# JOAQUIN MURIETA. THE FABLED KILLER CABALLERO OF CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIA IN 1849 WAS A HODGEPODGE OF PEOPLE ALL BROUGHT HERE BY THE LURE OF GOLD. THERE WAS LITTLE LAW AND NO ORDER TREMENDOUS JEALOUSIES AND RIVALRIES DEVELOPED. CALIFORNIA HAD BEEN NEWLY-ACQUIRED FROM MEXICO, AND THE MEXICAN MINERS MISTREATED THE MEXICANS, DROVE THEM OFF THEIR CLAIMS AND LOOTED THEIR PROPERTY.

AMONG THE ILL -TREATED WAS YOUNG JOAQUIN MURIETA, 27, WHO HAD COME LIP FROM OLD MEXICO WITH HIS SWEETHEART, ROSIVA FELIX. AT FIRST FOR VENGEANCE, AND THEN FOR THE SHEER LUSTOF KILLING, HE GATHERED ABOUT HIM A BAND OF EIGHTY RIDERS; AS BLOOD THIRSTY AS AIM THE OLD WEST HAD EVER SEEN, WHO LOOTED AND MURDERED THE LENTH AND BREADTH OF CALIFORNIA, SOON THE NAME OF MURIETA STRUCK FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE

WORK NOT YET DONE ALAS, IT MAKES ME SAD. BUT VENGEANCE HAS BEEN MINE.

NOW THAT JOAQUIN MURIETA IS FINISHED, PERHAPS THERE WILL BE LAW AND ORDER IN CALIFORNIA. WHEN WE GET BACK TO LOS-ANGELES, I'LL COLLECT MY SHARE OF THE REWARD-MONEY AND BLOW IT IN WHAT A PARTY THAT WILL BE!

AND THIS KNIF I GIVE YOU FOR A SOUVENIR, SENIOR, WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF JACK THREE-FINGERS, WHO IS AN ARTIST WITH THE KNIFE

> IF WE ONLY HADTHE REST OF THE BAND HERE, WE WOULD MOW YOU GRINGO RATS DOWN WITHOUT PITY.





BUT THERE WERE MINERS IN THE CAMP WHO HAD OTHER IDEAS

AIN'T IT JUST LIKE A MEXICAN TO FIND A CLAIM LIKE THAT WHILE WE WORK OUR HEADS OFF AND GET NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT. I SAY HE HAS NO RIGHT TO THAT CLAIM WE OUGHT TO RUN HIM OUT OF THE CAMP. HOW DO YOU FELLERS FEEL ABOUT IT?



AND AFTER THE LIQUER HAD DONE IT'S WORK ...

BURN DOWN THE SHACK, I SAY AND RUN HIM OUT OF THE CAMP. WE DON'T WANT HIS KIND AROUND HERE. PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY OUR HOME. WE ARE HONEST PEOPLE, WE HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG



HA, YOU WON'T LOOK SO PRETTY NOW, DARN YOU. I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THE MEN ALONE, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO INTERFERE WE'LL JUST GIVE YOU ALITTLE LESSON, WON'T WE, BOYS? WE'RE RUN-NING THIS CAMP.



WHEN JOAQUIN RETURNED.

THE MINERS CAME ROSITA! WHAT HAS FROM THE CAMP HAPPENED THEY BURNED TO YOU? WHO DOWN THE HOUSE HAS DONE AND WARNEDUSTO GET OUT OF THIS THIS? PLACE THEY ARE JEAL-OUS. OF US NOW WE HAVE NO HOME, WE MUST GO. PERHAPS WE CAN STAY AT YOUR BROTHER'S RANCH

A WEEK LATER WHEN JOAQUIN CAME IN TO TOWN FOR SUPPLIES HEY, YOU! WE WARNED YOU TO GET OUT OF TOWN, DIDN'T WE? AND WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HORSE? HUH? I THINK THIS NEEDS LOOKING INTO.





#### AT HIS BROTHER'S RANCH.

SURE, IT IS MY HORSE. WHEN YOU BURN THE HOUSE OF MY BROTHER JOAQUIN HE COMES HERE TO LIVE WITH ME.



SO. FIRST YOU STEAL A HORSE, AND NOW YOU THREATEN US. THE NERVE OF YOU MEXICANS. HOW ABOUT WE TEACH THEM A REAL LESSON, FELLERS, ONE THEY WON'T FORGET IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HAD A LITTLE NECKTIE PARTY JOAQUIN CAN WATCH, ITLL DO HIM GOOD.

