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How They Gained Time

Two Lovers Managed Their Affair Diplomatically

By JANET LITTLETON

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Elmer Worthington, a banker of both his daughter Mabel into his private waiting room and said to her: "My dear, I am very much troubled at having seen you walking with this

actor, who seems to have thrust himself upon you." "You are mistaken, papa, in assuming that Mr. Deane has thrust himself

"Well, he is an actor, and I wish you to understand that no actor is welcome in my house."

"The profession of the stage is an artistic calling, and I consider it above buying and selling merchandise or money. But you are not right in assuming that Mr. Deane is an actor. He was an actor, but is now a playwright, which means that he is a member of the literary profession. He is the son of a gentleman, has receiv-



SAW IN HIM HIS WOULD BE SON-IN-LAW. ed a college education and went on the stage for a short time in order to prepare himself for the work of writing

"Playwright or actor, his associa tions are not our associations, and I'll have none of him. Don't let me hear of your ever being seen in his company

There was a rebellious fire in the girl's eyes as she left her father that showed him the affair had gone further than he had supposed, Mr. Worthington was not a man to give an order without taking pains to insure its being carried out. He did not sit down calmly, relying upon his daugh-ter, on reflection, obeying him, nor did he assume that if she persisted in her infatuation he could prevent her. He hired a detective to watch Mr. Deane and report to him if the actor were ever again seen in Mabel's company, after which drastic measures would be taken.

It was not long before the detective reported that Deane and Miss Worthington were seen sitting side by side at a matinee. The meeting was reported to the banker, who told his daughter that he had heard of her dis-obedience to his order and if she defied him again he would send her away where she would have no opportunity to see the actor. A clandestine meeting took place soon after this, in which Mabel told her lover of her father's threat, which she knew he would make good.

The same evening she had an interview with her father, in which she told him that he must look to Mr. Deane to fulfill his orders. If the playwright joined her he did it on his own responsibility, and her father must call him and not her to account for such action. This was something of a relief to the parent, who would rather deal with a man than a woman, even if that woman were his own daughter. He did not doubt that Mabel would assist her lover rather than her father in any contest that might arise between the two, but he considered himself a match for both.

Within a fortnight his detective reported that the lovers had been seen together. Mr. Worthington spoke to his daughter about the matter and asked her if it were true. She replied that, as she had informed him, he must settle all such questions with Mr.

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Deane and she had nothing to say. "Very well," replied her father. shall write Mr. Deane that if he again thrusts himself upon you I shall take such means as I think proper in the

Mabel left him without a word, and he knew that the fight with the play-wright was on. He sent the note, as he informed his daughter he would, and received a courteous reply, as fol-

My Dear Sir—If your informant on the day and hour of this alleged meeting had passed my house in A., the suburb in which I live when at home, and looked up at my study window he would have seen me diligently engaged at my work, which was on that occasion putting in the dialogue of a play the scenario of which I had just finished. I understood from your daughter that you had for-bidden her to meet me again. I have the nonor to be your obedient servant, HARWOOD DEANE.

Mr. Worthington called his detective for an explanation, and the latter admitted that he had not seen the lovers together. He had seen Miss Worthington enter a friend's house and had seen a man who looked very like Deane enter the same house half an hour later. After leaving Mr. Worthington the spy took a train immediately for A., went to Deane's house and saw him at work at his study window. Having reported the fact to his employer, the latter hired another detective to watch the playwright's house.

It was not long before the city de tective reported another meeting. Mr. Worthington took a memorandum of the day, hour and minute and sent it to the detective at A. The spy, who was a woman, living opposite the Deanes, reported that at that time she saw Mr. Deane writing at his desk near the study window. Half an hour later she made a note of the fact that his mother came to the window, noticed that the sun was shining too brightly on her son's desk and pulled down the shade.

This seemed to establish an alibi. Instead of writing a threatening note to the playwright, Mr. Worthington simply reported the fact to him that he had been again informed of a meeting of Mr. Deane and his daughter Deane wrote a reply stating that he had not left his residence at A. on the day he was reported to have met Miss Worthington.

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and spent the summer there. She got some of your Gin Pills and sent them to me and I tried them and found them to be the best medicine that I ever used for Kidney and Bladder Trouble. Oh! they did me so much good and I am so much better I hope you can fix it so I can get Gin Pills in New York?.

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A third report of a meeting between the lovers came to Mr. Worthington, but not through either of his detectives. The lovers were said to have been seen walking in a park near the center of the city. The person reporting the meeting was a sister of Mr. Worthington, who, in the event of his daughter's death or disinheritance, would inherit the principal part of his property. He telephoned at once to his spy in A., asking if the playwright was seen in his home on the day and hour named. The reply came that Mr. Deane had not been seen there after 10 o'clock in the morning, when he had driven out with his mother. Since he was reported to have been

seen walking in the park with Mabel at 3 in the afternoon he would have had ample time to go to the city to keep an appointment at that hour. Mr. Worthington, who was now moving more cautiously, wrote Mr. Deane, stating the facts and asking for an explanation. Mr. Deane's reply contained affidavits of three different persons that they had seen him driving in L., a suburb of the city, fifty miles distant, between 8 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the day in question.

When Mr. Worthington read these replies his brow lowered. He was aware that his sister was next of kin after his daughter, and he at once suspected her of plotting to prevent Ma-bel's marriage. The more he thought of such a scheme the more feasible it seemed to him. He remembered that if a girl set her heart on a man and meets with a disappointment she is very apt not to marry any one else. If Miss Amelia Worthington could secure Mabel's disinheritance, that would be even a better scheme than to prevent her marriage. If he had been convinced of a plot on the part of his sister he would have consented to his daugh. ter's marriage at once. But the matter was merely a suspicion. However, he was not sure but that

some one was acting in opposition to Deane and Mabel, and this mollified him considerably. When one evening Mabel asked him to take her to the theater he consented. It was the first night of a new play, but the old gentleman knew nothing about that. All he did know was that as the play progressed the audience, including himself, became very much impressed with it and finally enthusiastic. When the curtain fell at the end of the third act shouts were made for the author. When he appeared Mr. Worthington found himself joining in the storm of applause. Then, putting on his glasses and taking another look at the recipient, what was his astonishment when he saw in him his would be som-

Mr. Deane's play was reported by the critics in the morning newspapers as a great hit, and the playwright found himself famous. Not only a living, but a fortune was assured. From the mo-ment of Mr. Worthington's leaving the playhouse he ceased his opposition to his daughter's match, his change of mind not only being due to Deane's success, but to what Worthington sup posed to be a plot on the part of his sister to get possession of his property after his death. So one day, after a conference between him and his daughter, she left him with his consent to her matriage.

One day some time after the wedding Mr. Worthington, who had become patte fond of his son-in-law, expressed the opinion to him that Miss Amelia Worthington had laid a piotto secure his property.
"I can't permit any one to suffer un-

justly," said Deane, "so I must exonerate your sister from any such suspicion. This involves a confession. When as an actor I was studying the technique of the stage I took a double part, requiring my appearance on the boards when I was not there. A dummy was constructed that was my exact twin. When you put detectives upon me this dummy was placed in my study window and afterward, when I drove out with my mother, was carried wrapped in a shawl into the curriage. I got out at the station and my mother drove to L. with the dummy sitting beside her, while I went to meet Mabel in the park,"

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