

# The Woman In the Alcove

By ANNA KATHARINE GREEN.

Author of "The Millionaire Baby," "The Filigree Ball," "The House in the Mist," "The Amethyst Box," Etc.

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CONTINUED

"I know, my child, I know; but the cases differ. Wouldn't it be well for you to see this and be satisfied with the turn which things have taken with continuing to insist upon involving Mr. Grey in your suspicions?"

A smile took off the edge of this rebuke, yet I felt it keenly, and only the confidence I had in his fairness as a man and public official enabled me to say:

"But I am talking quite confidentially. And you have been so good to me, so willing to listen to all I had to say, that I cannot help but speak my whole mind. It is my only safety valve. Remember how I have to sit in the presence of this man with my thoughts all choked up. It is killing me. But I think I should go back content if you will listen to one more suggestion I have to make. It is my last."

"Say it. I am nothing if not indulgent." He had spoken the word. Indulgent, that was it. He let me speak, probably had let me speak from the first, from pure kindness. He did not believe one little bit in my good sense or logic. But I was not to be deterred. I would empty my mind of the ugly thing that lay there. I would leave there no miserable dregs of doubt to ferment and work their evil way with me in the dead watches of the night which I had yet to face. So I took him at his word.

"I only want to ask this. In case Sears is innocent of the crime, who wrote the warning and where did the assassin get the stiletto with the Grey arms chased into its handle? And the diamond? Still the diamond? You hint that he stole that too. That with some idea of its proving useful to him on this gala occasion, he had provided himself with an imitation stone, setting and all—he who has never shown, so far as we have heard, any interest in Mrs. Fairbrother's diamond, only in Mrs. Fairbrother herself. If Wellgood is Sears and Sears the medium by which the false stone was exchanged for the real, then he made this exchange in Mr. Grey's interests and not his own. But I don't believe he had anything to do with it. I think everything goes to show that the exchange was made by Mr. Grey himself."

"A second Daniel," muttered the inspector lightly. "Go on, little lawyer." But, for all this attempt at banter on his part, I imagined that I saw the beginning of a very natural anxiety to close the conversation. I therefore hastened with what I had yet to say, cutting my words short and almost stammering in my eagerness.

"Remember the perfection of that imitation stone, a copy so exact that it extends to the setting. That shows preparation, a knowledge of stones, a particular knowledge of this one. Mr. Fairbrother's steward may have had the knowledge, but he would have been a fool to have used his knowledge to secure for himself a valuable he could never have found a purchaser for in any market. But a fancier—one who has his pleasure in the mere possession of a unique and invaluable gem—ah, that is different! He might risk a crime. History tells us of several."

Here I paused to take breath, which gave the inspector a chance to say:

"In other words, this is what you think. The Englishman, desirous of covering up his tracks, conceived the idea of having this imitation on hand, in case it might be of use in the daring and disgraceful undertaking you ascribe to him. Recognizing his own inability to do this himself, he delegated the task to one who in some way, he had been led to think, cherished a secret grudge against his present possessor—a man who had had some opportunity for seeing the stone and studying the setting. The copy thus procured, Mr. Grey went to the ball, and, relying on his own seemingly unassailable position, attacked Mrs. Fairbrother in the alcove and would have carried off the diamond, if he had found it where he had seen it earlier blazing on her breast. But it was not there. The warning received by her—a warning you ascribe to his daughter, a fact which is yet to be proved—had led her to rid herself of the jewel in the way Mr. Durand describes, and he found himself burdened with a dastardly crime and with nothing to show for it. Later, however, to his intense surprise and possible satisfaction, he saw that diamond in my hands, and, recognizing an opportunity, as he thought, of yet securing it, he asked to see it, held it for an instant, and then, making use of an almost incredible expedient for distracting attention, dropped, not the real stone but the false one, retaining the real one in his hand. This, in plain English, as I take it, is your present idea of the situation."

Astonished at the clearness with which he read my mind, I answered, "Yes, inspector, that is what was in my mind."

