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## The Mystery of Agatha Webb.

By Anna Katharine Green. th Case," "Lost Man's Lane," "Hand and Ring," Etc., Etc.

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"Astonishing!" Mr. Fenton neard him mutter to himself. "He's more like an eel than a man." And indeed the way Sweetwater wound himself out and in through that room, seeing everything and examining everything that came under his eye, was a sight well worth any professional's atten-tion. Pausing before the dead man on the floor, he held the lantern close to the white, worn face. "Ha!" said he, I ed it over and laid it down, with that picking up something from the long | same serious twinkle of his eye they beard. "Here's a crumb-of that same bread. Did you see that, Mr. Knapp?"

The question was so sudden and so sharp that the detective came near replying to it; but he bethought himself

"That settles which of the two gnawed the loaf," continued Sweet-The next minute he was hovering over the still more pathetic figure of

John, sitting in the chair. "Sad! Sad!" he murmured. Suddenly he laid his finger on a small rent in the old man's faded vest. "You saw this, of course," said he, with a quick glance over his shoulder at the silent detective.

No answer as before. "It's a new slit," declared the officious youth, looking closer, "and-



"Ha! Here's a crumb of that same bread Did you see that, Mr. Knapp?" yes-there's blood on the edges. Here, take the lantern, Mr. Fenton, I must see how the skin looks underneath. Oh, gentlemen, no shirt! The poorest dock-hand has a shirt! Brocaded vest and no shirt; but he don't want my pity, not now. Ah, only a bruise over the heart. Sirs, what did you make out of

As none of them had even seen if Knapp was not the only one to remain

silent. "Shall Ltell you what I make out of it?" said the lad, rising hurriedly from the floor, which he had as hurriedly examined. "This old man has tried to take his life with the dagger already wet with the blood of Agatha Webb. But his arm was too feeble. The point only pierced the vest, wiping off a little blood in its passage. Then the weapon fell from his hand and struck the floor, as you will see by the fresh dent in the old board I am standing on. Have you anything to say against

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and might have spoken, but Sweetwater gave him no chance.
"Where is the letter he was writing?"
be demanded. "Have any of you seen any paper lying about here?"

"He was not writing," objected Knapp; "he was reading-reading in that old Bible you see there. Sweetwater caught up the book, look-

had noted in him before. "He was writing," he insisted. "See, here is his pencil." And he showed them the bettered end of a small lead pencil lying on the edge of his chair. "Writing at some time," admitted

Knapp. "Writing just before the deed," in-sisted Sweetwater. "Look at the fin-gers of his right hand. They have not moved since the pencil fell out of them."

"The letter, or whatever it was, shall be looked for," declared the constable.

Sweetwater bowed, his eyes roving restlessly into every nook and corner of the room. "The brother, James, was the strong-

er," he remarked; "yet there is no evidence that he made any attempt at suicide.

"How do you know that it was suicide John attempted?" asked some one. "Why might not the dagger have fallen from James' hand in an effort to kill his brother?" "Because the dent in the floor would

have been to the right of the chair instead of to the left," he returned. "Besides, James' hand would not have failed so utterly, since he had strength to pick up the weapon afterward and lay it where you found it." "True, we found it lying on the

table," observed Abel, scratching his head in sorced admiration of his old "All easy, very easy," Sweetwater re-

marked, seeing the wonder in every "Matters like those are for a child's reading, but what is diffi-cult and what I and it hard to come by, is how the \$20 bill got into the old man's hand. He found it here, but

"Found it here? How do you know that?"

"Gentlemen, that is a point I will make clear to you later, when I have laid my hand on a certain clew I am anxiously seeking. You know this is new work for me, and I have to advance warily. Did any of you gentlemen, when you came into this room, detect the faintest odor of any kind of perfume?'

"Perfume?" echoed Abel, with a glance about the musty apartment. 'Rats, rather."

Sweetwater shook his head with a liscouraged air, but suddenly brightened, and, stepping quickly across the floor, paused at one of the windows-it was that one in which the shade had een drawn down.

Peering at this shade he gave a

"You must excuse me for a minute," said he. "I have not found what I wanted in this room and now must look outside for it. Will some one bring the lantern?"

