By the way,~~ ^{Have you} do you have a gun you can loan him?

Riorden; ^{Yes, there's one} ~~There's~~ a gun here in my desk. It belonged to Jack's father.

(OPEN DRAWER)

Do you think it's safe to give the boy a gun? He might kill Oyler. Then we'd have to try him for murder.

Preston; I'll load the gun with blanks before I turn it over to Jack and hope that he doesn't notice.

Riorden; By the way, Sergeant Preston, where will you be in case I need you?

Preston; Not far. () I'll be watching Oyler's cabin to see whether or not Jack succeeds in finding sanctuary there.

Riorden; Very well, let's hope for the best.

(BREAK)

Ann cr; The following morning found Constable Riorden seated at his desk, ~~he was~~ ^{small} counting a stack of paper money when Jack came in holding a gun.

(DOOR OPENS)

Jack; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Constable Riorden --

Riorden; Oh - hello Jack.

Jack; Are -- are you alone?

Riorden; Yes.

Jack; I -- I guess you know what I came for.

(STEPS COMING IN)

Riorden; I'm all set for you, son. () Is there anyone in the street?

Jack; A few people.

Riorden; Good. () *We'll want witnesses for this.*
~~it'd be a shame for our act to go unwitnessed.~~
There's the cash.

Jack; I -- I'm to -- take it and run -- is that it?

Riorden; That's it. *Run and pay no attention to my shouts.*
or the shots I fire over your head.

Jack; Well -- here goes.

(FAST STEPS CROSS FLOOR)

Riorden; (YELLS) Hey you! Come back here!

(DOOR SLAMS) (JERK DOOR OPEN)

(CUE) Come back here! Come back with that money!

Ad lib; (EXCITED VOICES, DISTANT)

Riorden; (SHOUTING) Come back or I'll fire!

(2 SHOTS)

Ad lib; (COMING IN) What's the matter?
 What happened, Constable?
 What's going on?
 Who were you shooting at? (ETC.)

Riorden; ~~I've been robbed! It was Jack Porter!~~ *He made off*

with my money —

Ad lib; (STIR)

Voice; *Porter!* The son of the bank robber!

Voice 2; I always said he'd do something sooner or later!

Riorden; I'll catch him! He won't get away! I'll teach him a lesson he won't forget!

Ad lib; (STIR, UP AND FADE OUT)

Annrc; The news swept thru the town like wildfire. The talk in every cafe dealt with the robbery of the Constable and the boy who had committed the robbery.

(SNEAK IN B.G. OF VOICES)

In the Silver Dollar *cafe* ~~one~~ *of* the townsmen said:

~~Voice; When I left the Constable he was going to track him down alone. He said he didn't want any help.~~

Voice 2; Riorden will get him. The kid's got nowhere to hide and no one to hide him.

(ROOM NOISES UP & UNDER:)

Annrc; In the Crystal Palace another man said:

Voice 3; Riorden told me he was caught by surprise. The cash was on his desk; he turned his head for just a minute and the kid snatched it and ran. (FADES) But he won't get far. The Constable will run him down.

(B.G. UP AND UNDER:)

- Annex; In still another cafe men talked about the robbery, and Oyler was listening.
- Voice 4; I don't think Jack's got a chance of getting away with it.
- Oyler; I wonder if he'll try to ~~blame this on me.~~ *claim I stole the cash.*
- Voice 4; How can he ~~blame it on you,~~ Oyler? *Riorden saw him!*
- Oyler; Well (CHUCKLES) they always say -"Like father, like son," you know. His old man tried to blame me for the bank robbery.
- Voice 4; That's so. (LAUGHS) Well the robbery of the Constable sure can't be blamed on you. You know, the kid's got one thing in his favor.
- Oyler; What's that?
- Voice 4; With Constable Riorden to track him down, there's an outside chance he might get away. If he'd pulled the robbery yesterday, he wouldn't have had any chance at all.
- Oyler; How's that?
- Voice 4; Sergeant Preston was in town with that ~~Yukon King~~ ^{his} dog. (CHUCKLES) If he was here now, Jack'd be behind the bars by this time. (FADING) But ^{even} Riorden will ^{probably} get him ~~... there's no doubt about that.~~ *sooner or later*
- Annex; Oyler heard considerable talk before he left town to return to his cabin over an icy trail that was packed so ^{that} hard, ^{that} footprints didn't show. When he opened the door he found Jack Porter.
- Oyler; You!

