THE ROAD TO SHANI-LUN

...yesterday. Old Chen'g was by the ...rt of the Prince of Shani-Lun. ...ely Lynn settled down for a ...n. During these months at the ...ialist monastery of Pallichan, ...e which Lynn's every ...m. Sheltered though she is be ...t exposure to her captivity, she ...cannot hide her interest in ...n, a young Englishman ex ...ences in the wide world.

...Conversation ...

Tuesday, Sixteenth ...

The Lhai Teshi, the lord ...schan," Tenu said, "one branch ...s south to a mission on the Yel ...River; the other continuing on ...A car road to Shani Lun."

...e looked at him with rising an ...Our road. How sure you are ...ourself!"

...am sure you will pay for this." ...m not harming you," he said ...mbly.

...e threw up her hands in de ... "You're quarreling with me ...spoiling the scenery." They ...laughed. That, she felt, was ...most maddening thing about her ...r, her special weakness, a sense ...idiculous that adulterated any ...ecular power of rage she might ...ss.

...nu's mount had been restless ...the time. Now, he added up ...ynn's camel and snarled and ...ed his teeth. Lynn eyed him ...tfully.

...e's a big, black, Bactrian brute! ...stumbled a bit over the words. ...eat it evilly," Tenu command ...

...e as big, black, Bactrian bool!" ...y both laughed again. "The ...fellow's showing symptoms of ...is love." Tenu explained, ...month, he had a fight with ...il male and they almost killed ...other; wound their necks to ...r and twisted, and wrenched ...skers and bit the flesh from ...other's bodies."

...think I prefer horses," said ...

...idently, as if resenting her re ...the big beast swung and spat ...at her, a huge mouthful of a ...substance that seemed to Lynn ...reen grape pie and smelled like ...ical experiment gone wrong. ...uld hardly breathe.

...n downcoated swiftly and ...d down Lynn's camel, then ...r off with her sash and ...l coat, laughing helplessly and ...ring, both at the same time. ...sorry, so sorry."

...n was half laughing and half ...herself. Fortunately, but lit ...the mess had struck her face. ...there any in my ear?" she ...

...ooked, "Clean as a sek shell," ...orted.

...shuddered, fanning her face ...her hands. "I'll never smell ...right again. Never!"

...Shan-Pak brought in the dispatch ...case and Temu took from it the ...envelope addressed to Dick Britton's ...handwriting. Handing it to her, he ...explained, "This is the final com ...munication your brother sent to the ...Prince."

Lynn drew out the letter with ...trembling fingers.

...

My sister does not know the ...truth. I could not have persuad ...ed her to leave America had I told ...her she had been naked not mere ...ly to visit the court of Delun, but ...to become its princess. She is the ...last girl in the world, I have since ...discovered, who would be agreeable ...to a marriage arranged after the ...French custom.

I took her to the temple village ...hoping that there I could break ...the news to her, but I found it ...impossible. If ever a girl requires ...coaxing, Lynn is that girl. How ...ever, I have brought her here and ...turned her over to Sherdock ac ...cording to agreement. So I con ...sider that I have earned the mar ...riage settlement.

The rest is up to you. She is ...at your mercy. Knowing you, I ...imagine you will take her and ...marry her, and knowing what a ...poor deal life is anyhow, I imagine ...she will not find you as dull as ...that American banker she might ...have married.

Tell her whatever you wish.

DICK BRITTON.

Lynn sat a moment stunned, un ...

...Sherdock, who had been ...ing over her shoulder, ...ed impatiently.

...So sorry, I never dreamed he'd ...do such a thing."

..."Men do not know they have to be ...careful of—of—such. And a wounded ...puppet is seldom gentled. Now you ...have been really intimated into Shan ...ran life. You are one of us." Be ...cause the fate was cruel he wrapped ...a rug around her shoulders while ...they awaited the horsemen's ap ...proach.

...

They were staying over a day in ...Pallichan; Lynn had been informed, ...to give the animals a day of good ...grazing before they entered the ...desert with its bitter water. ...The camp was set up at the foot of ...the hill below the Monastery.

Lynn, who was very tired, woke in ...the morning refreshed, remember ...ing that Sherdock and Temu had ...promise to tell her why she was ...being compelled to go to Delun. ...They sat after breakfast in the din ...ing tent, Sherdock in his priestly yel ...low robe, Temu and the Duchess in ...their Mongol garb, and Lynn in a ...soft, knit dress of silvery blue with ...white at the throat and wrists, ...which made her look particularly ...feminine and exotic in these sur ...roundings.

Shin