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CHAPTER III  
AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY.

"No, I know no one here," said Floris.  
"Then shut it up and let us talk," he said, and he took the heavy book from her and laid it on the table. "Do you know that my cousin—perhaps you don't know that Lady Pendleton is my cousin?"  
"No," said Floris.  
"She is, alas! or she says she is; I am not quite sure. A cousin fourteen times removed, I think. At any rate, she is so much of a cousin that she thinks she is at liberty to avail herself of my valuable services."  
"Yes," said Floris. "You were going to tell me something—"  
"Yes. Well, my cousin fourteen times removed has been exceedingly unkind to-night. I asked her to tell me who and what was the lady I had the honor to take to dinner, and she refused. It was ungrateful of her, but I have no appeal excepting to you."  
"Oh, I am Lady Pendleton's companion," said Floris, simply.  
He did not express any surprise, if he felt any, but leaned forward, his dark eyes fixed on her face.  
As they sat thus, Lady Pendleton passed them on her way across the room, and paused a moment to exchange a word.  
"How thoughtful you look, Bruce! I really think you must be in love." He smiled absently, then sat up. "That was a foolish speech of my

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cousin's," he said. "But, like the random shaft, it struck home. She is quite right. I am in love."  
Floris turned to him with a smile. "Do you wish me to commiserate your lordship?" she said.  
"If you please," he answered gravely, "and for this reason, that I am in love with a young lady whom I have never seen; whose name I have only read. Think of it! To be in love with the mere imagination! Not to know the object of one's passion by sight! To pass her, perhaps, in the street, and yet be unaware that she is she. It is hard, is it not?"  
"Very!" said Floris, smiling again.  
"Shall I tell you how it happened?" he asked, after a pause, during which several other guests took their departure.  
"If you like," said Floris.  
"It is a strange experience," he began, in a low voice, with the manner of one commencing with himself, as well as addressing a listener. "You must know that my family has been under a cloud for several years past, for a couple of generations back. Did you ever read the story of the Old Man of the Sea, the old person who got on Sindbad's back, and couldn't be got rid of?"  
"Oh, yes!"  
"Well, we have had an old man of the sea on our family back; his name was 'Chancery Lawsuit'—what is the matter?" for Floris, whose eyes had been wandering round the room dreamily, started slightly and looked at him.  
"Nothing," she said, averting her eyes again. "Please go on."  
"The suit has been running for generations, and that it has made each generation poorer than the last, so that the old man threatened to kill Sinbad right out. I, as the last of my family, was reduced to—well, perhaps I had better not tell you all that I was reduced to, in case you should not believe me; and I should not like that."  
Floris listened to the leisurely musical voice with a growing wonder in her mind. How singular a coincidence! He had described the actual state of the Carlisle family!  
"Now comes the extraordinary part of the story. Lo and behold! with very little warning and no great fuss to speak of, the great case comes to a close, and greatly to my astonishment I am informed that I am the victor. The particulars and details I allowed to go, but the main result was satisfactory. I was proclaimed the victor, and learned that a great portion of the lands and moneys and houses were coming back to me. Judge of my astonishment when I was informed by my lawyer that my deadly foes were represented by two women; an old lady and her daughter—What is the matter?"  
Floris had started with a sudden movement, and her face had flushed, then turned pale.  
"You are tired! I forgot that you had travelled some distance to-day. Pray forgive me! My story will keep till some other time!" and he half rose.  
"No, no!" said Floris, in a very low voice. "I am not tired, I am not, indeed! Pray go on! I am very much interested, my lord."  
He was silent for a moment, and then resumed.  
"Yes, an old lady and her daughter. I asked how the result of the trial would affect them, and was told that they would be nearly ruined. That is to say, that in addition to losing the estate we had been squabbling over, they would have to pay their own costs of the last trial. I asked the amount, and learned that it was five thousand pounds."

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charm, spell, whichever you like to call it, there is no cure like change of scene. Therefore, you understand, though my cousin never will, for I shall never tell her, why I have ordered my yacht and am off to the Mediterranean. I am going to take the vision of Floris Carlisle out with me, and drop it, with the memory of it, in the blue sea, in the hope that it will sink, and sink, and rise to haunt me no longer. As for the note, well I will keep that to remind me when I am old and gray, and on the verge of the grave, that I once loved a girl whom I had never seen, and whose only words addressed to me were the written ones of scorn—contempt!"

