

LAHOMA

By JOHN BRECKENRIDGE ELLIS

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CHAPTER XIV. Like Lovers.

ON reaching Chickasha Wilfred Compton telegraphed to Kansas City asking his brother if Lahoma was still at Mr. Gledware's house in the country. In the course of a few hours the reply came that she had already started home to Greer county, Tex. After reading the message Wilfred haunted the station, not willing to let even the most unpromising freight train escape observation.

In a crowd Wilfred was standing when he first caught sight of Lahoma among those descending to the jostling platform from a train. He had not known how she would look, and certainly she was much changed from the girl of fifteen, but he made his way to her side without the slightest hesitation.

"Lahoma!" She turned sharply with a certain ease of movement suggesting fearless freedom. Her eyes looked straight into the young man's with penetrating keenness which instantly softened to pleasure. "Why, how glad I am to see you!" she cried, giving him her hand as they withdrew from the rush. "But how did you know me?"

"How did you know?" he returned, pleased and thrilled by her glowing brown hair, her eloquent eyes, her warm tinted cheeks, her form, as erect as of yore, but not so thin—as pleased and thrilled as if all these belonged to him. "How did you know me?" he repeated.

"Oh," said Lahoma, "when I looked into your face I saw myself as a girl sitting under the cedar trees in the cave with Brick and Bill."

"Just you three?" demanded Wilfred wistfully, also smilingly.

"Oh!" exclaimed Lahoma, showing her perfect little teeth as if about to bite, in a way that filled him with fearful joy. "And so they showed you that letter!"

"Just you three?" repeated Wilfred. "Just room enough in the cave for you—and Brick—and Bill?"

"Listen to me, Wilfred, and I will do the talking."

"Well?" She lowered her voice to a whisper. "Lean your head closer."

Wilfred put down his head. "Is this close enough?" he whispered, feeling excited. Men, women and children cried about them; the air vibrated with the shock of trunks and mail bags hurled upon the platform.

"No," said Lahoma, rising on tiptoe. Wilfred took off his hat and got under her.

She whispered in his ear: "Red Kimball came on this train. There he is. He hasn't seen me yet—was in another coach."

"Well, go on talking, Lahoma. I'd get closer if I could."

"S-h-h! He knows me, for he was a porter in our hotel. When he sees us he'll know I've come home to warn Brick. S-h-h! Then he'll try to keep me from doing it. Look! Some of his gang are speaking to him. They've been waiting here to meet him. They'll go with him, I expect. We'll all be in the stagecoach together!"

"What do you want me to do to 'em, Lahoma?"

"I want you to pretend that you don't know me—and they mustn't find out your name is Compton, or they'll think Mr. Edgerton got word to you to join me here. Be a stranger till we're safe in the cave."

"All right, Goodbye! But suppose I hadn't come?"

"Oh, I could have done without you," said Lahoma, "or I think I could!"

"You could never have done without me!" Wilfred declared decidedly.

"I can right now!" She drew away. "I'll get into the stage. Don't follow too soon."

Wilfred watched Red Kimball as he glared in that direction and guessed his thoughts. Although Kimball knew Lahoma, he was not sure that she knew him, and, though he was convinced at once that she was on a mission of warning, that might be true without her knowing that he had left Kansas City. Red Kimball was burning to find out if he were a stranger to her, but at the same time fearful of disclosing himself. He muttered to his companions hoarsely, carefully that Wilfred, whom he regarded as a stranger, should overhear nothing that he said. And he continued to stare at Lahoma, his face brooding, his half veiled eyes red and threatening.

What would happen in the night time as the stage pursued its lonely way across the bleak prairie? Since Red Kimball meant to appeal to the law in his revenge against Brick, there was no danger of his transgressing it openly. But in the darkness, with two unscrupulous companions under his command, he would most probably execute some scheme to prevent Lahoma from reaching her destination.

The evening shadows were stretching far toward the east from the few trees that marked the dried bed of a stream when the coach stopped among a collection of hovels and tents. As the horses were led away the passengers dismounted, and both Wilfred and Red Kimball hurriedly drew close to Lahoma.

