## The Strength of the Pines "Pyspepsia"

## THE KILLER'S CHARGE TOO LATE

The bear reared up, snarling with wrath, but for a moment it dured not charge. The sudden appearance of the girl and the horse held him momentarily at bay. The girl swung to the ground in one leap, fired again, thrust her arm through the loop of the bridle ruin, then knelt at Bruce's side. The white blade that she carried in her left hand slashed at his bonds.

The horse, plunging, seemed to jerk her body back and forth, and endless seconds seemed to go by before the last of the thongs was severed. In reality the whole rescue was unbelievably swift. The man helped her all he could. "Up-up into the saddle," she commanded.

Once more the pistol cracked. Then the horse broke and ran in a frenzy of terror. Bruce was full in the saddle by then, and even at the first leap his arm swept out to the girl on the ground beside him. He swung her towards him, and at the same time her hands caught at the arching back of the saddle. Never had her fine young strength been put to a greater test than when she pulled herself up to a position of security.

The Killer's charge had come a few seconds too late.

Here you have them-the hero, the heroine and the great grizzly which dominates more than one scene in "The Strength of the Pines." For this stirring story is a tale of the Oregon wilderness, where nature makes civilized man look small. But to the right kind of man nature gives strength from her strength. By the girl's cabin stands a great sentinel pine. And from the army of pines at its back comes the strength that gives this city man the power to win at long odds from the evil clan of mountaineers that menaces him and the girl he loves.

This is Edison Marshall's second novel. He's a native of Oregon and lives at Medford. He began to attract attention in 1918 when he was a newspaper man by his short stories. In 1921 he won the first prize of the Society of Arts and Sciences of New York with a story. "The Heart of Little Shikara." His first book was "The Voice of the Pack," which was published in 1920 and is still selling. Read "The Strength of the Pines" and you will see why his public has been won.

mean to be personal--"

"And of course you went?"

"land That Queer, Bruce!"

## BOOK ONE THE CALL OF THE BLOOD

CHAPTER I

ring of his telephone bell. Instantly ner, too, if they care at all about living. Fron- the devils of the deep to see you-the woman was Linda?" Hersmen learn the trait, too; but as moment I came here."

Then he grunted rebelliously and "But tell me something first. Was "And how do you get there?" seemed somewhat strange in him. danced at his watch beneath the pil- Duncan your real father? If he was,

He had no doubte whatever concerncountry street has secrete was being men from the chart what the side has secrete was being men from the chart what the side has secrete was being men from the chart what the side has secrete was being men from the chart what the side has secrete was direct tone from the late. tied up, and Bruce had been having a Recine me, old man, for saying hag, she told me to tell you, for Mrs. Ross, discus Bruce had supposed that most of the i .-- back in the Cascades. I was fishing brown. sebts had been paid now; he won- for steelhead in a river they call the "Tm 'phoning-asking for reserva- hands." dered, as he fumbled into his bedroom Roppie. While way up on the upper tions on the first train west," he anslippers, whicher the thousand or so waters I heard of a place called Trail's swered. dollars that were left would cover the End-a place where wise men do not glaim of the man who was now call go," ing him to the telephone.

"This is Mr. Duncan," he said cold- "Of course. The name sounds silly

in which he mused that this voice city. lest month," he answered sluply. There was not the slightest trace of emotion in his tone. No wayfarer on the itreet would have been, as far as facts went, more of a stranger to him; there was no sense of loss at his death is Birace el Zonking "

He bead the other gasp. "Old man, I'm poery," his contrite voice came. "I didn't know of your loss. This is Burney-Berney Wegan-and I just get in from the West. Haven't had a bit of news for months. Accept

"Barney ! Of course." The delight giew on Blauce's face; for Burney Wegan, a man whom he had met and his club, was quite near to being a real The mairs voice changed ut oncewent buck to its same urgest, but rither embarramed tone. "You won't believe me if I tell you, so I won't try to tell you ever the 'phone. But I must come up-right away. May I'