"Good! Then it is just as well that it is out. Your mind is now free, and you can give it entirely to your duties." Then, as he laid his hand on the door knob, he added: "In studying so in-

tently your own point of view, you seem to have forgotten that the last thing which Mr. Grey would be likely to do, under those circumstances, would be to call attention to the falsity of the gem upon whose similarity to the real stone he was depending. Not even his confidence in his own position, as an honored and highly esteemed guest, would lead him to do that."

"Not if he were a well known connoisseur," I faltered, "with the pride of one who has handled the best gems? He would know that the deception would be soon discovered and that it would not do for him to fail to recognize it for what it was, when the make believe was in his hands."

"Forced, my dear child, forced; and as chimerical as all the rest. It cannot stand putting into words. I will go further—you are a good girl and can bear to hear the truth from me. I don't believe in your theory; I can't. I have not been able to from the first, nor have any of my men; but if your ideas are true and Mr. Grey is involved in this matter, you will find that there has been more of a hitch about that diamond than you, in your simplicity, believe. If Mr. Grey were in actual possession of this valuable, he would show less care than you say he does. So would he if it were in Wellgood's hands with his consent and a good prospect of its coming to him in the near future. But it is in Wellgood's hands without his consent, or any near prospect of his regaining it, then we can easily understand his present apprehensions and the growing uneasiness he betrays."

"True," I murmured.

"If, then," the inspector pursued, giving me a parting glance not without something really serious underlying his humor, "we should find, in following up our present clue, that Mr. Grey has had dealings with this Wellgood or this Sears! or if you, with your advantages for learning the fact, should discover that he shows any extraordinary interest in either of them, the matter will take on a different aspect. But we have not got that far yet. At present our task is to find one or the other of these men. If we are lucky, we shall discover that the waiter and the steward are identical, in spite of their seemingly different appearance. A rogue such as this Sears has shown himself to be would be an adept at disguise."

"You are right," I acknowledged. "He has certainly the heart of a criminal. If he had no hand in Mrs. Fairbrother's murder, he came near having one in that of your detective. You know what I mean. I could not help hearing, inspector."

He smiled, looked me steadfastly in the face for a moment and then bowed me out.

The inspector told me afterward that, in spite of the cavalier manner with which he had treated my suggestion, he spent a very serious half hour, head to head with the district attorney. The result was the following order to Sweetwater, the detective:

"You are to go to the St. Regis, make yourself solid there and gradually, as you can manage it, work yourself into a position for knowing all that goes on in room—. If the gentleman (mind you, the gentleman; we care nothing about the women) should go out, you

## "The Blood is The Life"

Science has never gone beyond the above simple statement of scripture. But it has illuminated that statement and given it a meaning ever broadening with the increasing breadth of knowledge. When the blood is "bad" or impure it is not alone the body which suffers through disease. The brain is also clouded, the mind and judgement are affected, and many an evil deed or impure thought may be directly traced to the impurity of the blood. Foul, impure blood can be made pure by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures and purifies the blood thereby curing, pimples, blotches, eruptions and other cutaneous affections, as eczema, tetter, or salt-rheum, hives and other manifestations of impure blood.

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are to follow him if it takes you to—. We want to know his secret, but he must never know our interest in it and you are to be as silent in this matter as if possessed of neither ear nor tongue. I will add memory, for if you find this secret to be one in which we have no lawful interest you are to forget it absolutely and forever. You will understand why when you consult the St. Regis register."

But they expected nothing from it; absolutely nothing.

## CHAPTER XVI.

I PRAYED uncle that we might be driven home by the way of Eighty-sixth street. I wanted to look at the Fairbrother house. I had seen it many times, but I felt that I should see it with new eyes after the story I had just heard in the inspector's office. That an adventure of this nature could take place in a New York house taxed my credulity. I might have believed it of Paris, wicked, mysterious Paris, the home of intrigue and every redoubtable crime, but of our own homely, commonplace metropolis—the house must be seen for me to be convinced of the fact related.