AND IF YOU DON'T TAKE OUR ADVICE THIS TIME, YOUNG FELLER, AND CLEAR OUT OF THE COUNTRY, WE'LL SEE THAT YOU GET A DOSE OF THE SAME. BETTER LISTEN TO THE BOYS AND GO ON HOME.



THESE TWENTY LASHES ARE TO REMIND YOU THAT WE MEAN WHAT



AND WHEN THEY LEFT.

I SWEAR BY MY DEAD BROTHER
THAT I WILL AVENGE HIM BY KILLING EVERYONE OF THOSE WHO
TOOK PART IN HIS HANGING. I
SWEAR I WILL KILL A GRINGO
FOR EVERYONE OF THE TWENTY
LASHES ON MY BACK



MURIETA KEPT HIS WORD.
HE SOUGHT OUT EVERY MAN
WHO TOOK PART IN THE
LYNCHING AND IT COSTTHAT
MAN HIS LIFE HE WAS
BRILLIANTIN HIS DISGUISES
AND SHOWED UP HERE,
THERE AND EVERYWHERE,
STRIKING TERROR INTO THE
HEARTS OF HIS ENEMIES,
UNTIL HIS NAME BECAME
A HOUSEHOLD WORD



AT THE MINING CAMP OF MOKELUME HILLS ..

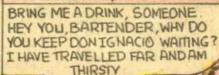
THIS IS YOUR LAST HAND. YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE WHO HELPED TO HANG MY BROTHER, AND ONE OF THOSE I PROMISED TO KILL, NOW YOUR TIME HAS COME.



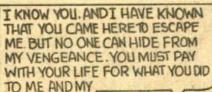
THAT MAKES TWO O MY
BROTHER . I AM INDEED
AVENGING YOU AND I SHALL NOT
STOP UNTIL EVERYONE OF
THOSE WHO MURDERED YOU
LIES IN HIS GRAVE



ANOTHER TIME, IN MARIPOSA ...









SHOOT, YOU FOOLS. I LEAD A CHARMED LIFE, AND YOU CANNOT HARM ME NOR CAN YOU STOP ME IN PURSUIT OF MY VENGEANCE. NOW I AM ON MY WAY AND NO MAN CAN STOP ME



ONE DAY, AT A FIESTA IN SAN JOSE, WHY DO YOU MEN QUARREL, WHEN THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR REJOIC-ING? PUTTHOSE KNIVES AWAY. HELP SOMEBODY! HE WILL KILL HIM

NOBODY CAN CALL RAMON A LIAR AND GET AWAY WITH IT, MY HONOR IS AT STAKE

ALLRIGHT, BUT HURRY BACK WITH THE

I'LL 500N FIND OUT WHO STARTED THIS DISTURBANCE, IN THE MEAN-TIME I'M GOING TO CART EVERY ONE OF YOU OFF TO LIAIL. WHO STARTED ALL THIS COMMOTION?



#### AND IN COURT THE NEXT DAY...

I FINE YOU EACH THE SUM OFTWELVE DOLLARS FOR BREAK-ING THE PEACE



YOUR HONOR, I DID NOTHING, HOWEVER, I WILL PAY THE FINE BUT I HAVE
NO MONEY WITH ME. IF YOU WILL
PERMIT THIS DEPUTY SHERIFF
TO ACCOMPANY ME TO
MY HOUSE, I WILL
GLADLY PAY HIM THE
MONEY.

MONEY



TAKE THAT, YOU MURDERER! I PROMISED I WOULD PAY EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID THAT DAY AND YOU ARE ONE OF THE LAST TO PAY THE PENALTY WITH YOUR LIFE



THISTIME JOAQUIN MURIETA HAD GONE TOO FAR. THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE COMMISSIONED HARRY LOVE OF SAN FRANCISCO, AN OLD FRONTIERSMAN, SCOUT AND FIGHTER, TO ORGANIZE THE CALIFORNIA RANGERS AND CAPTURE MURIETA. HE HAD TWENTY PICKED MEN WITH HIM WHEN HE SET OUT.



WE'LL TURN EAST HERE TO THE FOOTHILLS AND COVER EVERY INCH OF THE TRAILS. THEY MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THIS WILD UNCHARTED COUNTRY, AND ALL WE NEED IS A SINGLE CLUE



ON JULY THE 22 ND ONE OF THE SCOUTING RANGERS RODE HASTILY INTO CAMP. . .