Jack; Now wait a minute, Oylar!

(DOOR SLAMS)

Oylar; Get 'em up!

Jack; No no listen! Wait a minute! ~~Put that gun down.~~

Oylar; ~~I heard about you stealing money.~~
~~So you turned thief just like your father.~~ What are
 you doing in my house?

Jack; ~~I had to hide somewhere and~~
~~there was no place else I could go.~~ *Please lower*

Oylar; But why come here? *you know the things your*
~~father said about me!~~ *father said*

Jack; ~~Dad wrote me letters about you, Mister Oylar. You were~~
~~just about his only friend. You've got to hide me!~~ *I know*
~~but you and Dad used to~~
~~be friends.~~ *he friend*
 You've got to --

Oylar; You robbed the Constable.

Jack; Yes, but --

Oylar; Toss over that money you stole.

Jack; But wait --

Oylar; Toss it over. Then we'll talk!

~~MUSIC: Interlude~~

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

(C O M M E R C I A L)

Should have considered that
34 \$ stole a \$
 I - I guess I didn't st 2 thk. - I saw the
 cash on the Con. desk - and - well -
 I just grab it & ran -

Annex;

Everyone thought Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon King had left the town of Whitehorse. Everyone, that is, except Constable Riorden, who knew that the Mountie was camped nearby to see if Jack Porter succeeded in finding sanctuary in the home of a man named Oyler.

Next
~~It was late afternoon of the day following the fake robbery.~~ *On the day after the robbery*
 The Constable had pretended to search in vain all day for Jack Porter. He came to his office after ~~darkness had gathered~~ and was working at his desk by lamplight when he heard a soft rap on the rear door.

(RAP ON DOOR) (DOOR OPENS)

Riorden; Jack!

Jack; I've come to report!

Riorden; Anyone see you?

Jack; No, I made sure of that. That's why I came to the back door.

Riorden; Come in. Close the door.

(STEPS SUSTAIN AS:)

I'll lock this front door so no one will be walking in unexpectedly. How did you get away from Oyler?

(DOOR CLOSES BACK) (LOCK DOOR CLOSE)

I waited
~~Jack; (BACK) Oyler did a lot of drinking all day. He finally fall asleep, so I sneaked out.~~

Riorden; Well, sit down.

(STEPS) (BIZ OF SITTING DOWN)

How'd you make out?

all right
 Jack; Pretty good, I guess.

Riorden; Oylar took you in?

Jack; Yes. I told him I'd had letters from Dad, and Dad had always spoken of him as a friend. He believed it.

Riorden; Good.

Jack; He'd heard about the robbery in town. He was surprised to find me in his house when he got there. He pulled a gun on me and took the cash I got from you.

Riorden; Why that ornery -- but never mind. Go on, Jack. Did you find out if he's ^{has} ~~got~~ stolen cash hidden away?

Jack; No, not yet.

Riorden; What else do you have to tell?

Jack; We talked for a long time last night. I told him that I came here hoping to make good, but when I realized that everyone was dead set against me because of -- of Dad - I was ready to pull stakes. I did just what Sergeant Preston said. I told him about a hermit prospector in the Pelley Mountains, and how - a man who didn't care if he broke the law - could get enough in one job to be rich for life.

Riorden; He was interested?

Jack; He sure was. I think he'll pack up to go there with me and when he does, he'll pack any hidden loot from the robberies he's framed on others - including my Dad. Oh golly, Constable, if I could just clear the name of my Dad!

Riorden; I gave you your Dad's gun, Jack. There's ^{are} a few other things here in my desk that belonged to him. You might like to look 'em over while you're here.