Many of you know the building. It is usually spoken of with a shrug, the sole reason for which seems to be that there is no other just like it in the city. I myself have always considered it imposing and majestic, but to the average man it is too suggestive of old world feudal life to be pleasing. On this afternoon—a dull, depressing one—it looked undeniably heavy as we approached it, but interesting in a very new way to me, because of the great turret at one angle, the scene of that midnight descent of two men, each in deadly fear of the other, yet quailing not in their purpose—the one of flight, the other of pursuit.

There was no railing in front of the house. It may have seemed an unnecessary safeguard to the audacious owner. Consequently, the small door in the turret opened directly upon the street, making entrance and exit easy enough for any one who had the key. But the shaft and the small room at the bottom—where were they? Naturally in the center of the great mass, the room being without windows.

It was, therefore, useless to look for it, and yet my eye ran along the peaks and pinnacles of the roof, searching for the skylight in which it undoubtedly ended. At last I espied it, and, my curiosity satisfied on this score, I let my eyes run over the side and face of the building for an open window or a lifted shade. But all were tightly closed and gave no more sign of life than did the boarded up door. But I was not deceived by this. As we drove away, I thought how on the morrow there would be a regular procession passing through this street to see just the little I had seen today. The detective's adventure was like to make the house notorious. For several minutes after I had left its neighborhood my imagination pictured room after room shut up from the light of day, but bearing within them the impalpable aura of those two shadows flitting through them like the ghosts of ghosts, as the detective had tellingly put it.

The heart has its strange surprises. Through my whole ride and the indulgence in these thoughts I was conscious of a great inner revulsion against all I had intuited and even honestly felt while talking with the inspector. Perhaps this is what this wise old official expected. He had let me talk, and the inevitable reaction followed. I could now see only Mr. Grey's goodness and claims to respect, and began to hate myself that I had not been immediately impressed by the inspector's views, and shown myself more willing to drop every suspicion against the august personage I had presumed to associate with crime. What had given me the strength to persist? Loyalty to my lover? His innocence had not been involved. Indeed, every word uttered in the inspector's office had gone to prove that he no longer occupied a leading place in police calculations; that their eyes were turned elsewhere, and that I had only to be patient to see Mr. Durand quite cleared in their minds.

But was this really so? Was he as safe as that? What if this new clue failed? What if they failed to find Sears or lay hands on the doubtful Wellgood? Would Mr. Durand be released without a trial? Should we hear nothing more of the strange and, to many, the suspicious circumstances which linked him to this crime? It would be expecting too much from either police or official discrimination.

## TO BE CONTINUED.

## STRICTLY FRESH EGGS.

There are summer resorts, remote from any agricultural communities, where fresh farm products are even harder to obtain than in the city. It was at such a place that the new bearers, who had eaten four or five breakfasts there, began to wonder why the eggs were invariably served fried.

"See here," he inquired one morning of the genial colored man who waited upon him, "why do you always fry eggs here? Don't you ever boil them?"

"Oh-oh, yes, sah!" responded the waiter, pleasantly. "Of co'se, yo' kin have 'em boiled, if yo' wants 'em. But yo' know, sah, yo' takes de risk!"—New York Times.

Farmer Barker—"I want to get a present to take back to my wife on the farm."

Elegant Clerk—"How would she like a pie knife?"

Farmer Barker—"Good land, young man! Ain't you never been told you mustn't eat pie with no knife?"

## PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

### Municipality of the Village of Sutton

At an adjourned regular and monthly session of the Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, held in the town hall in said village on Monday, the fourteenth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and eight, at the ordinary hour of meetings of said council, in conformity with the provisions of the municipal code of the Province of Quebec, at which meeting were present Messrs: Leon E. Dyer, Frank L. Safford, George N. Thompson, James H. Smith, Moise Bonneau, Lewis L. Jenne and Adam G. Eastman, all Councillors under the presidency of the Mayor.

It was ordained and resolved by By-law as follows, to-wit:

## BY-LAW NO. 39

A By-law to provide for the granting of aid to the C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. for the construction and establishment of a plant for the manufacturing and making of light veneer in the municipality of the village of Sutton, and to raise the funds necessary for that purpose.

