

The VALIANTS of VIRG

HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES ILLUSTRATIONS OF LAUREN STOUT



SYNOPSIS.

John Vallant, a rich society favorite, suddenly discovers that the Vallant cor-poration, which his father founded and which was the principal source of his wealth, had falled. He voluntarily turns poration, which his father founded and which was the principal source of his wealth, had failed. He voluntarily turns over his private fortune to the receiver for the corporation. His entire remaining possessions consist of an old motor car, a white bull dog and Damory court. a neglected estate in Virginia. On the way to Damory court he meets Shirley Dandridge, an auburn-haired beauty, and decides that he is going to like Virginia immensely. Shirley's mother, Mrs. Dandridge, and Major Bristow exchange reminiscences during which it is revealed that the major. Valiant's father, and a man named Sassoon were rivals for the hand of Mrs. Dandridge in her youth. Sassoon and Valiant fought a duel on her account in which the former was killed. Valiant finds Damory court overgrown with weeds and creepers and decides to rehabilitate the place. Valiant saves Shirley from the bite of a snake, which bites him. Knowing the deadliness of the bite, Shirley sucks the poison from the wound and saves his life. Valiant learns for the first time that his father left Virginia on account of a duel in which Doctor Southall and Major Bristow acted as his father's seconds. Valiant and Shirley become good friends. Mrs. Dandridge faints when she meets Valiant for the first time. Valiant discovers that he has a fortune in old walnut trees. The yearly tournament, a survival of the jousting of feudal times, is held at Damory court. At the last moment Valiant takes the place of one of the knights, who is sick, and enters the lists. He wins and chooses Shirley Dandridge as queen of beauty to the dismay of Katherine Fargo, a former sweetheart, who is visiting in Virginia. The tournament ball at Damory court draws the elite of the countryside. Shirley Dandridge as queen of beauty to the dismay of Katherine Fargo, a former sweetheart, who is visiting in Virginia. The tournament ball at Damory court draws the elite of the countryside. Shirley how terrible it would be for the woman who caused the duel to meet Valiant, who looks so much like his fath

CHAPTER XXXI .- Continued. Uncle Jefferson's lips relaxed in a wide grin. "Ah reck'n dah's er few the major sprang around with an exstray sprigs lef', suh. Step in en mek clamation, as with an oath, the other yo'se'f et home. Ef Mars' John see yo', he be mought'ly hoped up. Ah pulled the trigger. gwineter mix yo' dat julep in twoshakes!'

the hall, threw his gray slouch hat struck him a single sledge-hammer on the table, and sat down.

cient hall. He fell to thinking of the heavy iron crashed through. many times, of old, when he had sat | Greef King stood an instant breath-The house was the same again now. It had waked from a thirty- his eyes from the prostrate form, his years' slumber to a renewed prime. hand groped for the cold goblet and Only he had lived on meanwhile and liftin, it to his lips, drained it to its now was old . He sighed

night of the ball, with the lights and gred, fancy-weskited hellion! Take roses and music! He remembered that from the mayor of the Dome!"

A slight noise made him turn his hind him. head. But nothing moved. Only a creak of the woodwork, he thought, had been observed for all that. Run and settled back again in his chair

he had heard. It came from the er Nemesis pursuing. It is only a dog. library, where a shabby figure and not a big one at that, but it is of a crouched, listening, in the corner be faithful breed that knows neither fear hind the tapestried screen-a man evilly clad, with a scarred cheek

It had been with no good purpose that Greef King had dogged the major ry, and in the shadow of the trees histhese last few days. He hugged a hot teeth met in the ragged trousers-leg. tatred grown to white heat in six



Greef King Stood an Instant Breathing Hard.

walls at the clicking shoe-machine, or man went down together. with the chain-gang on biazing or frosty turnpikes. He had slunk be- ing itself along the Red Road to the hind him that afternoon, creeping up village. The doctor was in his office the drive under cover of the bushes, and no time was lost in the return. En and while the other talked with Uncle route they passed Judge Chalmers Jefferson, had skirted the house and driving, and seeing the flying haste, brary door and Mrs. Dandridge went entered from the farther side, through he turned his sweating pair and lashed an open French window. Now as he them after the car. peered from behind the screen, a poker, snatched from the fireplace, opened his eyes from the big leather was in his hand. His furtive gaze fell couch, he looked on the faces of two of upon a morocco-covered case on a his oldest friends. Recollection and commode by his side. He lifted its understanding seemed to come at once. lid and his eyes narrowed as he saw that it held a pistol. He set down the poker noiselessly and took the white one on the settee. He did not weapon. He tilted it-it was rusted, answer, but his chin was quivering but there were loads in the chambers. and he was winking fast. He crouched lower, with a whispered | "How long?" asked the major after curse: the major was coming into the a lengthy minute.

library, but not alone—the old nigger | was with him!