Annor; Jack and the Constable looked at the articles taken from the desk -- letters, a knife, a gold cigar clipper and a few other things that had belonged to the boy's father. The back door of the office opened silently behind their backs, and Oyler stepped into the room. He closed the door as softly as he had opened it. In one hand he held a gun.

Riorden; (BACK) I've been intending to give these things to you, Jack.

Jack; (BACK) You better keep them until I'm thru with Oyler. If he found them on me he'd wonder how I got them since last night.

Riorden; (BACK) Whatever you say. Are you sure he doesn't suspect anything?

Jack; (BACK) I don't think ~~so~~ *he does*.

Riorden; (BACK) How did you manage to get out of the house?

Jack; (BACK) Oyler did a lot of drinking all day. He finally fell asleep.

Riorden; (BACK) As soon as you find out where he has hidden the stolen money, you just let me know.

Jack; (BACK) Right.

Riorden; (BACK) As soon as we identify some of that cash as stolen from the bank, we'll have him. Then I'll see that your name is cleared.

Jack; (BACK) All right, Constable.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

I'll get going.

Oyler; Not so fast!

Ad lib; (SURPRISE)

Oyler; You're both covered!

Jack; Oyler!

Oyler; (LAUGHS) You thought I'd been drinking, eh? Thought I was sleeping it off.

Riorden; (BACK) What do you want, Oyler?

Oyler; So you two are in cahoots to try to get something on me, eh? (→) Porter, take out your gun --slow.

Jack; Just a minute, Oyler --

Oyler; Take it out, I tell you!

(COUPLE OF STEPS)

Make it fast or I'll put a bullet thru your friend the Constable!

Jack; No no don't shoot!

Oyler; Drop the gun and kick it toward me.

(DROP GUN) (KICK IT)

Thanks. I'll use this one instead of my own. ~~As~~
Got your father's initials on it, hasn't it, Porter?
(CHUCKLES)

Jack; What are you going to do?

Oyler; ~~You'll find out.~~ First I'm going to take care of this
lawman. Turn around Riorden. Quick! That's it.
Now I'll fix you!

(BLOW)

Riorden; (TAKE IT)

Jack; You - -

(FALLING BODY AS:)

You didn't have to do that, Oyler!

Oyler; I just rapped him on the head as a precaution. That's
nothing compared to what I'm going to do next!

Jack; Now listen - wait!

Oyler; Spying on me, eh. Working in cahoots with the Constable.
Well I'll fix you. I'll fix you so that you'll hang if
the law catches up to you! You'll hang for the murder
of a lawman!

Jack; No no!

(2 SHOTS)

Oyler! You --

Oyler; Hold it! Freeze! You're covered. Don't ^{move} ~~jump me~~ or
I'll give you the same.

Jack; You --you killed the Constable!

Oyler; This gun killed him and I'm leaving it here where it'll
be found.

(TOSS GUN TO FLOOR)

Oyler; Now get goin' or I'll shoot you with MY gun!

(BREAK)

Annker; Oyler hurried Jack out of the office and along the trail to his cabin. During the short trip he pointed out how the evidence would convince any jury that the convict's son had murdered the Constable. In the cabin, Oyler handed Jack a key -

Oyler; Unlock that cupboard.

(UNLOCKING CUPBOARD. OPENING)

Jack; What are you going to do?

Oyler; You were planning to double cross me - but in spite of that, I'll help you!

Jack; Help me?

Oyler; Sure! Pull out that leather sack. (CHUCKLES) ^{it holds} ~~That's~~ ^{the money} what you and the Constable were lookin' for!

Jack; ~~What do you mean?~~

Oyler; ~~It's full of cash money!~~

Jack; The cash that my dad- - -

Oyler; Yeah, Porter. The cash your Dad ^{and another man} ~~was~~ charged with stealin'.

Jack; ~~(EFFORT) Why you -~~

Oyler; ~~Steady! Try any tricks and I'll blow your head off!~~

Jack; Then you - you DID frame Dad!