Whereas the said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., a body politic and corporate according to the laws of the State of Vermont, one of the United States of America, and having their principal place of business at Richford in the said State of Vermont, have proposed to establish a veneer mill in the municipality of the said village of Sutton, for the manufacture of light beech, birch and maple veneer.

Whereas the said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., upon the giving and granting to them of a bonus of three thousand dollars in cash, an exemption of taxes for a term of ten years on all lands, buildings and fixed machinery to be used directly for the purpose of their manufacturing enterprise, as well as what land they require for their said purposes to the extent of five acres and free water for the same length of time, and a railway siding to connect said buildings with the Canadian Pacific Railway, will carry out the following obligations, to-wit:

1. They will construct and erect buildings to be used for manufacturing purposes, the actual dimensions and material to be determined later, but in extent to be about as follows: Main factory building of wood, two stories high, with a basement, one hundred and sixty feet in length and sixty-five feet wide; another building forty by sixty feet to be used as an engine room, detached from the first named building, a saw-building twenty-eight by thirty-two feet, the value of which, including the machinery to be placed therein, will not be less than twenty thousand dollars.

2. They will after the first year employ on an average seventy-five persons, about forty per cent. of whom will be men, the balance boys and girls, and will pay at least the sum of two hundred thousand dollars in wages of operatives during the ten years from the date of the payment to them of the said bonus of three thousand dollars, that is to say, that during said term of ten years they will pay an average amount for such wages each year the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

3. They will give, grant and consent to secure the fulfillment of said obligations to and in favor of the said Corporation of the Village of Sutton; upon the payment to them of said bonus of three thousand dollars; hypothecary securities by means of a first mortgage upon all of the said land and buildings to be hereafter thereon constructed.

And whereas said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. propose to cause said buildings to be erected as soon as practical, and they desire to have advances made by said Council from time to time as the work progresses from said sum of three thousand dollars, which advances shall be made in proportion to the actual amount of expense put into construction of foundations and buildings, these advances to be determined by said Council.

And whereas in the opinion of the said Council of the Corporation of the said Village of Sutton, the building and operating of such a factory as proposed would be highly advantageous to the inhabitants of said village, and they are sufficiently interested therein to warrant the granting of such aid towards such enterprise.

Therefore it is hereby ordained and enacted as follows, to-wit:

1. That said several obligations hereinafter recited subject to the conditions attached thereto are hereby accepted, and the Mayor of this Council be and is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into an agreement in authentic form in the name of and on behalf of this Municipality with the said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., embodying the said agreements and binding them under promise of the execution of said hypothecary security before mentioned to faithfully on their part carry out, execute and perform each, all and every of said propositions and agreements herebefore recited; and providing in said written agreement to be executed as aforesaid for the payment to them, said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., of the said bonus of three thousand dollars upon the conditions herebefore set forth and expressed.

2. That in consequence said sum of three thousand dollars shall be and is hereby given and granted to said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. by this municipality for the purpose of aiding them in the building of said manufacturing establishment and its continued operation to be paid in the manner and under the conditions expressed hereinbefore (and set forth and to be embodied in the written agreement as provided in the preceding paragraph hereof.

3. That in addition to the cash bonus aforesaid, the land required for said manufacturing and its purposes and a railway siding connecting with the Canadian Pacific Railway be and is also hereby given and granted to said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. under the same conditions as above expressed. The rental for the rails of said siding to be paid by C. C. Manuel & Sons Co.

4. That in consequence also of the establishment of said industry the lands and the buildings to be erected thereon together with all fixed machinery shall be and are hereby exempted from municipal taxation and water rates during the term of ten years above stated.

5. That the said corporation of the village of Sutton shall have the right at the end of each year, dating from the payment of the said bonus and the execution of said mortgage to examine by and through its Council and officials the books of said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co., here, referring to pay rolls of operatives, for the purpose of ascertaining if the conditions of the present by-law have been fulfilled and effectively carried out.