BOSS, WE WERE RIDING ALONG THE HIGH WALL OVER ONE OF THOSE UNCHARTED CANYON' TO THE SOUTH WHEN WE SAW THE SMOKE OF A



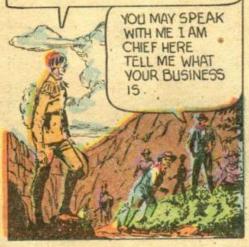
AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THERE ARE FIFTEEN MEN
IN THAT CAMP. WE HAVE
TWENTY. BUT I INTEND TO
TAKE MURIETA ALIVE IF I
CAN. YOU MEN REMAIN
HERE IN AMBUSH, UNTIL
THE SHOOTING STARTS. I'M
GOING INTHERE ALONE.



AND TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE BANDITS...

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE LEADER?



GET AWAY FROM THAT SADDLE YOU'RE ALL COVERED, EVERY MAN OF YOU . I HAVE BUT TO GIVE THE WORD AND THEY'LL DROP YOU IN YOUR TRACKS, NO NONSENSE, NOW I HAVE COME FOR YOU, MURIETA.



YOU MEN THERE, COME UP ON THE OTHER SIDE. LIEUTENANT, GO AFTER THAT JACK THREE-FINGERS, HE'S A SLIPPERY ONE I'M TAKING ON MURIETA MYSELF.



HE WON'T GO'VERY, FAR I'VE GOT MY MEN STATIONED ON THE OTHER END OF THE TRAIL. IT'S HIS END EITHER WAY



IM FINISHED. THIS IS THE END OF MURIETA AND ALL. HIS PLANS FOR HE CALIFORNIA EMPIRE. LE COULD HAVE DONE IT IF THESE GRINGOS HAD NOT COME FOR ME. WELL, I WILL DIE LIKE I HAVE LIVED. NO MAN WILL TAKE ME ALIVE AND I HAVE HAD MY VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY ME. ADIOS MY FRIENDS...



SO DIED
JOAQUIN
MURIETA,
THE FABLED
BANDIT OF
CALIFORNIA



WERE JOAQUIN'S MEN, HAND OVER THE GOLD AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT. YOU KNOW WE MEAN BUSINESS. CUT OUT THE BAGS OF GOLD DUST AND THROW THEM OVER HERE OR WELL FILL YOU FULL OF HOLES.



I WON'T GIVE UP MY HARD-EARNED GOLD WITHOUT A FIGHT. NO, SIR. IF YOU RATS WANT THE GOLD DUST, COME AND GET IT. AND GET SOME OF THE LEAD FROM OUR SIXES TOO. LEAD IS ISN'T AS VALUABLE AS GOLD, WE CAN AFFORD TO GIVE IT AWAY



ONE OF THEM GOT AWAY HURRY, JOE. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOTTO DO. AND THE REST OF YOU GET BUSY AND COLLECT THE GOLD. WE'VE GOTTO HIT THE TRAIL .I'M TAKING NO CHANCES. WE'LL FOLLOW JOAQUIN'S PLAN. HE'S



AND WHENTHE MINOR WHO ESCAPED INFORMED THE MINING CAMP.

GET YOUR HORSES AND RIDE OUT QUICK. IT'S JACQUIN'S GANG, AND THEY'VE KILLED ALL THE OTHER MINERS ON THE TRAIL. LET'S GO. THIS IS ONE CHANCE TO ROUND THEM UP ONCE AND FOR ALL, BEFORE THEY SLAUGHTER US ALL.



THERE GO OUR HORSES! THE BANDITS GOT HERE FIRST AND RAN OUR HORSES OFF THATS ADDING INSULT TO INJURY IT MUST BE SOME MORE OF JOAQUINS DIRTY WORK, HE'S A SMART ONE ALLRIGHT



LOAQUIN MURIETA NOW FELT THAT HE WAS READY FOR HIS GRANDIOSE SCHEME...



IN MARCH OF 1853 ..