"I will," volunteered Knapp, with grim good humor. Indeed, the situation

was almost ludicrous to him. "Bring it round the house, then, to the ground under this window," ordered Sweetwater without giving any sign that he noticed or even recognized the other's air of condescension. "And, gentlemen, please don't follow. It's footsteps I am after, and the fewer we make about the house ourselves the easier it will be for me to establish the clew I am after.'

Mr. Fenton stared. What had got into the fellow?

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CHAPTER XVL. THE MONEY FOUND.

The lantern gone the room resumed its former appearance.

Abel, who had been much struck by Sweetwater's mysterious maneuvers drew near Dr. Talbot and whispered in his ear: "We might have done without that fellow from Boston."

To which the coroner replied: "Perhaps, and perhaps not, Sweetwater has not yet proved his case; let us wait till be explains himself." Then turning to the constable he showed him an old fashioned miniature which he had found lying on James' breast when he made his first examination. It was set with pearls and backed with gold and was worth many meals, for the lack of which its devoted owner had perished.

"Agatha Webb's portrait," exclaimed Talbot, "or rather Agatha Gilchrist's! For I presume this was painted when she and James were lovers."

"She was certainly a beauty," commented Fenton, as he bent over the miniature in the moonlight. "I do not wonder she queened it over the whole

"He must have worn it where found it for the last 40 years," mused the doctor. "And yet men say that love is a fleeting passion. Well, after coming upon this proof of devotion, I find it impossible to believe James Zabel accountable for her death. Sweetwater's instinct was truer than

Knapp's.' "Or ours," muttered Fenton. "Gentlemen," interposed Abel, pointing to a bright spot that just then made its appearance in the dark out line of the shade before slluded to, "do you see that hole? It was the sight of that prick in the shade which sent Sweetwater outside looking for footprints. See! Now his eye is to it" (as the bright spot became suddenly eclipsed). "We are under examination, sirs, and the next thing we will hear is that he's not the only person who's been peering into this room through

that hole." He was so far right that the first words of Sweetwater on his re-entrance were: "It's all O K, sirs. 1 bave found my missing clew. James Zabel was not the only person who came up here from the Webb cottage last night." And turning to Knapp, who was losing some of his supercilious manner, he asked, with significant emphasis: "If, of the full amount stolen from Agatha Webb, you found \$20 in the possession of one man and \$980 in the possession of another, upon probable murderer of this good wom-

"Upon him who held the lion's share

of course." "Very good. Then it is not in this cottage you will find the person mos wanted. You must look- But there first let me give you a glimpse of the money. Is there any one here ready to accompany me in search of it? shall have to take him a quarter of mile farther up hill."

"You have seen the money? You know where it is?" asked Dr. Talbot and Mr. Fenton in one breath.

"Gentlemen, I can put my hand on it in ten minutes." At this unexpected and somewhat startling statement Knapp looked at Dr. Talbot and Dr. Talbot looked at the constable, but only the latter spoke. "That is saying a good deal. But no matter. I am willing to credit the

assertion. Lead on, Sweetwater. I'll go with you." Sweetwater seemed to grow an inch at least. "And Dr. Talbot?" he sug-

But the coroner's duty held him to this house of death, and he decided not to accompany them. Knapp and Abel, however, yielded to the curiosity which had been aroused by these extraor-dinary promises, and soon these four started on their small expedition up

Sweetwater headed the proce He had admonished silence, and his wish in this regard was so well carried out that they looked more like a group of specters moving up the moon lighted road than a party of eager and impatient men. Not till they turned into the main thoroughfare did any one speak. Then Abel could no longer restrain

himself, and he cried out:
"We are going to Mr. Sutherland's." But Sweetwater quickly undeceived

opposite his house,"

But at this Mr. Fenton drew him

"Are you sure of yourself?" he said "Have you really seen this money, and is it concealed in this forest?"

"I have seen the money," Sweetwater solemnly declared, "and it is hidden
in these woods."

Mr. Fenton dropped his arm, and
they moved on till their way was
blocked by the huge trunk of a fallen

Sweetwater pausing and motioning Knapp to turn his lantern on the spot where the shadows lay thickest. "Now, what do you see?" he asked. "The upturned roots of a great tree,"

To be Continu

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