

# The VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

BY PETER B. KYNE  
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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Pioneer in the California redwood region, John Cardigan, at forty-seven, is the leading citizen of Sequoia, owner of mills, ships, and many acres of timber. A widower after three years of married life, and father of two-day-old Bryce Cardigan.

CHAPTER II.—At fourteen Bryce makes the acquaintance of Shirley Sumner, a visitor to Sequoia, and his junior by a few years. Together they visit the Valley of the Giants, sacred to John Cardigan and his son as the burial place of Bryce's mother, and part with mutual regret.

CHAPTER III.—While Bryce is at college John Cardigan meets with heavy business losses and for the first time views the future with uncertainty.

CHAPTER IV.—After graduation from college, and a trip abroad, Bryce Cardigan comes home in the train he meets Shirley Sumner, on her way to Sequoia to make her home there with her uncle, Col. Pennington. Bryce learns that his father's eyesight has failed and that Col. Pennington is seeking to take advantage of the old man's business misfortunes.

CHAPTER V.—In the Valley of the Giants young Cardigan finds a tree felled directly across his mother's grave. Indications are that it was cut down to secure the burl, and evidence seems to show that Pennington and his woods-boss, Jules Rondeau, are implicated in the outrage.

CHAPTER VI.—Dining with Col. Pennington and his niece, Bryce finds the room paneled with redwood burl, confirming his suspicions of Pennington's guilt. In a diplomatic way, unperceived by Shirley, the two men declare war.

CHAPTER VII.—Pennington refuses to renew his logging contract with the Cardigans, believing his action means bankruptcy for the latter. Bryce forces Col. Pennington to confess he felled the tree in the Valley of the Giants, at Pennington's order. After punishing the man, Bryce orders Bryce to leave her and to end their friendship. He leaves, but refuses to accept dismissal.

CHAPTER VIII.—Returning to Sequoia, the train on which Shirley, her uncle, and Bryce are traveling, breaks away from the locomotive, and Bryce, who could have escaped, at the risk of his life cuts out the caboose and saves them from certain death, being painfully injured in doing so.

CHAPTER IX.—Moira McTavish, childhood friend of Bryce and employed in his office, makes Shirley's acquaintance and the two become friends. Needing money badly, John Cardigan offers to sell Pennington the Valley of the Giants, but the Colonel, confident the property must soon be his through the bankruptcy of his enemies, contemptuously refuses. Unknown to her uncle, Shirley buys the Valley and the Cardigans have a new lease of business life. They interest capital and decide on a scheme to parallel Pennington's logging railroad.

CHAPTER X.—Buchanan Ogilvy, railroad contractor and Bryce's college friend, is decided on by the Cardigans as the man to figure as the builder of the proposed railroad. Bryce goes to San Francisco to meet him.

CHAPTER XI.—Ogilvy ostentatiously begins work of surveying for the line, which is announced as a proposed through route. Pennington, sagaciously alarmed, decides to block operations by making it impossible to secure a franchise for the line through Sequoia. In this he plans to enlist the aid of the mayor, Poundstone.

CHAPTER XII.—"Buck" Ogilvy, as builder of the projected Northern California & Oregon railroad, meets Moira McTavish and is much impressed. Bryce and his father make plans for securing a franchise for the line from the city council.

CHAPTER XIII.—Ogilvy, in a business interview, favorably impresses the Mayor, and later engages that official's son as attorney for the new road. Through him they obtain the temporary franchise. Pennington, finally convinced that the Cardigan interests are behind the scheme, gets to work to balk them.

CHAPTER XIV.—Pennington refuses Bryce the use of a locomotive and trucks to move equipment for laying a switch, and Bryce and Ogilvy plan to steal both and during the night put in a crossing cutting Pennington's tracks in the city. Pennington bribes Mayor Poundstone to ignore the temporary franchise granted and to refuse a permanent one. That night Pennington hears the Cardigan tracklaying crew at work and hurries to the spot.

CHAPTER XV.—Bryce and Ogilvy disregard Pennington's frenzied remonstrances and continue work, but the Colonel gets word to the Mayor and also employs a desperado to shoot Bryce. Bryce is wounded. Work on the track is stopped by the chief of police. Shirley accuses her uncle of conniving at the murder of Bryce, and the Colonel leaves for San Francisco to safeguard his interests through further legal proceedings.

