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## MISS WATTS

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### A BRIGAND IN LOVE

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soon see him face to face, soon hear the tones of his voice, and the and the long monotonous hours of her journey slipped by. As they drew into the station she summoned the porter.

"I want a quiet hotel overlooking the bay," she said, and he mentioned a name that appealed to her.

From the window of her room she saw the white cruisers lying at anchor in the beautiful harbor. Peaceful and serene they floated on the still waters of the bay like gulls at rest, but to Loring's overwrought brain there was something sinister in their very calm. She dispatched a note to Redding, a briefly worded note, saying that she was here for a few days and asking him to dine with her that night.

It was four o'clock when the messenger departed. Barely an hour later Paul came, bringing his own answer.

He was shown up into her sitting room, and as she came forward to meet him every vestige of color left her cheeks. She suddenly realized what she had done and shame made her tremble like a shy schoolgirl.

He stared at her, his heart in his eyes. "You—you!" he said, fighting to control the longing to seize her in his arms as she stood with downcast eyes before him; then he gave up the struggle and caught her to his breast, knowing nothing beyond the fact that she was here, caring for nothing but the sweetness of that moment. And after one protest she surrendered her lips to him, as she had long ago surrendered her heart.

Afterward, when they began to talk, he begged her to marry him at once. He wanted to make her his wife now, secretly if she wished, on account of her mourning; then in a few months, when

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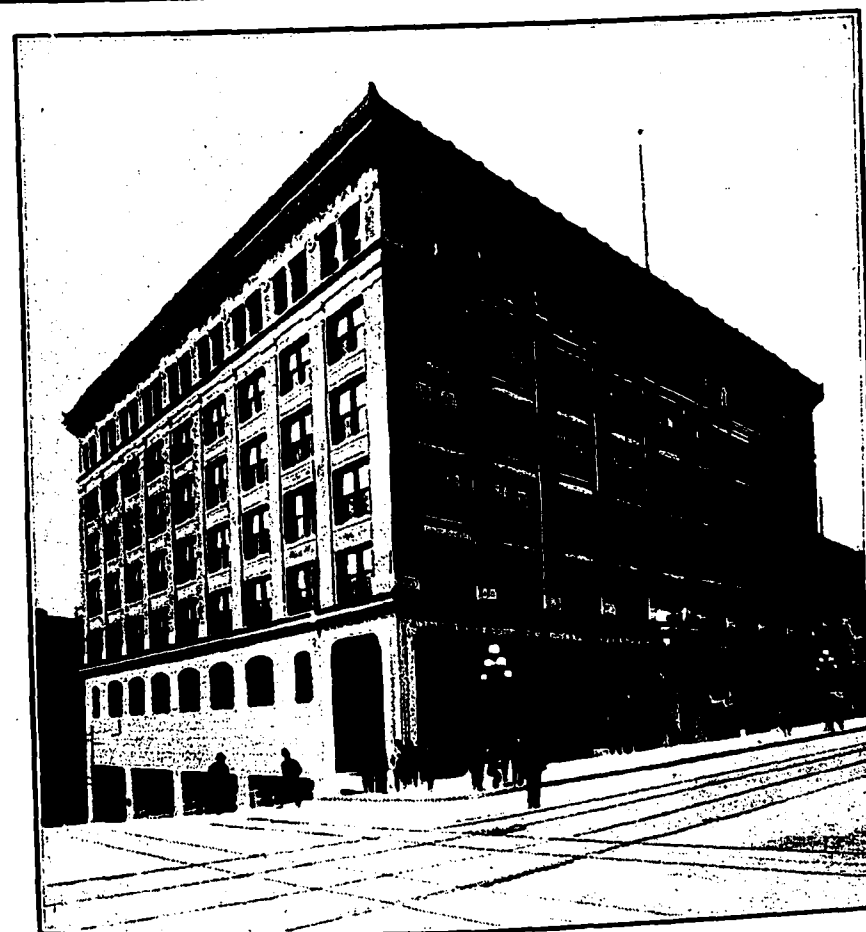
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