Lahoma, however, appeared unaware of their presence. The sisters, who had taken a great fancy to Lahoma, had been met by the husband of the sister, and as they gathered about the big wagon Lahoma was urged to go home with them to supper.

"We're only a little ways out," she was told, "and we'll sure get you back before the stage leaves. The victuals at the station ain't fit to eat."

A very little insistence induced Lahoma to comply, and both the young man and the former highwayman saw her go with disappointment. Kimball and his friends went into the "dining hall" to gulp down a hasty meal, and Wilfred entered with them. He remained only a moment, however, just long enough to purchase a number of sandwiches, which he stored away, as if meaning to eat them in the coach.

As soon as he was in the single street with the door closed behind him he darted toward the stage barn and by means of a handsome deposit obtained two horses. Springing upon one, he rode rapidly from the settlement, leading the other, and in a short time came in sight of a cabin, which, with its out-houses, was the only building in all the wide expanse. From its appearance he knew it to be the one described to Lahoma, and he galloped up to the door with the certainty of finding her within.

"Oh, Wilfred," she reproached him, "they'll miss you and know you've come to consult with me about warning Brick!"

"Quick, Lahoma!" said Wilfred, as if she had not spoken. "You can ride a horse, I suppose?" He smiled, but his eyes were sparkling with impatience.

In a flash Lahoma's face was glowing with enthusiasm. She looked back into the room and cried, "Goodbye!" Then Wilfred swung her to the back of the led horse. "We'll beat 'em!" cried Lahoma as he sprang upon his horse. "Fast as you please. I've never been left behind yet."

The young man noted with sudden relief that she was dressed for the hardships of the prairie.

"Up there," she said, nodding her head toward the east, "I dressed for people, but out here for wind and sand."

Looking back, she saw the family running out of the cottage, waving handkerchiefs and bonnets as in the mad joy of congratulation.

"They think we're running away together!" shouted Wilfred, with exultation. "How happy they are at the idea!"

"They don't know there's nobody to object if we don't," returned Lahoma gayly as she urged on her steed. "Come along, Wilfred," she teased as his horse fell a neck behind hers. "What are you staying back there for? Tired? If we get into the trail before that"

"Come along, Wilfred."

"I can right now!" She drew away. "I'll get into the stage. Don't follow too soon."

There were three stagecoaches drawn up at a short distance from the platform, and Lahoma went swiftly to the one bound for her part of the country. She was the first to enter. She was seated quietly in a corner when the two long seats that faced each other began filling up. The last to come were four men—one, tall, slender, red faced and dark haired; two others of dark and lowering faces, who looked upon the former as their leader, and the last Wilfred Compton, who had unobtrusively joined himself to this remnant of Red Kimball's gang.

The stage, which was built after the manner of the old fashioned omnibus, afforded no opportunity of moving to and fro in the selection of seats, hence when Red Kimball discovered Lahoma's identity—the exact moment of the discovery was marked by his violent start—she was safeguarded from his approach by her proximity to a very large woman flanked by a thin spinster. These were two sisters, going to the evening's station where the coach would stop for supper, and Lahoma discussed with them their plans and hopes with bright cheerfulness and ready friendship.



"Come along, Wilfred."

coach starts we'll have to put on all speed." "Doing my best," he called, "but I made a bad bargain when I got this beast. This is his best lick, and it doesn't promise to last long. However, it was the only one left at the barn."

Lahoma slightly checked her animal. "That's a good thing, anyway—if there's none left those horrible men can't follow."

Wilfred did not answer. He was sure the stage would be driven in pursuit at breakneck speed, and from the breathing of his horse he feared it could not long endure the contest. To be sure, Red Kimball and his men had no lawful excuse to offer the stage driver for an attempt to stop them, but

three men who had once been desperate highwaymen might not look for lawful excuses on a dark night in a dreary desert.

In their wide detour they had endeavored to escape detection from the stage station, but, sheltered by no appreciable inequalities of land and denied the refuge that even a small grove might have furnished, they had, as it were, been held up to view on the prairie, and, though so far away, their horses had been as distinctly outlined as two ants scurrying across a white page.