"That was her reply to my offer. It struck me like a blow! If it had come from a man I should have put it in the fire, shrugged my shoulders, and forgotten it. But from a young girl! I cannot forget it, though I have tried hard to do so. I have thought of her so much during the last week, since I got this note, that she has become part and parcel of my life. I am, as it were, under a spell. Her scornful eyes are always resting on mine, inspiring me with the intense longing to try and soften them; her voice rings in my ears, so that I am possessed with a restless desire to hear her utter some kinder words, more fitting to her sweet, girlish lips. In short, from thinking about her, I have grown to love her—to love a thing of aerial imagination, a woman whom I have never seen, and probably never shall see, who, if I met her, would turn from me as from one who had done her a great wrong and inflicted a heavy insult!"

Now, please, do you not even pity me?"  
Floris sat silent, her face hidden by the fan, which fluttered to and fro slowly, as if moved by a machine, her eyes downcast, her lips quivering with the shame and torture of her situation.

"You do not? I am sorry! Somehow I expected your sympathy, and that is why I told you my story. I have told it to no one else, and shall not tell it. But it is quite a true one, and the fascination, the spell under which I am held is great that I am going to try strong measures to get rid of it. In a mind diseased—no, I will not say diseased—possessed by such a delusion, illusion, and what on earth is the matter? Why do you look at her like that? Why, Bruce, you have grown quite pale; hasn't he, dear?"  
"What name did you say?" he asked, his eyes fixed upon Floris' downcast face with its closely shut lips and white brow, wrinkled under her burden of shame and confusion.  
"What name? Whose name? Miss Carlisle's? This young lady's name is Miss Floris Carlisle," and she laid her hand on Floris' arm.  
(To be Continued.)

When boiling vegetables never allow them to stop boiling until they are done, or they will be soggy and heavy.  
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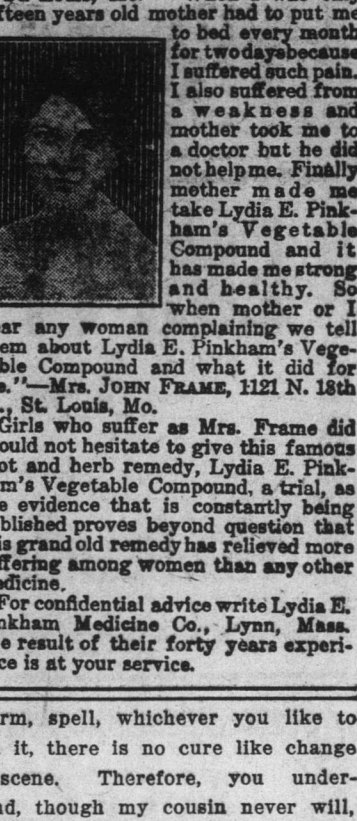
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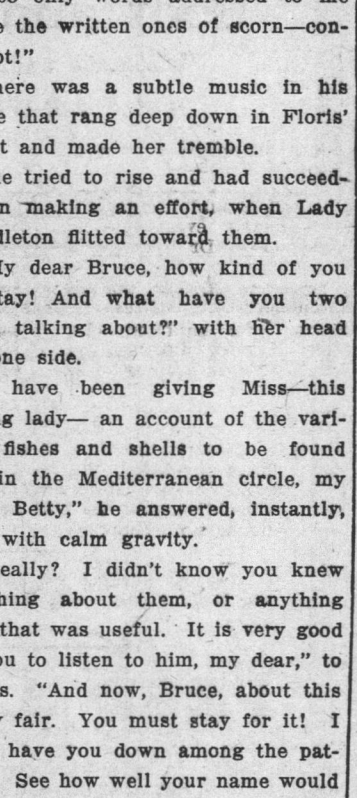
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The Pattern is cut in 4 sizes: Small, 32-34; Medium, 36-38; Large, 40-42; and Extra Large, 44-46 inches bust measure. A Medium size requires 4 1/2 yards of 36-inch material.