Oyler; ~~Sure I did! And some others as well!~~

Jack; ~~Y-you dirty- -~~

Oyler; Take it easy. I reckon you hate me as much as I hate you - but we need each other an' we're goin' to travel together. I've heard of that old galoot in the mountains - the one you spoke about. *but I don't know when to find him. I aim to call on you. you'll show me.*
~~him. I can use the gold that he's collected.~~

Jack; ~~You're going there?~~

Oyler; ~~Yes, an' you're goin' with me!~~

Jack; What if I refuse?

Oyler; I'll shoot you! I'll say you came here and tried to rob me before makin' your getaway after killin' Riorden!

Jack; I - I see.

Oyler; Travel with me to the mountains an I'll save your neck!

Jack; - so you can frame ME for what you do to the hermit.
Is that it?

Oyler; Maybe not. Maybe we can get to like each other -
(CHUCKLE) Who knows?

Jack; It's a choice of get shot here - or take a chance on gettin' it later - () I'll go with you!

Oyler; I thought you would! Now move fast. I'll tell you what to pack for the trip!

(BREAK)

- Annor; Carefully watched by Oyler, Jack made packs of food and camping gear. Then the two set out. It was about an hour later when Sergeant Preston and King came into town and heard about the attack on Constable Riorden. Riorden was in his home, stretched on a couch with a few friends in attendance -
- Voice; It's good you came here, Sergeant. There's a murderer at large! And we know who it is!
- Riorden; Hold on, Joe, I'm not dead-
- Voice; It's not Jack Preston's fault! He tried to kill you, Constable.
- Preston; Riorden, how badly are you hurt?
- Riorden; Doc says I got a bad rap on the head, but nothin' serious.
- Voice; Porter fired two shots at him!
- Preston; You know it was Porter?
- Voice; We got proof!
- Voice 2; Porter robbed the Constable yesterday. Today he came back and tried to kill him! We found his gun -
- Riorden; I didn't tell any one anything, Sergeant-
- Preston; If you men will leave the room, I'd like to be alone with Riorden.
- Voice; (FADING) All right, Sergeant. Come on, Jim--

(STEPS GO BACK. DOOR CLOSE)

Preston; (CUE) Now let's have the story, Riorden?

Riorden; Jack Porter came to report that he was livin' with Oyler.

Preston; I knew that. I've been watching Oyler's cabin. A few minutes after Jack left, Oyler came out and headed this way.

Riorden; You didn't follow him?

Preston; No. I thought it would be a good time to look inside the cabin.

Riorden; Find anything like stolen money?

Preston; No. But there were some locked cupboards and chests. I didn't want to smash any locks.

Riorden; Well, Oyler sneaked in an' heard enough to know Jack was workin' with me -

Preston; I see.

Riorden; He took Jack's gun - the one we gave him. He rapped me on the head - I guess he fired a couple of shots while I was unconscious - but he must've used Jack's gun -

Preston; Not knowing it was loaded with blanks!

Riorden; That's all that saved my life.

Preston; I saw Oyler and Jack set out from the cabin a little while ago. I thought our plan was working out and came here to get you -

Riorden; So's we could run 'em down, an' find stoken cash on ~~my~~ Oyler-

Preston; Yes.

Riorden; I -mI'll try to g-get up - - (MOAN)

Preston; Wên't try it.

Riorden; (WEAK) Guess I c-can't make it. Head whirls
when I move--- weak as a - a kitten - -

Preston; You'll have to lie low for a few days.

Riorden; That's what Doc said-

Preston; I'll start after Oyler right away/

Riorden; Sergeant- listen to me - you'll take your life in
your hands! Oyler will kill you - and put the
blame on Porter! Porter himself might kill you,
if he thinks he's running from a murder charge!

Preston; Jack Porter is no killer.

Riorden; But he thinks Oyler killed me! He'll know how
guilty he appears - and he'll know a jury would
hang him ---

Preston; Take it easy, Riorden. I'll be back!

