# A TALE OF **RED ROSES**



BV GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER

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### **SYNOPSIS**

ted with Molly Marley, daughter of set car company president. He sends

On Molly's invitation Sledge attends a party. Before the crowd disperses Molly thanks Sledge for his kindness, and then he proposes marriage. Her refusal is treated as only temporary by Sledge.

Molly attends the governor's ball, and her attractiveness results in her climbing the dizzy heights of popularity. The no-table respect accorded Sledge, however, perplexes her.

dedge moves for the car company's re-parization. He asks Marley for Molly's nd, but is refused. Having financially ned Bert Gilder, Sledge threatens to do same to Marley.

Marley's loans are ordered called by Sledge. Feeder, who receives a salary for keeping quiet about the public fund scan-fal, confesses during Sledge's questioning and is roughly handled.

Molly becomes angry at her father's ob-ous fear of Sledge. He tells her to mar-him, but she refuses and suggests th on Sledge, which encourages Marley

Sledge visits Bozzam, and a heated ar-ument arises. The chief finds Bozzam o working against him. The reorganized allway company stockholders meet. Mar-ty presides, and Sledge is present.

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The two votes of Marley and Bert Glid-are sufficient to carry the amendment the resolution for the purchase of the anchise for \$50,000 cash.

Siedge receives an announcement of the ngagement of Molly and Glider. Bozzam sils Marley Siedge decided not to sell the ranchise at any price, and that he is nancially dead. Sledge goes to the state capital and gets everything fixed up for the passage of a bill granting a new car company a fifty year franchise free of charge.

Marley visits the state senator at home and meets Sledge. He finds out the particulars of the bill and then wires a syndicate for best offer for controlling inter-

"I mean to protect the honest workingman, to save our houses and fire-sides and add honor and glory to the American flag," responded Allerton sol-

Marley accepted that merry quip with the courteous chuckle which it de-

Outside of that and drying the tears of the widows and orphans, what do you propose to accomplish by it?" he persisted in like vein. "If I didn't know you were above spitework I should think that you had it in for the

street car interests."

Again the senator looked at him with a puzzled air, then he turned to Sledge.
"Doesn't he know anything?" he

"Doesn't he know anything?" he queried.
"Naw!" rumbled Sledge.
"I see," answered Allerton coolly. "I supposed you all knew that before the bill was passed it would be amended to conserve the important financial interests."

Marley pondered that statement

Marley pondered that statement awhile, and then he laughed.
"Of course," he said. "It's only political claptrap, intended to make the voter think you are eternally on the

ical claptrap, intended to make the voter think you are eternally on the job in his interests."

"I wouldn't put it in exactly that way," soberly reproved Allerton, justly offended by this coarse method of impugning his motives.

"I apologize," said Marley. "I should have said 'the bill displays that you constantly have the interests of your constituents at heart.' We were rather exercised about it, but we should not have been, for in your long service for the public I do not think you have ever promoted or fostered any legislation which would be destructive of capital."

"Certainly not," agreed Allerton, who never let down his pose in the presence of a man who had not proved his right to sit within the sacred circle. "Without the proper and legitimate fostering of enterprises requiring extensive financial support there can be no national prosperity."

"That's sound enough doctrine," "The bill is absoluted."

"I doing it." He motioned that his untouched soup might be taken away and toyed in nervous embarrassment with an almond. "Ver already done it," he half shame-facedly explained.

"Not quite," he hesitated. "I did, however, stop at the telegraph office on my way back from Allerton's this morning, and I wired the people who have been after my stock to name their best offer."

"Good!" she responded. "Will you ket it, whatever it is?"

"I can't bind myself to that," he replied. "I must confess, however, that, will exter the offer is. I shall be tempted."

"Allerton must have given you very little satisfaction about that bill," surmised Bert.

"Quite the contrary," stated Marley.

"That's sound enough doctrine," "The bill is absoluted."

mendments which are to soften the blow?"

With kindly patience the senator explained to him the amendments, one by one, being careless enough, however, not to mention the fifty year franchise clause.

At the end of an hour Marley, much relieved in his mind, took his departure, regretting that Sledge was not tready to accompany him.

"It's strange how easily a man in control of important investments it kes fright," he acknowledged, as he arose to go. "We can be put on the run with a penny's worth of firetrackers. Not long ago our friend Sledge, here, had me stampeded, but I checkmated the old villain. As a matter of fact, the only result of his campaign against the collection one of the control of my result of his campaign against the collection. "He'll have to move quickly," anworth of firecrackers.
had me stampeded, but I checkmated the old villain. As a matter of fact, the only result of his campaign against me was to put me in control of my own company, and now, I fancy, I have the thing so well tied up that I can't be hurt. I beat you at your own game, eh, Sledge?" and he chuckled down at his defeated oppressor with forgiving triumph.

