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Jane greys KING

































































































FOLLOWING
NELO'S



















































































With his spring wagon groaning under his three-months' load of trade goods. Dad Fairdeal drove up to the cow-town bank. He tied his horses at the hitching rail. Leaving them, he went inside, with a neighborly nod to a pair of strangers loafing outside.

Warm-hearted and unsuspicious, Dad never saw the meanness in their looks. He didn't catch the hungry glance that they sent after him. His old ears completely missed their muttered words

But other eyes and ears were keener. Two Navaho kids, barely ten years old, one would judge, weren't missing a single play.

"He always draws a couple of thousand in silver when he leaves town, they tell me," the pock-marked stranger said under his breath.

"Yeh," replied the other, whose broken nose made him uglier. "The Iniuns he trades with like hard money. And so do we, Buckshot! We'll be waitin' for him at the river, bout sundown. Come on!"

With another glance up and down the street, the tough-looking pair moved away.

"Po-ko, you hear-um?" gasped Little Beaver, peeking around the corner of the bank. "They plan rob-um Trader Fairdeal. How we going to stop-um? Uah?"

"We tell-um Fairdeal when he come out of bank," the small girl suggested.

"Noh!" snorted her boy friend. "Him no believe-um us. Dad Fairdeal trust-um everybody-say no one rob-um him yet. We got-um job to save-um silver money, me think-um ..."

Leaning against the bank wall, his head on his hand, Little Beaver thought hard. Suddenly he straightened up.

"Okay!" he whispered, seizing Poko's hand. "We hide-um in wagon under tarpaulin!"

"Me savvy!" she replied, as they

dashed toward the hitching rail. "You and me steal-um ride-keep-um outlaws from steal-um silver-IF WE CAN!"

Little Beaver ierked loose the hackamore ropes of their own mounts, and gave each pony a slap on the rump.

"They go-um home alone," he said. "Now jump-um quick in wagon before Trader Fairdeal come-um out!"

Carrying a thirty-pound bag of silver in each hand, Dad Fairdeal strade down the bank steps and over to the rail. With a heavy CLUNK he dropped the first bag behind the wagon seat, barely missing Little Beaver's head. The second bag landed on Po-ko's pig-tail, pinning it to the floor. Under the tarred canvas coversheet, the two kids huddled motionless —until the wagon had rattled out of town.

"Fairdeal no find-um us now," Little Beaver whispered "We got-um long ride to river. Me take-um good

nap.

Twilight was falling as Dad Fairdeal's team trotted down the sandy slope to the river. The change of motion woke Little Beaver. He thrust his head out from under the tarpaulin, took a quick look around, and ducked hock

"Help-um me quick, Po-ko!" he exclaimed. "We throw-um out moneybags here . . . Ugh! Mighty heavy sil-

ver, you betchum!"

In the deep sand the two falling bags made no noise to speak of—and the two kids jumping out made less

"We hide-um in bushes," said Little Beaver, lugging a thousand dollars in coins. "Outlaws get-um surprise find-um no money in wagon"

"Oh, look-um!" whispered Po-ko, peering through the dusk "Two riders stop-um team. Me think-um we just in

time."

A pair of coyotes could not have hidden their approach any better than the two Navaho kids did. But they had to go slow. By the time they reached the wagon, angry and astonished Dad Fairdeal was tied to a cottonwood trunk. The two hold-up men were laughing as they fastened their own horses' reins to the wagon's rear.

"If you git cold tonight, you can hug that old tree a little tighter, Pop," the man with the broken nose chuckled

"We'll think of you every time we spend one o' them silver cartwheels," sneered Buckshot, the pock-marked man. They stepped up to the driver's seat, and started. But only Dad saw the two small figures running after the wagon—close to the tailboard, between the led horses.

At the edge of the river ford the team splashed noisily. The sound covered any noise the kids made climbing aboard. Safe under the big tarp, they whispered together, while the wagon wallowed across to the other bank.