Riorden; It's dark out.

Preston; There's a fair moon - furthermore, King can follow a
scent in darkness as well as in daylight.

(BARKS)

You agree, eh, King? Well, come on, boy& Let's
pick up the scent at Oyler's cabin!

(BREAK. SNEAK IN WIND)

Annor;
By the time Sergeant Preston and Yukon King set out to follow the trail from Oyler's cabin, Oyler and Jack had a start of more than two hours. Though Oyler had no reason to suspect that he would be pursued, he took precautions by traveling as much as possible on frozen streams where the wind-swept ice would show no tracks. The two pushed on thru the long hours of darkness. They stopped briefly for breakfast, and then continued on their way. The morning was well advanced when daylight came thru a grey fog. When, finally, the sun appeared low on the horizon, Oyler cried -

Oyler; Hold on! Wait a minute!

Jack; What is it, Oyler?

Oyler; That sun! It's in the wrong place! It should be on our right side!

Jack; Should it?

Oyler; *yes - it's where*
Stead o' that, it's back of us! We been travelin' North instead of East!

Jack; Yeah, that's right, Oyler!

Oyler; You sound like you knew we were travelin' the wrong way.

Jack; That's right.

Oyler; You - with all yer talk of readin' a compass - an' settin' our trail -

Jack; Here's the compass. Watch!

Oyler; WAIT!

(SMASH COMPASS)

You broke it!

Jack; Yeah. Our only compass is smashed. Now what are you going to do, Oyler? We're a long way from any settlement.

Oyler; Why you -

Jack; That gun wont help you now! Shoot me if you want to. That wont do you any good. You're lost, Oyler!

Oyler; Listen here, Porter-

Jack; *We've traveled on ice*
~~You were mighty careful to hide our tracks~~ - too bad you haven't a backtrail to follow.

Oyler; *What're you gettin' at?*
~~You fool!~~ You're in just as bad a spot as I am.

Jack; Sure I am. But the difference is that I don't care. I'd rather fre eze or starve to death than hang - especially if I know you'll ~~freeze along~~ *die* with me!

Oyler; Jack, Jack, you know how to get us out of here, don't you? You can find a settlement!

Jack; I know ^{even} less about this country than you do! You're thru, Oyler! You're going to die in the wilderness - and all the stolen cash you brought along can't buy you one more hour of life! Can't even buy a ^{cup} ~~drink~~ of tea!

Oyler; OUR FOOD! The pack you carried- WHERE IS IT?

Jack; (LAUGHS) I'm surprised you didn't miss it before this. ~~It's gone!~~ *I discarded it.*

Oyler; You ~~threw it away~~ *you - you -*

Jack; ~~Right.~~ *we* We'll soon begin to get hungry...and there'll ~~wont~~ *no* be any food. *And when we get cold, there'll* Then when it gets dark, we'll feel ~~the cold, and there wont be any fire -~~ *be no fire -*

Oyler; No fire?

Jack; *I borrowed your matches to strike a light so I* Remember when I borrowe d your match box to lit the fire ~~could read the compass, But I didn't return~~ for breakfast? ~~I didn't return it, did I?~~ *it - did I?*

Oyler; You put it ~~in yer pocket!~~ *into* I remember that!

Jack; I threw it away. Mine too!

Oyler; Why you - you -

Jack; *we'll soon be too hungry + tired to travel, because* We'll get weak from hunger -- we wont be able to travel ~~far.~~ *to rest,* We'll stop, and then we'll feel the cold. It'll get worse, and worse-

Oyler; (WILD) You double crossin' -

Jack; (HARD) You're thru, Oyler!

Oyler; (WILDER) Thru, am I ? Maybe so, but you'll die first! I'll make sure of that! ~~I'll empty this gun in you!~~ *-(break)*

(DISTANT BARKS) (APPROACHING)

What's that?

Jack; Why don't you shoot *me?* *just around the bend behind us!*

Oyler; I hear a dog! Someone's ~~comin'!~~ I wont die after all.