Uncle Jefferson bore a tray with a frosted goblet over whose rim peeped but when the doctor, reaching swiftly an ambrosial odor, which the major it was to find that look once more on sniffed approvingly as the other set him, now in yearning appeal. "South- you!" the burden on the desk at his elbow. all," he said, "send for Judith. I-I

"Majah," said the latter solemnly, must see her. There's time." "you reck'n Mars' John en Miss Shir-

ing to the small ormolu clock on the riage is at the door and with those desk, "It's 'most four o'clock. Haven't horses she ought to be here in twenty lightened by a little the weight of you any idea where he's gone?"

ovah dem walnut trees. Whut Ah's gwine ter say-yo' reck'n Mars' John en Miss-"

them?" "Tree man come f'om up norf' some-

whah ter se erbout et yistidday, Yas. ominously on, and the doctor busied suh. Yo' reck'n Mars' John en-"Nice pot of money tied up in that a lucky old rascal to have him for a

"Hyuh, hyuh!" agreed Uncle Jefferson. "Dam'ry Co'ot er heap bettah dan drivin' er ol' stage ter de deepo fer drummahs en lightnin'-rod agents. Ah sho' do pray de Good Man ter mek Mars' John happy," he added soberly, "but Ah's mought'ly 'sturbed in mah

The hidden watcher waited motionless. From where he stood he could look. He waited till through the rear window he saw the negro's bent figure disappear into the kitchens. Then he noiselessly lifted himself upright, and resting the pistol on the screen-top. took deliberate aim and pulled the

The hammer clicked sharply on the worthless thirty-year-old cartridge, and dashed the screen aside and again

"You infernal murderer!" cried the major. It was all he said, for, as he He disappeared around the corner swung his chair up, the one-time bully of the porch and the major strode into of Hell's-Half-Acre rushed in and blow with the clubbed pistol. It fell it was quiet and peaceful, that an- full on the major's temple and the

ng hard, then, without withdrawing dregs. "There!" he said. "There's my How gay the place had been the six-years' debt paid in full, ye lily-liv-

what the doctor had said about Val- There was a man's step on the fant and Shirley-it had lain ever gravel and the sudden bark of a dog. since in his mind, a painful specula- The pistol fell from his hand. He tion. The recollection roused another stole on tiptoe along the corridor and thought from which he shrank. He leaped through the French window. stirred uneasily. What on earth kept As he dashed across the lawn, a that old darky so long over that julep? startled cry came from the house be-

No human eye had seen him, but he your best now. Greef King! Double It was, in fact, a stealthy footfall and turn how you will, there is a swiftnor quarter. Like white lightning. without a bark or growl, Chum launched himself on the fleeing quar-

Kicking, beating with his hands at the dragging weight, the man dashed on. Not till they had reached the hemlocks was that fierce grip broken, and then it was with a tearing of flesh and sinew. Panting, snarling with rage and pain, the man seized a fallen branch and stood at bay, striking out with victous sweeping blows. But the bulldog, the hair bristling up on his thick neck, his red-rimmed eyes flery, circled beyond reach of the flail, crouch-

ing for another spring. Again he launched himself, and the man, dodging, blundered full-face into thorn-bush. The sharp spines slashed his forehead and the starting blood blinded him, so that he ran without sense of direction-straight upon

the declivity of Lovers' Leap. He was toppling on its edge before he could stop, and then threw himself backward, clutching desperately at the his fingers into the yielding soil and to the rear of the hall. A painful emwith knee and elbow strove frenziedly to crawl to the path.

years of prison labor within bleak Greef King's hold let go and dog and swiftness of the tragic event he had

So that when the major finally,

"Well-Southall?" The doctor's hand closed over the

"No, suh, less'n he's gwineter look

"Walnut trees? Is he going to sell

timber! He saw it right off. You're master."

mind-mought'ly 'sturbed!"

trigger.

Maybe not."

The major winced and shut his eyes,

The judge started up. "I'll bring her," he said, and his voice had all the "Good lord!" said the major, wheel- tenderness of a woman's. "My carminutes." He leaned over the couch. "Bristow," he said, "would you-would

you like me to send for the rector?" The major smiled, a little wistfully, and shook his head. He lay silent for a while after the judge had gone outhe seemed housing his strength-while the ormolu clock on the desk ticked



'No," He Said, in Answer to Her Look, "He Won't Rouse Again."

himself with the glasses beside him. Presently he said huskily: "You've had a bad fall, Bristow. You

were dizzy, I reckon." "Dizzy!" echoed the major with feeble asperity. "It was Greef King." "Greef King! Good God!"

"He was hiding behind the screen. it's mighty hard. The letter -a fool not to have remembered his it to you." time was out."

the rug. He looked at it a moment, then thrust it hastily into his breast' pocket.