Beyond the ford the road took a steep grade, an almost straight climb to the top of the bluff. Below, the river narrowed and deepened Another team, attempting to pass, would have been forced over a fifty-foot drop-off In the growing tarkness the river's growling rush sounded like a threat

In the back of the wagon, Little Beaver and Po-ko eased the tailboard down. Then, as fast as they could, they slid out the bales and smaller boxes of trade goods. Last of all—when the wagon reached the flat top of the bluff—they slid out themselves.

Barely had they ducked into the bushes when there came a crash. A crate of pots and pans that Little Beaver had balanced over the tail gate





had hit the ground. Shouting, the out-

"The danged wagon is EMPTY!" yelled Broken Nose. "Every last thing musta spilled out, comin' uphill."

"The silver, too?" rasped Buckshot.

"We gotta find that first:"
"They got-um heap long hunt!" gig-

gled Little Beaver in the darkness.

He waited till the men had passed out of begring. Without hurrying he

out of hearing. Without hurrying, he tied the two led horses in a clump of

aspens, off the road.

"Now, Po-ko," he said, returning to the wagon, "we make-um robbers step high, wide, and handsome . . . You betchum!" he added, turning the team around.

The pounding of hoofs, the rattle and bang of the empty wagon coming down at breakneck speed—not to mention Little Beaver's shrill, "Vippeel"—gove the outlaws plenty of warning. But there was nothing they could do. Furious, they waited with drawn guns. At the last moment they fired.

Bullets zipped past Little Beaver's ears. The next instant his wagonwheels fanned the outlaws' backs as they jumped for their lives. A fifty-foot fall into deep water is better than death under runaway hoofs and wheels.

Roped to the tree, Dad Fairdeal had heard the whole rumpus, but he still couldn't believe his ears. Maybe.

he thought, some crazy Indian buck driving another wagon had forced his stolen outfit into the river. But in that case there would have been a crash!

As the team of horses splashed out of the water on his side, Dad let out a yell for help. Even a celebrating Hopi would know enough to cut his ropes... And then the team stopped!

"You feel-um okey, Dad?" Little Beaver sang out, as he ran to release the old trader. "We got-um big jobpick-um up all your load out of road." "We dump-um," added Po-ko.

"Make-um outlaws go hunt-um silver in dark—tee, hee! But silver not on load."

"Not on the load?" whooped Fairdeal. "What in tarnation are you sayin? I loaded them two bags o' coin myself—at the bank."

"And we UN-load um," Po-ko explained, as Little Beaver cut the ropes. "We hide-um silver in bushes before you get-um outlaws. Money safe, trade goods safe, wagon safe, outlaws safe..."

"Safe—them danged robbers?" the

are they?"

"Mebbe three-four miles down river if they know-um how to swim," Little Beaver chuckled. "No got-um hosses. No got-um guns. Mebbeso lose-um boots. They heap plenty safe from US, you betchum!"









... A BORN COWBOY,
DOING A MAN'S WORD,
SINCE HIS FATHER WAS
KILLED BY OUTLAWS, AND
LEADER OF THE KIYOTE
KIDS" YOUNG YIGHANTES
DETERMINED TO STAMPOUT CAME



SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE YOUTHFUL ORGANIZA-TION, AND A CRACK SHOT,



"YOUNGEST OF THE THREE.
AND THIRD IN COMMAND,
STRONG AND A FEROCIOUS
FIGHTER WHEN AROUSED.
BILLY AND SANDY WERE
ADOPTED BY TED'S FATHER.













I MADE A RUMPUS ABOUT IT, BUT.
BEING DRUNK, I, WASN'T TAKEN
SERIOUSIY.... FIRST THING!
KNEW, I FOUND
MYSELF WITH TIMO
INTO MEY BUT

MYSELF WITHTWO BULLETS PUMPED INTO ME! BUT IKNOW THOSE. TABLES ARE CROOKED!













































GENTLEMEN, THE GAME IS OVER! THESE GAMBLERS





























WATCH

THE

FUTURE

DEED\$
OF

CALVOTTE

KIDS!























































































































LITTLE BEAVER daughs