CHAPTER XVI.—Anticipating Pennington's action, Ogilvy has made arrangements to secure a restraining order from the federal courts enjoining the Colonel from interfering with the construction of their line. Victory for the Cardigans is plainly in sight.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Colonel Pennington's discovery at San Francisco that Bryce Cardigan had stolen his thunder and turned the bolt upon him, was the hardest blow Seth Pennington could remember having received throughout his thirty-odd years of give and take. He was too old and experienced a campaigner, however, to permit a futile rage to cloud his reason; he prided himself upon being a foeman worthy of any man's steel.

On Tuesday he returned to Sequoia. Sexton related to him in detail the events which had transpired since his departure, but elicited nothing more than a noncommittal grunt.

"There is one more matter, sir, which will doubtless be of interest to you," Sexton continued apologetically. "Miss Sumner called me on the telephone yesterday and instructed me formally to notify the board of directors of the Laguna Grande company of a special meeting of the board, to be held here

at two o'clock this afternoon. In view of the impossibility of communicating with you while you were en route, I conformed to her wishes. Our by-laws, as you know, stipulate that no meeting of the board shall be called without formal written notice to each director mailed twenty-four hours previously."

"What the devil do you mean, Sexton, by conforming to her wishes? Miss Sumner is not a director of this company." Pennington's voice was harsh and trembled apprehensively.

"Miss Sumner controls forty per cent of the Laguna Grande stock, sir. I took that into consideration."

"You lie!" Pennington all but screamed. "You took into consideration your job as secretary and general manager. Damnation!"

He rose and commenced pacing up and down his office. Suddenly he paused. Sexton still stood beside his desk, watching him respectfully. "You fool!" he snarled. "Get out of here and leave me alone."

Sexton departed promptly, glancing at his watch as he did so. It lacked five minutes of two. He passed Shirley Sumner in the general office.

"Shirley," Pennington began in a hoarse voice as she entered his office, "what is the meaning of this directors' meeting you have requested?"

"Be seated, Uncle Seth," the girl answered quietly. "If you will only be quiet and reasonable, perhaps we can dispense with this directors' meeting which appears to frighten you so."

He sat down promptly, a look of relief on his face.

"I scarcely know how to begin, Uncle Seth," Shirley commenced sadly. "It hurts me terribly to be forced to hurt you, but there doesn't appear to be



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any other way out of it. I cannot trust you to manage my financial affairs in the future—this for a number of reasons, the principal one being—

"Young Cardigan," he interrupted in a low voice.

"I suppose so," she answered, "although I think until very recently that it was those sixteen townships of red cedar—that crown grant in British Columbia in which you induced me to invest four hundred thousand dollars. You will remember that you purchased that timber for me from the Caribou Timber company, Limited. You said it was an unparalleled investment. Quite recently I learned—no matter how—that you were the principal owner of the Caribou Timber company, Limited! Smart as you are, somebody swindled you with that red cedar. It was a wonderful stand of timber—so read the cruiser's report—but fifty per cent of it, despite its green and flourishing appearance, is hollow-butted! And the remaining fifty per cent of sound timber cannot be logged unless the rotten timber is logged also and gotten out of the way. And I am informed that logging it spells bankruptcy."

She gazed at him steadily, but without malice; his face crimsoned and then paled; presently his glance sought the carpet. While he struggled to formulate a verbal defense against her accusation Shirley continued:

"You had erected a huge sawmill and built and equipped a logging road before you discovered you had been swindled. So, in order to save as much as possible from the wreck, you decided to unload your white elephant on somebody else. I was the readiest victim. You were the executor of my father's estate—you were my guardian and financial adviser, and so you found it very, very easy to swindle me!"

"I had my back to the wall," he quavered. "I was desperate—and it wasn't at all the bad investment you have been told it is. You had the money—more money than you knew what to do with—and with the proceeds of the sale of those cedar lands, I knew I could make an investment in California redwood and more than retrieve my fortunes—make big money for both of us."

"You might have borrowed the money from me. You know I have never hesitated to join in your enterprises."