"Of course-" "I'll be there in a minute." Brace bung up, alonly descended to his abstracy, said flashed on the lights. For the first time he was revealed pintoly. His was a familiar type; but The Marys Voice Broke and Changed. he never gave up trying. at the same time the best typo, too. He had the face and the body of an athlete, a min who keens himself fit: every stronger that came to fish or a number of things with it. One of at all " and here will another marked or of hunt in the region of Trail's East them was a great and overwhelming the marked marked at the first one if they came from and terror the matter of which he bear a moment's wonder at the and terror the matter of which he bear and terror the matter of the first one in They note quite clear note, wide "I would describe to you and I won't describe to you are for favoring and a how the bound I'll bet you see for atranger depth of expression and received for you care to follow out her cause the force in the

By EDISON MARSHALL Author of "The Voice of the Pack"

long!' she cried, in the queerest, sob- lights, but may more such that their cent at all?" "This Ne on Duncan had a son- a fixed a

a foster-sog-named Bruce, she told fear or me. And then I said I knew you. came over her. I thought she'd die young to remover if she had carried tell you, Mr. Duncan," he said at as Bruce could see through the win-Bruce if you must know gave me Yet, the was considered, there must with an infant girl-when he was lights that could be discorned in this

"Of course I asked why she hadn't | Of cou written to Duncan. The answer was her that her day, nor for the first -she was a trifle vague on that point younger than himself; thus when he -dispatch a letter. Something is up, was taken in house she was only

Bruce suddenly leaned forward, someth The brown face had grown quite boo. Etc.

asked. He spoke slowly-with evident | manhood

Barnoy answered with the same was of supple a sister." slowness-each word distinct. "For Linds and seen homely; even to tell you on the first train. That Linds was itself six when Bruce had He had only a few minutes to wait; there was no time to lose." The man's left for and said he was then at an then Barney Wegan tapped at his voice broke and changed. "Isn't that age in miles impressions begin to door. This man was bronzed by the queer, Bruce?"

and tailer and more lithe. He had just of emotion was one that even Barney's But there had seen a light in her eyes! come from the far places. The em- eyes, trained to the dimness of the wil- By his wall, there had been! barrassment that Bruce had detected derness, falled to see. It was just an | She had Bruce was wakened by the sharp in his voice was in his face and manthe chair arms until the blue veins he remotions how that light had he was fully aroused, in complete con- "You'll think I'm crazy for routing stood out. There was nothing else grown and breakened. She had flung trol of all his faculties. And this is you out at this time of night, Bruce," about him to indicate that the dead at his laughed at the not especially common to men bred in he began. "And I'm going to get this had spoken to him-that one of the memory's the security of civilization. Rather matter off my chest as soon as possible great dreams of his life was coming my-the hards had smacked it is a trait of the wild creatures; a and let you go to bed. It's all batty, true. He spoke rather painfully. "Did against a closes and her sharp little little matter that is quite necessary anyway. But I was cautioned by all -did you get the idea that the old name to be supported him "Little Spit-

"I didn't get that idea," Barney an- | no one was sould call her anything Bruce was a dweller of cities it "Cigarettes on the smoking-stand," swered. "She spoke of Linda as the but Line Beggar, Any thought flashed to some great monater

"Buy a ticket for Deer Creek, in This w low. He had gone to bed early; It Fil know I'm up a wrong tree. I don't southern Oregon." There was no need the bes for Bruce to write the name. It was Nor w "lie wast't. I thought you know it. branded, inclineably, is his conscious strange of the nature of this call. There had 150 real father is something like you need. Then take up the long road liked a

somewhat stresmous time with his But she was one, if there is any such. Bruce leaped up and turned swiftly when creditors. He understood the man's Lord knows who she is, or whether or through the door. Barney called a be we real financial situation at last; at his not she's a relation of yours. But I'll question to his vanishing figure. Just quite death the whole business; structure begin at the beginning. You know I for an instant Bruce surned-his dark Perha