TOMORROW WE CLEAN
OUT RICH GULCH IN THE
SAN JOAQUIN FOOTHILLS
THERE ARE TWENTY-FIVE
MINERS THERE AND MUCH
GOLD I WILL PROVE TO
THE GRINGOS THAT I MEAN



IT'S JOAQUIN AND HIS
MURDERERS! HE'S BEEN
WIPING OUT OUR CAMPS. GET
YOUR GUNS AND MAKE A
STAND. THEY WILL KILL YOU
ANYHOW AND IT IS BETTER TO
DIE FIGHTING WITH A GUN IN



THE ORDERS ARE TO
KILL EVERY ONE OF
THESE MISERABLE
MINERS, WE'LL WIPE
OUT THEIR CAMP AND
BURN DOWN WHAT
IS LEFT, JOAQUIN
MIURIETA WILL YET BE
MASTER OF ALL
CALIFORNIA

# AND WHEN GENERAL BEANS GUARD HAD BEEN ORGANIZED

WE'LL RIDE OUT NORTH, AND THE OTHER
COMPANY WILL HEAD SOUTH. WE'LL COVER
EVERY FOOT OF TERRITORY IN THESE PARTS,
AND THERE WON'T BE MUCH CHANCE OF
JOAQUIN MURIETA SLIPPING THROUGH OUR LINES





THE COUNTRY FLATTENS OUT AROUND HERE. WE'LL SCATTER AND COVERTHE GROUND MORE THOROUGHLY. GIVE THE SIGNAL IF YOU FIND ANY SIGN OF THE BANDITS AND WE'LL CLOSE IN.



THROW HIM FROM HIS HORSE AND THEN JACK WILL KNOW HOW TO KEEP HIM QUIET



AND WHEN THE GUARDS REACHED THE ENDOFTHETRAIL



A RIATA AROUND HISTHROAT, A
KNIFE IN HIS HEART AND THREE
BULLETS IN HIS HEAD. BOYS, I'LL
GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES AS
TO WHO MIGHT HAVE DONE THE
JOB. FOR ME, I'M THROUGH
WARRING WITH MURIETA. I'VE
GOT TOO MUCH ATTACHMENT TO



DETACHMENTS UNDER
JOAQUIN'S LIEUTENANTS
COVERED THE STATE NORTH
TO SOUTH, FROM THE GOLD
HILLS TO SAN DIEGO AND
EVEN ONTO SONORA IN OLD
MEXICO. HIS MEN WERE
MOUNTED ON THE SWIFTEST
HORSES THEY COULD STEAL
THEY KNEW ALL THE UNTRAVELLED BY WAYS AND
HAD SPIES EVERY WHERE
JOAQUIN WAS EXTREMELY
CLEVER IN HIS OPERATIONS



WHEN A GROUP OF MINERS RETURNED WITH GOLD DUST FROM THEIR CLAIMS

BOY, AMI GOING TO WHOOP
ITUP WHEN I GET INTO TOWN.
I'VE BEEN OUT HERE INTHE
HILLS FOR FOUR MONTHS
NOW, AND I'M BRINGING OUT
ENOUGH GOLD DUST TO
KEEP ME FOR A WHILE



#### WHILE BACK IN THE MINERS' CAMP.

HE'S NO MAN, THAT JOAQUIN HE MUST BETHE DEVIL IN DISGUISE I SHOT AT HIM, BUTTHE BULLET WENT RIGHT ON THROUGH HIM, I SWEAR IT IT AIN'T NATURAL NEXT TIME I MEET HIM I'LL USE A SILVER BULLET



MANY A SHERIFF SOUGHT HIM OUT FOR THE REWARD MONEY AMONG THEM WAS A DEPUTY-SHERIFF WILSON OF SANTA BARBARA

HEY, WILSON! I JUST HEARD THAT MURIETA IS RANGING JUST SOUTH OF LOS ANGELES ONE OF OUR BOYS SAW HIM



I'LL SCARE UP A POSSE IN LOS ANGELES AND GO AFTER JOA DUIN, WHAT I COULDN'T DO WITH THAT TEN GRAND REWARD MONEY! I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO SPLIT IT TOO MANY WAYS



IN THE OLD PLAZA OF LOS ANGELES

BOYS, I NEED A POSSE TO GO AFTER MURIETA. THIS TIME WE'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE TO CAPTURE HIM ANY OF YOU MEN INTERESTED?