"This was too big a deal for you, Shirley. I had vision. I could see incalculable riches in this redwood empire, but it was a tremendous gamble and required twenty millions to swing it at the very start. I dreamed of the control of California redwood; and if you will stand by me, Shirley, I shall yet make my dream come true—and half of it shall be yours. It has always been my intention to buy back from you secretly and at a nice profit to you that Caribou red cedar, and with the acquisition of the Cardigan properties I would have been in position to do so. Why, that Cardigan tract in the San Hedrin which we will buy in within a year for half a million, is worth five millions at least. And by that time, I feel certain—in fact, I know—the Northern Pacific will commence building in from the south, from Willits."

"I shall—" he began, but he paused abruptly, as if he had suddenly remembered that fact and not pugnacity was the requirement for the handling of this ticklish situation.

She silenced him with a disdainful gesture. "You shall not smash the Cardigans," she declared firmly. "You are devoid of mercy, of a sense of sportsmanship. Now, then, Uncle Seth, listen to me: You have twenty-four hours in which to make up your mind whether to accept my ultimatum or refuse it. If you refuse, I shall prosecute you for fraud and a betrayal of trust as my father's executor on that red cedar timber deal."

He brightened a trifle. "I'm afraid that would be a long, hard row to hoe, my dear, and of course, I shall have to defend myself."

"In addition," the girl went on quietly, "the county grand jury shall be furnished with a stenographic report of your conversation of Thursday night with Mayor Poundstone. That will not be a long, hard row to hoe, Uncle Seth, for in addition to the stenographer, I have another reliable witness, Judge Moore. Your casual disposal of my sedan as a bribe to the mayor will be hard to explain and rather amusing, in view of the fact that Bryce Cardigan managed to frighten Mr. Poundstone into returning the sedan while you were away. And if that is not sufficient for my purpose, I have the sworn confession of the Black Minora that you gave him five hundred dollars to kill Bryce Cardigan. Your woods boss, Rondeau, will also swear that you approached him with a proposition to do away with Bryce Cardigan. I think, therefore, that you will readily see how impossible a situation you have managed to create and will not disagree with me when I suggest that it would be better for you to leave this county."

His face had gone gray and haggard. "I can't," he murmured, "I can't leave this great business now. Your own interests in the company render such a course unthinkable. Without my hand at the helm, things will go to smash."

"I'll risk that. I want to get rid of that worthless red cedar timber; so I think you had better buy it back from me at the same figure at which you sold it to me."

"But I haven't the money and I can't borrow it. I—I—"

"I will have the equivalent in stock of the Laguna Grande Lumber company. You will call on Judge Moore to complete the transaction and leave with him your resignation as president of the Laguna Grande Lumber company."

The Colonel raised his glance and bent it upon her in cold appraisal. She met it with firmness, and the thought came to him: "She is a Pennington!" And hope died out in his heart. He began pleading in maudlin fashion for mercy, for compromise. But the girl was obdurate.

"I am showing you more mercy than you deserve—you to whom mercy was ever a sign of weakness, of vacillation. There is a gulf between us, Uncle Seth—a gulf which for a long time I have dimly sensed and which, because of my recent discoveries, has widened until it can no longer be bridged."

He wrung his hands in desperation and slid to his knees before her; with hypocritical endearments he strove to take her hand, but she drew away from him. "Don't touch me," she cried sharply and with a breaking note in her voice. "You planned to kill Bryce Cardigan! And for that—and that alone—I shall never forgive you."

She fled from the office, leaving him cringing and groveling on the floor. "There will be no directors' meeting," Mr. Sexton," she informed the manager as she passed through the general office. "It is postponed."

That trying interview had wrenched Shirley's soul to a degree that left her faint and weak. She at once set out on a long drive, in the hope that before she turned homeward again she might regain something of her customary composure.

Presently the asphaltum-paved street gave way to a dirt road and terminated abruptly at the boundaries of a field that sloped gently upward—a field studded with huge black redwood stumps showing dismally

through coronets of young redwoods that grew riotously around the base of the departed parent trees. From the fringe of the thicket thus formed, the terminus of an old skid-road showed and a signboard, freshly painted, pointed the way to the Valley of the Giants.