CHAPTER II

Before the gray dawn came over the But the now, but it won't if you ever go there. land Bruce Duncan had started west- her ex-"How do you do, Mr. Duncan," a Thire are only a few families, Bruce, wast. He had no self-amaniment at slowly waste answered. "Pardon me if I got miles and sales apart, in the whole the lightning decision. He was only againyou up. It want to talk to your son, region. And it's enormous—no one strangely and deeply exultant. knews how hig. Just ridge on ridge. The reasons why went too deep "What in Brice smitted a little gasp of One day my guide stopped at a broken- within him to be easily seen. In the amazement. Whoever talked at the down old cable on the hillside for a first place, it was adventure-and swored and of the line obviously didn't know | drink of water. I was four miles Bruce's life had not been very adventhat the elder Duncan was dead, away in camp. The guide came back turous heretofore. Then there was a and then Bruce had a moment of grim humor and asked me if I was from this very sense of immeasurable relief at his said A med man it at his throat and it long and carried it out with infinite would have done rather well if it "I told him yes, and asked him why the financial problems his father had could arouse his foster father to an he wanted to know. He said that this left. He would have no more consulawer it. "The elder Mr. Duncan died old woman sent word, secretly, to tations with impatient creditors, no the few men of the more would be strive to gather to Brief, has you ever seen or heard mystery. Linds was missing Whether As surely as he would have recognized gether the ruins of the business, and of enell attempt to salvage the small remain- know. ing fragments of his father's fortune.

> he had seen a clear trail shead. It takes his named trial with the idea a tall boy with rather unusual nunctiwas something to do, something at of adoption last that mattered. dream. He was going toward Linda, did not make a what city he went, no word from her. He had given up living creature in his memory that he of the passe so met there. But he did again. "My little sister," he said had cared for and who cared for him remember

the few impressions he had retained all in farms only. And Pre fetched anticipation. of his childhood. First was the Square bouse-the orphanage-where the Woman had you there comming victous in that smoke was heavy upon him, Bruce when the could eatch a very dim and feeting to my clasglimpse of the Woman's face. It was the Terran

sicture did come to him, it brought pull him on

beneget the bland and cool exterior, a part comis in. The old witch raised nurse hads assent such fires in sweet month and ages up die great strottens and his her arm, jointed her cane at me, and through the lar spread energreen tendent comasked us if I knew Newton Duncan, forests of the Sectlawest, It was some to please him

"I told her there might be several other, drant see that seared the spirit est came into the thin face. "I sup- take home; and sleep would not have else they tried had falled. Newton Duncans in a city this size, and burned we also of the face pose he'll do-as good as any. It was fallen so easily and sweetly if he You should have seen the pain grow and all the souls lights out of the the wife's idea, anyway, you know, had beard it.

As soon as you get home, tell him to And these

simple enough-that she didn't know years. The at later memories of the how to write. Those in the mountains | Square | the steams included her. that could write wouldn't, or couldn't She must have been nearly four years Bruce, and I don't know what. But an infect, the chereafter, the nurses she said-for you to come back and put they bearer often; and when Linds was able to talk, she chiled him for a long thing he couldn't be sure "What else did she say?" Bruce that was his real name. Now, in on of course. Linds

you to come-and she made mit swear | small buy 17. ht notice that. Bissides, be install Her hair was quite blond sun, never more fit, never straighter | Bruce slowly stiffened; the only sign | then, souther to the property in the state of the state mangry at him times in .

> fice," he sessences called her; but able little fighter, even in those days. He was too of drawing pictures.

heen drawing?" "Not be for a six-year-old boy," orphanage.

He had no plans, he didn't know which stuck in free memory had happened lawns, the superintendent could not way to turn. All at once, through the only a few enorths after his arrival tell. They had never been able to

was real. Linds, the little "spittire" the the one resilty in his world, and as he of a war to the stranger had But now he was going to first his disappointed. His wanted his news thought of her, his memory reviewed said. It was true, however, the few interestation he had residued and he won't and his heart was full of joy and eagur that his hour strate.

"I be live to being frank, and I tell only a gimpse, only the faintest blur arrang state in half-tone, and then quite gone. Yet little Torses bey was on the

es Yet the superin- to him.

sturdy fellow," he said, as Bruce was | and become intertwined much more

The man's eyes traveled slowly from his berth, the first sweet drifting of the child's curly head to his rapidly sleep upon him, he was the subject growing feet; but no gleam of inter- of a discussion in a far-distant mounon her face. 'After so long, after so eyes. It die powerer, leave certain What about parentage? Anything de-

tures as to his own parentage, thought | that was enough to tell the story. | health." The Warren and kissed him and that some key might be given him at There were no tall buildings, lighted of heart failure. The whole thing, any sort of months close to her breast, last. "A woman brought him here-- dows of his bedroom at night. The the creeps. Tell him to come here, have been seen a bundle-otherwise about four. I suppose she was his strange, dark sky were largely unshe begged me. 'Don't lose a moment. he couldn't account for Linda. mother and she didn't wait to talk familiar to Bruce, because of the to me. The nurse said that she wors smoke-clouds that had always hung outlandish clothes and had plainly had above the city where he lived. There a hard time."

were just starm, but there were so "But she didn't wait---?" many of them that the mind was un-"She dropped her children and fled." able to comprehend their number.

