

A Knot of Blue

BY WILLIAM R. A. WILSON.

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"Well, what if I choose to believe that what you have told me regarding efforts already exerted for me, is true? What further assistance can I render you? I am getting tired of having this love-sick youth about. His attentions weary me. I am obliged to exert my full influence over his will to prevent him from making love to me and offering his hand in marriage. As it is, the sighs and adoring words and antics of the silly fool are trying." Du Tillot then told her of his new project. "You must in some way awaken the lust of play in his veins, and, having done so, keep it continually fed. You surely have some powerful drug that, without injuring the body, will inflame the mind and cause it to be restless and inquisitive. I have heard of such."

His companion smiled. "It is that all that is required, it can be easily accomplished." Going to her escritoire, she searched carefully for a few moments, then returned. "Here is a gray powder. Drop into the extreme point of a small dagger and he will become filled with the determination to follow out whatever end he may at the moment have in view, at any cost. Double the dose, and he will become frenzied, and forgetful of all restraint, for your purpose, a madman, who can be urged or influenced into doing the wildest deeds."

At this moment the bell rang. Madame Duvivier arose hastily. "Depart quickly, as you came. It is de Châtigny. He insisted upon coming again tonight. I shall do my best. See that you are successful this time, for if this plan fails I shall not help you again until you have placed in my own power the man I hate."

Du Tillot shivered uneasily at the malignant tone of his companion, and silently withdrew.

Raoul entered eagerly and approaching Madame Duvivier kissed her hand with all the deference due a queen. She smiled upon him in her most fascinating manner, and devoted all her energies once again to enmeshing him in the still deeper in the snare of her enchantment. Poor Raoul, his mind dominated by her hypnotic power, made no resistance, but was content to

bask in the sunlight of her presence, drinking in with insatiable glance her companionship. Their conversation touched upon his recent adventure, and his honest eyes glowed with gratitude as he told her he learned that it was her influence over the governor that had won the pardon.

"How can I ever thank you, my beautiful queen," he murmured, "for your kindly interest in my behalf?"

Madame Duvivier seized upon this advantage, and replied in her tenderest tones:

"I would have been but a poor friend if I had not gone to every possible length in my endeavors for your safety." Then reading in his eyes an impending love-scene, she gradually forced him into sleep. When he was fully under her spell, she impressed forcibly upon him the fact that Du Tillot was his devoted friend, and urged him to seek and enjoy his society whenever possible. By the force of subtle suggestion she instilled into his brain the purpose of winning great sums at play for her; commanded him to view without discomfiture any possible losses, and when she had done with him, had succeeded in rousing the latent fire that could easily become the dominant feeling in his nature. "Yes, yes," he murmured. "I will stake all in order to win." When he left her she was content, satisfied that his condition of mind was such that it needed but the faintest suggestion of Du Tillot to lead him on to his doom.

While Raoul lay unconscious beneath the charm of the siren, the governor sat, almost equally insensible, to his surroundings, meditating deeply upon the mystery surrounding his young friend's case. He had informed the surprised council that he had learned certain facts which in his mind threw considerable doubt upon the young man's guilt; facts that justified him in the course he took, and which he would reveal to them at a later date. The council were one and all prepossessed in Raoul's favor, and acquiesced readily in the vision of the governor's course. The immediate difficulty, that of rescuing his friend, was over; it now remained for him to discover, if possible, the real culprits. The possibility of there being some truth in Farouche's words to Almée was more deeply imbedded upon his mind than at first. He anxiously sought for the poor fellow, but could gather no information from him, owing to the excitement incident to the interview. Almée also endeavored to learn more, but her effort was fruitless.

The thought occurred to the governor that it might have been part of an effort of some of his numerous political enemies to bring discredit on his administration, and to injure him by striking down one who they knew was very dear to him. The heart of the old man, although accustomed to witnessing every possible depth of intrigue, was itself so generous and noble that he was loath to believe that a state of affairs such as this supposition would involve, really existed in Quebec. He therefore fell back upon the idea first suggested to him by Almée, that it was an attempt on the part of some enemy of Raoul to involve him in disgrace. The more he thought of the matter, the more he felt certain that her womanly intuition was correct in ascribing some amount of complicity in the affair to Madame Duvivier. Her secluded life (exemplary, however, in every way, so far as he knew), and her evident influence over the youth—all confirmed this impression. He waited, therefore, with impatience, the answer to the letter of inquiry he had dispatched to Paris, asking for a detailed history of her life as far as it could be ascertained. The next ship, expected some two weeks hence, would probably bring the desired information, and he could do nothing of importance in the matter until its arrival.