Sledge looked up at him and smit.

We fitter of street railway tain."

"Father," said Molly suddenly in the midst of the silence which followed, "if Mr. Sledge finds you have sent that telegram he will do whatever he is going to do before you can turn around."

"He'll have to move quickly," answered her father with a superior the slightest provocation. "I sent my people that telegram today would have it the morning on the slightest provocation. "I sent my people that telegram today would have it the morning on the slightest provocation."

Marley was conscious of that strange sensation which those who had run foul of Sledge had described as an actual physical chil!, like the sudden opening of a window to the cold rain, and the smile upon his own face froze. He was conscious that his lips were still in the contour which his bragging chuckle had given them, and he felt the embarrassed ## wardness in restoring his features to their normal expression, which a man does who has

der.

The horror and the menace and the malignity of that smile increased upon him as he drove into the city. In front of the telegraph office he abruptly stopped, and hurrying in seut this message to his up state syndicate:

Wire best offer controlling interest.

Wire best offer controlling interest.
Bert Glider, a necessary adjunct to
the Sunday dinner, came just in time
to sit down at the table with the family, and he was so preoccupied that
Molly was half vexed with him.

"Now, who has won part of your
marbles?" she chided him, attempting
to conceal her annoyance with him under the guise of gay railiery.

"Bert already looks like a married
man," laughed Fern. "I'd be frightened half to death, Molly. Think what
he'll look like at a breakfast on the
first of each month."

"He'll never see the meat bill," de-

"He'll never see the meat bill," de-clared Molly. "I intend to begin with

cared Mony. "I intend to begin with allmony."

"I hope I can pay it," responded Bert, catching the all too jovial spirit of the assemblage and pretending to gayety himself. "I think my first step toward making a living, however, will be to move out of this state where I can buy and sell a piece of property without asking permission of some alderman or ward thu."

and sell a piece of property without asking permission of some alderman or ward thug."

"I think we'll all go." suggested Marley, who had been looking studiously into his soup. "What has happened to worry you, Bert?"

"Since Sledge smiled?" queried that neatly mustached young man in order to head him off from that reproach. "I think I have good cause this time. I took a drive out Lincoln road this morning, and they're going ahead with their amusement park project."

"Impossible." asserted Marley, straightening in outraged dignity. "while the Ring City Street Railway company has a Lincoln road franchise, which would prevent our competitors from obtaining one. It has not announced any intention or building in that direction and will not do so."

Bert laughed quite without mirth. "You remind me of that good old standard story of the man who was arrested for some trifling offense. He sent for his friend and explained the circumstances. "Why, it's confounded nonsense!" exclaimed the friend, holding the bar's and looking through the grating of the cell door. 'No policeman on earth can throw you into jail for that."

"Why, he was in jail at that very

on earth-can throw you into jail for that."

"Why, he was in jail at that very minute," protested Fern.

"I think that's supposed to be the point of the story," guessed Molly. "Of what is it apropos, Berf?"

"Of the impossibility of building an amusement park on Lincoln road," he answered. "They're digging a lake out there. They've erected the scaffolding of a roller coaster. They've built a big workshed, which is later to be turned into a Tannenbaum hall, which just now is stacked with gaudy parts of a three story merry-go-round. It may be utterly impossible for them to build an amusement park out there, but they're doing it."

cial support there can be no national prosperity."

"That's sound enough doctrine,"

"The bill is absolutely harmless. It is only a bit of political flapdoodle, intended to convince the voters of the state that Allerton is constantly on the job."

With kindly patience the senator explained to him the amendments, one "Something must have happened to

beeth. The under side of his upper lip showed a sharp roll of vivid scarlet, and his cold gray eyes combined to give that facial distortion an expression of malignity startling even to Allerton, who knew the man even better than Tom Bendix

Marley was conscious of that strange sensation which those who had run foul of Sledge had described as an actual physical chill, like the sudden onening of a window to the cold rain.

by 10 o'clock."

"I wish I could sleep until 10 and when I wake up find that it's all right."

Molly worried. "If you and Dert are not entirely out of all business deals in this town by our wedding day Sledge will see to it. if he has to move heaven and earth to accomplish it, that we none of us have a dollar, and by that I mean absolute pauperism in the best and most thorougly melodramatic sense."