A cold little smile flickered at the There was also a moon that cast a pected a second romance and made



He moved shiwly, lastly, and the

of the forest that could aproot a tree ling in itself; many lit- nable," he said significantly. "But I'll with a blow, The face was high, big and gaunt ! ad of drawing pictures, take the little beggar, anyway." annually good. Their And thus Bruce went to the cold of bone; and particularly one would In his subjects. He dreside of the Dimenne-a house is notice the mouth. It would be noticed amount in particular- a great and distant city where, is the even before the dark, deep-sunkers are that the particular and provided the country of the great is the country of the great in the country of the great is the country of the great in the country of the great is the country of the great in the country of the great is the country of the great in the country of the great is the country of the great in the great to the proof of the word of th oldn't have looked at of rather doubtful prosperity, a womcollapsed like the eggshell it was even handsome in the hard, the twice of the control of the same of all taken it out of his casual interest is him, and many, straight, black hair-the man's age sography" then, not many hours of almost overwhelming was about thirty-cine-long over rather should have been loneliness. Also there were many dark ears, and a great, gnaried throat. And he had every thoughts such as are not especially

The words whim he spoke siemed to at the teacher would good for the spirits of growing boys. come from deep within it. icture and send him | The place where the Duncans lived "Come in, Dave," he said. a for punishment. | was a house, but under no liberal la-In this little remark lay something se such thing. When terpretation of the word could it be of the man's power. The visitor had down, her fingers called a home. There was nothing come unannounced. His visit had been L. Then she looked homelike in it to little Bruce. unexpected. His host had not yet The other lasting memory was of seen his face. Tet the man knew, Bruce?" she asked. Linda. She represented the one liv-

before the door was opened, who it ing creature in all his assemblage of was that had come. ow," the child an phantoms—the one person with whom The reason went back to a certain ad and for an instant he could claim real kinship. He tad s go wandering here done a bold thing, after his first few quickening of the synses that is the are trees," he years with the Duncans. He planned men who are really residents of the sudden and unexpected freedom from he blur was the non the freedom from he blur was the non in care of the superintendent of the wild as much as the wolves that was, he had beard the sound of appreaching feet in the pine needles.

But Bruce did not she had run away, or whether some the dark face of the man in the door one had come by in a closed car and way, he recognised the sound as usiting adventure that carried her off as she played on the Dave's step. observer would have detected an air message that Barney had brought him, at the Source mess when a man had trace her. He had been fifteen then, of deference in his attitude. Very plainly he had come to see his chief lar development, and the girl was All the necessary and details of the cleves. And in the year nineteen hunheat, less powering of physique, and Finally there remained the eminent excursity was nie prospective parent dred and twenty, ten years after the his eyes did not held quite so straight fact that this was an answer to his were at most some and vague. He reply to his letter, Bruce had heard There was less tavagery but more at last. The girl had been the one mor had he nor recollection whatever all hepe of ever hearing from her transfer to he was the same and he was recollection whatever all hepe of ever hearing from her He blurted out his news at ones a compressible clearness, softly to a memory. Then bittierness. "Old Elmira has got word down to -the one person whose interest in him the service of the man and -a whole black flood of it-would the settlements at last," he said. There was no muncular response is of his boylood, had suddenly become heart but the return even know that she was my sister " the larger min. Dave was plainly

Dave glanced away.

"What do you mean?" the man de-

"Menn-I mean fast what I said. We !

"At last," she cried.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

This Earth's Fourth Warm Period.

should have watched closer. Bill--- I

Young Bill, I mean-saw a city chap

taken a message from her."

"How long ago was thin?"

"You've come at last."

"West ago Tuesday."

