

**SON OF LOBO**  
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**A story of a gunfighter in a changing world of the early twentieth century.**

**A young man trying to fill his Fathers shoes as a gunfighter.**

**The cold blooded tactics that he used to do his job.**

**Until he met the young and beautiful ranch owner who fell in love with him and made him an offer that he could not refuse.**

## CHAPTER ONE THE REPORTER

The big automobile rolled into Amarillo.  
It pulled up in front of the Texas Ranger's Office and stopped.  
The door opened and a man emerged from it.  
He was a skinny timid little man with hornrimed glasses.  
He carried a briefcase in his left hand.  
He said "No place should be this damn hot, even in July.  
I just can't wait to get back to Chicago."

He looked all around.  
"Not much of a town, Only one Saloon and Hotel in the whole damn town."  
He looked up at a cloudy sky and said, "I sure hope it rains, maybe that will cool it off a little."  
He had heard a lot about this killer gunfighter that he was going to try to interview. He had worked for the Chicago West winds magazine for ten years and was one of their best reporters.  
He had been sent to get the life story from a killer named Lobo.  
"Well here goes." He said.

As he walked up to the door of the office of the Texas Ranger.  
He stopped, took out his handkerchief.  
Then wiped the sweat from his brow.  
He opened the door and went inside.

The Ranger was standing across the room hanging some wanted posters on the wall.  
He was a very big man in his fifties and he would weigh around two hundred and fifty pounds and was about six foot two inches tall.

He heard the door open and close.  
He turned around and saw the little man.  
"Yes Sir, What can I do for you?" said the ranger.

The little man spoke, his voice was squeaky.  
"Sir My name is Jeffery Sims.  
I'm a reporter for the Chicago West winds magazine.  
I would like to do a story about your prisoner."

The Ranger said "Well I don't know how talkative he will be, but you can try."  
"Of cores, with your permission, we will tell how you captured him single handed."

The Ranger Smiled and said, "Well I don't see why we can't do that."

Sims said "May I see him now?"  
"Sure you can, he's right through that door.  
You're not packing a gun are you?" said the Ranger

"Heavens no." said Sims.  
"What's in the briefcase?" asked the Ranger.  
The man said "Just some paper and pencils to write with."

The ranger pointed and said, "Go right through that door."  
Sims walked through the door.  
It led him to the room where all the cells were.  
He looked all round and saw only one prisoner .  
He was laying on a bunk and looked like he was asleep.  
He was very nervous and not sure just what to expect.

He came to the cell door and looked through the bars.  
With a shaky voice said, "Pardon me sir. "

The man lying on the bunk did not move.  
Once again he said, "Pardon me, Mister Lobo. "

The man lying on the bed razed his head.  
He looked up at him and said, "What the hell do you want? "  
"Are you Mister Lobo?"  
The man in the cell sat up on the bed and said.  
"I am Lobo, Who are you and what do you want?"

"My name is Jeffery Sims; I work for a Chicago magazine."  
Lobo said, "So what do you want from me? "  
Sims said, "I want to do a story on you if you will let me. "  
Lobo said, "What kind of story? "  
"A story of your life, and how you grew up.  
and how you got into this mess, "said Sims.  
Lobo answered  
"That could take a while, how much does it pay?"

Sims said, "It's not customary for The magazine to pay for a story. "  
Lobo said, then get the hell out of here. "  
Sims said, "Don't you want people to know the truth about you. "

Lobo said,  
"That magazine will make a lot of money with my story.  
Therefore it will cost you one thousand dollars for it. "

Sims said, I would have to clear that with my magazine. "  
Lobo said "Do it and get back to me.  
don't Waite to long, I don't have a lot of time you know.  
Sims left Lobo to his thoughts.

He came back early the next morning.  
Sims said" The Winds will only pay you five hundred dollars.  
Lobo said" What the hell, Send it to my parents in Dodge City.  
Sims promised he would do that.  
Lobo said OK this might take a while.  
Sims said, "That's o k."

Lobo asked, "What do you want me to do? "  
Sims said, "start at the beginning, and talk about your life. "  
Lobo sat up on his bed and said, "Do you have a smoke? "  
ffSims took a cigar out of his pocket, lit it and handed it to Lobo.  
Lobo took it and put it into his mouth .  
He drew in some smoke and then blew it out again.  
Looking at the cigar, Then he said, "Well let's see.

my real name is Tom Masters the Third.  
I was born on a Ranch just outside of Dodge City Kansas.  
My Father and Mother are Tom and Liz Ann Masters.

My Grandfather was also named Tom Masters.  
He had been a U.S. Marcel in Deadwood for fifteen years.



He retired when he married my Grandmother Melissa.  
He died about twelve years ago.  
My Grandmother Melissa is still living.  
She lives in Indiana.

My father was a sheriff in Abilene for a short time.  
He won the fast draw contest in Dodge when he was young.  
He cleaned up Abilene.  
The good people there didn't like the way he did his job.  
They told him he wasn't wanted there anymore.

He then became a gunfighter and acquired the name Lobo.

I had been amazed hearing all the stories about my Father.  
When I turned twelve, He gave me his gun.

His Father had given it to him when he was twelve.  
I practiced with it daily.  
I was relentless in my pursuit to be even faster than my father.  
I wanted to be without a doubt the fastest gun ever.

when I turned twenty one years old I left home.  
My parents didn't want me to leave, but I left anyway.  
I dressed the same way as my father when he was called Lobo.

Only I wore a hat that once belonged to Ringo.  
My dad took it from him after he killed him.  
He gave the hat to my Mother and she gave it to me."

I even rode the same kind of horse AS He did.

For the first couple of days, the only people I saw were those that I passed on the road.

Then I came to a little town, I don't even remember its name.

I tied my horse to the rail in front of the saloon.

There were three other horses tied there.

I walked into the saloon, walked to the bar and ordered me a beer.

There were three men at the bar and there was a saloon girl there with them.

I could see that she had been crying.

The three men were pulling up her dress and fondling her and laughing.

She tried to get away from them but they would not let her go.

She was begging them to stop, but they paid no attention to her.

Now I know that the saloon girls have to put up with a lot.

What with all the drunks that come in there.

but I just thought they were over doing it with her.

I had seen enough, no one was going to help her.

At that time I told the three men to let her go.

One of the men told me to mind my own bigness.

I told him that I was making it my bisness.

He then turned to me and said, "Look Kid I don't know who you are but.

I spoke up and said, "My name is Lobo

The man said, "I heard of Lobo when I was a boy, you can't be him.  
I said, I am Lobo and I'm the fastest gun there is.

The man's hand went down for his gun.  
Before he could even touch it, I drew my gun, pulled back the hammer and  
pointed it his head.  
The man froze in his tracks.  
I told them to get out and go somewhere and sober up.  
They all turned and walked out the door and got on their horses and left town.

Sims cut in, "You didn't kill him?  
No, I knew he was just a drunken cowboy and not a fast gun.  
Any way I asked the girl if she was all right.  
She said she was, so I bought her a drink. Then I took Her to dinner and stayed  
with her that night, I was well rewarded for my good deed.

## CHAPTER THREE

### A GUN FOR HIRE

The next morning I got up without waking her and left town. Not knowing for sure where I was headed, I just went west. Over the next three years I moved from town to town. It seemed that every town that I came to had it's fast gun. I guess my reputation went ahead of me.

everyone who claimed to be a fast gun wanted to challenge me. The more gun fights I got into the more my reputation grew. It got to be where people knew me just by my looks. .

One day I came to another small town. I think its name was West Bend or something like that. My horse had been limping a little. I went straight to the Blacksmith to have him taken care of. After leaving my horse with the Blacksmith. I started to the saloon to get me a beer.

As I passed the store I was almost hit by a young boy about ten years old. he came flying out the door and landed on the ground.

I picked him up off the ground and dusted him off. I ask him if he was all right. He said, yes but those men in the store are hurting my mother.

I told him to Wait there and walked into the store. I looked around and saw a woman about thirty years old and very good-looking. Two men had her penned in a corner.

They were talking very rough to her.  
one had his hand inside her dress and the other was trying to kiss her.  
she tried to get away but they were too strong.  
they would just push her back and keep doing what they were doing.

The storekeeper asks me if I wanted something.  
the two men had stopped talking to the woman and was looking at me.  
I looked around a little and said, "Give me a dozen of them cigarillos.  
The two men were still looking me over.  
but they still had her penned in the corner.

The clerk gave me the cigarillos and I paid for them.  
At that time the woman tried to walk between the two men.  
One of them slapped her and pushed her back into the corner.

I lit one of the cigarillos I had just bought.  
then I spoke up and said, "That's no way to treat a lady. "  
They both turned and looked at me.  
one of them said, "Is your name Lobo? "  
I said, "That's what They call me , and I think you fellows have had enough fun  
for today, so let her go. "

The man said, "I've heard of you, what are you doing here?"  
I said "Getting ready to kill a couple of men."  
He said "Who mite that be?"  
I said, "You if you don't let her go, There is nothing lower than a man that will  
hit a lady.

The other man said, "Well Lobo I don't think you are as fast as they say you are."

I said, "If you touch her again, I will kill you. "

At that time, both men turned to face me.

One of them said " Lobo you are a fast gun, my Father will hire you. "

I said, "I'm not interested.

I won't work for a man who would let his men beat up a woman.

So go for your guns or get out and leave the lady alone. "

The man said, "So be it, it's your choice. "And they both went for their guns.

I drew and fired, putting two bullets into each of them.

I beat them easy.

When it was over the store clerk said

"I sure wouldn't want to be you right now. "

I said "I would rather be me than one of them."

He said, "One of those men was Mister Anderson's son. "

I said, who is Mister Anderson? ."

The Woman spoke up and said, "He owns most of this county.

He thinks he is God around here but he is only a killer.

I said, "Why was they giving you trouble? "

She said, "I have the only ranch around here that Anderson doesn't own.

he wants it very bad.

He has over twenty men working for him.  
they killed my husband and ran off my ranch hands and my cattle.  
He has already killed or run off all the other ranchers around here. "  
I said, "Is there no law here? "  
She said, "Anderson is the law. "

Then she turned to the clerk and said, "Are you going to sell me what I need? "  
The clerk said, "No I can't do that. "  
I ask her if she could pay for what she needed.  
She said she had the cash with her.  
I told the clerk if he wanted to live he would give her what she wanted.  
After we loaded everything in the wagon.  
I told her to stop at the blacksmith so I could get my horse.

The blacksmith said it was just a lose shoe.  
I paid him and took my horse.  
I ask the boy if he could ride a horse.  
He said yes he could.  
Then I picked Him up and put him on my horse.  
I told the boy to take it easy on the horse that he had been a long way.  
then I drove the woman home.

On the way to her ranch she ask me why I was helping her.  
I just told her, I don't like men who would hurt a woman .  
She said, "Anderson's hired guns will kill you. "  
I said to her, "I will not be that easy to kill.

**Why don't you get your own hired gun? "**

**She said "Are you a hired gun?"**

**I said "Yes, I am the best there is."**

**She said "If you can win over these killers, I'll give you half my ranch."**

**I ask her if she had a dollar, she said she did.**

**I said, give it to me.**

**She handed me the dollar.**

**Then I told her, you just got yourself the fastest gun there is.**

**but just don't try to tell me how to do my job.**

**After unloading the wagon the boy and I put the horses away.**

**The boy's name was Tim; I ask him if he knew what happen to his father.**

**He said "one of Anderson's hired guns said something bad about my mother.**

**My dad went for his gun, he didn't have a chance, he was no gunfighter."**

**I asked, "When was that? "**

**He said "about five months ago. "**

**I said "Do you know which one did it?"**

**He said" Yes they call him Half Breed."**

**"What does he look like?"**

**"He dresses like a Indian and has long hair and wares a headband.**

**Do you know him Lobo?"**

**"I know of him Tim that's all.**

**But I promise you if we meet he will pay for what he did."**



About two hours passed when we saw riders coming up the road.  
Tim said "One of them is the Breed Lobo."  
I told Tim to go in the house, and then I went up and stood on the porch.

The men rode up about twenty-five feet from me; there were four of them.  
They all looked like hired guns.  
The One on the left said, "Hello Lobo. "  
I said, " You know me."  
The man said "I've heard of you, You have quite a reputation..

But Mister Anderson is not happy with you, you killed his Son. "  
I said, "I am not here to make Mister Anderson happy.  
and as for his son, he needed killing. "  
He said, Why are you here Lobo? "

I said, "You might say I am the new ramrod here. "  
On the other end of the four was the Half Breed.  
He was smiling and said "I would be interested to know what she is paying you  
with Lobo.  
Let me know how it is I may want to work for her a little while myself."  
The others had a good laugh

I turned my head and looked him in the eyes.  
I said" I've heard of a hired gun called the stinking half breed, you must be him.  
A back shooter and a scalper of old women

I told him When this is over breed, I will leave you alive.  
Then I will scalp you breed, and hang your hair on my horses mane.  
and no matter where you go you will live in shame."

He said" Nobody will ever scalp this breed"  
Then I said, "Are you men just visiting or are you here for a reason? "  
The first man said "Mister Anderson wants you dead, nothing personal. "  
I said, Well hen why don't you get on with it. "

All four went for their guns.  
It wasn't even close; I killed three of them and put a bullet in the half breed's  
right and left elbow.

His arms fell limp and he dropped his gun.  
I pulled the breed off of his horse and threw him on the ground.  
I dropped down with my knee in his back.  
I took out my knife and grabbed him by the hair.  
He screamed.

I took off his head band and I scalped him right there.  
Taking a circle of hair and scalp about five inches in diameter from the back of  
his head.  
Then I tied him over his horse.  
I put the three men back on their horses and tied them.  
and sent them all back to Anderson.

After that I went inside the house, the woman was putting dinner on the table.

I told her well if I'm going to be working for you I think I should know your name.

She told me her name was Beth Ann Franks.

Then Tim came in and told his mother.

" Mom, you should have seen Lobo draw.

them four men didn't have a chance.

he is the fastest gun there is alive.

And you should have seen what he did to that breed that shot my dad.

He scalped him, but he should have killed him.

I threw Tim the breeds headband.

I told him what I did was worse than death to the breed.

His mother said "Tim I saw it all, I was watching through the window.

Then She thanked me for helping them.

We ate dinner and I went to the bunkhouse for the night.

I cut the Breed's scalp into two parts, braded it and hung it on my horses mane.

It was about eighteen inches long.

A few days later I was in the barn.

Tim came to me and said "Lobo, I saw three riders coming down the road."

I Thanked him and told him to go in the house.

Then I got my rifle and went up in the loft.

I went to the back of the barn.  
I looked out through a large crack.  
Just as I suspected there were three more men coming in from behind.

I had a great shot at all three of them, So I took it.  
All three went down and did not move.

I came down from the loft and went to the front of the barn and looked out.  
I saw the three riders as they turned into the road to the house.

They came up close to The barn. They all got off of their horses.

One of them Called out, "LOBO.  
I answered him saying "That's me, what do you want?"  
The voice said, "Are you the one that is killing all my men?"  
I said," Are You Anderson?"  
He Said," Yes I am."

I said "If this bunch is the best you have.  
then you should go home and leave us alone here."  
The man said "I'll pay you double what she is paying you to work for me."  
I walked out in front of them and said  
"I thought you was a smart man.  
but its stupid of you to come here with just two men. "

He said, I want this ranch and I will get it. "  
I said, "It will do you no good if you are dead. "  
He said, "I am not carrying a gun. "  
I said, it doesn't matter, you pay others to do your killing. "

The two men had moved away from him.  
One was at ten o'clock and the other was at two o'clock.  
Anderson said, "these two are the best and fastest gun there are.  
you can not beat both of these men."

Even if you could there are three more coming up behind you."  
"Not any more I said they are dead."  
He looked as if he was in shock.  
he told them to kill me and get it over with.

At that time the two men went for their guns.  
they died well.

There was fear on his face when he saw his best two guns on the ground.  
Anderson backed up a couple of steps and said.  
"I'm unarmed you won't shoot me in cold blood."

I pointed my gun at his chest and pulled the hammer back.  
He begin to beg for his life and offered me a lot of money for his life.  
I told him to drop the money and get the hell out of there.  
if I ever saw him again I would kill him.

Lobo smiled "He sure wasted no time getting out of there."  
I picked up the money he had offered me, It was about five thousand dollars.  
I tied them all on their horses and sent them home.

When I got back to the ranch house, I asked Tim if his father had any gunpowder.

He took me to a shed and opened the door.

I looked inside and found two kegs of gunpowder.

I put it in the wagon and went out to the road that led to the Anderson ranch.

There was a bridge that went over a river.

I placed the gunpowder under the bridge at each end.

Then Tim and I got behind some rocks. We waited the rest of that day and all that night. Tim went back to the ranch to get us something to eat.

About an hour after he returned we saw a lot of riders coming down the road.