I WOULD LIKE TO GO WITH YOU SENOR WILL YOU TAKE ME ALONG ONTHIS HUNT FOR JOAQUIN? YOU REALLY SHOULD, BECAUSE, YOU SEE, I AM JOAQUIN, HIMSELF



I DO NOT LIE, SÉNOR I NEVER LIE I AM INDEED THAT JOAQUIN FOR WHOM THERE IS A REWARD OF \$10,000 BUT YOU, SÉNOR. WILL NEVER COLLECT IT YOU WILL HAVE LITTLE USE FOR MONEY WHERE YOU ARE GOING



SUCH SHOOTING. YOU CANNOT HIT THE SIDE OF A BARN, LEAVE ALONE JOAQUIN, WHO LEADS THE ENCHANTED LIFE I SHALL BE BACK TO MIX IT UP WITH YOU YET, WHEN THE ODDS ARE NOT SO MUCH AGAINST ME. BUT TAKE HEED. YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO WILSON



ANOTHER SEEKER AFTER THE REWARD WAS GENERAL JOSHUA BEAN OF SAN GABRIEL

WE MUST WIPE OUT THIS SCOURAGE
I AM TO ORGANIZE TWO COMPANIES
OF GUARDS TO SCOUR THE COUNTRY
AND FIND THIS MURIETA





IT'S JOAQUIN' THE MURDERER GET HIM THERES A REWARD OF \$ 10,000 ON HIS HEAD DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY HE'S A SLICK ONE THERE HE GOES NOW'



WELL, IF I

JOAQUIN, WHAT HAPPENS

50 YOU WOULD GATHER IN THE REWARD MONEY AND LEAVE THE BODY OF JOAQUIN FOR THE VULTURES. YOU ARE A PACK OF COYOTES, BUT YOU HAVE NOT THE WISDOM OF THE COYOTE



AY, BAD LUCK IS BEGINNING TO FOLLOW ME THIS WALL IS BLIND AND I CAN GO NO FURTHER I MUST TURN BACK AND RUNTHE GAUNTLET



THE FOOL HAS RUN INTO THE BLIND CANYON WALL NOW HELL HAVE TO COME BACK THIS WAY AND WE CAN FINISH HIM OFF



HA,MY FRIENDS, LET'S SEE HOW MANY OF YOU ARE BRAYE ENOUGHTO STAND UP TO ME, JOAQUIN YOU ARE BRAVE ONLY IN MOBS, WHEN YOUR ADVERSARY IS ONE LITTLE MAN AND YOU HAVE ALL THE GUNS ON YOUR SIDE



THE DOGS!THEY HAVE

SO FOR NOW I AM A FREE MAN AGAIN THEY THINK I AM MAD TO RIDE ALONE WHEN I HAVE EIGHTY MEN WHO OBEY MY VERY COMMAND BUT JOAQUIN HAS NEVER BEEN A COWARD. AND I HOLD THESE SHERIFFS IN CONTEMPT THEY ARE STUPID ONES





### ONE DAY IN LOS HORNITOS ..

YOU'RE MURIETA .WE USED TO MINE TOGETHER UP ALONG THE STANISLAUS RIVER, REMEMBER?



IT IS BEST YOU FORGET IT. I WARN YOU NOW, SAY NOTHING OF MEETING ME HERE, I HAVE BUSINESS, GOODBYE, JOE

#### BUT JOE TALKED ...

I SAW MURIETA HERE ONLY YESTERDAY, WITH MY VERY OWN EYES...



I AM JOAQUIN AND YOU HAVE BETRAYED
ME.NOWI MUST KILL YOU. I WILL KILL
ANYONE WHO BETRAYS ME. I WARNED
YOU NOT TO SAY ANYTHING NOW
EVERYONE IN TOWN KNOWS



SOON A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD WAS OFFERED FOR THE CAPTURE OF MURIETA. IN THE CENTRAL PLAZA OF STOCKTON

WHAT IS THIS? THEY
THINK MY LIFE IS WORTH
SO LITTLE? IT IS AN
INSULT, AND I WILL NOT
FORGIVE THEM

8 10,000
REWARD
CONTINE OF
MURIETA
DEAD
ALIVE

I WILL RAISE THE AMOUNT
MYSELF, IMAGINE, OFFERING
ONLY \$ 10,000 FOR THE
GREAT JOAQUIN MURIETA.

DEA

OR

ALIVE

THAVE HEARD MU
THAVE HEARD MU

BY NOW JOAQUIN HAD AVENSED HIMSELF ON EVERYONE OF THE MINERS WHO HAD HANGED HIS BROTHER. BUT THE LUST OF KILLING WAS ON HIM, AND HIS MURDEROUS CAREER HAD JUST BEGUN. HE GATHERED ABOUT HIMSELF A GANG OF EIGHTY CHOICE CUTTHROATS AND HE KILLED ONLY GRINGOS, HE BECAME HERO AND PATRIOT TO THE MISTREATED MEXICANS OF CALIFORNIA. HIS RECRUITS CAME FROM FAR AND WIDE.

THE REAL PROPERTY.