CHAPTER III

turned him over to the nurse to hop's latter in came out the very There had not been time to make the charge. Sometimes, when tobacco first money he was in the house, quiry as to the land Bruce was going was introducing him to. He only knew one thing-that and som. "This is lit- it was the wilderness. The fact that first in the set of going in to see anti-and this boy he had no business plans for the future him. I'd never let and no financial resources except a em to fight, and this few hundred do lars that he carried within and was pound- in his pocket did not matter one way The few times that her memory- ing him was parners before we could or another. He was willing to spend ston's understand it all the money be had; after it was gone, he would take up some work in

sticularly auxious. But the paths men take, electingly, I the fourth and but time. We are new lies, will then this with wholly the secur abox entiseries. Iving to the fourth were period.

Victims of stomach trouble, indiges tion, dyspepsia and their ailied complaints find Tanlac an ever-ready than Bruce knew. Even as he lay in

of the forest creatures. But the patch

that it cast on the floor was obscured

in a moment because the man who

had been musing in the big chair be-

side the empty fireplace had risen and

The light prevented any further

covered chairs grouped about it. But

the eyes never would have got to

these. They would have been held and

fascinated by the face and the form

No one could look twice at that mas-

sive physique and question its might.

He seemed almost gipantic in the yel-

low lamplight. In reality he stood

of the man who had just lighted the

ighted a kerosene lamp.

"Taniad helped my wonderfully," said Mrs. W. H. Hocker, 84 Rose Ave., Clifton Forge, Va. "For over a year It might have been a different world. I suffered tortures from indirection. bing way. Then she took heart and remembrance to live on the simplest foods. just a wild glare, a long time before answering. Little moon, could be seen through the solled I became almost a nervous wreck. eightness as of greet Bruce, already full of secret conject and besmirched window pane; but Taniac restored me to the best of

Tanisc helps the stomach digest "You can't imagine the change that gone quicker and he had been too last. "There is nothing that we can by a thousand electric lights, such the food properly and eliminate waste. Soon the whole system is built up, the blood is purified and the entire body takes on new tone, vitality and energy. Get a bottle today and start on the road to health. For sale by all good druggists .-- Advertisement,

source of relief and comfort. Thou-

sands of people have refound the joys

of health by its use after everything

Long-Distance Courting. The widowed "scrob lady" was a little abstructed. Her mistress susman's lips. "It looks rather dam- little square of light, like a fairy such kindly inquiries that the truth tapestry, on the floor. It was not such | smerged.

a moon as leers down red and strange "Yes, mum, I suppose I am courtin'. through the smoke of cities. It was An' yet, I don't know for sure, because vivid and quite white-the wilderness | he's been fishin' down in Florida for moon that times the hunting hours | the last six months."

Wanted the Chespest, "How much was dose collars?" "Two for a quarter." "How much for vun?" "Fifteen cents." "Giff me de odder ma."-Yale Rec-

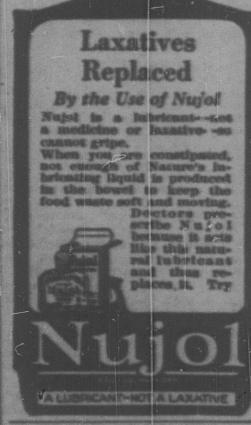
scrutiny of the moon and stars. And nearly so pleasing to the spirit. It Not Now. was a great, white-walled room that "When I was young girls were would have been beautiful had it not taught to darn their own stockings." been for certain unfortunate attempts "Yes, Grandma, but in those days it to beautify it. There was a stone ! was possible to place a darn where it fireplace, and certain massive, dust wouldn't show,"-Little

"The poets' corner--" "Huh? Has sometody gotten up a corner in poets?"

Be sure of your size before you pull

six feet and almost three inches, and his frame was perfectly in proportion. They Eat





MEN OR WOMEN-TH sell template line

COLAC PILLS—he internal pile emedy-drive Piles away and make operations unnecessary. Take like crypill, Reach trouble from within, Quiek, man well —might be into usted in this western About 30,000 pages ago les began sure reitet 60 cents at druggists or 65 and lines about his fourner of his did not even occur to cover the serthern part of the cents by mail from COLAC CHESTER-

W. N. U., PITTERURGH, NO. 25-1122

with his guide-Wegan was the man's name-and Bill said be stayed a lot. longer than he would have if he hadn't