

Tainted Gold.

BY MRS. C. N. WILLIAMSON. Author of "The Barn Stormers," "Fortune's Sport," "Lady Macaire," "The Dark House," "Queen Sweetheart," "The House by the Lock," etc.

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS:

The tale opens at the Duke of Caen's theatre, by the stage-door of a young man, powerful, and remarkably handsome, but looking as if he had just come from the Wild West, is waiting for the manager. He is noticed by Winifred Gray, a rising young actress, and also by Lionel Macaire, a millionaire and friend of the manager's, but of repulsive appearance and infamous character. The stranger, whose name is Slope Newcome, introduces himself as a friend of "F. E. Z." and the initials strangely affect not only the manager, Mr. Anderson, but also Macaire. Newcome, who announces that he has come to England for the purpose of "finding something," asks Anderson for an evening's engagement, but the manager, prompted by the millionaire friend, excuses for the evening Winifred Gray is sent for to the box, where she sees Macaire. The millionaire informs her that he has now a controlling interest in the theatre, and offers her an engagement as Rosalind. Winifred, who has been playing small parts, is at first dazzled by Macaire, but on a declaration of love from Macaire she rejects the millionaire's advances with the loathing Macaire allows her to break the moment, but declares that he will break her to his will. The same night Hope Newcome, still lounging at the stage door, sees a stranger of powerful physique mount the box of Winifred's cab beside the driver. Newcome enters him down, and a struggle takes place. Newcome soon disposes of his opponent, and receives the thanks of the young actress, who, however, hardly realizes the danger she has escaped. Next day Winifred is sent for by Anderson, and, evidently with great regret on the part of the manager, told that she is not suitable for the role she is to assume in a forthcoming production, and that if she prefers to leave the company at once she will receive salary for the next fortnight. Winifred sees she has no option but to go, and she knows also from what quarter the blow falls, for, as she leaves the manager's room, Macaire enters with an unmistakable expression on his face. She visits all the theatrical agents and managers in vain for weeks, and is aware that strong influences are working against her.

CHAPTER XXXII.—(Continued.)

Macaire had encouraged him to try his luck at the gaming tables, and had said that he wouldn't "see him come to grief." Very likely he had meant his secretary to have plenty in his pocket, in case of emergencies, and had been too tactful to speak out bluntly. At all events, Dick thought now, in his almost frenzied desire to go on, that he would have "chanced it," had the money still been in his possession. In all probability he would have been able to replace it at once with his own winnings, and if not, he could have gone frankly to Macaire, confessing that he had borrowed something which he would repay out of his salary.

With the moonstone Sphinx, of course, it was different. If he could pledge it and obtain a few pounds to go on with now, and should be so very unfortunate as not to be able to redeem it to-night, he would not care to confess what he had done to Macaire. He would get it back when he could, which would certainly be soon, at worst, for it did not seem to him a thing worth more than seven or eight sovereigns at most.

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Sphinx's head had come off. Macaire would not mind much; he would be sure to forgive, and say: "It doesn't matter."

CHAPTER XXXIII.

What the Light Showed.

Dick's spirit of prophecy had been a deceiving spirit. He lost his thousand francs. Next morning Macaire said: "By the way, that moonstone Sphinx's head I gave you to have repaired. When will it be ready?"

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FURTHER EVIDENCE AT INSURANCE INQUIRY

President of the Washington and Germania Life Companies on the Witness Stand.

New York, Dec. 20.—At the meeting of the Insurance Inquiry commission to-day Mr. Tatlock, president of the Washington Life Insurance Co., was an important witness. The earnings for nine months of the year, the witness said, as far as could be calculated, were \$228,000, of which \$7,000 was paid on dividends to policy holders and \$149,000 is surplus.

LAND REGISTRY ACT.

In the Matter of an Application for a Duplicate Certificate of Title to Lot 42, Part of Section 31 (Map 23), Victoria District.

Notice is hereby given that it is my intention, at the expiration of one month from the first publication hereof, to issue a duplicate of the certificate of title to the above land, issued to Robert George Johnston on the 23rd day of September, 1901, and numbered 1204A.

THE London Times

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