

Leon was skeptical. “Old Grand-Dad? I never hear of such medicine.”

Doc Martin filled two tumblers, drained one, and handed Gaspard the other. “Down the hatch, my boy! Now go home and take a nap.”

It was Gaspard’s first experience with whiskey. (His drink of choice was vodka, which he pronounced “wodka.”) He walked home, and Evlyn put him to bed, calling it “very strange medicine.” But Leon slept well, and the next day went back to the doctor, where the medicinal dosages were re-administered. **WATERS, GASPARD 32**

Doc Martin also advised Leon to get a horse and ride every day because the fresh air was good for his constitution.

Taos was surrounded by fishing streams and mountains teeming with game, perfect therapy for an outdoorsman in poor health. Leon soon acquired two horses: a pure Morgan named Foxie for himself and a black half-Arabian named Malinka (Russian for “Little One”) for Evlyn.

Gaspard rode every afternoon, sometimes dressed as a Mongolian chieftain, replete with a blue tunic and white fleece *papakhi* (a kind of wool hat). With the pride of a Russian Cossack and the attire of an exotic tribesman, Leon did not exactly blend in with the residents of Taos. 🐾

PLATE 65

**INDIAN WOMAN WITH TURQUOISE**

1925

Oil on silk on board  
15 x 10.5