There must have been at least fifteen.

When they had all got on the bridge to cross the river.

I fired a shot in the dirt in front of them.

then I yelled out, "Hold it right there, "I had my rifle pointed at the lead man.

Anderson was on the other side of the river.

They stopped; they were all on the bridge.

I said to them, if you all want to live you will turn around and go home.

leave Beth Ann and her son alone.

I think there has been enough killing.

The man in the lead said, you are a dead man Lobo, You can't beat all of us.

The man said, All right lets get him.  
I took ame and fired twice, Hitting the kegs of gunpowder.  
They exploded and the bridge disintegrated and fell into the river.

Only two men made it off of the bridge.  
They were still coming at me shooting, so I killed them.  
Then I aimed at Anderson and took my shot. He fell from his horse.

We rounded up the two horses and put them in the barn.  
I told Tim that he could have the two horses and saddles.

Later I went back to the river and put the two bodies into the water and let the river have them.

Then I went back to the ranch and told Beth Ann what had happened.  
I told her, " there is no one to bother you now."  
She said "That leaves only Anderson's older Son, he is a good man.  
Maybe things will be a lot better in this valley now."  
I told her "I will be leaving as soon as I make sure there will be no more trouble."

I stayed around for about two weeks.  
One evening after supper I was sitting on the porch drinking coffee and smoking.  
I saw a buggy coming down the road.  
It turned in and pulled up to the house.

The man got out of the buggy and said "Can I speak with Beth Ann please?"

I went to the door and said "Beth Ann there is someone here to see you."

Beth Ann came out on the porch and looked at the man.

Then she said "Lobo this is Seth Anderson, This is Lobo."

I said hello to him and he returned it.

I ask him if he was there to avenge his Father? he said no.

He said all the hired guns were gone and there would be no more trouble.

He then asked "Beth will you take a ride with me, I want to talk to you."

Beth Ann said "O K Seth just a short one."

I said "Are you sure Beth?"

She answered "It's O K Lobo Seth and I have been friends for a long time."

They got into the buggy and went down the road.

About an hour later Tim and I saw the buggy coming back up the road.

It pulled up in front of the house and she got out.

He told her he would see her later and she agreed, then he left us.

She sat down and began to talk." Seth and my husband were best friends when we went to school.

I didn't know it then but they were both in love with me.

It was decided between them that whoever won me the other would step aside.

Anyway, Seth said he still loves me and he wants to marry me now."

Tim got up and left the porch and walked to the barn.



I ask her "What did you tell him?"

She said "I told him yes, Lobo I can't make it alone ."

I said "What if this is his way of getting this ranch?"

She said "I thought of that, I told him that this ranch must stay in my name for Tim when he is old enough."

I ask "What did he say to that?"

"He said that would be fine with him."

I stood up and said "Do you mind if I talk to Tim?"

"I wish you would." Said she.

I walked to the barn and Tim was sitting on a stool.

I said "Well Tim it looks like things are working out well for you and your Ma.

I guess my job here is through so I will be leaving soon."

Tim looked up at me with tears in his eyes and said " I thought you liked it here Lobo.

I thought you and Ma was liking each other real good and you may even be my Pa."

I said "Tim you know that I am a hired Gun.

Do you know what that means?"

"What" said he

"It means that I am a hired killer.

The only difference between me and the men that worked for Anderson is.

I don't kill unless I have to.

Tim you are just about a man so give your mother a chance to be happy.  
This Seth seems like a pretty nice fellow.  
What do you think? Can you do that?"  
Tim shook his head yes and I put my arm over his shoulder and we went back to the house.

Then I told Beth ann. that I would be leaving early the next day.  
Long before sun up She came to the bunkhouse.  
She walked over beside my bed, dropped her nightgown on the floor.  
Then she lifted the cover and lay down beside me waking me up.  
It was a hell of a reward for what I had done for her.

When we were through she told me to come to the house and eat breakfast,  
and say good by to Tim.

It was a very good breakfast and saying good by to friends is very hard to do.  
I took out the money Anderson had offered me.  
I counted one thousand dollars and put it in my pocket.  
then I gave the rest to Beth Ann.  
Anyway I said my good by to them and mounted my horse and went on.  
with the promise that I would try to return some day.

## CHAPTER FOUR DEADWOOD

I continued west.

My next stop was Deadwood.  
As I rode into town I looked all around.  
This is where my Grandfather had gunned down Black Bart.

I saw an old man sitting in front of the barbershop.  
I stopped my horse and got off, looked at the old man and said, "Howdy, "

The old man looked at me and said, "I don't believe it. "

I walked up and sit down in a chair beside him.  
I said, "What don't you believe. "

He said "you look just like a Marcel we had here many years ago. "  
I said, "Was his name Tom Masters? "  
"Yes. "Said the old man.  
"I Said, That was my Grandfather. "

"Well I'll be damn. Said the old man, is he still alive? "  
I said "no, he has been dead about ten years."

I asked him "Did you see him shoot down Black Bart?"  
"Sure did, It was right there in the street in front of us.

Black Bart was in the saloon and your Grand pa was in the Marshal's Office.  
Oh that Black Bart was a mean one , I'll tell ya.

He sent word to your Grand Pa that he would meet him on the street at six P M.  
He knew that your Grand Pa would expect.

You see the Saloon is west of the Marshal's office.  
At six o clock the sun would be low and right in your Grand Pa's eyes.  
Well Black Bart came out of the saloon right at six o clock.

He yelled at your Grand Pa to come on out.  
After a little bit the door of the marshal's office opened and your Grand Pa  
walked out.  
You could tell by the way he was acting that he couldn't see very well.

Then the old man said "Do you know what happened then?"  
"No I don't." I said.  
A cloud came floating over right in front of the sun and blocked it out.  
Dam nest thing I ever saw. That was the only cloud in the whole damn sky.

Black Bart went for his gun and Your Grand Pa put four bullets in him.  
Your Grand Pa caught one his self .

Yes sir biggest thing ever happened around here.  
I said so long to the old man and thanked him for the story about my Grand Pa.  
Then I got up and walked to the saloon.

I walked to the bar and ordered a beer.  
As I looked around the place, I saw four men at a table playing poker.  
There was two men at the bar talking to a young saloon girl.  
I finished my beer and ordered another.

At that time there was two men walked into the saloon and stopped just inside.  
They both stood looking at me for a moment.

Then one of the men said, Are you called Lobo? "  
I said , "Yes, what do you want? "  
He said, "You killed some good friends of ours back in West Bend. "

I said, "You are not to particular who you pick for friends.

what do you intend to do about it? "  
He said, "We came here to kill you. "

I said, "Well, Get on with it. "

Everyone in the place was watching,  
The two men stood there for a moment then they went for their guns.  
They had only just touched them, when I drew, fanning the hammer of my forty-five with my left hand, placed two bullets into each man's chest.

I reloaded my gun and returned it to its holster.  
Then I turned around and finished drinking my beer.

The sheriff came in and asked everyone what happened.  
They all told him the two men had drawn first.  
Then the sheriff came over to me and said, "What are you doing in Deadwood?"  
"

I told him I was just passing through.  
He said, "Not like you just passed through West bend, I hope, "  
I said, "News travels fast doesn't it. "  
He told me that the two men had told him what happened in West Bend.

He said, "You know, what you did to Anderson could be called murder. "  
I said, "Well what happened to Beth Ann's husband and a few other ranchers  
could also be called murder. "  
He said, "How much did you get for that job? "

He was surprised when I told him that I only got one dollar.  
I didn't say anything about the thousand I took from Anderson.  
I stayed around Deadwood for a couple of days, and then I headed west again.

**CHAPTER FIVE  
HANNABLE HAYSE & KID CURRY**

**It was early evening when I stopped to make camp beside a fallen tree.  
After eating, I settled back next to my campfire and lit a cigarillo.  
Darkness was upon me and the stars were showing themselves to me.  
I was deep in my thoughts and thinking of how Beth Ann.  
How she had woke me up that morning at the bunkhouse.**

**At that time I heard riders coming down the road at a fast pace.  
Two men rode by on the run.  
A short time later about ten more men came riding up and stopped at my camp.**

**One of the men asked me if I had seen anyone pass by.**

**I told them that the two men had gone by less than an hour ago.  
The man said, "That was Hannibal Haze and Kid Curry.  
They just robbed the bank this afternoon over in Sand Creek.  
Then the ten men turned their horses and took off down the road.**

**About a half hour later the two men came out of the woods not far from me.  
They stopped and looked at me and said.**

**"Was you with that posse?"**

**"Nope." I replied.**

**"Are you a bounty hunter?"**

**"Nope." I replied.**

**"Then who are you?"**

I said, "I'm a man that minds my own bisnis."  
They looked at each other and then back at me and said.  
"Do you know who we are?"  
"Yep." I replied  
"Are you not afraid?"  
"Nope." I said.

At that time I drew my gun, pulled the hammer back, and pointed it at the Kid.  
I said "Now take your guns out and drop them on the ground."  
They did as they were told.

The Kid said. "Are you going to turn us in for the bounty?"

I said no and told them to get the saddle bags with the bank money in them.  
They did as they were told.

I then told them to get on there horses and get out of there.  
We heard the posse coming down the road.  
Hays and the kid got on there horses and road away.  
I grabbed there guns and the saddle bags and lay them behind a log and sat  
down.  
The posse came by at a dead run and never stopped.

The next morning I got up and put the guns and the money, about eight  
thousand dollars in my saddle bags and put them on my horse.  
Never did see that posse any more.



Sims asked, "Did you ever see Hays and Curry again?"

"Yes I did, about six months later I ran into them in a saloon in some little town, don't even know the name.

I do know that it had one hell of a tough sheriff.

I Had just ordered me a beer when they walked up to me.

Hays said, "That was a mean thing you did, taking our money like that."

I said, "Did you not take it from them towns people?"

"Yep, said Curry, But we figure you should split it with us. "

"Well you fellows are just a little two late.

You see I gave it all to a family that had thirteen children and no place to live."

Hays said, " You gave away our money."

I said, "What made it your money?"

Well when we took it from the bank it became our money."

I said, "Well when I took it from you it became my money."

The Kid looked at Hays and said, "I think he's got you there Hays."

Hays replied, "Who's side are you on Kid?"

"I'm on your side Hays, but I kind of like this fellow."

I asked, " How much bounty is on you two?"

"five thousand each said Hays, are you figuring on collecting it?"

"Nope I said, But the sheriff is coming across the street with three men and they all have shotguns.

They both shot out of the back door and left that town. I never saw them again after that.

The Sheriff ask me if I knew them. I just said that they started talking to me when I came into the saloon.

He tried to find a poster on me but there was none."

Sims said "Did you really give all that money to a poor family?"

" I gave them a thousand and sent the rest home to my Father and Mother.

When I left that town I headed south."

## CHAPTER SIX FRAMED

Sims asked, "Why did you come to Amarillo?"

"I heard the town was wide open and the girls were pretty."

"Did you find that to be true?"

"Well the girls are pretty, it's hard to beat a pretty senyoreeta."

"You are in here for robbing a bank and killing two tellers, did you do that?"

"No I did not . I was in the saloon and someone slipped me a Mickey.

They said I passed out at the poker table.

a couple of men carried me to my hotel room.

They said they laid me on the bed and went back to the game.

The next thing I know it's two days later.

the Ranger is waking me up and bringing me to jail.

Someone had taken my clothes and gun and robbed a bank .

They then came back here and put my clothes back on me and left me there.

I know that was done because my shirt was buttoned up one button off .

They also said that my gun had been fired and I always keep it clean."

"Well it looks to me like you have been framed.

Do you have any idea who did it?"

"Yes I do and I'll make him pay with his life when I get out of here."

"Are you going to try to break out Lobo?"

**"Well just don't try to end that story too soon.  
and don't say anything to the Ranger about it."**

**"I'm only here to write the story, not to interfere."  
"O K Mister Sims, I think we have talked enough for today.  
If I am here tomorrow we will talk some more."  
"Yes sir Mister Lobo, I'll be here in the morning."**

**The Little man went back through the Rangers office and thanked the Ranger  
and left as he came.**

**That night around midnight Lobo was sitting on his bunk by the window.  
It was a hot night and there was a cool breeze coming in the window.  
He was lisping to the music at the Mexican saloon down the street.**

**Thoughts of his Mother and Father ran through his mind.  
He remembered when his father had told him of a time that he had came to  
Texas to kill a man named H B Wilson.**

**He laughed when he thought about his dad backing that ranger down.  
At that time he heard a noise under the window.  
Then he heard someone whisper, "Seenyour Lobo."  
Then a gun and a note was placed on the edge of the window.**

**Lobo took the gun and put it in his belt under his shirt.  
The note said, Your horse will be saddled and hitched behind the Jail at one A M**

He had an idea who gave him the gun but he wasn't sure, for He never saw anyone.

He could see the clock on the wall of the Rangers office. It said twelve twenty five.

There was only an old Deputy in the office.  
He would make his break at one A M.

At twelve fifty Lobo kicked his toilet pot over in his cell.  
He then called for the Deputy to come there.  
The old Deputy came to the door and asked. "What's the matter?"

"I've had an accident." Said Lobo  
"Man you sure made a mess of it.  
Lobo said " Get me a mop and I'll clean it up."  
The old Deputy replied "I'll put you in another cell and clean it up myself."

He went and got a gun from the desk and the keys from the peg.  
He then came back to the cell where Lobo was.  
"Now don't you try anything young fellow, I have a gun and I will use it."  
"Yes Sir." said Lobo

The old Deputy opened the cell next to Lobo.  
He then came and unlocked the cell that Lobo was in.

To make a long story short, Lobo left the old Deputy tied and gagged on a bunk.  
Then he retrieved his gun belt and hat and left the jail by the back door.

**He got his horse and moved around behind the hotel.  
There were stalls for horses belonging to those who had rooms at the hotel.  
He put his horse in one of the stalls.**

**CHAPTER SEVEN****THE CONFETTION**

He then went into the back door of the hotel and up the stairs.  
He knew the room of the two men who carried him from the saloon that night.

When he got to the door there was a light coming from under the door.

He could hear voices coming from inside the room.

He stopped and listened.

"There you are Eldon, now you have your half and I have mine.

Twenty five hundred a piece, that's not bad."

"It's a lot of money Duke but I sure feel bad about that fellow hanging for what we did."

"Come on Eldon, he's just a lousy gun fighter. Some one would most likely have killed him in a month or two anyway ."

Well you may be right Duke but I still don't feel right about it.

And them two tellers you shot in the bank, you didn't have to do that."

"O K Eldon, but that's water under the bridge, it's all over now and there's nothing we can do about it.

We will get our things together and leave this town before daylight."

"But Duke you said you wanted to stay for the hanging."

"Well I changed my mind, now I want to get out of this town, So you go out back and saddle the horses and I will pay the bill."

**"O K Duke, you want me to do that right now?"**

**"Yes Eldon, and don't forget your saddlebags."**

**Lobo moved away from the door and down the stairs and out the back door. He found some rope in the stall and cut two pieces about three feet long. Then he hid in one of the stalls and waited for Eldon to come out of the hotel. His Waite wasn't long, the door opened and Eldon walked out and around the back of the stalls.**

**As he went by him Lobo stepped out and put his gun to Eldon's head.**

**"Hold it right there Eldon and don't make any fast moves."**

**Then he took Eldon's gun out of his holster.**

**"Ha Ha How did you get out of jail?"**

**"You just do as you are told and you won't get hurt.**

**Now lean up against that stall there and put your hands behind you."**

**Eldon did as he was told and Lobo tied his hands behind his back and gagged him.**

**A short time later Duke came out the back door and around the stalls.**

**Lobo got the drop on him the same way he did with Eldon.**

**Lobo said "Duke I would love to kill you myself but I'm going to watch you hang."**

**He tied Duke's hands the same way as Eldon's.**

**He then hung there saddle bags on there shoulders and told them to head for the jail.**

**As they walked into the jail the Ranger was just untying his Deputy.**

**The Ranger was shocked when they came walking into his office.**

**He started for his gun and Lobo told him.**

**"Don't be a fool Ranger they can only hang me once."**



**"What's the meaning of this Lobo?"**

**"I brought you the real bank robbers.**

**And this one, pointing at Duke, is the one who killed the two tellers.**

**Now Ranger, do you want the guilty one or just any one?"**

**"Can you prove that?" Said the Ranger.**

**"If you will bare with me." Said Lobo**

**The Ranger replied "For the moment I don't have a lot of choice."**

**Lobo took their saddle bags and threw them on the floor at the Ranger's feet.**

**"Check them out, they were getting ready to leave town."**

**The Ranger dumped the first one on the floor and out fell some clothes and money.**

**He counted the money, it was twenty five hundred dollars.**

**He dumped the other one out, also clothes and money.**

**He counted this one, it was seventy five hundred dollars.**

**The Ranger said "That's Ten Thousand Dollars, that's just the amount that was taken from the bank. "**

**Lobo said "Ranger How much money did you take from me when you arrested me?"**

**The Ranger replied "Around seven hundred dollars."**

**Lobo Said "That's a long way from ten thousand."**

**Lobo Pushed Duke at the Deputy and said. Take him in the other room and watch him." He did as he was told.**

**After they had gone Lobo removed the gag from Eldon's mouth.**

Then he asked him, "Eldon, what is your full name?"