Wilfred reflected, "If Kimball, when he came out of that restaurant, happened to look in this direction he must have seen us, and the first inquiry at the barn would inform him where on the horses." But he said nothing until, from the rear, came the sound long dreaded, telling, though far away, of bounding horses and groaning wheels.

"Lahoma!" "Yes—I hear them." "My horse is about used up. We'll have to slide trail or they'll ride us down."

"I could go on," Lahoma answered as she drew hard on the bit, "but I wouldn't like to leave you here by yourself."

"You couldn't travel that distance by yourself. And good as your horse is it wouldn't last. But thank you for thinking of me," he added, smiling in the darkness, as he dismounted. "Let me lead your horse as well as my own."

"No," said Lahoma, "if leading is to be done, I'll do my part." She leaped lightly to the ground and seized her bridle. Side by side they slowly ventured from the trail into the invisible country on the left. They found themselves trending short dead mesquite that did not greatly obstruct their progress.

"Keep going," Wilfred said, when she paused for breath. "It wouldn't do for our horses to whinny, for those fellows would hear them if it was thundering. Give me your hand."

"Here it is," Lahoma felt about in the darkness.

(To be Continued)

Origin of the Clearing House. In 1775 the bankers of London rented a house in Lombard street and fitted it with tables and desks for the use of their clerks as a place where bills, notes, drafts and other commercial paper might be exchanged without the trouble of personal visits of employees to all the metropolitan banks. Transfer tickets were used, and by means of this simple plan transactions involving many millions were settled without a penny changing hands. The Bank of England and all other important banks in London are members of the Clearing House association. The first clearing house in the United States was established by the associated banks of New York in 1853.

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EUROPEAN WAR MOVEMENTS IN FIELD AND IN THE NAVAL ZONES

Campaign Against Russia on Its Eastward Sweep—Conquest of Warsaw and Other Fortresses.

JANUARY.
 1. Battleship Sunk: British battleship Formidable sunk in the English channel by German submarine or mine; over 600 drowned.
 2. France: Germans attacked by the allies at Amiens, France.
 3. France: High water in the Aisne compelled the allies to retreat.
 4. France: Allies withdrew south of the Aisne at Soissons, losing 5,000 prisoners and many guns.
 5. France: Allies captured La Bassée, in France.
 6. Cruiser Sunk: In a German naval attack on the English coast the German cruiser Blücher was sunk, with about 700 of her crew; British cruiser Lion disabled.
 7. Submarine: German submarine attacked British ships in the Irish sea, 80 miles from the nearest German naval base on the Belgian coast.

FEBRUARY.
 1. Cruiser Lost: British cruiser Clan MacNaughton, with crew of 280 men, lost while cruising off the British coast.
 2. Turkey: Turks, estimated at 12,000, attacked British guards along Suez canal south of Ismailia, Egypt.
 3. Naval War Zone: German admiralty declared a war zone in the English channel on and after Feb. 18.
 4. East Prussia: Germans, by forced march, turned the Russian flank at Gumburg, in East Prussia, and forced the enemy to retreat hurriedly to Russian territory.
 5. Austrian Front: Austrians reoccupied Czernowitz, Bukovina, which the Russians captured early in the war.
 6. War Zone: The German war zone decree went into effect, warning neutrals of danger in the English channel.
 7. Ship Evelyn Sunk: American merchant ship Evelyn mysteriously sunk in the British war zone in the Irish sea.
 8. Poland: Germans stormed and captured Przasnysz, Poland, an important Russian post north of Warsaw.
 9. The Dardanelles: Allied fleet bombarded Turkish forts guarding the Dardanelles strait, sea entrance to Constantinople.