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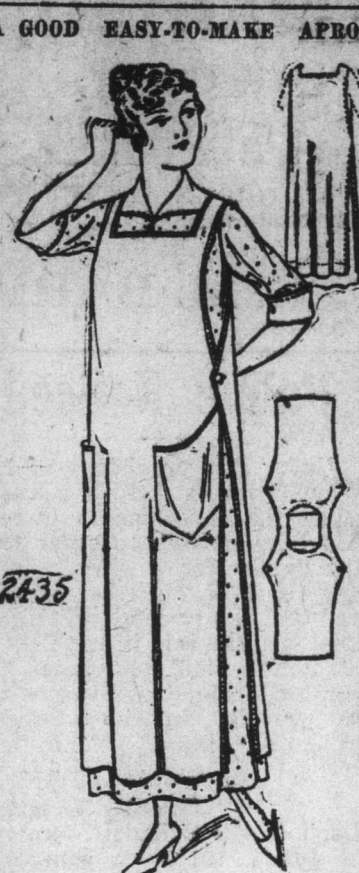
2144—This model is splendid for gingham, chambray, linen, lawn or percale, and also nice for gabardine, flannel, cashmere and challie. The closing is at the centre front and the fullness is held at the waistline, over sides and back, by a belt.  
The Pattern is cut in 7 sizes: 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 46 inches bust measure. Size 38 requires 5 1/2 yards of 36-inch material. The skirt measures about 2 1/2 yards at the foot.  
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American M and Take F believed to H

WAR REVIEW.  
Although the latest German official report announces that the situation on the battlefield is unchanged, there has been a change on one of the most important sectors in Picardy, a sector where American marines are responsible for it. Attacking on a front of about two and a half miles in a night the marines in four hours drove back the enemy over a distance of virtually two and a quarter miles and occupied all the important high ground northwest of Chateau Thierry which village in a previous fight American machine gunners had taken into a shambles by their accurate fire. The enemy tried to wrest a bridge from them. After a breathing spell on Thursday night, the Americans returned to the front, and at last accounts had five miles in progress for this important sector which commands the Marne; that part of the front where the battle line wings eastward to Rheims. The marines took 109 German prisoners in the early encounter, while the French on their left also gained an advantage over the enemy and captured 100 of his men. It seems to have the Germans been the attacks of the Americans in Chateau Thierry sector during the past few days that they have been compelled strongly to reinforce the front, using three divisions of pick troops in an attempt to hold back the men from overseas. Thus far, however, their efforts have been unavailing. The Americans would not permit the Germans to get a foothold from Rheims to the north of Soissons are still at a halt, though offensives are being attempted at isolated points and bombardments of violence are being carried out in various sectors, especially in the region of Rheims. Everywhere the Germans have essayed an attack, but they have been repulsed. The line has been sufficiently strengthened to withstand the shock of the German troops, and it is seemingly beyond the realm of possibility that General Foch's armies soon will take the initiative. Admission has been made by the correspondent of the Berlin Vossische Zeitung that the German line is spent and that the German armies cannot be expected to proceed at present against the newly strengthened Allied lines. In the Italian theatre there has been somewhat of an increase in the artillery and the front encounters along the mountain front and the lower reaches of the Piave River, but the anticipated attempt at an advance by the Austrians has not yet begun.

**THOUSAND GERMAN DEAD.**  
FRENCH HEADQUARTERS, June 6. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.) The attempt of the Germans to cross the Marne River at Laigonnelle was more serious than appeared from first reports. The enemy threw a ladder foot bridge across the river. Four were destroyed by gun fire. Prussian battalion crossed on the mainder, two men abreast, and were immediately on the river installing a machine gun detachment at the station and the remains spreading along the line behind the river at all costs and this was carried out on Sunday night by dismounting fragments, supported by American machine gunners. The latter engaged a duel with the Germans at the station, enabling the French to work behind the enemy who incidentally headed by their officers, some of who plunged into the river and swam out. The remainder of the battalion was killed or captured. The enemy loss in the machine gun battle with the Americans for Chateau Thierry bridge were also very heavy. Over a thousand

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