"I-remember now. It was a pistol. He snapped it twice, but it missed fire.

terrible energy.

better be settled with, or he'll-be kill- tion ing some one worth while one of these days.

A big tear suddenly loosed itself down his cheek, and he turned hastily

"There's no call to feel bad," said the major gruffly. "I've sort of been a them. Then came the duel. There was anger. Slowly, but with deadly surety, thorn-in-the-flesh to you, Southall. We only Valiant then. I overheard his had grown the belief that he no longer always rowed, somehow, and yet-" throat.

quite so much fun out of Chalmers— him back, Judith! I wanted my love for him had rested unchanged, and the rest. They never did rise to chance! And so—I took it. That's— clear and defined as a mose in amber. you as I did."

A little later he asked for the restor- in't it!" ative, "Ten minutes gone," he said then. "Chalmers ought to be at Rose wood by now . . . what a fool way to go-like this. But it wasn't-apo plexy. Southall, anyway."

At the sound of wheels on the drive Valiant went out quietly. Huddled ia corner of the hall were Uncle Je: ferson and Aunt Daphne, with Jere boam, the major's body-servant Aun Daphne, her apron thrown over her face was rocking to and fro silently, slippery fern-covered rock, feeling his and old Jereboam's head was bowed feet dangling over nothing. He dug on his breast. Valiant went quickly barrassment had come to him-a curious confusion mingling with a fastidi-But the white buildog was upon him. ous sense of shrinking. How should The clamping teeth met in the striving he meet this woman who recoiled from fingers, and with a scream of pain the very sight of his face? In the forgotten this. From the background Ten minutes later a motor was hurl- he saw Judge Chalmers lift down the frail form, and suddenly his heart leaped. There were two feminine figures; Shirley was with her mother.

The doctor stood just inside the lihastily toward him, her light cane tapping through the stricken silence. Jereboam lifted his head and looked at her piteously.

"Reck'n Mars' Monty cyan' see ole Jerry now." he quavered, "but yo'-all gib him man love, Mis' Judith, and tell him-" His voice broke. "Yes, yes, Jerry, I will."

The doctor closed the door upon her and came to where Shirley waited. "Come, my dear," he said, and dropped his arm about her. "Let us go out to for their party, but the idea was not the garden.

"Maybe-maybe an hour, Bristow. | As they passed Valiant, she held out | A shiver went over her set faceher hand to him. There was no word like a breath of wind over tall grass, lowed hers, his heart said to her, "I infinite distance to place and moment. green leaves and which spread abroad for a phial on the table, turned again, love you! No matter what Between the curtains a white butteris between us, I shall always love my hovered an instant, and in the yard

his voiceless greeting comforted and clamoring there.

looked into the face of the woman for iously

"I've come to the jumping-off place." She looked at him whitely. "Monty, Monty!" she cried. "Don't leave me this way! I always thought-"

He guessed what she would have said, "Heaven knows you're needed more than me, Judith. After all, I reckon when my time had to come I'd voice trailed out and he struggled for breath.

"Jerry's in the hall, Monty. He asked me to give you his love."

"Poor old nigger! He-used to tote me on his back when I was a little shaver." There was a silence. "Don't kneel, Judith," he said at length. "You

will be so tired." She rose obediently and drew up a chair. "Monty," she faltered tremulously, "shall I say a prayer? I've never prayed much-my prayers never seemed to get above the celling, somehow. But I'll-try."

He smiled wanly. "I wouldn't want any better than yours, Judith. But seems as if I'd been prayed over enough. I reckon God Almighty's like anybody else, and doesn't want to be ding-donged all the time."

He seemed to have been gathering his resolution, and presently his hand fumbled over his breast. "My wallet; pocket and the uncertain fingers took | ful softness.

If she had been white before, she woven over by the shuttle of time-A look, wolf-like and grim, had grew like marble now. Her slim fin- evoked now by the touch of a key that sprung into the doctor's face. His eyes gers clutched the little cane till it rat- her hand still clenched tightly in its searched the room, and he crossed the tled against the chair, and the lace at palm. floor and picked up something from her throat shook with her breathing. "Yes-Monty."

kept it these thirty years."