MARCH.
 1. War Blockade: England announced her intention to stop all ships to and from the seaports of Germany.
 2. Submarine: Three British merchant vessels sunk by German submarines off the coast of England.
 3. Cruiser Raider: German auxiliary Prince Eitel Friedrich made port at Newport News, Va., at the end of a 30,000 mile sea raid, having on board 343 passengers and crew of vessels sunk by her, including the American ship W. F. Frye.
 4. Submarine: 1 British, 1 French and 1 Swedish merchant vessels torpedoed by German submarine U-2 in British waters. British auxiliary cruiser Bayamo sunk by a mine or German submarine off the coast of Scotland; about 200 Britons drowned.
 5. Naval: German cruiser Dresden, which survived the battle of Falkland islands, sunk in battle with a British fleet near San Juan Fernandez island, off Chile.
 6. British Blockade: Great Britain issued a sweeping order in council cutting off all outside trade with Germany and refused to enter into an agreement with Germany to modify the war zone blockade.
 7. Naval: British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and French battleship Bouvet sunk by mines during a naval attack on the Dardanelles.
 8. Fall of Przemysl: The Austrian fortress of Przemysl, in Galicia, surrendered to the Russian army after a gallant and prolonged defense.

APRIL.
 1. Naval: British battleship Lord Nelson destroyed by Turks in Dardanelles strait.
 2. Aerial Warfare: German airships dropped bombs near London in daylight.
 3. Western Front: Germans captured the heights of Les Eparges on the Meuse line and reoccupied Hartmannswillerkopf, in the Vosges mountains. They repulsed an attack by the allies along the Ypres canal with asphyxiating gas and crossed this barrier to the west side.
 4. Dardanelles: Allied troops landed on the shore of the Dardanelles under fire from the Turkish guns.
 5. Submarine: French steamer Leon Gambetta torpedoed by an Austrian submarine in the strait of Otranto; 600 seamen drowned.
 6. Belgium: German artillery at Neuport, Belgium, bombarded Dunkirk, on the French channel coast, inflicting casualties at 12 mile range.

MAY.
 1. Lusitania: The Canard liner Lusitania sailed from New York for Liverpool on her hapless voyage.
 2. Submarine: American steamer Gulfport from Port Arthur, Tex., to Liverpool, England, torpedoed off Scilly islands. The captain was killed; the vessel and 33 of the crew saved.
 3. Lusitania Sunk: The Lusitania was torpedoed and sunk off Kinsale, Munster coast, Ireland. There were 2,194 persons on board, of whom 1,190, including about 100 Americans, were lost.
 4. Submarine: British battleship Goliath torpedoed in the Dardanelles with a loss of 600 lives.
 5. Italy: The Italian cabinet resigned on account of the war pressure.
 6. Galicia: Austro-German captured Jaroslav, on the west bank of San river, Galicia, forcing the Russians to hurriedly abandon the Carpathian mountains.
 7. Italy: The king of Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary, having previously denounced the treaty of alliance with the Teutonic powers. Clash of troops on the frontier.
 8. Italy: Austrian navy and airships attacked Italy's coast. Italian troops seized Austrian territory.
 9. Submarine: British battleship Triumph torpedoed in the Dardanelles while supporting a land attack.
 10. Submarine: British battleship Majestic sunk by a torpedo in the Dardanelles.

JUNE.
 1. Przemysl: Germans recaptured Przemysl, Galicia, which the Russians had occupied March 22, after a siege of 20 days.
 2. Italy: Italians captured Montefalcone, an important strategic town northwest of Trieste.
 3. Aerial Warfare: 23 French airships dropped 12 bombs on Karlsruhe, Ger-

Italy and Bulgaria in the Conflict—Submarine Warfare and Allied Campaign Against Constantinople.

many; 300 noncombatants, including summer resort patrons, killed.
 20. Submarine: Germany announced the sinking of the famous submarine U-23, Capt. Weddigen, by a British merchantman flying the Swedish flag.
 21. Galicia: Lemburg, Galicia, recaptured by Austrians after ten months' occupation by Russians.
 22. Galicia: Germans captured Halicz, on Dniester river in Galicia, virtually controlling all eastern Galicia.
 23. Submarine: British admiralty steamer Armenian, with Americans in her crew, torpedoed off the British coast; 22 Americans lost.

JULY.
 20. Poland: Austrians captured Radom, 57 miles south of Warsaw.
 21. Submarine: Italian cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi sunk by an Austrian submarine in the Adriatic.