He said "Its Eldon Ray Phelps."

Eldon can you read and write?"

"Naw I never got any schooling."

"Can you count?"

"My Maw used to sell eggs and she taught me to count to a dozen."

"Ranger will you stack the money up like it came out of the saddle bags?"

The Ranger did as he was asked.

"Now Eldon, do you see the little stack? That one is yours.

Now look at the size of Duke's stack.

Do you think he was on the level with you?"

"No Sir."

Eldon, Why did you kill them two tellers at the bank?"

"I Didn't kill them honest, it was Duke that did it not me.

The Ranger said "How did you get Lobo's gun and shirt and hat?"

"Duke slipped him a knock out pill in his drink. Then we took him to his room and went back to the saloon.

Later we went back and got the stuff and did the bank job.

I told Duke not to do no killing but he wouldn't Liston.

The big man started to cry "Them tellers only did what we told them to do. He had no reason to kill them.

I ain't never stole nothing in my life.

I ain't never hurt nobody that wasn't trying to hurt me.

you know what I mean?"

Lobo replied "Yes Eldon I know just what you mean."

The Ranger got up from his chair and told the deputy to bring Duke back in.

He untied them and put them in a cell.

Then he turned to the deputy and said " Go get the judge and bring him over here."

The deputy said "But the Judge will be asleep right now."

The Ranger said "So Wake him up."

He then turned to Lobo and said, I owe you a lot Lobo, I really thought you did it and I was looking forward to hanging you."

Lobo said "I'm not sorry to disappoint you Ranger."

It wasn't long till the Judge came in.

The Ranger told him all that had went down.

They took Eldon out of the cell and he told them all while the Judge listened."

They had a new trial and Lobo staid for that.

Duke was sentenced to hang, Lobo stayed for that also."

Eldon was given five years at hard labor.

Lobo got his money back from the Ranger and he also got a reward of one thousand dollars from the bank.

Before he left town he stopped by the Rangers office and left Eldon a hundred dollars And told him when he got out of prison he could come to the bank in Amarillo and get the rest of the Thousand.

The Ranger asked him why he did that?

Lobo told the Ranger it was Eldon that got him out of that fix.  
so he has it coming.

..

He also found the Chicago reporter Jeffery Sims.

The reporter said Well Mister Lobo, I see you made good your promises."

"Yes Mister Sims its funny that a man can find a friend in this world when he thinks he has none."

"So where are you headed Lobo?"

**"North Mister Sims, North, so you will just have to wait a while for the ending of your story."**

**"My story has ended Lobo, I hope to get many stories about you. I think the readers are going to love you."**

**Lobo smiled and held out his hand to shake hands and said**

**"Good-By Mister Jeffery Sims "**

**Sims smiled and said "So long Seenyor Lobo."**

**Lobo said "I thought it was you.**

**that was a big risk you took giving me that gun.**

**I may have had to kill someone getting out of that jail."**

**Sims said "Then my story would have had a different ending."**

**Lobo said "I could have been killed."**

**Sims said "I would still have had my story.**

**"You're a funny man, Mister Sims."**

**Well I'll be seeing you Lobo."**

## CHAPTER EIGHT JANE COLE

Lobo mounted his horse and left town and headed north.

The next three weeks brought no excitement into Lobo's life.

He was glad to have it that way for a while.

He wasn't sure but he thought he was out of Texas.

He had stopped at a stream to do some fishing.

He took out his hook and line, attaching it to a small sapling he had cut and trimmed.

He turned over a few rocks until he found him a good size cricket.

Lit him a cigarillo and made himself comfortable.

It wasn't long till he had himself enough for a good meal.

His appaloosa was grazing in a meadow close by

It was mid afternoon and Lobo was in no hurry so he decided to make camp there for the night.

He had finished his meal and had just sat down and lit another cigarillo when he heard his horse whinny.

He stood up and let out a loud whistle for his horse. He thought "Don't want to let him wonder to far.

It wasn't long until the horse came walking in.

Behind the appaloosa was another horse and there was a girl riding it.

Lobo said "Well boy, looks like you made a better catch than I did."

She was in her late teens or early twenties.

Very good looking, could even call her beautiful if she were in a dress.

She wore boots, jeans, a shirt, and a Stetson hat.

She had a rifle in her hand that lay across the saddle.

The girl looked down at him and said. "Who are you and what are you doing on Bar j land?"

Lobo replied "My name is Lobo and I have made camp here for the night."

She said, "Are you one of Ike Fisher's hired guns?"

I never heard of Ike Fisher and I'm nobodies hired gun at the present time.

Now I ask you, who are you?"

"My name is Jane Cole and we own this land.

and right now we don't like strangers hanging around.

"Well Princess, have I stumbled into a range war?"

"No, just a neighbor that's a stubborn old man."

"Are you in the market for a hired gun?"

"Maybe."

"How many men does Fisher have?"

He has his regular crew but he also has four hired guns that I know of.

How many do you have?"

We have no hired guns."

Lobo said "Well I am for hire."

"How much, and are you any good?" said the girl.

There was a large bolder about thirty feet away from them.

He found five rocks about the size of the top of a shot glass.

He took three of them and lay them on the top of the large bolder about six inches apart.

He moved away from the rock, about twenty five feet and turned his back to it.

With his right hand he threw the other two rocks into the air.

While the rocks were at there height he drew and fired two shots then turned.

Fanning the hammer with his left hand, He fired three more times at the three rocks on the bolder.

In about two seconds All five rocks were shattered.

Then he turned and walked back to her smiling and reloading his gun.  
"Five hundred dollars Princess, and I'm the best you will find anywhere."  
The girl smiled and said "Well I'll just bet you are.  
I'll hire you before Ike Fisher sees you.

Follow this stream down to the first road, turn left and go about two miles.  
ranch house is on the left. Be there around eight in the morning."

"I'll be there Princess." Said Lobo

"Do you know anything about cattle?" said the girl

Lobo replied " I was born and raised on a ranch."

"They killed my ramrod about three weeks ago, you can take his place."

Lobo asked "How was he killed?"

"I think One of Ike Fisher's hired guns shot him in the back.

but there is no way that I can prove who did it."

With that she turned her horse and rode away.

## CHAPTER NINE A PRINCESS FOR SURE

The next morning Lobo ate the rest of his fish.  
Then He saddled his horse and headed for the ranch.  
When he rode in one of the ranch hands came out of the barn.  
"What do you want here?" the man asked.  
Lobo said "I'm here to see Miss Jane"  
He got off of his horse and walked up and knocked.

The man went back to the barn.  
Jane Cole answered his knock on the door.  
This morning she was wearing a lavender dress that came down to her ankles.  
It revealed the shape of two very fine breast.  
and he was sure that she saw him looking at them.  
But the way the dress hugged her Brest one could not help but look.  
It fit tight down to the waist and fell loose to the ankles.  
And she was indeed, very very beautiful.  
Her hair was blond and hung down to her waist.  
Her eyes were blue, she greeted him with a smile that he had not expected.  
He seamed to feel week all over.  
He wondered if that was what it was like to fall in love.

"Good morning Lobo, welcome to the Bar j ranch.  
Have a seat on the porch and I'll bring us some coffee."  
This morning her voice was soft and sweet.  
Or was it just his imagination  
"Good morning Princess, thank you very much, He replied."  
He was looking the place over when she came out with the coffee.  
"You have a nice place here." said Lobo.  
"Thank you, we take a lot of pride in the place."  
"Who are we?" asked Lobo.



**"My invalet mother and I." said Jane.**

**"Pardon me for asking, but what is wrong with your Mother?"**

**"She was thrown from a horse about six years ago, hasn't been the same sence."**

**"Are you not married Princess?"**

**"No."**

**Why not, you are beautiful?"**

**"Thank you , but For one thing I haven't fallen in love."**

**Lobo asked "Who runs this ranch for you?"**

**She said "I have run it myself for the last five years.**

**my Father died two years ago but was sick for a long time."**

**Lobo said "You are not only beautiful but also very intelligent."**

**"Thank you very much."**

**Lobo said "Tell me about this Ike Fisher, what does he want?"**

**"He owns a ranch just east of the Bar J.**

**It's called Angels Run, it was named after his wife.**

**It's about half the size of this ranch.**

**She got sick and died about three years ago."**

**Now He wants my ranch and he wants my hand in marriage.**

**I don't intend for him to get either."**

**Lobo said "Well at least He has good taste.**

**What is he like and do you want him dead?"**

**"There is no way that I can order you to take a life."**

**"Good, that's the answer that I would have expected from you. But I will make that judgment when the time comes.**

**What is he like?"**

**Jane said "You will find out real soon, he's coming up the road."**

Lobo looked up the road at five men on horseback just turning into the gate of the ranch.

Lobo stood up to face them and said.

"maybe you should go inside Princess."

"But Lobo, There are five of them."

"Yes I know, please go inside."

As the men came to a stop Jane went inside the house.

The man in the lead yelled out "Jane I want to talk to you."

She gave him no answer.

He was a man of average height and weight and looked to be about forty five to fifty years old.

His attention was drawn to Lobo and he said.

"Who are you?"

Lobo said, "Any thing you have to say about this ranch, you can say to me."

Again The man said "Who the hell are you? Are you a hired gun?"

"My name is Lobo I'm the new Ramrod here."

"Did she tell you what happened to her last ramrod?"

"Yes she did, He was shot in the back by a snake in the grass."

One of the men seemed uneasy and moved his hand down by his gun.

The Boss man shifted his position on his horse and said.

"Look here Lobo, whatever she is paying I will double.

"You can't do that." Said Lobo.

"The man said "Why not, What are you getting for this job?"

Lobo looked him straight in the eye, smiled and said, Her hand in marriage."

The man's mouth dropped open, He just looked from side to side as if not knowing what more to say.

He then said, Kill him, then turned his horse around and rode away.

The other four did not move.

Lobo said to them, "Do you fellows have something in mind?"

One said, "Yes, we were told to kill you."

Lobo smiled, Then said "get on with it."

They went for there guns. When the smoke cleared Three were dead and the other had not even touched his gun.

Lobo holstered his gun and said, "Well are you going to try it?"

The last one said, "No Sir, I ain't never saw anything that fast."

Lobo said, "Then get out of here and don't come back."

The man turned his horse and left the ranch on the run.

When he got to the road he took the road away from Ike Fisher and Angel's Run.

Two of the ranch hands came running out of the bunkhouse.

Jane came out of the house and told the two men that Lobo was the new ramrod.

Lobo told them to put the dead men on the horses and send them home.

Then he told Jane, "Princess, I think our coffee is cold."

Jane smiled and said, "I'll get some more."

As they were drinking there coffee Jane begin to laugh.

"What's so funny Princess?" ask Lobo.

"When you told Ike you were getting my hand in marriage, he didn't know what to say."

"Well I found that the madder you make a fellow the more mistakes he makes."  
She said "His first mistake was taking you on, you are as fast as lightning."

## CHAPTER TEN THE SWIMMING HOLE

That night Jane's heard was spooked and stampeded by someone waving a white sheet.

One of her men went down and was killed.

Lobo ask Jane if she had a bow and arrow and a little dynamite.

She had some dynamite and one of the men that worked for her had a bow.

That night the two men went out and found Ike Fisher's heard.

There was about five thousand head all together in one valley.

When they set that dynamite off there was Ike Fisher cattle all over that part of the country.

Some of them ran until they dropped.

Things cooled down for a while.

Lobo had been there for about six weeks.

He thought he may not be needed there much longer.

He kind of hated having to leave Jane.

He knew it was for the best for He was falling in love with her.

The longer he stayed there the harder it would be to leave.

For he didn't think he would have a chance with her anyway.

One evening after supper Jane came to Lobo and said, "Will you take a ride with me Lobo?"

"Sure Princess." Said he

They left the ranch house and went to the stream where they first met.

She took a trail along the stream for about five or six miles.

As he followed her he was wondering where he was being led and for what purpose.

He thought about how good she looked in that dress she was wearing that first morning.

Now she was back in Levi's but still a fine looking woman.

Then the rushing of waters brought him back to reality.

The trail came to a small box canyon and they went in.

At the far end of the canyon there was a small water falls that fell into a Chrystal clear pool of water.

They got off of there horses.

She said "My Father brought me here the first time when I was about six or seven years old.

He taught me to swim here.

we would swim for hours then sometimes fall asleep on that rock out there.

"We always skinny dipped, but my Father never touched me."

I was thirteen the last time he came with me.

I guess I was getting too grown up.

I have been coming here alone every sence then.

You are the first man that I have ever brought in here.

Lobo said" This is a beautiful place, thank you Princess for showing it to me."

She said "Lobo I am trying to tell you that I am very attracted to you.

and I hope you will like it here and want to stay around

Lobo said "Princess , you don't even know me."

"I'm a good judge of people Lobo."

Lobo said "That gives me a lot to think about."

She looked at Lobo and said, "Can you swim?"

"Sure I can." He said

She sat down on a rock and took off her boots and socks.

Looked at Lobo and smiled and stood up and took off her shirt.

Giving him a full view of them lovely Brest that he had been dreaming about.  
Then she slid down her jeans and stepped out of them.  
She stood there smiling.  
He was in shock, She was fantastic, She was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.  
She had nothing on but that wonderful smile.  
Standing there not six feet away from him in the light of a full moon.  
She moved forward and kissed him.  
then she smiled again and said "Now you have something else to think about."  
He thought she had to be the most beautiful thing he ever saw, He had nicknamed her right.  
Her body was fantastic, he couldn't take his eyes off of her, She was indeed a Princess.  
She walked over to the edge and dove into the Chrystal clear water.  
Lobo came out of his clothes like a fast draw and hit that water .

They swim and touched and kissed and held each other.  
She took his hand and led him to a shallow part of the pool.  
They moved over to a large rock that had been warn smoothed by the water and heated by the sun.  
The sun had gone down and there was a full moon and a bright array of stars.  
There they lay holding each other.  
It was as if they were one and could not be separated.  
Time and time again they made love.  
He knew that she had never been this far before.  
And He had never experienced any thing like this before.

They had lost all track of time  
The moon was gone and the stars were starting to disappear.  
He could have stayed there for ever.  
But As the first ray of sunlight hit them She kissed him softly and said,  
"We must be going."

**They got up and washed off in the pool and got dressed and rode back to the ranch.**

## CHAPTER ELEVEN LOBO MEETS A FRIEND

The next evening Lobo went to see Jane.

"Princess do you know why Fisher wants your ranch so bad.

"This is the biggest ranch around, It's twice the size of his.

It's over one hundred and fifty thousand acres, and he think that a woman can't run a ranch.

My father taught me everything.

I have been running this ranch for the last five years.

Sence I was fifteen years old.

Everyone thought my father was making all the decisions, but it was me."

Why did you take over so early in life?

When my mother fell off of that horse my father blamed his self for it.

My mother did not like riding horses but she would on occasion.

One day my father was drunk and he saddled her a horse that was too mean and wild for her.

The horse took off at a run and my father came back in the house and passed out.

They found my mother the next day, she was almost dead. My Father stayed drunk most of the time after that.

When my father ran this ranch it was about half the size it is now, we had only cattle.

Now This Ranch has timber, Share cropper farms, Share Cropper orchards, coal mines, and cattle.

Also very soon, the largest flock of sheep in the country.

When my Father was in control of this ranch it was worth about five hundred thousand dollars.

Now it is worth over ten million dollars,

I will share my wealth with the man of my choosing, but lke Fisher is not him.



If My mother should dye I must get married within thirty days or lose all that I have.

I am twenty years old and can not own property till I am twenty five.

The law here says when two people are married that they must share ownership in all property.

Now when a man and woman share ownership that the man must have at least fifty one percent.

That would give him control over all that I have.

he's been trying every sence my Father died. "

"How did your Father die?"

"

They said he got rattlesnake bit and his heart gave out on him.

but There's no way Jud Cole ever got rattlesnake bit on his own."

"Is the box canyon on your property?"

"Yes, that is all mine, Why?"

"Well I want to go back up there and check it out, but I think it has silver in there."

The next day Lobo went back to the canyon.

As he stood there looking into the Chrystal clear water.

His mind wondered back to the night he spent there with Jane.

The soft tender loveliness of her body, he just couldn't get her out of his mind.

He got some of the best samples that he could find and put them in his saddlebags. He went back to the ranch and gave them to Jane.

He told her to take them to town to have them checked for silver.