Jack; ~~There he is!~~ *It's* ~~It's A Mountie!~~ *A man and a dog!*

Oyler; ~~The law!~~

Jack; *I know that man! He's*
~~It's~~ Sergeant Preston! He's here! You're thru, Oyler!
 He'll find the stolen cash!

Oyler; He won't find anything! He won't live that long! I'll
 kill - (BREAK AS:)

Jack; (SUDDEN EFFORT) Give me that gun!

Oyler; (STRUGGLING) Let go - you fool!

Jack; (STRUGGLING) Gimme it!

Annrc; Jack ^{fought} struggled desperately to wrest the gun from Oyler
 while Sergeant Preston and King, ^{seeing the struggle} rushed forward ~~from~~
 a quarter of a mile away -

Oyler; (STRUGGLING) I'll ^{kill} get you -then that Mountie!
 (VIOLENT WRENCH)

Annrc; By a sudden violent effort, Oyler threw Jack to the side...
~~He staggered, then fell.~~ ^{then} Oyler brought the gun to bear...

Oyler; Now you'll get it, Porter! Right between the eyes --

~~Annrc; Oyler took aim, but Sergeant Preston had closed in.
 The Mountie fired first--~~ ^{was near}

(SHOT)

Oyler; (CRY OUT)

It was Preston who fired first -
 Annrc; - his bullet smashed Oyler's gun and sent it spinning
 thru the air.

Oyler; (WILD SNARL)

Annex; With an animal-like snarl of rage, Oyler snatched a knife from his belt!

Oyler; I'll get you if it's the last thing I do!

Annex; *As Oyler with the knife toward Porter,*
He lunged at the helpless man who lay on the ground.
~~Then King closed in with battering ram force.~~
charge

Oyler; (CRY OUT) (ADLIB STRUGGLES)

(KING ANLIB SNARLS)

Annex; *Knocked off his feet by the big dog, Oyler*
~~The great dog's charge knocked Oyler off his feet.~~
~~He thrashed wildly! But King had a firm grip on~~
Preston closed in
his arm. Then Jack leaped up and took away the knife.

~~Jack; Give it here!~~

Oyler; (ADLIB STRUGGLES) Get this dog away! I'll fix-

~~Jack; (EFFORT) That does it!~~

Oreston; (COMING IN) All right, King. Down boy! I'll take over!

(KING SUBSIDES)

Jack; Sergeant Preston! Thank goodness you're here!

Preston; On your feet, Oyler! *and leave the knife where it fell -*

Jack; *Sergeant* He's the one who killed the Constable. He-

Preston; Wait, Jack. He used the gun I gave you, didn't he?

Jack; Yes. And he--

Preston; It held blanks. The Constable isn't dead. He told me about the attack.

Jack; I have lots more to tell you. That pouch is full of stolen money. Some of it can be identified. My Dad's name will be cleared -

Preston; Good work, Jack.

Jack; I thought I was wanted by the law. I - I've got to tell you why I threw away the food and - -

Preston; That will keep. We'll talk after we put ^{take} ~~you~~ prisoner ^{to} in jail. ^{and return Const. Riorden's money.} Oyler, you're under arrest in the name of the ~~Queen~~ ^{Crown}.

Oyler; Now hold on! You haven't even looked at the cash! You don't know it's stolen money. You - -

Preston; The charge is assault and ^{the attempted murder of} battery. Constable Riorden ~~is~~ ^{is} the plaintiff. We'll see about the other charges later. ^{I think you're} () As for you, Jack, you ~~might be~~ in line for ~~some~~ rewards that are outstanding for the return of stolen money.

Jack; I didn't get Oyler. You shot his gun away. He was going to shoot me -

Preston; Well -

Jack; Then, he would have knifed me if King hadn't been on hand.

Preston; ^{King} Can and I don't take rewards.

Jack; But when you say I captured him - -

Preston; Let us say that due to our combined efforts - ^{stolen} yours, and Kings, and mine, this case is closed.

THEME.