AUGUST.
 1. Italy: Italy sent an ultimatum to Turkey.
 2. Fall of Warsaw: The German army captured Warsaw, the capital of Poland, after a vigorous campaign which lasted over eight months.
 3. Baltic Sea: A fleet of German battleships and cruisers attacked the entrance to the gulf of Riga, in the Baltic sea.
 4. Submarine: A British submarine sank the Turkish battleship Barbarossa in the sea of Marmora.
 5. Submarine: The British transport Royal Edward was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine in the Aegean sea, with a loss of nearly 1,000 soldiers and sailors.
 6. Submarine: A German submarine torpedoed the White Star liner Arabic off Cape Clear, Ireland; 29 Americans were among the passengers.
 7. Russian Fortress Captured: Novo Georgievsk, the second greatest Russian fortress in Poland, with its garrison, was captured by Gen. von Beseler's German army.
 8. Aerial Warfare: A Russian aeroplane squadron bombarded Constantinople, killing or wounding 41 persons.
 9. Aerial Warfare: 52 allied airships flew 100 miles in German territory, dropping bombs upon a big munition factory and at several railway junctions in Rhenish Prussia.
 10. Serbia: Austrian troops crossed the border into Serbia.
 11. Fall of Brest-Litovsk: The fortress of Brest-Litovsk fell before the assaults of the German armies.

SEPTEMBER.
 1. Neutral Rights: German ambassador notified the United States that ocean liners could not be sunk by submarines without warning unless they resisted or attempted to escape.
 2. Russia: Grand Duke Nicholas, commander of the Russian army in Poland, transferred to the Caucasus.
 3. Aerial Warfare: German airships raided London, injuring 84 persons and killing 20; second raid within 24 hours.
 4. Aerial Warfare: French air men raided in Baden, Rhenish Prussia and Lorraine. Zeppelins raided eastern coast of England.
 5. Poland: Germans flanked Russians at Vilna and captured the fortress.
 6. Balkans: Bulgaria mobilized her army.
 7. France: Great drive of the allies from the French seacoast to Verdun. Heavy capture of guns reported and 20,000 unrounded prisoners. German front broken 6 miles in length at La Bassée, Cambrai, Boucheux, France, and 25 miles in Champagne.
 8. Balkans: British and French troops landed on neutral soil of Greece to support Serbia against Austria.

OCTOBER.
 1. Bulgaria: Russia sent an ultimatum to Bulgaria demanding dismissal of German officers, etc. Allies prepared to land troops in Greece and the Austro-Germans to invade Serbia.
 2. Greece: Greece formally protested against the landing of British and French troops at Saloniki to defend Serbia. Venizelos, Greek premier, favoring the allies, resigned. King Constantine appointed Alexander Zaimis, former premier, to head new cabinet and assumed personal control.
 3. Austria-German forces under Gen. von Mackensen invaded Serbia. Bulgaria sent 24 hour ultimatum to Serbia.
 4. Bulgaria: Bulgaria declared war on Serbia.
 5. France: Delcasse, foreign minister of France, resigned his post.
 6. Serbia: Bulgars invaded Serbia at 3 points south from Nish and attacked toward the railway from Belgrade to Balkliki.
 7. Aerial Warfare: 65 killed and 114 injured in London by Zeppelin attack.
 8. Bulgaria: Great Britain declared war on Bulgaria.
 9. Bulgaria: France declared war on Bulgaria.
 10. Bulgaria: Italy declared war on Bulgaria.
 11. Submarine: German cruiser Prinz Adalbert sunk by British submarine; crew of 67 nearly all lost.
 12. Aerial Warfare: Italian airship bombarded Trieste, and the Austrian air men bombarded Venice.
 13. France: A new French war cabinet was completed, Aristide Briand, premier.
 14. Serbia: German troops captured arsenal town of Kragujevat, Serbia.

