

READING TIME • 29 MINUTES 49 SECONDS

RICHARD AINLEE is the young, steely-eyed junior partner in the banking house of Tolman-Granger & Co. He dominates the elderly president, Tolman, and calmly vetoes the latter's meek suggestion that an extension of the mortgage which Paula Hartley begs be granted on Hartley Hall, her father's country estate.

Blind to the human side of the girl's pleas, Richard can only see that her promise to pay from her winnings in the Mantico Hunt Cup race which she is confident her beloved mare Scatter Gold will win would not be sound banking collateral.

However, two points impress themselves on Ainlee's coldly calculating mind. One is Paula's rare beauty; the other, the fact that his poverty-stricken boyhood was spent in the shadows of Hartley Hall, and Paula's father, Major Hartley, had wrecked his own now dead father's political career. He

goes to Meredith and bids in the mansion at the foreclosure sale.

He also bids in Scatter Gold, and Paula tries to kill both herself and the mare by dashing at a too high jump over a stone wall. Neither is injured.

The Hartleys and the major's sister, Sylvia Marsden, move into an old house near by. Richard retains the Hall's servant staff, including Dan Carrick, the groom, and Saunders, the butler. Then he meets Margie Windle, who trained Scatter Gold. Meantime John Barron commissions Margie to find Paula another horse to win the cup. He also shows an unusual interest in Margie's adopted boy, Tommy. Before returning to his pressing financial affairs in the city, Richard wants to put the Hall in order. He rides Scatter Gold to the Hartleys' new home, and calmly informs Sylvia Marsden in the garden there that he desires to give the mare back to Paula. He adds with quiet assurance that he will later marry the girl and put her back in the Hall. Sylvia laughs at his matrimonial methods, as cold-blooded as his banking, but calls Paula out to decide for herself.