She said, I'll put this in the safe for now, I want the canyon to stay just like it is."

Lobo said " I guess I will be moving along soon."

"Lobo it was my hope that you would like it here and want to stay around."

"That's just it, I'm boing to move on while I still have the will to do so."

"When will you be leaving?" she asked.

He replied "First thing in the morning."

She took his hand and led him inside where he spent one of the greatest nights of his life.

The next morning he awoke to the smell of bacon frying.

He got up and she gave him breakfast and coffee.

As he ate she talked, "What is your real name Lobo?"

"Tom Masters the third he told her."

"Well Tom Masters the third, Take my hand in marriage and you will have fifty one percent of everything that I have.

That will make you a very rich man.

I am worth around Twenty million dollars.

That is why Ike Fisher wants me so bad."

"How do you know that I won't take advantage of you if you give me that much power?"

"I have to trust my feelings and I don't think you would do that."

Lobo said "That's one hell of an offer but I need time to think about it.

I always figured I would marry for love.

and I think I love you but marriage is for life and I want to be sure."

She said "How much time do you need?"

"I don't know." Said Lobo

She said "I'll wait a year if my mother makes it that long.

but keep in touch, don't go getting yourself killed." Then she kissed him.

He then went and saddled his horse

and left the ranch and headed north.

He had been in no hurry to see any people.

He had even bypassed a couple of towns to keep from going where the people were.

He had some thinking to do.

If he took her up on her offer he would be set for life.

He would have everything that he ever wanted.  
But was he in love? Just because he couldn't keep his mind off of her.  
He didn't know the answer to that.  
Jane was a hell of a beautiful woman and she was nobody's fool that's for sure.  
When He had the answer to all these questions then He would know what to do.  
One thing is for sure, he could not get that night in the canyon out of his mind.  
With about two hours of daylight left he stopped to make camp and cook a jack  
rabbit that he had shot.  
He had just got the rabbit cleaned and over a good fire when he heard someone  
say.

"Mind if I join you friend?"

Lobo looked at the man, he looked to be in his mid to late forties.  
He wore Levi's and a light blue shirt and a light buckskin jacket with a white  
hat.

He had a Colt 45 hung high on his right hip.

By no means did he look like a hired gun.

"Come on in." said Lobo

The man came in and took the saddle and bridle off his horse and turned him  
loose with the appaloosa.

"My name is Harvey Johnson." Said the man.

"I'm Lobo. He replied pour you a cup of coffee."

"Been traveling long?"

"Forever." Said Lobo

Harvey laughed, "I know what you mean, I left home ten years ago to make my  
fortune and I ain't had over twenty dollars in my pocket sence."

"Maybe you should go back home." Said Lobo

"I did two years ago, the house was burned down and neighbors say wife and  
two children died in the fire."

**"That's too bad." Said Lobo as he leaned forward to put some salt and pepper on the rabbit.**

**"Yah, She was a good God fearing woman, but I just had to see what was over that other hill."**

**"Did you see what was over that hill?" said Lobo**

**"Yep, said Harvey, "Another damn hill."**

**"That's what makes this life interesting said Lobo there's always another hill."**

**"I guess that's one way to look at it said Harvey, "  
Lobo said "Where are you headed?"**

**"Where ever my horse takes me I guess. Answered Harvey  
I've heard that name Lobo before.**

**Are you some kind of gun fighter or something?"**

**"Lobo laughed "I am a hired gun, I am the fastest gun there is or ever was.  
The only trouble with that is the day of the fast guns are just about over."**

**At that time Lobo came to his feet, drew his gun and shot one time just a foot away from Harvey.**

**It was so fast that Harvey froze where he was.**

**"Wa Wa What was that for. "**

**Lobo pointed to Harvey's left side where there lay a big rattle snake with it's head missing.**

**Lobo said, I just shot our breakfast."**

**"My God said Harvey was that a lucky shot or are you that good?"**

**"I'm that good." Said Lobo.**

**The rabbit got done and Lobo took his knife out and cut it down the middle and they ate.**

**After eating he cut the rattle snake up and cooked it and rapped it up for breakfast.**

**After eating Lobo gave Harvey a cigarillo.**

they talked for about an hour then turned in. Lobo fell asleep thinking about Jane and the falls and the crystal pool of water.

He was wondering if he should have told her yes when she ask him to marry her.

After all just saying I do would make him one of the richest men in Arkansas.

Well he thought, if she was telling the truth he had almost a year to make up his mind.

Then sleep came and there she was.

Standing there nude in front of him.

Then she moved close and kissed him and said "Marry me Lobo and stay with me forever.

Morning came and they awoke and got a fire going and had coffee and Rattle snake for breakfast.

.

As they smoked Harvey said "You sure do a lot of talking in your sleep."

Lobo said "What was I talking about?"

"Somebody named Princess and fifty one percent.

well I'll go run down them horses if you're ready to move on.

I would like to ride along with you if it's alright with you."

Lobo said "That's fine with me, enjoy the company."

Then he let out a loud whistle.

the Appaloosa came running with Harvey's horse right behind it.

Harvey said "that takes a lot of work out of breaking camp."

Lobo said "We're a team, we've been together a long time."

They saddled them up, mounted then headed down the road looking for another hill.

Lobo and his new found friend had been together about three days.

Up to this time they had not come to a town of any size.

On the fourth day about one in the afternoon they rode into a town. It had a saloon, a general store, a blacksmith shop and a court house with a jail. There was also a hotel and some houses around on each end of the town.

Lobo said, "this looks like a nice place to stay for a few days." They stopped at the blacksmith and told him to feed and take care of the horses. Then they went to the hotel and got each of them a room. In the back of the hotel was a public bath.

They took a bath got their clothes washed got a shave and hair cut. Lobo paid for all and then they went to the saloon. They went inside, there was about six men in there drinking and shooting pool. At a table in the corner was a table with four saloon girls around it. Lobo asked Harvey if he liked blonds or brunettes. Harvey said he liked blonds.

Lobo walked over to the table where the girls were and took two of them by the hand and told them to come with him. As he passed the bar he told the bartender to bring beer for four. Along about five P M they told the girls to get ready to go to dinner. They went and changed their clothes and they all went to dinner at the hotel restaurant. After dinner they all went for a walk then wound up back up at the saloon.

They drank and partied till about midnight. At that time they went to the Hotel and we will give them their privacy for the rest of the night. The next night they did it all again with the other two girls. The next day was Sunday, which they rested.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### TEXAS JACK

On Monday they saddled up, mounted, and headed north.  
As they left town Harvey said , "Lobo I'll say one thing about you, you sure know how to party."  
Lobo thought "all that did not compare to that night in the box canyon."

Lobo and Harvey was in no hurry so they were just letting the horses walk along.

There was a stage passed them.

He was moving pretty good so it wasn't long until it disappeared over the nest hill.

Then came a half a dozen shots from that direction.

They took off in a dead run to see what was going on.

When they got to the top of the hill they could see a hold up going on.

The stage was stopped and there were three men with mask on there faces.

They were about three hundred yards from the action.

Lobo stopped his horse and got off with his rifle in his hand.

He took ame at one of the men on a horse and fired.

The man grabbed his chest and fell to the ground.

He then took ame on the other on horseback and fired.

He also fell to the ground.

The third man threw down his gun and held his hands above his head.

Lobo and Harvey moved up to where the stage was.

They put all the men on horses and told the driver to go on

Then they took the three men to the next town to the sheriff.

There were rewards of three hundred on two of them and five hundred on the other.

They were told that it would take about ten days to get there money.

They went and got a hotel room after getting the horses tended to.

Then they went to the saloon .

There was only one man in the saloon other than the bartender, and they both looked half asleep.

Harvey said to Lobo, Man what an exciting ten days this is going to be.

On the third day They heard the sound of an automobile.

It rolled up and stop in front of the saloon.

They saw five men get out of it.

They walked in to the saloon and three of them sat down at a table in the corner.

The other two went to the bar and was talking to the bartender.

Lobo and Harvey were standing at the other end of the bar.

Lobo saw the bartender point at them and say something to the two men.

The two men looked at them then walked over to them.

Lobo had his left hand on the bar and the right hang by his side.

One of the men said "Do you own that Appaloosa down at the livery?"

"He's mine" said Lobo.

"I will buy him said the man, name your price."

Lobo replied "He is not for sale at any price."

The man laughed "Young man, do you not know who you are talking to?"

I will have that horse if I wish to so you mite as well sell him to me."

Lobo replied "Do you not know who you are talking to? I told you he is not for sale.



And I will kill any man who tries to take him from me."

The man looked over at the table and held up his hand pointing to one of them.

The man stood up and walked over beside the other man.

The man then turned to Lobo and said, "This is Texas Jack and he is the fastest gun alive.

Then the man walked away.

Texas Jack said "By what name are you called?"

"They call me Lobo."

Texas Jack said "I have heard of you, I have been hoping we would meet."

Lobo said "Why, are you tired of living?"

Texas Jack gave a little laugh then said "You have a sence of humor."

The two men stared at eath other for a while.

Then Lobo said "What are you here for?"

"To kill you." Said Texas Jack

"Then get on with it." Said Lobo

Both men went for there guns and shots rang out.

When all was done Texas Jack was laying on the floor in his own blood

Lobo had returned his gun to it's holster and was still standing at the bar.

The other four men was heading for the door.

Harvey watched them until they were out of town.

At that time Lobo said to Harvey "Lets go find a doctor I seam to be leaking."

He held up his hand and it was full of blood.

He had been hit in his left side.

They found a doctor at the edge of town.

He took the bullet out and sewed him up.

He put a bandage on him and told him to stay in bed for a few days.

Lobo told Harvey to keep a close eye on the appaloosa.

Harvey said he would do that so Lobo went to the hotel to go to bed.  
Harvey had all Lobo's meals brought to his room.  
He had been in bed for about three days when Harvey came to his room.

Lobo sat up to talk to him.  
Harvey lay a small bundle on the bed.  
Lobo picked it up and looked at it.  
It had sixteen hundred dollars in it.  
Lobo said "Why sixteen hundred?"  
Harvey said "Wells Fargo gave five hundred for a reward for stopping the hold up."  
Lobo counted out eight hundred and gave it to Harvey.  
"Now Harvey you can't say you haven't had more than twenty dollars to your name."  
"What are you doing? Said Harvey I did nothing to earn this."  
Lobo answered "You were with me, that's enough.

"But you gave me half of the money."  
"Well you took care of me sence I got shot."  
"But I don't want anything for that."  
Take a hundred and go pay our bills around town.  
Pay us up for two more days."  
"I can do that." said Harvey.  
They stayed two more days and then left town headed north.  
As they rode Harvey said "You know Lobo a man could do real good bounty hunting. Some of them fellows are worth two or three thousand dollars."  
"Well Harvey, it's O K if you do it like we did. But when you start making a career out of it then people get to know you as a bounty hunter. "

"So what's wrong with that Lobo."

**“Well Harvey most of the men you are chasing would rather put a bullet in your back than take a chance facing you.”**

**“I see what you mean Lobo, guess I just wasn’t thinking.”**

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN LADIES IN DISTRESS

They decided to cut across country to enjoy the wilderness.  
There was plenty of game for them to eat and lots of good grazing for the horses.  
They had traveled for about six days without seeing anyone at all.

Finally they came to a road that was headed east and west  
It looked like it had not been traveled for a long time but they took it to the west.  
It was grown up a lot but they hoped that it would lead them to a road going north.  
They traveled that road for about two days and found nothing.

They were just about to give up and leave it when they came upon a log cabin.  
It had smoke coming out of the chimney so they knew that someone lived there.  
They stopped and yelled "You in the cabin, is anyone there?"  
A reply "What do you want?"  
"Directions." Said Lobo  
The door opened a little and someone peeked out.  
Then it opened a little more and a man came out of the door.  
He had long hair and a long beard and was covered only with a blanket.  
He said "Where are you trying to go?"  
"Where is the closest town?" asked Lobo  
The man said "Take this road on about five miles the first road you come to. ."

**"What is the name of the town?"**

**"I only know there is a road, I don't know about a town."**

**"Thank You very Much." Said Lobo**

**The man nodded and went back into the house.**

**They went on there way.**

**They had only went about two miles when they saw two young women come out of the bushes onto the road and wave at them.**

**They both had a sheet with a hole cut in it for there head to go through. They had a strip of the sheet tied around the waist to hold the sheet closed.**

**They wore no shoes or stockings.**

**Lobo and Harvey stopped and the girls came over to them. They were both very pretty young women.**

**One said "will you please take us out of here?"**

**Lobo asked, " Who was that man at the cabin?"**

**"He was our brother but he has done wrong by us."**

**"How has he done you wrong?"**

**He has kept us here and enslaved us to do his will. We hate him and disown him as our brother. If you will not help us we shall die here."**

**Lobo puts his hand down to her and tells her to put her foot on his and swing up behind him. Harvey did the same for the other one.**

**They still had about six hours of daylight left so they rode about five of them.**

**Lobo had shot a couple of rabbits on the way down that road.**

**So at least they had something for supper.**

**When they stopped the women started skinning the rabbits. After they unsaddled the horses Lobo and Harvey gathered firewood and started a fire.**

**The rabbits made a very good supper.**

**After supper the women told all.**

**Them and there brother Albert Andrew.**

The women were Lucy and May bell Andrew.

They were all going west to meet there parents who had gone on to Hollow Rock Kansas.

Albert was thirty at the time and the girls were eleven and twelve.

They got off on a wrong road and got lost. They found the cabin and decided to stay there for a winter.

Then one night a BEAR killed the horses and almost got Albert.

But with a real lucky shot Albert killed the BEAR.

But they were stuck there with no way out.

Then Albert started smoking what he called Indian tobacco and it made him crazy.

He started getting real rough with the girls and making them do things that a brother should not make his sister do.

they tried to get him to stop smoking that tobacco but he wouldn't.

They said they had been there about ten years.

The next morning they went on in to town.

The name of the town was Tombstone.

They took the women to the ladies clothing store and told them to get them a bath and some new clothes and shoes.

Lobo went to the telegraph office.

He sent a telegraph to hollow rock Kansas.

Any information on a family named Andrew.

Do they know

Albert Andrew

Lucy Andrew

May Bell Andrew.

Return info requested

Right away it came back, we have a couple named Andrew.

Don't know about the other names will find out and let you know.

Lobo told the clerk to let him know as soon as an answer came back.

Then he handed him a five dollar bill and walked out.

The clerk looked at the five and said "Yes Sir, I sure will.

Then Lobo caught up with Harvey at the saloon.

Harvey said "Are we going to take them girls to there mother? Lobo."

"Well that mite be fun but it's a long trip with a couple of women."

"I Was just thinking the same thing." Said Harvey

Lobo replied "I think we will just send them there on the stage, of cores it won't hurt to keep them here for a few days."

"Now you are talking Lobo."

The telegram came back that the names mentioned were the Andrew's missing children

Lobo sent one back that the girls were fine and would let them know more about the son in a few days.

Lobo went to talk to May Bell, he told her about getting in touch with her parents. She was overjoyed.

"May Bell, said Lobo if I bring your brother in and get him off of that Indian tobacco can you girls forgive him for what he has done?"

"Oh yes Lobo, all we ever wanted was for him to get well."

"Does he have a gun?"

"He does but he has any bullets for it."

O K we will go back out there and try to catch him and bring him in.

**We may have to lock him up when we get him back."**

**The next day they rented a horse with saddle and left town.**

**It was about two hours before dark when they got to the cabin. They walked into the cabin and Albert was laying on the bed.**

**He was alive but looked like he had not eaten for a long time.**

**They got him to sit up and gave him some food that they had brought with them.**

**He tied into that food like a wild man.**

**They helped him put some clothes on they had brought. Then they took him out and tied him to the other horse and headed back to town.**

**It was a moon light night so they made good time.**

**The sheriff agreed to lock him up for a while to see how he was going to act.**

**He just sit there with his head down.**

**When the girls came in to see him he started to cry.**

**They told him to just get well so they could all go to be with mom and dad.**

**The girls brought them all the food that he could eat.**

**The next morning Lobo came to the jail and got him and took him to get a bath, a haircut and a shave and some new boots and clothes.**

**He did not look like the same man.**

**They found out that the stage would not be there for about a week.**

**They got Albert his own room and Lobo and Harvey spent the next week with the girls collecting there rewards.**

**The day came when the stage came in.**

**They all were ready and eager to go. They all thanked Lobo and Harvey and got on the stage and they were gone.**

**Lobo looked at Harvey and said "Come on Harvey, lets get a drink."**

**Harvey replied "Now that's one damn good idea.**



**They went to the saloon and had a drink.**

**Then they went and got the horses and rode out of town headed North.**

## CHAPTER FORETEEN HAYSE & CURRY

As they rode "Lobo, said Harley, it sure feels good what we did for them girls and there brother.