NOVEMBER.
 6. Bulgaria: Great railway junction at Nish, Serbia, captured by Bulgarians.
 7. Submarine: Italian liner Ancona sunk by an Austrian submarine in the Mediterranean; 28 lives lost, including some Americans.
 8. Russian Frontier: Germans abandoned some of the ground in front of Riga.
 9. Aerial Warfare: Austrian airship bombarded Verona; 60 victims, of whom 30 died.
 10. Teutons captured Mitrovitza and Pristina, with control of the vale of Kosovo, in Serbia.
 11. Italy: Attacks by Italian troops along the whole front, especially violent around Goritz, were repulsed.
 12. Serbia: Prizrend captured by Bulgarians, with 17,000 prisoners.

DECEMBER.
 1. Turkey: British were defeated by Turks near Baghdad, Mesopotamia.
 2. Serbia: Germans and Austrian forces captured Monastir, Serbia.
 3. Allied troops in Greece marching to relieve Serbia forced to retreat to Saloniki.
 4. Last day of volunteering in England; recruiting stations in London crowded with applicants.
 5. Political: Election of deputies in Greece.

When the New Year Arrives

AT certain periods of the year there are certain diseases that sweep the country. In the spring influenza afflicts mankind; in the summer, rose fever, and in the early autumn the hay feveritis snuffle and mangle the English language. But with the beginning of the year an epidemic of a disease of the most virulent sort spreads over the civilized world, causing ninety-nine out of a hundred of its inhabitants to raise their right hands involuntarily and swear by all that's holy they will hold fast to the straight and narrow path forever and forever.

The symptoms of the disease are always the same. It is better and more generally known than the common cold; it is more regular in its appearance, and more persons suffer from it than from any other affliction, yet physicians and bacteriologists have never found a remedy or isolated its germ. This microbe, once taken into the system, can never be eliminated. The same victims suffer from it year after year, and each year end hundreds of thousands of new sufferers join the ranks.

The disease first makes its appearance in December. A victim beams beneficently around a poker table and announces, "Well, boys, I swear off on the 1st."

Jan. 1 arrives. Simultaneously several hundred million persons rise, yawn and glance at the calendar. Involuntarily the muscles of the right arm contract, elevating that member toward the ceiling. In a state of temporary stupor the victim voices good intentions. Some of the more serious cases even rush off to a notary public to record these thoughts in black and white and pay said notary \$5. The stupor is attended by either a lapse of memory or a distorted mentality. In the first case the victim has entirely forgotten his attack of the year before; in the second he says, as he has



THIS YEAR IT WILL BE DIFFERENT!

said almost every year of his life: "Oh, this year it will be different. I'm not going to bust 'em this time." This is the crisis of the disease; now comes the slow recovery.

So many persons suffer in this country from the disease that it might almost be called a national question. Its seriousness lies in the effect upon some of the largest industries of the country. Manufacturers of expensive feminine apparel, cigar stores, hundreds of other institutions that give our country its envied reputation of being progressive and enterprising, a land of big business and mammoth industries, are hit and hit hard. The fact that in most cases the recovery is exceedingly rapid is the only redeeming feature. Few of the resolution makers have been known to remain in dreamland later than noon of Jan. 1.

Perhaps, one reason, officials of the affected industries have made no effort to prevent the spread of this New Year's disease to the younger generation, and to try to effect its cure in the case of present victims is that with recovery comes an increased addiction to the articles in question. This is another generally recognized symptom and effect rather than a primary and physical.

In from five minutes to one week, statistics show, the disease usually runs its course. The victim becomes himself again. He draws himself to his full height, voices the thought, "Aw, what's the use?" and resumes his normal mode of life with renewed ardor. If he's a smoker he smokes more often for a few days; then gradually habits become normal until the next attack gives a new impetus. This is shown by the consumption of cigars. During the first few days of January fewer are smoked than at any time during the entire year. The consumption gradually increases as patients recover and reaches its maximum Jan. 8, after which is a gradual falling off to normal.—Albany Knickerbocker-Press.

Pope's Welcome to New Year.
 It is the universal custom among the Jesuits to hold New Year's eve services in their churches and chapels throughout the world. At the Gesù church, in Rome, the pope always attends the service in person. The service consists of "The Miserere" and the benediction.