THE BLUE MOON

A TALE OF THE FLATWOODS

By DAVID ANDERSON

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CHAPTER XI—Continued.

"Can you stand here completely?" she asked.

"I'll swim in it, if it will get me up."

The girl laughed, muffled her mirth too and laid it on the wound. He felt pain even worse. The sting of it had become to him a necessity, the principal means to an end that must be accomplished. Without tonight there would be no tomorrow. She sauntered more of the cotton, laid it on the graze and bandaged it there, then turned back into place, smoothed the pillow under his head and went to the kitchen.

He heard the rattle of the stove, and knew that she was preparing him something to eat. It moved him. But he knew how pitiful little that debt was held, and yet she was going to deal with it with him—the best of it—always with a smile, and the grace of a princess. He swore to himself that there should be food in that kitchen from now on.

She was back in a surprisingly short time, heating a tray of such food as she had been able to prepare hurriedly—some broth, crisp toast, a poached egg and black coffee.

He was seated when she entered, and she placed the tray on the stove bench where it would not be uncovered the room, over a chair up to where he sat. Then she went to the window and looked out, while he ate. She was free from fear of him now. She knew that he would fairly die of starvation before he would touch food that she had not given him.

"Did you stand here completely?" she asked.

"I was so very lonesome in the village," he said, "and I thought I'd walk very discreetly that I thought I'd walk very discreetly that I'd walk very discreetly that I'd walk very discreetly that