"Well Harley they needed help and I don't know anywhere else they would have gotten it.

You're right there Lobo, we sure spent a bit of money but it was worth every cent.

"Well, You can't take it with you.

Harley said "Where are we going now Lobo?"

"Well Harley, lets see what's over that hill yonder.

They both laughed and poked there horses into a gallop and headed for that hill.

Other than a rider or a buckboard headed the other way they had no contact with anyone for three days.

They had been riding for about seven hours on the third day.

Lobo had shot a young dear and was looking for a good place to make camp.

They came to an area with a down tree and a spring for water and lots of grass for the horses.

"Harvey you get some firewood and build a fire and I will clean this dear."

"You got it Lobo."

They took saddles and bridles off of the horses and turn them loose.

It wasn't long until a young dear was cooking over a camp fire.

Our Duo was sitting there talking about the past three towns they were in.

Harley said, "There ain't nothing like a smoke and good conversation."

"Right you are Harley."

At that time they heard horses walking down the road, and then come into view.  
There was two riders coming at them.  
They had maybe one half hour of daylight left.  
The two men stopped on the road and looked there way.  
One got off of his horse and walked toward them.  
As he got close to the camp fire Lobo recognized him.  
At the same time the man recognized Lobo.  
"Hello Kid." Said Lobo

"Hi Lobo, "It's a small world ain't it."  
Lobo said "Harvey this is Kid Curry and that fellow on the road is Hannibal Hays."  
The famous Hannibal Hays and Kid Curry, I feel like I'm in royalty, I'm real glad to meet you both."  
Lobo said , "Yawl come on and join us in this dear, it will be done in a while.  
The Kid waved his hand at Hannibal to come in.  
They turned there horses loose and joined the other two.  
Lobo said, "I figured Yawl were hung by now."

"Almost but not quite." Said the Kid.  
They had good conversation until the dear was done. Then they devoured the dear, had a smoke and turned in for the night.  
When Lobo awoke the next morning he saw Hays going through his saddle bags.  
He sat up and said "Where I come from you don't share a mans camp then go through his things.  
Hays said" I figure you owe me Lobo."

Lobo stood up and said "You have wore out your welcome here so pack it up and get out

The Kid stood up to face Lobo, he said nothing.

Hays said are you telling Kid Curry to get out of this camp?"

Lobo replied "I'm telling you to get out of this camp, the Kid has done nothing, he can do what he wants."

"And what if I choose not to leave what will you do?"

Lobo said "Your reward poster said dead or alive."

Hayes Laughed and said "Come on kid lets get our horses and get out of here.

Lobo talks like he's the fastest gun alive.

But of Corse we know that the Kid already has that title."

Lobo said "I like you Kid but this man is going to get you killed one of these days."

The Kid said "Well Lobo I guess we may just have to find out some day who is the fastest."

"Kid I already know the answer to that.

but if you have to die to prove it then that's your choice."

A few moments later and they were gone.

Lobo said "Harvey there goes ten thousand dollars that I thought we may have to collect."

"Do you think you could have beat the kid Lobo?"

"Harvey, until I get beat I will always think I can win. I don't think there is a man alive that can beat me."

"Yes, I saw you draw against Texas Jack and I believe you are right." Replied Harvey.

Lobo said "I wouldn't want anyone to come closer than Texas Jack did.

But we put the fear of God into them other fellows didn't we."

"Well you did." Said Harvey.

Lobo whistled for his horse and they both came running.

They saddled up, mounted and headed north.

**They rode in that direction for many days.**

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN WATER RIGHTS

They had stopped for the night and made camp. After eating they just leaned back against a tree and smoked and drank coffee.

It was a clear night with no moon and billions of stars.

Harley said "Lobo do you think there are other worlds like ours out there somewhere."

Lobo said "It sure seems likely to me Harvey as many as we can see out there."

"I hear that Lobo and they say that it goes on a long way, so far we can't even see."

"Well Harley that could be right but I don't know who they are, and I don't think anyone has been up there to find out."

Harley said "I wonder if man will ever fly among the stars?"

"Don't talk crazy Harley, there's no way that man will ever fly."

"What about them Wright Brothers up there in New York?"

"What Wright

Brothers is that Harvey?"

"I read somewhere Lobo that a couple of Wright boys built some kind of contraption that flew."

Lobo said as he moved over to his bed "I would have to see that to believe it. Only birds can fly Harley, Only birds and bullets.

Harley said "Ya I guess you could be right friend." And went to bed

Under a star lit sky, a crackling fire and the sound of an old Hoot Owl.

They drifted off to sleep.

"Come into my arms Tom Masters the third."

"My God Princess you look lovely standing there naked by the stream. "

"It's all for you Tom, all you must do is say I do and sign your name."

"Yes Princess I want to, I love you."

"I'm worth Ten million dollars Tom, you get fifty one percent."

**"I don't care about the money, I love you Princess."**

**"I love you Princess. I Love You Princess"**

**"I love-----"**

**Lobo are you alright? Hay Lobo wake up, Are you alright?"**

**Lobo sat up and looked around, he heard Harley say**

**"Are you alright Lobo? Who is Princess. "**

**Lobo said "Did you wake me up?"**

**"Yes Lobo, you were yelling Princess I love you and the money doesn't matter."**

**"Damn, I was having a hell of a dream."**

**"Lobo this Princess must be a real dynamite woman."**

**"That she is Harley, that she is."**

**Lobo told Harvey all about Jane and the offer she had made him.**

**Harley said "Well I don't know about you Lobo but if that offer was put to me I would never have left her alone."**

**Then one day as they entered into a valley, they came upon a small farm house. It was late afternoon and very hot.**

**They could see a child playing in the yard and a couple of people on the porch.**

**They turned in to the yard and got off of there horses.**

**The man on the porch got up and walked to the edge of the porch.**

**"Mind if we water our horses" said Lobo.**

**"It's God's water but please stay below the spring, that's our drinking water to." said the man.**

**The man looked at them and said "Been traveling far?"**

**"Yep said Lobo**

**"Got far to go?"**

**"Yep" Said Lobo.**

**The man said "My name is Will Sands."**

**Lobo answered "They call me Lobo, and this is Harvey Johnson.**

**Will said "We were just getting ready to sat down to supper, you are welcome to join us if you are hungry."**

**Lobo said "Thank you very much."**

Will yelled in the door and said "Wilma Set two more plates for supper, we have company."

Will said "We only have biscuits and eggs, but we have plenty of that."

They all went inside. Lobo took off his hat and gun belt and hung them on a nail beside the door.

Harvey did the same.

They sat down and had a very fine meal with lots of coffee.

Lobo ask Will how the farm was doing.

Will said "It would do great if we were left alone."

"What do you mean" Said Lobo.

"Well said Will I have one hundred acres here and the ranch next to me has five thousand acres but that's not enough for him, he wants mine to.

I strand barbed wire around my farm to keep his cattle out of my crops but his men cut my fence and drive his cattle in.

"Why does he want your land so bad?"

Will said "For the spring out there, it never stops running.

There was a long drought two years ago. That spring was the only water in this valley."

Lobo said "What is the Ranchers name?"

Will answered "His name is Marlow."

Lobo said "Maybe things will work out in the end.

Will said "I sure hope so, I have asked God for help in this matter but I guess He has more important things to take care of right now.

."

At that time they heard horses coming down the road.

Lobo and Harvey got up and put on there hats and gun belts and followed will out on the porch.

Six riders came into the yard and stopped in front of the porch.

Will said "Hello Mister Marlow, what can I do for you ?"

Marlow looked at Lobo and Harvey and then at will and said "You know what I want Will, I want this land."

"I have told you many times Mister Marlow this land is not for sale."



Marlow said "Listen to me you dumb sod buster, this is ranch country now you are the only farmer left, you can't hold out."

Lobo spoke up and said "It looks like what we have here is everyone is talking but no one is listening."

Marlow said "Who are you and what do you mean?"

"My name is Lobo and what I mean is go away and come back in an hour to talk to this man and not to order him. You may be surprised at what you get done."

Marlow said "I came when I wanted to and I will leave when I choose to."

Lobo said "You can also choose to live or die."

At that time a kid about twenty years old on the right side of Marlow swung his leg over his saddle and slid off of his horse.

He had a colt 45, he wore it low on his left side.

It hang right under his hand so there was not much movement.

He said "so you are some kind of fast gun are you."

Lobo said "You mite say that, Is this your son Marlow?"

Marlow said "That's my Son."

Lobo said "Do you want him Dead?"

Marlow said "He makes his own decisions."

Lobo said "Well Kid you must be pretty fast."

The Kid said "real damn fast."

Lobo said "Well whenever you are ready."

The Kid's hand moved, His hand fell on the butt of his gun.

At that second he saw Lobo's pointed at his face and the hammer pulled back."

The Kid froze where he was."

Lobo walked over to the Kid and took his gun.

He then stepped back and told the Kid to get back on his horse. He did.

Lobo threw Marlow the Kids gun and said

"Now Mister Marlow, I give you the life of your son, so come back in an hour alone and ready to talk."

Marlow took his men and left.

Will said "Do you think he will be back alone.

"Don't know said Lobo you know him better than I."

At that time Harvey said "Will who owns the land across the road?"

Will said "That belongs to Marlow also."

Harvey said "Is that all Marlow is interested in is water?"

Will said "I think so."

Harvey walked across the road and looked at the land.

Lobo walked over to him and said "What are you thinking Harvey

Harvey said "Why don't we dig a ditch across the road and channel this water into this little valley over here?"

If we dam that other end it will make a real good pond for his cattle."

Also when this one gets full there is another bigger one farther down below there.

It was more like two hours when Marlow came back but he was alone.

He rode up into the yard and said "Hello Will I am here to talk to you."

Will said "Get down Mister Marlow and come up on the porch for a cup of coffee."

Will said "Now Mister Marlow I know why you want my farm so bad but it is not for sale. However I think we may have solved the problem of water for your cattle."

"I'm listening ." said Marlow.

Will said "This spring runs twenty four hours a day, three hundred sixty five days a year. The only thing is that it runs right back into the ground about five hundred yards down the road there.

"What about it?" said Marlow.

Will said "What if we dug a channel across the road into that little valley over there. Sooner or later it would fill it up.

That would make you a real nice pond for your cattle.

Marlow looked across the road and then back at will and back across the road and said" You know that sounds just dumb enough to work."

Will said of cores "I will expect some kind of compensation for my water."

Marlow said "Of cores if it works."

They all get up and walk across the road and look at the layout of the land there.

Will said "It will work."

Lobo said "Mister Marlow having a farm in your valley is not a bad thing. You don't all eat just stake but you eat vegetables with it."

Marlow said "If this works I don't care about that little piece of ground."

Lobo said "Then you won't mind replacing his fence that your men cut."

Marlow said "I'll fix it."

Marlow looked at Will's little girl and said

"For your water I will give you one milk cow for the kid.

Also three cows a year to butcher."

Will said "That sounds very fair Mister Marlow."

Marlow brought some of his men out the next day.

They dug the ditch and put a bridge over it using trees from the little valley.

Then they built a dam at the lower end of the valley and went on down and built another dam at the end of the lower valley .

Lobo and Harvey spent about two weeks there to make sure it was working.

At that time the little valley had about a foot of water in it

Lobo said "Well Harvey looks like all is well here so we had better move on."

Will said "Well fellows I guess God wasn't to busy to help me after all."

Lobo and Harvey said there good bys to Will and his family and mounted up and moved on.

When they would come to a town they would stop and get a good meal and rest a day or two then move on.

They stopped in a small town.

"I hope they got something here to eat Lobo"

"Me to Harvey I'm starved for a good stake."

"Lobo there's a saloon and it says food on the window."

"I see it Harvey, I hope they ain't talking about beans."

"Me to Lobo."

They walked into the saloon and got a table in the corner.

A lady about fifty came over and ask them what they wanted.

Lobo said "Do you have any stake?"

**"Yes" said the lady.**

**"Then I'll have a stake and four eggs and two biscuits and a beer."**

**Harvey spoke up and said "That sounds good, I'll have the same."**

**She said "How do you want then?"**

**Lobo said "My stake well done my eggs over light."**

**Harvey said "Well done on all."**

**While waiting on the stakes they had one beer and ordered another.**

**Harvey said "Lobo that big man at the bar has been giving us the evil eye every sence we came in here."**

**Lobo looked at the man "No big deal Harvey, he's not even packing a gun."**

**Harvey said "I wouldn't want to shoot him anyway it mite make him mad."**

**Lobo said "You could be right Harvey."**

**The lady brought the food to them and they started eating.**

**The big man started talking about how mean he was.**

**"I can whip any man alive, I ain't never been beat. I'll give five to one odds that no one can whip me in a fist fight.**

**Harvey and Lobo finished there meals and lit a cigarillo.**

**Harvey said "Lobo ain't we getting pretty low on money, I just got a little over a hundred."**

**Lobo said "That's about what I got Harvey.**

**Harvey stood up and took off his coat, hat and gun belt.**

**Lobo said "What are you going to do Harvey?"**

**Harvey said "I'm going to get us some more money."**

**He called the lady over and paid for the food and gave her a nice tip.**

**He took a hundred out of his pocket and walked over to the bar.**

**He stopped about ten feet from the big man and said "That's real good odds big man, How much can you cover?"**

**Big man looked at him and smiled, How much you want to bet?"**

**Harvey said "A hundred dollars at five to one odds.**

**Big man said "Cal, get me five hundred out of the safe."**

**Lobo said" I'll put a hundred on my friend here at them odds."**

**Big man said Cal, make that a thousand."**

The lady brought him a thousand dollars, He picked up the two hundred and put them with the thousand.

He laid it on the bar and told Harvey to count it.

Harvey picked it up and counted it and put it in his pocket.

The big man said "What do you think you are doing."

Harvey said "If you whip me you take it back.

The big man started laughing, He then put up his fist and said "Lets get it going."

Harvey said "Hold it friend, lets take it out in the street.

Big man turned and walked out the door and Harvey followed him out.

Big man swung at Harvey with a punch that was mint to end the fight, but it missed.

In return Harley hit big man with about six punches in his eyes.

Big man laughed a little then took another swing. It missed also.

Harvey answered with a hard right to the mid section and four to his left eye.

The eye was beginning to close.

Harvey danced around the man throwing a left jab and then a hard right.

Big man was now swinging wild .

Harvey closed the left eye and was working on the right.

He still had not hit Harvey even one time.

Thirty minutes more and the big man was blind.

Harvey could hit him at will.

Finely Harvey just walked away from the big man.

He was still out in the street swinging his fist.

Harvey went inside and got his coat, hat and gun belt.

Cal said "He is still on his feet, he's not beaten."

Harvey said "He is blind for a time, I don't want to kill him."

Cal said "Alright get out and never come back here.""

they got on there horses and left town.

As they rode away he was still out in the street swinging at the air.

Lobo said "Harvey I didn't know you could fight like that."

Lobo I was middle weight champ of the world for two years."

Then he handed Lobo six hundred dollars.

Cal went out to the big man and said "Honey stop swinging your fist the fight is over.

"Did I get him Cal? I can't see Did I get him?"

"You got him honey, you just can't be beat you know that.

Now come on in and let me put something on your eyes."

"Get my money out of his pocket."

"I have it Honey, I'll put it back in the safe."

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN GOING HOME

They had been following a river north for about a week.  
Then they came to a bridge and crossed the river and headed West.  
As soon as they got across the bridge.  
There was a sign that read KANSAS state line

Lobo said "You know Harvey, I didn't even know we were close to Kansas.

"Well where did you think we was Lobo?"

"I don't know, guess I just wasn't keeping track."

"Well Lobo do you want to go to Kansas?"

"Harvey do you like brown sugar pie?"

"Well Lobo I don't think I have ever ate brown sugar pie.

Lobo said "My Mother makes the best brown sugar pie in the world.

Then he ask, Harvey, have you ever been to Dodge City?"

"No Lobo, I never have.

Do you know someone in Kansas Lobo?"

"Yes I do Harvey, my Mother and Father live just outside Dodge City,

They have a ranch there, I was born there."

Lobo nudged the appaloosa and headed west into Kansas.

Harvey followed.

Three days later they had just crossed a small stream and was moving through some rocks when they heard a shot.

Lobo fell to the ground and did not move.

Harvey jumped off of his horse and pulled Lobo behind a large rock.

A bullet hit the rock that was shielding them. Then another and then another.

The bullet had just glanced off of Lobo's head, knocking him out.

Harvey could see someone between two rocks as he moved around.

about one hundred yards away.

He took a couple of shots at him but missed.

After a while Lobo woke up and asked what happened.

Harvey told him he had been shot.

Harvey took the bandanna from Lobo's neck.

He got the blood stopped on Lobo's head.

He also told him that the man was still up in the rocks.

Lobo told Harvey to shoot where he thought the man was.

