

"THE  
MYSTERY  
OF  
THE  
TRIPLE  
D  
RANCH"

by  
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Gallagher

## CHAPTER I

### A MYSTERY

On the plane to Texas, Pam Martin could feel her pulse quicken. Soon, she, her father and her two friends would be deep in the heart of Texas.

Pam was sixteen years old. She had brown eyes, dark brown hair and she was very pretty. Any boy would consider her as the perfect "catch".

Her father, Robert Martin, was the best father in the world, Pam thought. He had taken care of her, ever since her mother had died, when she was a little girl.

Pam's friends, Lisa and Jim, were very good friends. Mr. Martin was only going to Texas to keep an eye on the kids.

Jim and Pam were just good friends - nothing really personal. Jim was a handsome guy; any girl would consider him the perfect "catch" - so Pam and him were the great pair.

Lisa was alright looking - a little plain, but when she got some make-up on, and her hair curled - WOW! She was a knockout!

Soon the plane landed. As the four got off of the plane, Lisa glanced around, and exclaimed, Wow! I didn't expect Texas to have so many buildings!"

"Lots of people think Texas is all prairies, Lisa," Mr. Martin explained.

"Our hotel is kind of far away," Pam told them. "We'll have to drive for about twenty minutes."

"That's not too bad, said Jim. "Considering all of the fun that we're going to have!"

"When we get there I'm gonna' have fun!" Lisa said flatly. Then she added meekly, "I hope! I want to ride horses!" she said. "Me too!" Pam agreed. The group was soon riding down Highway Eleven.

"All I want to do is relax!" Jim said. "Lazybones!" scolded Pam.

"Aw," Jim said, giving in. "I guess I'll do something." "That's right, Jim," said Lisa giving him a friendly punch. "You'll do something!" Then she added, teasingly, "He'll do anything Pam says. Right Pam?" Pam glanced at the two in the back seat. She smiled, but couldn't think of anything to say.

Finally they were at the hotel. It was more like a big ranch. There were several rooms, but no animals outside. "Ooh! This will be exciting!" squealed Lisa, happily. "It sure will!" Pam said, jumping out of the car. The four went inside. They looked around. The lobby looked more like a giant living room. "Two rooms please," Mr. Martin said. "Which one of us gets Jim?" laughed Pam. "Neither of you!" Mr. Martin said, firmly but nicely. "Darn!" Lisa pretended to be sad. To get the subject off of him, Jim said, "Are we going horseback riding, or not?" "Not today," Mr. Martin said.