As he realized that notwithstanding his pardon, Raoul evidently cherished some unkind feeling toward him, probably resenting the fact that he had not been released at the beginning on his bare word, in spite of the circumstantial evidence against him.

The next morning, as Raoul was dressing, he heard the cheery voice of Almée calling. He looked out of his window and beheld his friend riding toward the house, his eyes bright and his cheeks flushed from his early jaunt. Begging him to join him at the breakfast table, Raoul hurriedly finished his toilet, and soon the two friends were seated, talking over their cups of steaming coffee.

"This seems more like the old days!" exclaimed Raoul, looking at his friend affectionately.

"Yes," was the earnest reply; "but somehow many things have changed of late."

"True," returned Raoul absently. "Things have changed with me exceedingly. Do you know, mon cher Armand, I am not the man I was a few short months ago? A new light has come into my life that dazzles my sight, yet holds me spellbound. You, my dear, cautious friend, do not know what it is to throw one's self without a thought or struggle upon the boundless ocean of love. It thrills the body, captivates the soul, enraptures the mind. It means hours of agony when separated from its fond object, and moments of a strange delight that drowsily permeates one's whole frame in its delicious sweetness when at last you both breathe the same atmosphere again."

"Who may she be?" queried Armand, striving to appear in ignorance.

"Who?" was the enthusiastic answer; "can you ask me? Whose beauty is it that transcends that of all mortal flesh, that exceeds that of fabled goddesses, the sight of which sends each drop of blood, a bit of living fire, pulsating through one's frame? Whose voice is it that greets the ear in tones of liquid music? Whose touch is it that sets every fiber of one's being trembling and sears one's brain with ecstatic desire? There can be but one such woman in all creation—Madame Duvivier."

"She is indeed beautiful," assented Armand. Then continuing as he saw his companion was silent, "but how about her qualities of mind, of heart, and disposition?"

Raoul hesitated. "Could the qualities you mention be better than the best? Could I wish for anything more than in company with such beauty? Talk not to me of mind and heart, mon ami, you who do not know her save as a mere acquaintance. I love her madly, and she—I hope to win her ere long. I am unworthy her slightest thought, and yet, when I have achieved an end which I have determined upon, I shall throw myself at her feet, her willing slave forever."

Armand, while listening to his friend's words, was overwhelmed with pity for his blindness. He strove to control himself, but in vain. At length he burst forth:

"Mon cher Raoul, are you sure you are not influenced in your judgment by that which is merely sensual? That this strange fascination of yours may be only a mere fancy after all? Who is she? Where did she come from? What was her previous life? These are all questions that, if you were possessed of your cool, sober reason, you would feel ought in some way to be answered. How do you know?"

"Enough," said Raoul, pale with anger. "Do not let us quarrel, Armand. We will never touch upon this subject again, else our friendship ceases. However, to break down the force of all that you have said, I will tell you one thing: she it was who saved my life; who prevailed upon the governor to sign the pardon. That is enough for me. My gratitude should make me love devotedly the woman who did that."

Armand stared at his friend as though he thought him mad. Madame Duvivier influenced the governor? He was silent, seeing that further argument would be useless. As he rose to leave he replied, meaningly, in a low voice:

"Your gratitude should indeed make you love devotedly the woman who did that."

To Be Continued.

DEAD SHAH WAS RICH IN JEWELS

Had Most Famous Collection of Gems in World—Late King Noted for Generosity.

London, Jan. 9.—Muzaffar Ed Din, born March 25, 1853, at Teheran, was the second son of Nasr Ed Din, who was assassinated in 1896. Not only was the Shah the richest of monarchs, but he was reputed to be the most learned of all the crowned heads. He was a good Mussulman, but he had broad and liberal ideas. He was the fifth Shah of the Kadian dynasty.

For 30 years he was left almost alone, shut up in Tabriz, the residence of the heirs to the throne, who he could not leave, except by permission of his father. It is a capital in which it is difficult to learn much about the outside world. Nevertheless, the prince did his utmost to gain a knowledge of the colossal mechanism of the life in Europe.

The boy's education began when he was 12 years old, and by the time he was 20 he knew the Kurdish, Turkish, and Arabic languages. There was probably no one in the Orient who had a more thorough knowledge of the classical literature of the east. He also studied the philosophy of the west.

An Enormous Fortune.