Shirley had not intended to come here, but now that she had arrived, it occurred to her that it was here she wanted to come. Parking her car by the side of the road, she alighted and proceeded up the old skid, now newly plankled and with the encroaching forestation cut away so that the daylight might enter from above. On over the gentle divide she went and down toward the amphitheater where the primeval giants grew. And as she approached it, the sound that is silence in the redwoods—the thunderous diapason of the centuries—wove its spell upon her; quickly, imperceptibly there faded from her mind the memory of that groveling Thing she had left behind in the mill-office, and in its place there came a subtle peace, a feeling of awe, of wonder—such a feeling, indeed, as must come to one in the realization that man is distant but God is near.

(To Be Continued)

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE State of Washington, for Thurston County, In Probate. In the Matter of the Estate of George D. Huestis, Deceased, No. 2302. Notice of Hearing of Final Account and Report and Petition for Distribution. Notice is hereby given that Ruth A. Huestis, the executrix of the estate of George D. Huestis, deceased, has rendered and presented for settlement to the clerk of the superior court of said county and state her final account and report and petition for distribution as such executrix; and that Monday, the 19th day of July, 1920, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the court room of our said Superior Court at Olympia, in said county, has been duly appointed by our Superior Court for the settlement of the final account, at which time the court is asked to settle such report, distribute the property to the heirs or persons entitled to the same and discharge the executrix.

Witness, the Hon. D. F. Wright, of the said Superior Court, and the seal of said court affixed this 18th day of June, 1920. (Seal) V. A. MILROY, County Clerk and Clerk of the Superior Court. Published in Washington Standard June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 1920.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE State of Washington, in and for Thurston County, vs. Maibohm Henry Malloy, Plaintiff, vs. Maibohm Motors Co., a corporation, The Marcott Motor Co., Inc., a corporation, and the Olympia National Bank, a corporation, defendants. No. 2303. SUMMONS. The State of Washington, to the said Maibohm Motors Co., corporation, and you are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to-wit: within sixty days after the 18th day of June, 1920, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court and answer the complaint of the plaintiff and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for plaintiff at their office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demands of the complaint which has been filed with the clerk of said court.

The object of this action is to recover judgment against you for the return of and for damages in the sum of \$19,331.75 on account of failure of said Maibohm Motors Co., to deliver two car loads of automobiles to Marcott Motor Co., Inc. in good condition, as provided for by bill of lading and on account of money advanced by plaintiff on the strength of said representation and on account of damages to said Maibohm Motors Co., Inc., which has been assigned to plaintiff and for damages suffered by plaintiff in said sum of money and which money has been attached and garnished in the hands of Olympia National Bank, at Olympia, Wash.

TROY & STURDEVANT, Attorneys for Plaintiff. P. O. Address: Box 306, Olympia, Wash. Office Address: Rooms 204-207, Olympia National Bank Building, Olympia, Wash.

Published in the Washington Standard June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 1920.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE State of Washington, for Thurston County, In Probate. Notice of Hearing of Final Account and Report and Petition for Distribution. Notice is hereby given that John S. Leach, administrator of the estate of Margaret Monaghan, deceased, has rendered and presented for settlement to, and filed with the clerk of the superior court of said county and state his final account and report and petition for distribution as such administrator de bono non, executor, annexo; and that Wednesday, the 23rd day of June, 1920, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the court room of our said superior court at Olympia, Wash., in said county, has been duly appointed by our superior court for the settlement of the final account, at which time the court is asked to settle such report, distribute the property to the heirs or persons entitled to the same and discharge the said administrator.

Witness, the Hon. D. F. Wright, Judge of the said Superior Court, and the seal of said court affixed this 3rd day of June, 1920. (Seal) V. A. MILROY, County Clerk and Clerk of the Superior Court. Published June 4, 11, 18, 25, 1920.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE State of Washington, for Thurston County, In Probate. In the Matter of the Estate of Margaret Monaghan, Deceased, No. 2417. Notice of Hearing of Final Account and Report and Petition for Distribution. Notice is hereby given that John S. Leach, administrator of the estate of Margaret Monaghan, deceased, has rendered and presented for settlement to, and filed with the clerk of the superior court of said county and state his final account and report and petition for distribution as such administrator de bono non, executor, annexo; and that Wednesday, the 23rd day of June, 1920, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the court room of our said superior court at Olympia, Wash., in said county, has been duly appointed by our superior court for the settlement of the final account, at which time the court is asked to settle such report, distribute the property to the heirs or persons entitled to the same and discharge the said administrator.

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