6. That if at any time after the plant is in actual operation, C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. wish to have the property released from said encumbrance they may do so by causing to be placed with the Secretary-Treasurer of the village of Sutton such proportion of five thousand dollars as the time which the plant has not been in operation at the time of making said deposit bears to the whole time of ten years. In case of such deposit being made the said corporation of the village of Sutton is to refund to said C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. annually in such proportion as one year bears to the remaining time of the ten year contract when such deposit was made, together with interest annually at 4 1/2 % on such amount of deposit as is held by said Corporation, providing that the conditions have been fulfilled.

7. That there shall be borrowed upon the credit of said Municipality of the Corporation of the village of Sutton for the purposes aforesaid, the sum of five thousand dollars by the issue of debentures of said Municipality for an equal amount; that each said debenture shall be for the sum of one hundred dollars and shall be payable at the office of the Eastern Townships Bank in Sutton, to the bearer thereof, within twenty-five years from its date, and bear interest at the rate of 4 1/2 % per centum per annum or at a lower rate if possible, payable semi-annually, and coupons to the amount of the said yearly interest signed by the Mayor and countersigned by the Secretary-Treasurer and payable to bearer at the periods indicated for such payment of interest, shall be annexed to said debentures for the said semi-annual interest and that the Mayor of said Municipality be and is hereby authorized to sign said debentures and the Secretary-Treasurer to countersign the same and to affix thereon the seal of said village of Sutton.

8. That a sinking fund shall be created for the payment of the interest on said debentures and two per centum per annum on the amount thereof, each year, over and above such interest and that for this purpose, a special tax of the total sum of three hundred and twenty-five dollars be and is hereby imposed annually upon the immovable taxable property in said Municipality of the village of Sutton for so long as may be necessary; which said tax shall be distributed according to the valuation roll of said Municipality then in force and collected in the same manner as ordinary taxes.

9. That the present by-law shall be published in the usual manner and submitted for approval to the municipal electors of this municipality, who are proprietors, in the manner prescribed by law, and to the Lieutenant Governor or in Council.

(Signed) LEON E. DYER, Mayor.  
C. U. R. TARTRE, Sec.-Treas.

I, the undersigned C. U. R. Tartre, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the by-law No. 39 passed and carried by said Municipal Council of the village of Sutton, on the fourteenth day of September instant.

Dated at Sutton, P. Q., this sixteenth day of September, One thousand nine hundred and eight.

(Signed) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.  
(True Copy) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

Province of Quebec,  
Municipality of the Village of Sutton.

To the Municipal Electors, who are proprietors of the afore-said Municipality.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Is hereby given by the undersigned C. U. R. Tartre, Secretary-Treasurer of the said Municipality of the Village of Sutton, that the Municipal Council of said Municipality, at an adjourned regular session thereof, held on Monday, the fourteenth day of September instant, 1908, has passed a By-law, called By-law No. 39, to provide for the granting of aid to the C. C. Manuel & Sons Co. for the construction and establishment of a plant for the manufacture and making up of light veneer in the Municipality of the Village of Sutton, and to raise the funds necessary for that purpose.

That said By-law No. 39 was or-

dered by resolution of said Council to be submitted to said municipal electors, who are proprietors, for the purpose of approving or disapproving the same. And that in consequence thereof, a meeting of all municipal electors, who are proprietors, of the said Village of Sutton, is hereby convened to be held in the Town Hall, in said Village of Sutton, on THURSDAY, the Eighth day of October now next, 1908, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the said purpose of approving or disapproving said By-law No. 39, as provided by law.

Given at Sutton, Que., this sixteenth day of September, one thousand nine hundred and eight.

(Signed) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.  
(True copy) C. U. R. TARTRE, Secretary-Treasurer.

## ALL GOOD THINGS

must win upon their merits. The International Dictionary has won a greater distinction upon its merits and is in more general use than any other work of its kind in the English language.

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Pat—"I hear your wife is sick, Mike."  
Mike—"She is that."  
Pat—"Is it dangerous she is?"  
Mike—"Divil a bit. She's too weak to be dangerous any more!"