The Shah's fortune was enormous. The royal treasure, which is kept in the vaults of the palace, was increased immensely during the reign of his father. Sentinels stand day and night in front of a sealed door which leads to the vault where the millions in gold and silver are hidden. The Shah, in order to be close to his treasure, had his apartments just above the vaults. Besides the fortune in money, estimated at over \$200,000,000, his father left him the most dazzling collection of jewels in the world, said to be worth \$20,000,000.

The collection is composed of pearls, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones, among which there is a magnificent diamond, called, on account of its rare beauty, "The Sea of Light." The Peacock Throne, made of jewels, is appraised at \$12,000,000.

The Shah's first act on ascending the throne was to abolish all taxes on meat and bread, a step that made a big hole in the royal revenue. He made several tours of Europe, visiting England, Germany and France, after which he introduced many improvements into Persia.

He carried an immense retinue with him when traveling and the expenses of the trips were great. Once, in Paris, an attempt was made on his life. A man dressed as a workman dashed forward toward the Shah's carriage. He knocked over a bicycle policeman, and, jumping on the steps, pointed a revolver at the Shah. Before he could fire, however, the weapon was knocked from his hand by one of the officers in attendance.

Not a Polygamist.

Although the Shah practiced his religion devoutly he refused to become a polygamist, thus disregarding the permission of the prophet and the temptations of his position. His wife is one of his cousins, a princess of the royal blood, and she lived in the palace, and made her influence felt in the administration of the Province of Azerbaijan when her husband was governor. The Shah had had altogether six sons and eleven daughters.

The Shah observed with the utmost scrupulousness the rules laid down by the Koran. Five times a day he went through his ablutions and recited the prayers obligatory on all faithful Muslims. He never drank wine or spirits, which is remarkable, as the Persians do not always follow the precepts of the prophet. He was a great poet. He had sung the delights of wine as well as the perfume of roses. He read the works of the chief commentators of the Shiite sect, and, be-



fore his accession to the throne, he had become an authority in matters of religious doctrine. This study of theology he engaged in because his father considered it the best means of resisting the Babists, whose religious and political opposition formed the greatest danger to the absolute power of the dynasty.

Lover of Sports.

He was a lover of outdoor sports and was a first-class rifle shot as well as a bold hunter. He was a big man, with a handsome face, and long, black moustach. He was also a magnificent rider, and showed himself to be a good soldier. During the great raids of the Russo-Turkish war, the Shah proved his military skill by inflicting severe defeats upon Obaidullah and dispersing his army. He was a knight of the Order of the Black Eagle, of the Golden Fleece, the Garter, and the Annunciation.

The disease, or rather the diseases, for there were many complications, which caused the Shah's death, had their origin several years ago in a defective kidney. The Shah, unlike his father, was never a robust man, and Bright's disease was added gout and paralysis. A year ago the trouble became acute, and since then fortunes have been spent in the attempt to prolong the Shah's life.

Had Seventeen Doctors.

Seventeen doctors of as many nationalities were enlisted in the fight, and gave almost as many kinds of advice. The culmination of the doctors' efforts ended in a farce when, during the last weeks of the Shah's illness, he decided to try another physician, and ordered an appeal to the "Jefikhar." This consists of opening the Koran at random and taking the first verse upon which the eye lights as an answer to a question. The Shah asked first: "Shall it be a Frenchman?" and the answer from the book read: "And the curse of Allah was upon them all." The Germans fared better, and Prof. Damsch, of Göttingen, was summoned. He at once prescribed full feeding, which was directly in opposition to the treatment which had been admin-

JANUARY SALE

Oak Hall, Commencing Saturday, January 12.

Our half yearly sales are the biggest and most favorably known clothing events that ever occur in London. They are SWEEPING SALES held for the purpose of CLOSING OUT one season's stock before the next arrives.

We are offering MEN'S, BOYS' and CHILDREN'S CLOTHING at prices so low that the man who has his eye on his pocket-book will

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SALE AT ONCE.

This is simply a MARK DOWN—you'll find the old price as well as the sale price on every article. Here are some of OUR INDUCEMENTS—there are others, and lots of them—and every price is a money-saver.

Men's and Young Men's Overcoats

These include all the most stylish coats of the season, in plain black, plain gray and dark shadowy tweeds, both French back and box back styles. Each coat is our own manufacture and carries our guarantee.

Regular Price	Sale Price
\$18.00.....	\$14.95
15.00.....	12.95
14.00.....	11.95
12.00.....	9.95
10.00.....	7.95
8.50 and 7.50.....	5.95

Big reduction on Boys' and Children's Overcoats during this sale.