When Harvey shot his gun, Lobo saw movement between the rocks.

Lobo said "Harvey you fire a shot at him every once in a while.

Try to draw his fire but keep your head down."

Harvey said "I'll do the best I can Lobo but I don't shoot well."

Harvey started shooting and Lobo crawled around some rocks.

He could hear the gunfire from Harley's forty five and more from a rifle.

He moved around until he found his horse.

He got his rifle off of his horse and started climbing up in the rocks.

Finely He was high enough to get a look at the attacker.

He was about thirty yards from the shooter.

"Well he thought my old friend the Breed is out for revenge."

He took aim at the bald spot on the back of his head and fired.

The bullet hit the breed's head, it exploded.

His brains was scaddered all over the rocks.

Lobo made his way down to his horse and yelled at Harvey to come to him.

Harvey's horse was just a little ways away.

When Harvey walked up he handed Lobo his hat.

They rode till almost dark then made camp for the night.

Lobo's head was splitting, he had one hell of a head ace.

Harvey said "Who was shooting at us Lobo?"

"He was called the Breed, I shot him in both elbows and then scalped him alive.

Let that be a lesson to me if you shoot a man kill him so he won't come back."

"



Three weeks later they rode into Dodge City Kansas.  
The first thing Lobo noticed other than the rail road was a big sign on the front of a building that said THE CATTLE KING  
Under that was the name EDWARD KING  
When they passed the saloon Harvey said "Are we going to stop and get a drink Lobo?"  
Lobo said "Not this time Harvey, we'll come back later."  
They rode on until they came to a ranch house on the left and they rode into the corral.  
They took saddles and bridles off of the horses and put them on the fence then they fed the horses.  
They went inside but there was no one home.  
They came back out and sat on the porch.  
Harvey said "Who lives here Lobo?"  
"My Father and Mother Harley,  
this is where I was born.  
Well It's a nice place Lobo  
I have been away for seven years and I didn't know how much I missed it.  
Just then a wagon pulled into the yard with a man and woman on it.  
Lobo got up and went out to the wagon.  
He went to the side where the woman sat and held his hands up.  
The woman fell into his arms crying.  
They held each other for a long time. When they parted he shook hands with the man and then hugged him.

They all came up on the porch and Lobo said "Harvey meet Tom and Liz Ann Masters, My Father and Mother.  
Liz said "Would a big peace of brown sugar pie and a cup of coffee hold you fellows until supper?"  
"You bet it would Mom, that's what I've been waiting on."  
Liz went on into the house.

**"Dad how is the ranch doing?"**

**"Oh Son you know how the cattle bizness is, it's up one year and down the next."**

**"The place looks a little run down, where is your help?"**

**"I had to let em go."**

**"Dad maybe you should start at the beginning and tell me what is going on."**

**Well about two years ago a man named Edward King came to town with a lot of money and started buying up farms and ranches all around Dodge.**

**Did you fellows come through town?"**

**"Yes"**

**"Did you see a big sign that read The Cattle King?"**

**"Yes, I saw that."**

**"That is his office, he must have knew that the rail road was coming through here.**

**Anyway he was paying more than top wages so I don't blame any one for working for him.**

**I guess I am the last holdout, I think all the rest have sold out to him.**

**"Dad it doesn't sound like he is breaking the law.**

**"No I don't think he is, I guess the closes thing would be that he is hogging the railroad and I can't ship my cattle to market."**

**"Why don't you just go on and sell him the place?"**

**"We thought about that but don't know where we would go from here."**

**"Just hold up on that dad, I had an offer that I have been considering, I will see if it's still good."**

**They had pie and coffee and talked a while.**

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN THE SHUTDOWN

Lobo said "Dad do you want to go into town and get a cold beer?"

Tom said "Son that sounds like a great idea."

The wagon was still hitched so they just took it.

When they got to town Lobo said "Yawl go on to the saloon , I have to send a telegram then I'll be on."

Tom went into the telegraph office ,he got a piece of paper and wrote this.

Miss Jane Cole

Bar j Ranch

Cold Springs Arkansas

Princess, year is not up yet, Is offer still good?

Or were you fooling with my affection.

Please repeat offer you made me in your presents.

51 percent not important, Can't get you off my mind, its you I love.

Will you marry me?"

Tom Masters the third

Dodge City Kansas

He gave it to the clerk and a ten dollar bill and said for him to deliver the answer as soon as it comes in.

Then he left the telegraph office and went to the saloon to meet his Dad and Harvey

He entered the saloon and looked around.

At one end of the bar he saw his Dad and Harvey.

At the other end of the bar he saw two other fellows that he recognized.

His Dad was right where he thought he would be.  
at one end of the bar with his back to the wall.  
Lobo walked up to the bar and ordered a cold beer.  
Well son did you get your telegram sent?"  
"Yep just waiting on an answer.

Lobo lit a cigarillo and took a long drink of beer then wiped his mouth on his sleeve.

"Dam that's good." He said

Then he heard someone across the room say " Hello Lobo."

He turned and said hello to Kid Curry and Hayes standing at the other end of the bar.

"Fancy meeting you here Lobo."

"I was born here Kid, what brings you to town?"

"One place is the same as another to us Lobo."

Hayes said "you wasn't very nice to us the last time we met Lobo."

"Hayes the way you acted going through my saddle bags while I was asleep wasn't nice either.

I should have shot you like I would any other rattle snake."

At that time Kid Curry stepped out from the bar a little and said.

"You know Lobo, The last time we met, I got the feeling,  
you think you are faster than me."

"That's funny kid, I always have that feeling, no matter who I am facing.

You see Kid, I am the fastest gun that ever was. There will never be anyone as fast as me. "

"Well Lobo I think maybe we should just find that out."

"Are you tired of living Kid?"

"Well Lobo you know it had to come to this someday."

At that time his dad and Harvey moved out from behind Lobo.

Lobo looked back at Kid Curry and said.

" That's too bad Kid, we could have been friends.

**But if you must, whenever you are ready, it's your play."**

**Five seconds passed, then ten, Then in the blink of an eye it was over, The Kid lay on the floor face down in a pool of blood. The bullet went right through his heart.**

**The Kid's bullet hit the spittoon on the floor at Lobo's feet.**

**Lobo had his gun pointed at Hayes and said "Put your gun on the bar and Step on out here Hays."**

**Hays stepped out from the bar and said "You know, I didn't think the Kid could be beat."**

**I tried to tell him Hayes, there is nobody faster than me.**

**Lobo Harvey and his dad took them to the jail and delivered them to the marshal.**

**He ask them who gets the reward money, they told him it would go to Lobo.**

**They went back to the bar and had a few more beers and shot some pool.**

**A few hours later As they were leaving the saloon a boy asked "Sir are You Lobo?"**

**Lobo replied "Yes I am."**

**"Here's a telegram for you sir."**

**Lobo gave the boy a half dollar and thanked him.**

**CHAPTER EIGHTEEN  
GOOD NEWS**

**He opened the telegram and read it.  
Tom Masters the third**

**Dodge City Kansas**

**Would have waited twenty years for you my love if I had the time.**

**Mother died last week.**

**According to law I am not of legal age to own property.**

**I must marry within three weeks or lose this ranch in auction to top bidder.**

**Lobo please hurry. Yes my love I will marry you.**

**You will have my hand in marriage and you will receive fifty one percent of all I have.**

**Even if you can't make it in time.**

**please come anyway for I love you and could not marry any other man but you.**

**Please come soon.**

**Ike Fisher doesn't want to give up. If I don't marry him he will bid on my ranch.**

**You have my love and my life.**

**Jane Cole**

**Bar j Ranch**

**Cold Springs Arkansas**

**He returned her one telling her that he would be there in time.**

**And he would also send her another telling her the day and time of his arrival.**

**They then got in the wagon and went home.**

When they got home his mother had a meal ready that was fit for a king.  
Harley ate until he just about popped.  
"Mam that was without a doubt the best meal I have ever eat."  
At that time Lobo took out the telegram and showed it to his Mother and Dad.

They read it and looked at him and said "What does this mean Son?"  
"It means I'm getting married."  
Nothing he could have said could have made them happier.  
His mother said "Who is she? where does she live? what does she do? where did you meet her?"  
His dad cut in "Liz come up for air he will tell us all in due time."  
Lobo told them all he could about Jane and how they met.  
Then he said "Now will yawl sell out to this man and move to Arkansas, how else will you get to see your Grandchildren?"

"That does it said Tom we'll do it.  
Lobo said "Alright I am going to head for Arkansas in a couple of days, I will send you a telegram when I an sure all is going to happen.  
When you get the telegram you can make your deal with the Cattle King.  
They all got strait on what they were going to do that night.  
Later as Lobo and Harvey was sitting on the porch smoking and drinking coffee.  
Harvey said "Lobo I don't blame you for what you are about to do.  
If it had been me I don't think I would have ever left her alone.  
Anyway I will be moving on in the morning"  
Lobo said "Hay Harvey you can't cut out on me now, I'm going to need a ramrod on the Bar J."

"That ain't for me Lobo I don't know cattle. No I kind o like what I have been doing, think I'll stay with it for a while."  
"Well you can't leave without saying good by to the folks."

**"No I wouldn't do that they have been to nice to me."**

**"Well Harvey you have been a good friend and I sure hope you find happiness over that next hill. And if you ever get to Arkansas, you look me up will you?"**

**"I sure will Lobo, and I wish you all the happiness in the world."**

**They went to bed and got up early in the morning to a real fine breakfast, had a few cups of coffee and Harvey said good by to all and saddled his horse and rode away.**

**That day Lobo went to the Marshal's office and told him to give the money for Hays and Curry to his Father.**

**Then He went to the Trane station to book passage for him and his horse.**

**He would have to change trains twice but he could ride a train all the way to Little rock, then he would go the rest of the way on horseback.**

**He was amazed, the whole trip could take less than a week.**

**He sent Jane a telegram to let her know that he would be there in six days.**

**He told her his arrival time in Little Rock, and that he would come the rest of the way on horseback.**

**She sent him one back that she could hardly wait and she would meet him in Little Rock with the Automobile.**

**He told her his Parents would be coming down later.**

**She said she couldn't wait to meet them.**

**Now he was ready to make his trip.**

**He said good by to his Mom and Dad and left on the trane.**

**With a promise that he would send them a telegram as soon as he was sure.**



## CHAPTER NINETEEN LOBO GETS MARRIED

The trane was about four hours late but there was Jane sitting in the Automobile as he got off of the trane.

They hugged and kissed and talked about what was going on .  
then he received all of his things that he had shipped from home.  
He put them and his saddle in a wagon that one of the cowhands had brought.  
He tied the Appaloosa to the back.  
He told the man to take it easy on his horse for he was getting old.

Jane said "We will get married here in Little rock."  
Lobo asked "Do you not want a big wedding?"  
She said "No need, my parents are gone and yours won't be here for it.  
Anyway I just want to be your wife.

He replied "Alright if that's what you want.  
They stopped and got the license and got married that day, then they headed home."  
Before they left town they stopped at the telegraph office and he sent his parents a telegram to go head and sell.  
They now have a Daughter Mrs. Jane Masters.  
When Lobo and Jane started home she told him  
"Tomorrow We will go to see our attorney and tell him to make up our contract.  
Lobo said "I don't know how I feel about that Princess.  
She said "It must be done.

any time a man and woman share ownership in anything the man must have controlling interest."

Also We will have to get you a new wardrobe.

In that outfit people may think you are a gunfighter."

He said "We wouldn't want them to think that would we?"

She asked "When will your parents be down here."

He replied "My best guess would be in the spring.

they have to sell out up there and make arrangements to make the trip."

Oh, then they are moving down here."

"Yes, Do you mind?

They want to be close to their Grandchildren."

"She smiled" No I don't mind, I think it's great, I just thought they were coming for a visit."

"I'm sorry to hear about your Mother." Said Lobo

"It's alright said Jane she's not suffering anymore."

They were almost home when Lobo pointed to a bunch of trees next to the road.

"Right there in them trees is where I will build my parents house."

"If that is what you wish then it is fine with me."

"Do you lay any men off in the fall?"

"Yes about ten men the end of this month."

"I will use them to help build the house and barn. I want to have it done by the time My Parents get here."

As they started to turn into the gate of the ranch they saw a lone rider coming toward them.

Jane stopped the auto and said here comes Ike Fisher.

She waited until he got up beside her and said "Hello Mister Fisher."

He saw Lobo and said "Hello Jane, I thought we was not going to hire any more fast guns."

She said "Oh Lobo is not my fast gun."

Fisher said "What is he then."

She said "He is Thomas Masters, my Husband."

Fisher's mouth fell open and he looked like he didn't feel well.

Then he said "When did this happen?"

Jane said, Today."

Lobo spoke up and said "Now like My name is Tom Masters.

I hope we can all be good neighbors and get along.

You see I am running things around here from now on.

And it is my hope that we will have no more trouble from anyone."

Like Fisher looked at him and turned his horse around and rode away."

Tom said to Jane "Seems like a nice fellow once you get to know him."

They both laughed and went on to the ranch.

That night Lobo asked Jane "Princess are you sure you are o k by me bringing my Parents down here to live?"

She said "Of cores it's all right Lobo."

One more thing Miss Jane, no more Lobo.

Lobo was a gunfighter, now just call me Tom for now I am a rancher."

"Alright Tom But please never stop calling me Princess."

"Jane Masters You will always be my Princess."

She said "Jane Masters, That sounds so wonderful.

Tomorrow I will introduce you to all of the men."

He went to the Taylor

and ordered

twelve new outfits for himself.

He went to the gunsmith and ordered anew holster with Bar J on the side of it and a new belt buckle with TOM on it.

"now he was ready to be a rancher.

He had grown tired of gunfighten.

He had not taken any pleasure in killing Kid Curry. In fact he kind of liked him.

He often wished he had shot Hays and let the kid live.

## CHAPTER TWENTY

In the coming weeks Tom discovered that the Bar j Was a very large and rich investment.

Just signing his name in marriage had made him one of the richest men in the state of Arkansas.

The Ranch itself was over one hundred and fifty thousand Acer's.

It was bordered on the east by a river, on the west by Texas and had a large lake at one end of it.

It had grazing land, farm land, orchards, timber land, two coal mines and one silver mine.

Also every fall they sold over forty thousand head of cattle.

They were the first of only three ranchers that the rail road crossed there land.

And only They had there own loading pens right on the ranch. Therefore they were the first to get there cattle to market every year.

This always insured that they would get the best prices for there cattle.

This Jane had set up with the rail road right after she took over the ranch.

It was hard for him to believe that Jane did the books.

Plus She made all the decisions about running the ranch.

Her Father had taught her everything about it before he died.

He would take her with him on All his cattle deals.

Even before she was a teen she knew the price of beef, on the hoof and off.

He would explain everything in detail and even test her on it.

She had no brothers or sisters.  
She had no childhood like other children.  
She could ride a full grown horse by the time she was eight.  
At twelve years old he started teaching her to shoot a rifle.  
She helped with the branding, She would go on trail drives.  
She loved her Father very much.  
he was like a God to her, he could do no wrong.  
Her Mother taught her school work at home.  
There was a bond between her and her mother.  
But unlike that between her and her Father.  
Through her mother she was taught love and compassion and loyalty.  
Through her Father she was taught to take charge of any situation, to stand firm and not back down from anyone.  
She had an outstandingly lovely body but was almost as strong as a man.  
One morning over coffee he asked, "Princess why did you pick me to marry ?  
I know you had a lot of men after you wanting to marry you."  
She Replied "I couldn't tell if they were wanting me or my money.  
My darling the main reason I married you was because I fell in love with you.  
I knew the moment that I first saw you out by the stream that I loved you.

Do you think I would have taken you swimming that night if I didn't love you?  
You know that I had never been with a man before.  
I wanted you to know that I was willing to give you all that I have.

I Also knew it would take a strong man to run this ranch.  
and I knew you were strong."  
Lobo smiled and said "You made me weak as a kitten that night in the canyon."  
She said "But you still went away."  
Lobo said "Why did you offer me so much?"  
She replied "My Love It's the law, but if you asked me I would give it all to you."

**He knew at that moment that She was still in control, for not only did she have the ranch but He was also under her spell, and would be until he died, for he would have it no other way.**

## CHAPTER TWENTY ONE A NEW BRAND

Now the fall round up was over and the cattle had been shipped to market.  
It was September first, Tom got a telegram from his Parents.  
Son, made a deal with the cattle King today.  
Will be staying here until March first next year.  
Will be bringing our belongings by wagon.  
Will let you know when we arrive in Little Rock. Love Dad and Mom.

They picked the men that they would lay off for the winter.  
Tom asked them if they would stay and build his parents house and barn.  
He told them he would keep them all winter.  
even if they got done before time to hire in the spring.  
They all agreed to stay.  
The footing was dug and the foundation was laid .  
Tom ordered the lumber from the sawmill that bought there timber.  
The stone for the fireplace came from a stream on the Bar j Ranch.

