

A GHOST IN NEGATIVE SPOILS ANGLO-INDIAN ROMANCE

Now Pretty Miss Gladys Manning, of Southampton, England, Jilted Lieut. Gordon Waters Because He Appeared Mysteriously in All Her Photographs, Dagger in Hand, Threatening Her Life—Experiments in Psychic Photography by J. Traill Taylor.

[From the New York American.]

One of the weirdest phenomena in the history of photography has caused Miss Gladys Manning, a beautiful Southampton (England) girl, to break her engagement with Lieut. Gordon Waters, now on service in India. In every one of a dozen photographs the camera revealed a ghostly figure with dagger in hand hovering over her. She recognized the figure as her fiancé and immediately broke the engagement, believing that it was a warning of what would happen should she become his bride.

The course of true love run smooth for this couple until Lieut. Waters was called away to India. He expected to return to England on a furlough in a year and take his bride back to India with him for the remainder of his service.

Letters were exchanged with regularity during six months and the preparations for the wedding had been commenced. Then one day an old friend, an unsuccessful rival of the Indian officer, paid a parting call. He came on his way to America in a few days, and begged for a photograph.

Miss Manning had no recent pictures and was easily persuaded to sit for new ones. The next day she found three during her shopping trip in London to call at a well-known photographer's studio.

Two days later, instead of the expected proofs, came a short letter of apology. Would she please make another appointment—an accident had ruined the plates.

Her London trips were very frequent just then. She sat again without a murmur. Again a letter of apology instead of proofs. This time the letter was longer and spoke vaguely

of strange action of the light.

The photographer's request for a third sitting was granted with the mildly expressed hope that nothing would happen this time. Several strangers were about the studio during the third attempt. Miss Manning observed with the well-trained periphery of a woman's eye that they were watching her with evident curiosity.

Though this espionage was annoying and intuition told her something was wrong, she showed no sign of displeasure even when one of the observers stole up and snapped her with a hand camera. Miss Manning's uneasiness was further increased when for the third time a letter of apology arrived instead of proofs. There was no explanation. The photographer begged her to come to his studio as soon as possible and bring some one with her. He would then, he said, endeavor to

transference from your mind to the plate," he said. "I have heard of this happening often to other photographers, but it happened to me only once."

Pressed for details of this one previous case, the photographer reluctantly gave them. They were far from reassuring.

A man just before his wedding had sat for his picture. The figure of a woman appeared on every plate. She, too, was sinister and had a revolver instead of a dagger in her hand. The man recognized her as one who he believed she had a claim on his affection, and was much disturbed by the plates and insisted on destroying them.

He was married, and soon after set out with his bride for Sydney, Australia.

"And what happened?" asked Miss Manning when the narrative paused at this point.

"He committed suicide and was buried at sea," he answered. "That is all I know."

But he did know more. There was doubt as to whether it was a case of suicide of murder. The woman who had appeared mysteriously on the plates had been a passenger on the

steamer, and the young widow had stated that it was her opinion that she was implicated, even if she had not done the shooting herself.

The photographer, wishing to test the phenomena more thoroughly, had brought several witnesses to observe Miss Manning's third sitting. One of these witnesses had made a separate exposure simultaneously with one of the regular camera's pictures. This plate showed the ghostly visitor standing behind the girl, with the dagger above her head. The large camera revealed him in the same position, though in one case it was a front view and in the other a profile.

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