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swayed the audience. She had been crying through all the last half of the third act. The tears had washed her make-up off. He could see the bluish grey tint of the face, the almost somnambulistic detachment of the wide eyes. He could see the mottled skin of the rounded bare arms, even under their rice powder. And as he watched her he began to feel that she no longer belonged to him. He realised, as he saw the repeated bow and smile, the pitiful smile that was at heart nothing more than a weary grimace under its makethan a weary grimace under its make-up, that he had in some way lost her, that henceforth she belonged to the clapping mob that was waving and fan-ning her like a bright-tinted bubble above his reach.

above his reach.

Prentiss went all the way home on foot. He wanted to work the drunkenness out of his blood. But most of all he wanted to face the cool night air and study out just what to say to her, to decide on something adequate with which to face her in that first flush of her victory.

He made a detour into the cool and quiet of Central Park, on his oblivious yet studious way northward, and it was well past midnight when he arrived

home.

He was astonished, after letting himself in with his pass-key, at the quietness of the house. Then out of the silence, as he ascended the stairway, he heard the sound of voices, low and crisp and casual, and feet passing from a hardwood floor to a muffling rug and out on the bare wood again.

The sounds came from his wife's hed-

out on the bare wood again.

The sounds came from his wife's bedroom. They perplexed him. He was about to turn into the room when the figure of a quite unknown young woman blocked the doorway. She was in the uniform of a trained nurse.

"What's this?" was the young husband's inadequate cry as he caught at the door post and peered over the obstructing white-banded shoulder. The young woman in the uniform put a warning finger up to her lips, and reaching back, quietly closed the door behind her. Prentiss's first impulse was to toss her aside; but he mistily remembered that he was in some way an outsider, a mere intruder.

that he was in some way an outsider, a mere intruder.

"Ssssh! It's nothing—nothing serious," was the calmly placatory answer as she led him along the darkened hallway to his own book-lined study. "And she's much better since Doctor Barcoe gave her the oxygen."

"But what is it?" demanded the bewildered Prentiss. He peered about at the walls that seemed almost strange to him. For the first time, as he did so, his eyes fell on the figure of the Governor, huddled up in the high-backed arm chair before the wood fire. He had arm chair before the wood fire. He had not moved or spoken a word. He seemed invertebrate, sunk in on himself. His face was without colour. His eyes were blank with the indifference of utter

weariness.
"What is it?" repeated the tortured husband. The nurse hesitated for a

what is it? repeated the totaled husband. The nurse hesitated for a second or two.
"I think it's overwork—exhaustion, and a touch of hysteria," she finally answered in that quie'ly impersonal tone which keeps life's most exigent hours

which keeps life's most exigent hours down to actuality.

"But how long?" demanded Prentiss, "how long has this been going on?"

"I've been with her for three days, since the fainting spells began. Then he kept her up with ammonia and strychnine. And now Doctor Barcoe's giving her an opiate." The nurse half-turned to the impassive and motionless man in the arm chair. "He savs a day in bed and a little strychnia will get her back to-morrow night. He's sure she'll carry it along now!"

A wave of nausea swept through Prentiss. He remembered what he had seen. He wheeled and faced the older man.

"You did this!" he cried. "You got me out of the way! You tricked me and lied to me—and then you did this!"

The older man did not answer him. But instead of speaking again Prentiss drew back and felt the anger ebbing slowly and disturbingly out of his body. His clenched fist relaxed to his side as he stared down at the black-garbed figure huddled so wearily up in the chair. For on the white-crowned, deeplined, age-withered face, indifferent to



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