It had a very large front room.  
16x30 with a fireplace and mantel all the way across one end of the room.  
Behind that was two bedrooms.  
The Master bedroom was 16x16 guest room was 16x10.  
Between them was a 4 foot hallway.  
Behind that a large kitchen. 12x20 and 10x12 back porch  
It also had a large front porch 12x20.  
The first part of January and the house was finished.

They started the barn and chicken house.

That evening one of the men came to the door of the ranch house.

Jane asked him to come in.

She brought him to the dining room where Tom was having coffee.

Tom said "Sit down Jake and have a cup of coffee."

Jane sat a cup of coffee on the table for him and he sat down.

"Now what is the problem?" said Tom.

Jake said "Well Sir, I was runnen the South west border.

I was tryen to run some of them cows back out of the hills.

Then I came across something real strange."

"What mite that be?" Said Tom

"I came across about thirty cows all band together with the Bar 10 brand."

Tom looked at Jane, Jane said "Jake, What's strange about that ?

We saw some Bar 10 stock last spring

"Yes Mam but they were scattered.

It's not strange to see 25 cows together up there.

But for them all to have the same brand other than our own is very strange.

And somethen else Mam I saw fresh horse tracks, Three or four horses.

None of our people have been up that way lately.

Tom said "It could have been someone from another ranch looking for strays.

No one is supposed to be on Bar J land until round up starts.

"Who do you think made them tracks?" ask Tom.

Jake looked Tom in the eye and said "Sir I think you are being top branded."

Tom looked up at Jane.

Jane said "That is where someone use's another brand that fits over yours but changes it.

Jake said "May I have a sheet of paper and a pencil?"

Jane got it for him.



Jake drew the Bar j brand, it looked very good.  
 "Now he said "This is your brand right."

Tom and Jane shook there heads in approval.

He then changed the j into a O then put a l in front of it and showed it to them.

Tom looked at it and said "Well I'll be damned, how did you catch on?"  
 Jake said "I saw something like it down in Texas a few years ago."

Tom said "Well Jake we sure thank you for keeping your eyes open.  
 but we want you to be careful up there.  
 If you should run into rustlers it's no telling what they mite do."  
 "Just doing my job." Said Jake as he got up to leave the house.  
 Jane showed him out the door and came back to the table.  
 As she sat down at the table. "What do you think Tom?"  
 Tom asked "Where is this Bar IO ranch located?"  
 Jane said "It's south of the river and just inside Texas.  
 It used to be called the Circle W but it changed hands about three years ago."

Tom said "Why don't you see what the U S Marshal has to say about this.  
 He picked up the paper and pencil and drew the Bar J brand.  
 He made a Capital J and capital T so it read the TJ brand.  
 He put the T and J together so there was no space between them.  
 Then he put the bar across them  
 The line across the top that makes them a capital a set of Texas Longhorns.  
 Then he showed it to Jane and said What do you think of this?  
 I don't think anyone will ever top brand this one."  
 She looked at it and said "The Bar Tom and Jane, Tom, I love it.  
 have the blacksmith make it up."

Tom said "Tomorrow I'm going to take Jake and five other men.  
We'll go up there and have a look around.  
He went out to the barn and gave the blacksmith the drawing of the new brand  
and told him to make up a dozen of them.

Then he went to the bunkhouse and told Jake and the other five men.  
He told them to dress warm in the morning and what he was going to do.  
Jake said "I'll saddle your horse for you Sir."  
Tom replied "Saddle the big roan for me Jake.  
The Appaloosa is getting a little too old for a hike like that."

Then he left the bunkhouse and went back to the Ranch house.  
He said "Princess I have a favor to ask of you."  
She said "Ask anything my love and if I can get it done I will."  
Tom said "There is a man in prison in Texas that I want to get out and bring him  
here to work."  
She said "What is his name and what is he to you?"  
Tom replied "His name is Eldon Ray Phelps, and he saved me from getting  
hung."  
She said "By all means lets get him out of there.  
He gave her all the information that he could.  
She told him she would do her best.

The next morning Tom and his men headed up into the foothills.  
It took about three hours to get there.  
Then Jake said "This is where I saw all the cows"  
Tom said "Where are the tracks?"  
Jake led them for about a mile and showed them some horse tracks.  
They followed the tracks to a small box canyon.

They went into the canyon to look around.  
There had been a campfire and lots of human tracks and cow and horse tracks.  
They found a place where they had buried some trash.  
They dug it up and went through it.  
they found a letter from a meat packing plant in north Texas.  
It was addressed to Mister L Haynes  
Bar 10 Ranch  
Wagon Wheel Texas

Dear Sir  
We except your offer and will take all the beef you can deliver at the price we  
agreed on.  
Thank you very much  
James Cotton  
R&C Meat packing  
La grange Texas

They looked around for a couple of more hours then went back to the ranch .  
The next morning Jane took all the information to the U S Marshal's Office.  
They told her they couldn't get a conviction on the evidence she gave them.  
They said if they could be caught in the act they could do something.  
She said "If we catch them in the act we will hang them."

They told her that lynching was a crime now a days.  
She told them, So is cattle rustling you dumb ass and walked out of the office..  
That night she sat down and wrote a letter, it went like this.  
Mister L Haynes  
Bar 10 Ranch  
Wagon Wheel Texas

**Dear Sir**

**I will start with telling you this letter should only be seen by you.**

**We are in need of two hundred head of fine beef.**

**We are willing to pay four dollars over our regular price to fill a special order.**

**This transaction must be completed by the first of the month.**

**Not to worry about the brands.**

**No questions asked.**

**Show this letter to no one, read it then destroy it.**

**Cash on delivery.**

**Thank you very much**

**James Cotton**

**R&C Meat packing**

**La grange Texas**

**She put a stamp on it and put it in her purse.**

**The next day she got into the automobile and headed for La grange Texas.**

**When she got there she dropped the letter into a mailbox.**

**Then she went to the Texas Rangers office.**

**She showed them the letter that they found at the camp sight.**

**They told her that they had been watching that meet packing plant for some time.**

**She told them about Haynes and they told her they would keep an eye on his bunch.**

**They thanked her for her help and told her they would be in touch.**

**She said to the Ranger "There is something I would like you to do for me."**

**The Ranger said "What is that Ma'am?"**

**"There is a man in prison here in Texas that I want to get out.**

**His name is Eldon Ray Phelps.**

He is doing five years and has done over a year.  
Would you please see what you can do about it for me."  
Then she gave him one of her sweetest smiles.  
He said "I'll see what I can do for you Ma'am."

She then got into the big automobile and drove home.  
That night she told Tom what she had done.  
She told him to tell all the men if they saw anyone stealing cattle to turn there heads.

He could not stop laughing.  
She said "Why are you laughing?"  
He replied "I can't believe you called the U S Marshal a dumb ass.  
Two weeks later they got a telegram from the Texas Rangers.  
They said that the Haynes bunch had stolen about two hundred head of Bar j cattle.

It said they took them to the meet packing plant and they wouldn't take them because of the brand.  
When they wouldn't take them the Haynes bunch shot up the place.  
They killed two people and wounded six others.  
The Rangers killed one of them and the rest are in jail.  
They said she should send someone to get there cattle.  
Also you can start watching for Eldon Phelps to show at your ranch any time.

Tom sent six men over to drive the cattle back to the ranch.  
Jane sent a telegram to the Texas Ranger thanking him for everything.  
She also said if you ever run for office let me know and I will donate to your campaign.  
One month later a lone rider rode up to the Bar TJ Ranch.  
He got off of his horse and walked up to the door and knocked.  
Jane came to the door "May I help you?"

**"Yes Ma'am, I'm supposed to see a mister Tom Masters."**

**Jane asked "Is He expecting you?"**

**"I think so Ma'am."**

**She asked "What Is your Name?"**

**"Eldon Phelps ma'am."**

**Jane smiled and said "Oh yes of cores, come on in."**

**The man entered the door and followed her into the dining room.**

**She said "Tom there is someone to see you."**

**Tom looked up and saw Eldon.**

**"Eldon how are you? Come and sit down , Jane get him a cup of coffee."**

**Eldon was confused, he did not recognize Tom."**

**He said "They told me to come here I don't know why, do I know you?"**

**Tom said "I'm sorry Eldon, you don't remember me, I'm Lobo.**

**A big smile came across Eldon's face and he asked.**

**"Did You get me out of that awful place.**

**"Yes we did Eldon I want you to work for me if you want.**

**Eldon said "Yes I do, cause I don't ever want to go back to that place again.**

**Tom said "Did you go to Amarillo and get the rest of your money?"**

**"Yes sir I kept fifty and sent the rest home to my Ma."**

**"Where is home Eldon?"**

**"Tennessee Sir, The Great Smokey Mountains, the home of Davy Crockett."**

**Tom took him to the bunkhouse and introduced him to the other fellows.**

**He showed him his bunk and told him to make his self at home.**

**he would see him later in the day and tell him about his job"**

**Later that day Tom went back to see Eldon.**

**He asked him "Eldon what kind of work have you done?**

**Have you ever worked around cattle?"**

**He said "No sir but I learn fast"**

**Tom told the ram rod to put him to work, and start him out slow.**

## CHAPTER TWENTY TWO A NEW HOME FOR DAD AND MOM

It was mid April when Tom got a telegram from his Parents.  
It said they would be leaving Dodge the first of May.  
It said they were bringing three wagons.  
They hired a man to drive one and his mom and dad would each drive one.  
Tom sent one back and told them to get drivers to drive all of the wagons.  
He told them to hire only people they trusted there in Dodge.  
and not to hire strangers.

He told them to take a Trane and come on as soon as they could.  
A few days later he got another telegram.  
Son, took your advice, wagons left yesterday.  
My good friends driving all three.  
Trane will arrive in Little Rock at nine A M on Friday.  
Looking forward to seeing you and our new Daughter. Love Dad and Mom.  
When Jane saw the telegram she said "I sure hope they like me."

Tom replied "Are you kidding? they will love you."  
"But Tom I don't dress like a lady, most of the time I am in Levi's and boots."  
"So does my mother, Princess you are just like her.  
You two will get along just great."  
"I hope so Tom it means so much to me that they like me.  
I know Tom, I'll buy a new dress and wear it to pick them up."

**"Well Princess, I love you and they will love you, so don't give it another thought.**

**Friday morning, Jane had the automobile gassed up and ready to go. Tom was driving and at sixty miles an hour it wouldn't take long to get there. The Train was two hours late but that was normal.**

**The train pulled up to the station.**

**Tom and Jane moved up to where his parents would be getting off.**

**Jane was dressed in a pink dress with lace around the waist and the sleeves. When Tom and Liz got off of the train Liz had on just about the same dress. She looked at Jane and said "Honey I love your dress."**

**They all started laughing.**

**Tom loaded his parents bags into the back of the automobile.**

**They stopped and had dinner before leaving Little Rock.**

**After dinner the ladies wanted to shop a little.**

**Tom found a place where there were stores and a saloon.**

**He said "ladies do your shopping, Dad and I will catch up on our drinking.**

**After about four hours the ladies were through shopping.**

**The men were singing yellow rose of Texas with the piano player.**

**Needless to say Tom was in no shape to drive.**

**Jane and Liz got the men in the back seat and Jane drove them home.**

**The men were sobered up some before they got home.**

**When they got to Tom's parents house.**

**Tom told Jane to pull in there and let them have a look at it.**

**They loved it, Liz said "It's fantastic.**

**I just love it , I can't wait for the wagons to get here."**



Tom said "We're glad you both like and anything you need just let us know.

Liz said "Where is your house?"

Jane said "It's just down the road a ways.  
we will go there now if you are all ready."

They all got in the automobile and went to the Ranch house.

When she saw the house Liz said "Oh my, goodness, what a large house.

She smiled and said you have room for lots of children"

Tom said "Mother, if you're looking for more than a dozen Grandchildren.  
then you should have had another kid.

Jane sat looking at them with her mouth open not knowing what to say.

Liz looked at Jane who was looking kind of pale.

She said "We're are just kidding you Jane."

They all had a good laugh.

soon, It was spring roundup.

Tom and his Dad were out on the range with the rest of the men.

Jane and Liz were at the new house cleaning.

and waiting for the furniture to get there.

And by the way, they were both dressed in Levi's and boots and flannel shirt.

9+Now in that part of the country they were setting pole's and stringing wire  
to provide electricity to the people.

The Ranch House and there parents house were both set up for it.

All it needed was to be hooked up.

They were now both run by generators.

Both houses had running water and bathrooms inside.

Finely the wagons pulled in to the yard of the new house.

They all came in and rested for a while.

Then one by one they unloaded the wagons.

As they took it in they put it where Liz wanted it to go.

**When Tom and Dad came in Dad paid them the amount that they had agreed on in Dodge.**

**Without his Dad knowing it Tom gave each man a twenty dollar tip.**

**The men stayed two days to rest the horses and then they started back to Dodge.**

**The house was just the way Liz wanted it.**

**She hired a girl from town to stay there and help her with things.**

## CHAPTER TWENTY THREE

### A GIFT FOR JANE

It was the twentieth of June and Jane had been to the doctor.  
That night she told Tom that she went to the doctor that day.  
He came to his feet and pulled her to her feet and said "Honey are you alright?  
Why did you go to the Doctor?"

Jane just smiled at him and said, I'm with child, you're going to be a daddy."  
Needless to say, Tom got very little sleep that night.  
The next morning they went to His parent's house.  
They went inside with smiles on their faces.  
They sat down at the table and said nothing.  
Dad said K what is going on?"  
Tom and Jane just looked at each other still smiling.  
Mom and Dad looked at each other confused.  
Then Liz put her hands together, looked at Jane and said "Oh My God Honey  
You're pregnant."

Everybody started laughing.  
Dad said "When is it due?" Liz said "How far along are you?"  
Jane said "I'm six weeks along, I'm due in early February  
Liz asked "Have you thought about a name yet?"  
Jane said Well a boy is Thomas Judd Masters.  
Liz said "was Judd your father's name?"  
Jane said "Yes."

Liz said "It goes very well with Thomas."

Jane said "Thank you, A Girl name how about Elizabeth Jane Masters or Rebecca Cole Masters, after my mother."

They all agreed that them would be fine names.

So now it was just a matter of time.

Spring roundup was now over and the branding was yet to be done.

The new brand looked even better than they thought it would.

It was now mid July and half of the men were in the foot hills bringing down strays to be shipped to market.

They had to be gathered and the young ones branded and separated from the heard.

Also to be double checked to be sure that there were no other brands among the heard.

Tom was out one day alone riding through the foot hills .

He was just enjoying the woods and looking for stray's.

A sound caught his ear that did not belong in that area.

It was a very faint sound of a horse.

It took him a while to find it but he sure was glad he did.

There was a gorge about fifteen feet deep.

It had mud in the bottom of it.

He looked down in it and saw a young Colt of solid black about four months old.

He was stuck in the edge of the mud.

A black Mare was behind him.

She had Propped herself against him and was submerged in the deep part of the mud

. She had given her life for her baby. and They had been there for some time.

Tom led his horse up to the edge of the gorge.

He threw his rope around the colt's neck and tied the other end to his saddle horn and backed his horse up.

The colt came out but he could hardly stand up.

He had been without food and water for a long time.

He was very skinny and weak.

Tom got his canteen and pored some water in his hat and gave it to the young colt.

He drank it all.

Tom took him to where the grass was sweet and green, and the young colt ate.

The Colt had mud all over him and he was still too weak to run.

Tom walked him to a small stream and took him into it.

The water was deep enough to wash most of the mud off of the colt.

He was beautiful, he would make a fine birthday present for Jane which was only a few days away.

Tom picked up the colt and climbed on his horse and took him home.

When he got there he went inside and yelled for Jane. She answered and he told her to come to him but close her eyes.

He led her to the colt and told her to open her eyes.

When she saw the colt it took her breath and she said.

"Tom, Do you know who this is?"

This is the son of Midnight, The Black Stallion.

I have been after Midnight for years but this is even better. "

Tom said "It sure is, Happy Birthday Princess."

"He's mine? Oh Tom, I could not think of a better birthday present if I tried, I just love him."

"What will you name him Princess?"

"I don't know yet, but it has to be great."

The first thing she did was to give him a bath.

Then she turned him loose in the corral that had a ten foot fence so he could run around.

When they went to bed that night she said "Tom I have a name for the Colt and you will love it."

"What is it Honey?"

"El, Lobo.

Tom just smiled at her.

What do you think Tom?"

Tom replied "I think of how lucky I was to meet you that day and how much I love you."

Summer had moved across Arkansas and it was September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Forty thousand head had been moved to the holding pen and waiting for the train. At the loading ramp there was twenty five Acres closed off by barbed wire. This would easily hold forty thousand head of cattle.