Even on our best blue and black Sovereign Brand Suits we make a reduction of ten per cent during our sale.

Perhaps you can afford to stay away from this sale, but we doubt it.

Large Boys' Suits

S. and D. B. and Norfolks	Reg. Price	Sale Price
	\$5.00.....	\$3.50
	6.50.....	4.95
	8.00.....	5.95

Small Boys' Suits

Handsome Norfolks,	Reg. Price	Sale Price
\$3.50 suits for.....		\$2.95
Choice of 3 lots of splendid Tweed Buster Suits for only.....		\$1.95

Men's and Young Men's Suits

(Sovereign Brand)

Regular Price	Sale Price
\$22.00.....	\$18.50
18.00.....	13.95
14.00.....	11.95

Oak Hall Special Suits

S. and D. B. models, 34 to 44.

Regular Price	Sale Price
\$ 8.50.....	\$5.95
10.00.....	7.95
12.00.....	8.95

Men's Black Suits

Morning coat styles, sizes 34 to 38

Regular Price	Sale Price
\$10.00 and \$12.....	\$6.95
14.00.....	9.95

Men's Trousers

Regular Price	Sale Price
\$1.25.....	.95
1.75.....	1.25
2.50 and \$2.75.....	1.95
3.50 and 4.00.....	2.95
4.50 and 5.00.....	3.95

Boys' Prussian Collar Suits, sizes 22 to 25, in fine twill serge and handsome tweeds. Sold as high as \$4.75. Choice now only \$2.95

OAK HALL 154 Dundas St. W. GIBSON, Mgr.

Advertiser Patterns

DESIGNED BY MARTHA DEAN.



ONE OF THE NEW JUMPER WAISTS—6768.

Fashion artists are reading the great beechness of the guimpé waist, and have sought for a blouse which would be new and yet unlike it for smart wear during the coming months. The result is the so-called "jumper" waist which is sketched here. The style is one very becoming to the majority of women and girls, and it allows of various guimpés and waists to be worn with the jumper portion. Sheer lace waists and guimpés are the most effective, but any thin blouse may be worn under it. For materials the light cloths and silk are much used, the only adornment being some narrow velvet ribbon or braid about the edges of neck and sleeves. For the medium size this requires 1½ yards of 44-inch goods for the over-blouse, and 2½ yards of 36-inch material for the guimpé.

6768—Size 32 to 42 inches bust measure.

PATTERN DEPARTMENT OF THE ADVERTISER.

Please send the above-mentioned pattern, as per directions given below, to

Name

Street Address

Town

Province

Measurement: Bust.....Waist.....

Age (if child's or misses' pattern).....

CAUTION.—Be careful to inclose above illustration and send size of pattern wanted. When the pattern is sent measure you need only mark 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000, 1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034, 1036, 1038, 1040, 1042, 1044, 1046, 1048, 1050, 1052, 1054, 1056, 1058, 1060, 1062, 1064, 1066, 1068, 1070, 1072, 1074, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128, 1130, 1132, 1134, 1136, 1138, 1140, 1142, 1144, 1146, 1148, 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156, 1158, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1166, 1168, 1170, 1172, 1174, 1176, 1178, 1180, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1188, 1190, 1192, 1194, 1196, 1198, 1200, 1202, 1204, 1206, 1208, 1210, 1212, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1220, 1222, 1224, 1226, 1228, 1230, 1232, 1234, 1236, 1238, 1240, 1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, 1250, 1252, 1254, 1256, 1258, 1260, 1262, 1264, 1266, 1268, 1270, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286, 1288, 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296, 1298, 1300, 1302, 1304, 1306, 1308, 1310, 1312, 1314, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, 1330, 1332, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1342, 1344, 1346, 1348, 1350, 1352, 1354, 1356, 1358, 1360, 1362, 1364, 1366, 1368, 1370, 1372, 1374, 1376, 1378, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 1394, 1396, 1398, 1400, 1402, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1410, 1412, 1414, 1416, 1418, 1420, 1422, 1424, 1426, 1428, 1430, 1432, 1434, 1436, 1438, 1440, 1442, 1444, 1446, 1448, 1450, 1452, 1454, 1456, 1458, 1460, 1462, 1464, 1466, 1468, 1470, 1472, 1474, 1476, 1478, 1480, 1482, 1484, 1486, 1488, 1490, 1492, 1494, 1496, 1498, 1500, 1