"I don't see how unless Molly marries, Sledge." suggested her father, with a laugh.

Molly started to laugh also, but found this town by our wedding day Sledge will seet to it. if he has to move heaven and earth to accomplish it, that we none of us have a dollar, and by that I mean absolute pauperism in the best and most thorougly melodramatic sense."

"I don't see how unless Molly marries, Sledge." suggested her father, with a laugh.

Molly started to laugh also, but found this town by our wedding day Sledge will seet looking at her speculatively.

"She doesn't need g, that far." he mused.

Molly looked at him in sharp incredulity for a moment; then, without a word, she turned to leave the room.

"Where are you going?" asked her father, with

sense."
"He has the most absurd way of making love." commented Fern. "It's like the old cave dweller plan of killing off the family, batting the fair maid in the head with a club and letting her wake up in her new home."
"Not Sledge. He does his lovemak."

ing with red roses," laughed Molly tons and tons of them. This is a different proposition. He has reduced everything in life to dollars and cents, and he thinks that if he can only break Bert and father there'll be no wedding bells for us. Bert and I will each be compelled to seek a more lucrative match."

blaming her for the sentiment, however. "You're positively hopeless. Fern."

"All right." insisted Fern. "I don't think there'd be any more fun than taming and managing a big brute like him."

"Throw her out." begged Bert. "She's dangerous!"

CHAPTER XIII.

Molly's Anxiety Well Founded.

The means feigned, for the next morning, at 10 o'clock, she called up her father at his office and asked him if he had received an answer to his telegram. In rather a worried tone he replied that he had not, but that he would let her know as soon as he had done so.

She wandered about the bouse, quite ill at ease; then, unable to content herself, suggested to Fern that they make ready for a drive. When they were ready she hesitated a moment or two in front of the telephone, but conquered that temptation. Instead, she made their first stop at her father's office, and, with a curlous degree of consideration, waited in the little red reception room to be announced. She was told to come right in, and found Bert with her father.

Marley silently handed her a tele-

their first stop at her father's office.
and, with a curious degree of consider ation, waited in the little red reception room to be announced. She was told to come right in, and found Bert with her father.

Marley silently handed her a telegram. It read:
Our Mr. Coldman will see you in two weeks from today.
"Two weeks," she worried. "Can't you possibly hurry them up?"
Marley handed her another telegram: Impossible to arrange earlier date.
"Hunt's resignation was in my mail this morning," stated Marley, with forced quietness. "He has taken a position as secretary with Sledge's company, and I suppose half my office force will follow him."

"Two weeks," speculated Bert, then he added impatiently: "Confound it, Marley! I'm in a pretty pickle if we can't clear our skirts of this thing! I borrowed the money to buy up Moodson's stock from some friends of mine, and on my unsupported note. To lose would mean the absolute end of my social standing, here or anywhere."
"We'll see that you get yours first," offered Marley, whose respect for his son-in-law to be was only superficial.
"I didn't mean to urge my personal" in the proposition of the pro



"I don't see how unless Molly marries Sledge," suggested his father.

claims above yours," Bert hedged, his impatience, however, only slightly modified. "The fundamental fact is that we must gain time."

father.

"To see Sledge," she responded. "I think you told me that he is always at the bank between 11 and 12 in the morning."

"Molly." commanded Bert sharply, recalled to his senses by her bearing. "you mustr't see him. I forbid it."

"I am taking your advice, but I re-

fuse to take your orders," she calmly informed him, surprised to find in herself an inclination to giggle over her use of that splendidly ringing remark. "Molly will shield you from all harm," she added, and she was snickering when she rejoined Fern. "What's the joke?" asked that young

"What's the joke?" asked that young

compelled to seek a more lucrative match."

She glanced smilingly at Bert and surprised on his face a curious expression, which plunged her into deep and not overly pleasant thought.

"He'd have bluffed me long ago," confessed Fern. "I'd have been so scared to death that by this time I'd be sending out afternoon tea invitations on his business stationery."

"You spiritiess wretch!" chided Molly.

"It might not be so bad, after all," returned Fern, persisting, now that she had started, in revealing the entire depth of her depravity. "I suppose I ought to be ashamed to acknowledge it, but I like Sledge."

"You may pack up your things and go home," laughed Molly, not really blaming her for the sentiment, however. "You're positively hopeless. Fern."