"He can't hide where we'll not find hands, looking down upon it. There hand, she had thought she could not him!" The doctor spoke with low but was a strained half-fearful wonder in forgive him that broken faith. She her face. For an instant she seemed and his promise to her had not weighed "Not that I care-myself," said the quite to have forgotten him in the in the balance against the idea of major difficultly. "But I reckon he'd grip of some swift and painful emo- manly "honor!" But this bitterness

mered in anguished appeal. "From plain." But no word had come. Whisthe time we were boy and girl togethfrom the doctor's eyelid and rolled er, I loved you. You never cared for Sassoon's intoxication-stinging barbs me-Sassoon and Valiant had the in- that clung to Beauty Valiant's name side track. You might have loved me; That these should rest unanswered but I had no chance with either of had filled her with resentment and promise to you that night, Judith. He cared. In the end there had been left The doctor choked and cleared his had broken that! If you cared more her only pride-the pride that covers for him than for Sassoon, you might its wound and smiles. And she had "I reckon," the major murmured have forgiven him, and I should have hidden her wound with flowers. But ith a faint smile, "you won't get lost you! I didn't want you to call in the deepest well of her heart her the reason, dear. It's-it's a bad one, wrapped in that mystery of silence.

between them, but as his hand swal- and she seemed to come back from an she heard the sound of some winged It was wordless, a heart-whisper that thing fluttering. The thought darted only love itself could hear, and he to her that it was the sound of her could read no answer in the deep own dead heart awaking. She looked pools of her eyes, heavy now with un- at the key and all at once put a hand shed tears. But in some subtle way to her mouth as though to still words

"Judith," he said tremulously, bedumb impotence that he had borne. | tween short struggles for breath, "all In the library, lighted so brightly by these years, after I found there was the sunlight, yet grave with the hush no chance for me, I reckon I'veof that solemn presence, the major prayed only one prayer. 'God, let it be Sassoon that she loved!' And I've whose coming he had waited so anx- prayed that mighty near every day. The thought that maybe it was Valiant "It's all-up, Judith," he said faintly. has haunted me like a ghost. You never told-and I never dared ask you. Judith-"

Her face was still averted, and when she did not speak he turned his head from her on the pillow, with a breath that was almost a moan. She started, looking at him an instant in piteous hesitation, then swiftly kissed the lithave chosen the quick way." His the key and closed her hand tight upon it. Truth? She saw only the pillow

and the graying face upon it! She threw herself on her knees by the couch and laid her lips on the pallid forehead. "It-it was Sassoon, Monty," she said, and her voice broke on the first

lie she had ever told. "Thank God!" he gasped. He struggled to raise himself on his elbow, then suddenly the strength taded out and he settled back.

Her cry brought the doctor, but this time the restorative seemed of no avail, and after a time he came and touched her shoulder. With a last long look at the ash-pale face on the settee she followed him from the room. In the yellow parlor he put her into a chair.

"No," he said, in answer to her look, "he won't rouse again." "I will wait," she told him, and he

give it to me." She drew it from the left her, shutting the door with careout a key. "It opens a tin box in my But the slight figure with its silver trunk. There's-a letter in it for you." hair, sitting there, was not alone. He paused a moment, panting: "Ju- Ghosts were walking up and down. dith," he said, "I've got to tell you, but Not the misty wraiths John Valiant had at times imagined went flitting He struck me with something. He it's one Valiant gave me for you-that along the empty corridors, but faces swore at his trial he'd get me. I was morning, after the duel. I never gave very clear in the sunlight, that came

and went with the memories so long

There welled over her in a tide those days of puzzle, the weeks of waiting He lifted his hand with difficulty and silence, the slow inexorable months of put the key into hers. "The seal's still heartache, the long years that had unbroken, Judith," he said, "but I've deepened the mystery of Beauty Valiant's exile. In the first shock of the She was holding the key in her news that Sassoon had fallen by his had at length slipped away. "He will "I loved you, Judith!" he stam- write," she had told herself, "and expers had flitted to her-the tale of



FLOWERS USED AS EMBLEMS

Have Been Distinguishing Mark of Factions as Long as There is Record.

The determination of the "loyal" Ulster men to induce every man, woman and child to wear a flower as a token of their aversion to home rule reminds one how often flowers have been used as emblems.

Since the leaders of the Yorkist and Lancastrian parties each plucked a rose in the Temple gardens, the Lancastrian a red and the Yorkist a white, this flower has been a popular emblem Apart from the fact that red roses are symbolical of love and white of purity, the English national emblem is the rose; the Legitimist party of France formed the League of the Rose in imitation of England's Primrose league, while owing to Gladstone's fondness for white roses many liberals once wished to make them an emblem

The primrose, it is said, was Beaconsfield's favorite flower, and has been chosen by his followers, who formed the Primrose league, as an emblem, while in France, the violet, because of its purple hue, was worn by imperialists as an informal token of their loyalty to the Bonapartes, When the son of the ex-Empress Eugenie was brought home to be buried after being killed in the Zulu campaign, his body was almost covered in violets.

Then, again, there are favorite national emblems. There are the lilies of France, the thistle for Scotland, the shamrock for Ireland, the leek for Wales, and the maple leaf for Canada. The United States has no national flower and probably never will, owing to its wide range of climate, which makes the selection of a flower of universal popularity almost impossible.

When Document is Valuable. "Father, what is the Constitution?" "My son, it is a document that is fonts. Pe Both 'phones. most sacred to the party that is not in nower."-New Vork Sun

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