And this was the only barbed wire on the whole ranch.

By September fifteenth they will be loading cattle on to the train.

The Share Croppers are gathering in the crops and storing our share in the barn and crows.

The fruit pickers have just about finished all of the trees.

Liz and Jane are busy canning and storing food in the cellar.

The Lumberjacks in the hills have cut and hauled enough firewood to both houses for the whole winter.

Jane has hired a lady from Little Rock to help her now that she is expecting a baby

Also there is a man at each house that does nothing but keep the fires going and take care of the livestock.

Now it's February, The Doctor and Nurse and Liz and two more women are with Jane.

Tom his Dad and all the ranch hands are down stairs waiting for the good news.

It's Eleven forty P M when Liz opens the door to the bedroom and yelled "Tom, You have a Son."

All of the men cheer him and shake his hand.

Its Eleven fifty five P M when Liz opens the bedroom door and said "Tom, You have a Daughter."

The men all cheer him and shake his hand and pat him on the back.

At Twelve fifteen M Tom You have another Daughter."

Tom yelled back "Tell her to turn it off." Everyone laughed.

After Jane and the Babies were all cleaned up they called Tom and his Dad up to see them.

Tom Looked at the babies and then he went to Jane.

"How are you Honey?"

She replied "I'm fine honey but I wouldn't want to do that again tonight."

Tom said, "Me neither, we have three Children all at one time and still have two different birthdays. ."

They picked up the babies and took them all down stairs and showed them to all of the men who had waited with Tom.

They introduced them as Thomas Judd Masters, 02/10/1909

After Tom, his Dad and Her Dad.

Elizabeth Jane Masters ,02/10/1909, after Jane and Liz.

Rebecca Cole Masters, 02/11/1909

after Jane's Mother.

As very rich people will do Jane hired a full time nurse to take care of the babies.

They were two months old and becoming a handful.

It seemed that they all got hungry at the same time.  
And that never worked out very well.

El Lobo was growing very fast also.  
It was time for her to start his training.  
He has gotten very strong, you would never know he had been sick.  
His coat is shiny, his mane is thick and long, and his muscles are strong.

He is even more beautiful than his Father. The white spot on his forehead was shaped just like a wolf howling at the moon.  
That was why she named him El Lobo.  
She had a custom saddle, bridle and saddle bags special made for him.  
It was black and had lots of silver on it.  
All the silver came from the Bar J silver mine.  
The blanket was red and white stripes going across his back.  
She even had a set of silver horse shoes just for show for him that came up over his hoof.

She would ride him in the annual Rodeo parade in Cold Springs.  
Every year Cold Springs Arkansas holds an annual Rodeo for the ranchers of Arkansas and north Texas.  
It is a festivity that runs through the first full week of July .  
It is kicked off with an annual Rodeo parade through the streets of Cold Springs.  
Tom will ride with her at her side.  
He will ride the Appaloosa with a new saddle and bridle to match hers.  
There is also a lot of competition for all who wish to enter.  
Prizes and awards will be given out for first second and third place in all events. Jane will compete for the horse and rider award.  
Tom will enter the fast draw contest.  
His Dad will enter the rifle shooting contest.



Liz will enter her Brown sugar pie for the baking contest.  
A lot of the ranch hands will go for Bronco riding, Bull riding and calf roping.

Early March, the stable man came to the ranch house door and told Tom "Sir you better come to the barn and check out your Appaloosa."

"What's wrong with him?" Asked Tom

"I don't know sir but He's breathing real funny, I think he needs a Vet."

Tom went to the barn to check out his horse.

The horse could hardly breathe.

He Told the stable man to saddle a horse and go get the Vet.

By the time the Vet. Got there the horse was down on the ground.

The Vet. Checked him out then he told Tom "Your Horse has had a stroke, he will never come out of it, he must be put to sleep.

The Vet. Asked" Do you want me to give him a shot?"

Tom said "No I will take care of it."

After a little while four of the ranch hands came in with picks and shovels and said "Sir where do you want to put him?"

Tom looked at them and said "See that big elm tree out yonder, we'll put him under the shade of it."

When they had finished the hole they came back and told Tom.

Tom thanked them and said "I'll take it from here."

They all understood.

Tom went into the house and got his gun and went back to the barn.

He finely got the old horse to his feet.

He took his bridle and led him out through the field to the big elm tree.

He turned the horse the way he wanted and had him lay down next to the hole.

He sat down next to his horse and stroked his mane and rubbed his neck.  
As he did he talked to him.

"We have traveled a lot of miles together old friend.  
In all that time you have never let me down, not even one time.  
If there's an after life for you old friend I hope the master will give you a nice  
meadow full of sweet grass and a apple tree of your very own.  
Then when it's my time to go he will let me find that meadow and we can be  
together again."  
He Paused, then said Good by Old Friend."

He pulled the hammer back on his gun and pulled the trigger.  
Neither man or beast moved for at least a half hour.

"Are you alright Son?" He heard his Father say.  
Tom said "It's hard to lose a good and loyal friend."  
Dad said "Yes I know, There's something special about an Appaloosa."  
"Yes there is."

Tom stood up and they put the horse in the hole and Tom covered his head with  
his blanket and they shoveled in the dirt.  
They put there arms around each other's shoulders and walked back to the  
house.

As they were having coffee Jane asked "Tom what will you be riding in the  
parade?"

"Oh I don't know, guess I'll ride the big Roane."  
While Tom was working the next day Jane and Liz got the Automobile out and  
left the ranch.

They returned around mid afternoon.

The next day there came a man down the road leading the most beautiful white  
Lippazaune stallion you ever saw.

Liz went out and told the man to put the horse in the chorale.

When Tom and the men came in they were astounded by the magnificent of this animal.

It had Tom's new saddle, bridle and saddle bags.

Tom said "Well I see my wife has been real sneaky."

At that time Jane came out and told Tom "Well take him for a ride, He's yours. His name is Thunder."

Tom brought the horse out and mounted him and rode away.

He went about three miles down the road and turned him around and headed back.

About a mile away from the ranch he kicked the horse and it damn near jumped out from under him.

This horse could fly.

Tom took the next two weeks getting used to Thunder and getting Thunder used to him.

Now we have a new bond between horse and man.

Tom stil thought about his old friend The Appaloosa,

But this white stallion had captured his hart.

Tom was working with Thunder to get him ready for the big event.

But it seamed that Thunder had known Tom all of his life.

Everything Tom would have him do he just went right into it.

Tom begin to wonder who was training who.

Finely the big day came and they were up early.

Breakfast and coffee then Tom wanted to go get the horse ready.

Jane told him, "Don't worry the men will take care of the horses."

They wore matching clothes, Boots, Pants, shirts, vest, and hat.

## CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR BIG DAY IN LITTLE ROCK

Tom would not wear a neck tie so Jane put a small white scarf around their neck and tied them to hang down .

T

he shirts had white fringes from the cuff half way to the elbow.

The Hats had a silver band

All the rest had silver buttons and buckles.

Jane braided some of El Lobo's mane and tail and put small ribbons in it. She wanted to do Thunder's also but Tom would not have it. "You won't make a sissy out of my Thunder." Said he.

Jane said "Didn't I see some braids in the mane of the appaloosa?"

Tom said "Princess, that was the hair of a half breed that I scalped."

They both wore Two guns with silver on the belt and holsters.

The guns were Colt Chrome plated 45s with pearl handles

They would ride the horses to Cold Springs

They were chosen to lead the parade this year.

When they come out, Tom will lead and Jane will be on his right.

Tom will be given the American Flag and Jane will be given the Arkansas Flag.

The band will start playing the Star Spangle Banner. Then Tom And Jane will ride around the arena two times and stop in the middle facing the crowd. When the music stops they will go back and start the parade. Then behind them about twenty feet will be twenty ranch hands from the Bar j ranch.

Then behind them will be the owners of another ranch, and so on until all have passed.

The parade will start at ten A M, they arrive in Cold Springs at eight A M.  
The horses are put in a stall until parade time.  
Tom Jane and Tom's Parents decide to go across the street for coffee.  
They go in and sit down and order coffee.

When the waiter walked away someone walked up behind Tom and said "Get up and face me Lobo."

Tom looked at Jane, then at his Mom and Dad,  
then He looked down at the table.

The man said, "I said get up and face me Lobo.

Tom shook his head and replied, "What for Harvey? you can't draw or shoot.

Harvey, Tom and his parents started laughing.

Jane didn't know what was going on.

Tom got up and turned around.

They both shook hands and hugged and laughed about it.

Then Tom said "Harvey I want you to meet my wife Jane. Jane this is my best friend Harvey Johnson, we rode together for a while."

Then Jane started laughing "I didn't know what was going on, hello Harvey, Tom has told me a lot about you. "

Harvey said "So this is Princess, Hello Jane I'm so glad to meet you. And hello to you also Mister and Mrs. Masters."

Tom's Parents told him hi and Tom ask him "What brings you down this way Harvey?"

"Well Tom you know me I'm just running wild and it's no telling where I mite land."

Tom said "How long will you be around Harvey?"

"Well I guess no more than a couple of days."

Well Harvey if there's anything I can do for you just let me know."

Tell me Tom Why are you two decked out like that?"

Tom said "This is the way ranchers dress down here Harvey."  
Harvey said "Well it sure looks pretty but not that comfortable."  
Jane said Harvey We are leading the parade this year."  
Well now that's something I will have to check out."  
Tom said "It starts at ten A M."  
Harley said "well it's been nice seeing you folks."

Tom said "Harvey why don't you hang around with my Mom and Dad until the parade is over then we'll get together."  
His Dad said "I think that's a great idea Harvey sat down and have some coffee."  
Harvey said O K and sat down.  
At about Nine fifteen Tom And Jane had to leave to get the horses ready.  
They agreed to meet the others later.  
Almost Ten o clock, Jane and Tom are Mounted on the horses and ready to go.

The announcer said in the microphone "Ladies and Gentleman, presenting the 1909 annual Cold Springs Rodeo parade.  
Leading the parade this year, is Tom And Jane Masters, of the Bar Tj Ranch, On there wonderful Stallions Thunder and El Lobo.  
They are handed the two Flags. The music starts and they come across in front of the grandstands, make two trips around the Arena and stop facing the crowd until the music is over.  
Then someone takes the flags from them and they return to the head of the parade.  
Behind Tom and Jane are the cowhands of the Bar j Ranch.

After them comes the owners of the next ranch and so on until all the ranches have passed the stands.

The parade winds through the town for a seven mile ride then back to the stables.

There was people lined up all the way.

Toms Parents had brought the Automobile in to town. Tom went back and opened the lockbox.

He put the two Colts into the Lockbox and got his lobo gun and holster out.

This is the one he will use for the fast draw contest.

They gave a silver cup for the best dressed up horse and rider's.

That went to Tom and Jane.

a pair of matching Palominos took second place.

And two identical appaloosa's took Third place.

Now it was time for the fast draw contest to start.

Tom had drawn number twenty.

Jane came with Tom and His Parents had brought Harvey with them.

The fast draw contest would have three rounds. The man who won the best two out of three won the contest and was the best.

The first round was five targets from thirty feet.

The bulls eye was about the size of a half dollar.

There were five targets and you had to draw and put a bullet in each target.

The one with the most bullets in the bulls eye was the winner of that round.

Tom and a young man who called himself Crow had four bulls eyes.

They decided the winner by who was the closes to the center of the bulls eye.

Tom had two that was dead center, Crow had three.

Crow won that round.

They put up a target the same size only the bulls eye was the size of a dime.

Each had to draw and fire two shots at the target.

This would be judged for speed and accuracy.

Sence Crow wan the first round he would go first in this round.

They had a new clock that would time the draw.

It would start when a little bell rang and end when the last bullet hit the target.  
They told Crow to say when he was ready.

When he said ready, the bell went ding one time.  
Before the ring stopped the last bullet hit the target.  
One Bullet hit the bulls eye, the other missed.  
The clock did not even have time to start .  
Tom got up to draw.  
They put up a new target.  
Tom said now and the bell went ding and two bullets hit the target bulls eye.  
The clock could not recorded his draw either.  
Tom was the winner of the second round.  
Who ever won the next round would win the contest.  
They loaded their weapons with six rounds.  
This round they set up six shot glasses four inches apart.  
At the sound of the bell both men would draw and try to hit the shot glasses.  
Both were ready, the bell went ding, Lightning speed two guns were drawn and  
bullets flew.  
When the smoke cleared Tom had hit three shot glasses, Crow had hit none.  
Tom was the winner of the fast draw contest.

He got a silver cup and a silver belt buckle with a little colt 45 on it.  
After the contest Crow came to tom and told him he did some good shooting.  
Tom thanked him and said some days are better than others.  
Crow turned and walked away and out of the crowd.

Tom's Dad won the rifle shooting contest in easy fashion.  
He got a silver Belt Buckle with a little rifle on it.  
His mother won the bake contest with her brown sugar pie.



She got a blue ribbon and a silver pie pan.

Some of the hands won some things but the Silver Saddle went to another ranch.

After they are finished Tom, Harvey and his Dad stop in a saloon while Jane and Liz do some shopping.

Tom said "So Harvey what have you been up to since I saw you last?"

Tom replied "Well Lo uh I mean Tom I went to California for a while.

It's a nice place to visit but wouldn't want to live there.

I circled down through Mexico and back up through Texas and then came here."

Tom said "Well it sounds like you haven't let any grass grow under your feet."

"That's a fact. Said Harvey But you know tom I think I'm getting a little too old for this kind of living.

Well Harvey if you are tired of all that moving around I can find you a job right here on the ranch."

"Well now Tom that gives me something to think about.

but I don't know much about cows you know."

"Harley you just take your time and until you decide you are my guest.

At that time Dad said "Tom you are going to have trouble with that Crow fellow.

Tom said "I know dad and I thought I was through with all of that.

But that's all these contest are good for."

"Well Son you just be careful for this fellow is really fast."

At that time Tom saw Crow in the mirror as he came in the door.

Crow saw Tom and went to the other end of the bar.

He had about three shots of whiskey.

Tom got another beer and lit a cigarillo.

Crow looked at Tom and said "Tom I know you think you won that contest but you didn't.

They only gave it to you because you are a big rancher around here.

Tom takes out the belt buckle and lays it on the bar.

He said to Crow "Crow if you feel like you won then take the buckle.

Crow said "I don't care about a belt buckle , Tom you know what I want.

Tom said" I know what you want Crow, you want to die.

Don't you know that I have no wish to kill you Crow?"

Crow said "That's not the end that I had in mind Lobo."

As he was talking Tom noticed that Crow had nervous eyes and blinked a lot.

Tom turned around to face Crow, they were only about six feet apart.

Tom said Crow the life of a gun fighter is a lonely one. Are you sure that is what you want?"

Tom watched Crow's eyes, when he saw him blink, In the blink of an eye, Tom drew his gun and pulled the hammer back and pointed it at Crow's face.

Crow's mouth fell open in surprise and shock.

Tom walked over and took Crow's gun from it's holster and told him to get out and if he seen him again he would kill him.

He never saw Crow again.

Finely all of the festivities for the first day were over.

Liz, Dad and Harvey got the Automobile, Tom and Jane and all the men got their horses and headed back to the ranch.

Harvey just about flipped when Dad ran the Auto up to sixty MPH.

He had never rode in a Auto before.

There was a room in the barn for the Auto.

It was called a garage.

Dad backed it in and closed the doors.

Harvey said "I've got to get me one of them Autos, that's all there is to it."

They were standing by the garage when Tom and Jane and the rest got home.

Dad took Tom aside and said "Tom you and Jane have been talking about hiring someone to take care of the Auto and drive it for you."

Tom said "I remember that dad, what are you getting at?"

Dad said "Harvey loves that auto and would do a good job, and I will teach him how to drive it."

Tom called Harvey over to him and said "Harvey how would you like to be my driver and take care of my car?"

Harvey said "Tom I don't even know how to drive one of them things."

Tom said "That's O K Harvey Dad is going to teach you how to drive it.

And there is a book in the Auto that tells you everything about it."

Harvey said Well I think that would be just great Tom."

Tom said "Well that Settles that so let's go join the rest on the porch."

Liz had went in and got two of the baby's and the nurse brought one.

She introduced them to Harvey.

Tom took the boy and Jane took the other girl.

Tom said "What do you think of my family Harvey.

Harvey said "I think you are a very lucky man Tom.

Tom said "We both decided that we wanted three children so we just put in a order for all three at once.

Harvey said "I didn't even know you could do that.

Tom said "Oh yes, We have a neighbor that wanted ten children, five girls and five boys, they had them all at once.

only trouble with that is it killed his wife and now he's in the insane asylum and his Brother is bringing up his ten children for him.

Harvey looked at Tom, then at Jane and said "Is he pulling my leg?"

Jane said "Just a little bit Harvey. Just a little bit."

THE END