"All right," insisted Fern. "I don' "All right," insisted Fern. "I don' "a most important conference, one involving the welfare and prosperity of involving the welfare a

"With Molly?" inquired Marley, CIRCULATED BAD MONEY

"wanting to smile,
"Molly and Fern. Fern's a nice kid."
"All right; tomorrow night, then,"
suggested Marley, his mind firmly
fixed on the commercial opportunity.
"Daytime." corrected Sledge. "I'm
busy nights. Say, Marley, is that game
between Molly and Bert called clear

Marley, with an instant thought that at the very least this new turn would enhance his price with the syndicate

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which had proposed to buy him out.

"Hunh-uh!" assented Sledge. "You better see Davis about your mortgage. He won't extend, but he'll hold off."

"I'll go over right away." answered Marley, anxious to take advantage of that offer also as quickly as possible.

that offer also as quickly as possible.
"Wait till tomorrow," ordered Sledge
and stalked out. having but very little
time to waste.
His way lay directly past the Grand
Opera House, and he stopped at the
ticket window.

"Give me a box for tonight." he
grunted.
"Thanks" grunted Sledge and stuffed

"Thanks!" grunted Sledge and stuffed the trekets in his pocket.
"Don't mention it." returned the treasurer as nonchalantly and walked back to the manager of the company.

Carlot EVIDENCE AWAITED

All Americans on Sussex Were Saved, Some Badly Injured—Piece of Tor-

(To be continued.)

INDICTMENT DENOUNCED

"Did Molly say so?" evaded Marley.
"No," Sledge hesitated. "Is it?"
"That's entirely Molly's affair."
"I believe you," coincided Sledge, and again he chuckled as he arose to go.
"Is there any objection to giving out a hint of this consolidation?" asked Marley, with an instant thought that

Children Ory FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

# **RELATIONS WITH GERMANY TENSE**

Too Late for Apologies, Indicated at White House

pedo Found on Deck of Vessel.

With tension in official circles in-creasing as cable dispatches bring fresh evidence that the English chan-

Siledge walked into Marley's office with his parlor smile, the recently outlived one which belonged of right to the red rose he wore, and he sat down before he began to speak. His usual method was to deliver his messages standing.

"We ought to figure a consolidation, he suggested.

Marley considered that statement carefully. He was beginning to learn that he really needed caution in dealing with Sledge.
"One of us might be gobbled up," he sagely concluded. "As I understand it, you own 75 per cent of the new company, while I only hold a bare majority of the old one. It would scarcely be possible that in a consolidation I would still have control."

"We'd have to pool our stock for either one to hold it," agreed Sledge. "I don't quite understand the advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, I'd have to see that advantage to you in this," he puzzled. "Frankly, Mr. Sledge, and he chuckled. "She's a smart girl."

"Yes; she said she was going to see you," replied Marley, clutching eagerly at the straw.

"I thought she'd get enough," stated Sledge, and he chuckled. "She's a smart girl."

"Yes; she sile she was going to see you," replied Marley, clutching eagerly at the straw.

"I the statemer Sussex was torpedeed without warning, is evidence that the English chantle and abstraction, a new presentment ad abstraction, a new presentment against J. V. Thompson ferm evidence that the English chantle stanter Sussex was evidence that the Edwa

Sledge, and he chuckled. "She's a smart girl."

"Yes; she is," assented Marley, wondering just how much she had said to make such a remarkable change in Sledge. "A consolidation would probably be a very sensible thing. It would enable us to plan extensions, lines and loops which would increase our revenues tremendously, with no possibility of dividing the patronage. Moreover, a mere announcement of such a move would add immediately to the market value of the stock in both companies."

"We consolidate after the marriage," amended Sledge. "We get all ready now."

"Any time you say," readily consented Marley, "That would are dividing the patronage. Woreover, a mere ded Selege. "We get all ready now."

"Any time you say," readily consented Marley, "That meet with you and arrange the details tonight."

"Naw!" refused Sledge. "Theater to night."

"With Molly?" inquired Marley, "CIRCIII ATED RAD MONEY

"And Loud the Wails. Pooh, Pooh, My Dear, They're Only Whales.

Five whales, appearing in the path of the steamship Stampalia while that to the steamship Stampalia while that the tessel was skirting the coast of Sardinia on her way from Genoa and Naples to New York, caused an alarm of submarines, and resulted in a near panic among the 849 steerage passengers, according to reports of passengers when the ship at the live ilves in the torpedoing of the channel pasket and administration of ficials were hopeful that the channel passengers have been accounted f Two American women passengers on the Sussex, it is understood, are quoted in official dispatches as saying they saw the wake of a torpedo just before the explosion on the Sussex

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