

A Knot of Blue

By William R. A. Wilson, Author of "A Rose of Normandy."
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A terrible weakness had seized the old woman, and it was with difficulty that she was again aroused. "Where was I, she was again aroused. Well, that mood did not return after the matter was apparently forgotten, as he never referred to it again. One only did he ever seem to have it in mind. One day he exclaimed to me with a bitter laugh, 'One's good intentions do not seem to become fulfilled. I hear a child died last night at the Chateau.' Knowing that the Governor had taken you, Mademoiselle, under his care, I could think only that you were dead."

"There being no wrong left to be righted, I allowed the paper to remain in its hidden place and quite forgot its existence. It was only when I learned from this young lady's lips that she was indeed, Almee de Marsay, the heir to the good Felix de Marsay, that I remembered the desire to revenge myself upon the base son was fresh in my mind and I planned to produce the will and thus with one blow deprive him of nearly all that he thought he possessed. But le bon Dieu directed otherwise. Last night, before setting fire to the house that had been worse than a prison to me for so many years, I went to the old secretaire and found the will in the same hidden drawer Pierre Roguin had shown me. I placed it—Here the voice of the speaker, which had grown weaker and weaker suddenly stopped. She cast a look of despair upon her hearers, as though she realized that she had been foiled at the last moment in her desire to deliver the precious document. Her lips moved inaudibly; her hand stretched upward and plucked helplessly at her bosom, then fell to her side, and all was still. The message was delivered; the messenger had gone."

With a woman's quick intuition, Almee interpreted the last movement of the dying hand, and slipped her own into the dress which that hand had sought to find something and quickly withdrew it, bringing forth a folded paper, which she handed to the Governor. He took it to the door and examined it carefully. "She was right," he muttered joyfully to Almee, who had followed him, "and it is properly drawn and witnessed."

That evening Raoul called at the Chateau and requested a private interview with the Governor, who greeted him warmly when he entered the room, albeit with some surprise. He motioned him to a chair, but the young man remained standing, hat in hand, in an embarrassed way, as though not knowing what to do next. He caught the kindly glance of the Governor directed on him, and it gave him courage.

"My honored friend," he began, "and the stanch ally of my noble father, I have a confession and a request to make."

The Governor smiled encouragingly, although wondering what the young man could have to tell him.

Raoul with an effort began, and soon was fully launched in a recital of all the events that had transpired since the arrival of Madame Duviour and the false du Tillet. He even went back to the time of his first meeting with Gaspard, on the doomed night. He did not spare himself in any particular, but laid bare his weakness unflinchingly.

"And now," he continued, "regarding Almee"—and at the name a troubled look came into his eyes. "She has suffered, poor girl, through the wishes of those who sought to destroy me. I love her, your Excellency, and have from the beginning. I would have told her one night, but I was interrupted, and then—then I became entangled in her snare. At one time I believed her former friendship had passed into a deeper feeling, but now, after what has happened, my apparent neglect, my foolish recklessness and all, I dare not think what her attitude toward me may be. To-day I am penniless, and guilty of unmanly weakness in allowing myself to be duped by an intriguing woman and a cunning villain. And these matters are righted, or atoned for, I can speak no word of love to her. First of all, I must vindicate my manhood. I, therefore, beg that you permit me to join the force I hear you are about to dispatch against the English Colonies. May le bon Dieu afford me opportunity in the campaign to retrieve myself. If I fail I shall fall upon the field of battle, with my sword drawn, facing an open enemy, and Almee may then forget all that I did fighting in the front rank for King and Colony. If I return, I will meet her as one who has redeemed his weakness. I will then be free to whisper to the woman that I love the glad message of my heart's deep adoration and your gallant comrade, my honored father, that you will not deny me the assistance that I ask."

While the young man thus earnestly pleaded, the Governor thrilled, recognizing in him the same spirit that had set distinguished his friend of other days, and as he gazed his heart warmed toward the youthful nature that from the midst of ruin stood upright and faced the unknown future fearlessly. Moved was he that he remained silent for a moment after his companion had ceased speaking. Then in a voice broken with emotion, he said:

"Not for your father's sake, my son, will I do all that you ask at my hands, but for your own, his worthy successor."

After Raoul had gone, the Governor sent for Almee, and drawing her down into her favorite position, laid his hand affectionately upon her head and told her all that her lover had told him. "We must do nothing, ma chérie, to thwart his plans of gaining once more his self-respect," he said in conclusion. "Above all must we be silent as to your recent good fortune. Let him believe himself penniless, with nothing but his sword and undaunted spirit with which to win and provide for you. Le bon Dieu will surely send him back to us. Such noble natures are too rare in this sordid world; they must needs be spared." And Almee, woman that she was, assented readily with a dutiful smile upon her face, but with a sigh in her heart.

Arrangements for the expedition were soon completed, and once more Raoul stood before the Governor, flushed with hope and enthusiasm, clasping his hand in farewell. "Sir, a thousand thanks for my lieutenantcy! It was more than I had hoped for! I shall prove myself not unworthy of your confidence."

A moment later he and Almee were taking leave of one another. Few were the words exchanged. "I shall return,"

he whispered, "and we shall once more be children, and tell each other tales as of yore. Will you listen then as I have before?" For answer the girl extended her hand, which he seized eagerly.

"But one thing I lack," he continued. "In all our stories of brave knights and fair ladies, the warrior has always borne with him on his quest, his lady's colors, a talisman against misfortune, a banner beneath which to fight, a constant reminder of her thoughts of him."

Almee quickly unstashed a bow of blue ribbon from her hair, touched it lightly to her lips, pressed it into Raoul's outstretched hand, and fled.

When the fleet of canoes containing the war party swept over the surface of the river, the rhythm of the flashing paddles kept time to the song of the men. But in the heart of one of the members of the expedition another refrain sounded that was destined for many days to thrill him with its cadences. Over and over again it sang itself:

"A blue knot."

A lover's knot of blue," filling him with courage, hope, and joy.

CHAPTER XXVII.

The expedition had been gone scarce a week when Quebec and all the fair colony of the King of France was assailed from another direction and quickly conquered. The Spirit of the North sailed forth in all his strength from his frozen retreat, and breathed upon the surface of the mighty river, imprisoning for a time its sparkling waters in fetters of ice. He waved an unseen wand, and lo! the rugged surface of the earth was clothed in dazzling white. The birds, all save a hardy few, flew southward into the drear winter before his frosty breath, while man and proud man, whose puny hands essayed to subdue a continent, bowed stubbornly to his yoke.

To Almee, the approach of the winter season was always a time of dread, for it meant the cessation in a great measure of her active outdoor existence, and in its stead days of irksome durance in the house before the drifted streets could be made passable for even her youthful vigor. This year it brought in a new element, however, for the first time she heard the whirling of the snow against the panes and the growling of the wind as it strove vainly to descend the chimney, her thoughts wandered far off and she saw in the blazing logs, not the cheerful glow of a fire, but the faint, far-off glances of the Governor directed on him, and it gave him courage.

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LIQUID

Simply to please friends of my old liquid form of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Remedy, you can now get either the tablet form, or the liquid. I changed from the liquid to the tablets, simply to satisfy a large contingent, who believed, and quite correctly, that the liquid was more convenient to carry and to take. But thousands have written me since August, 1904, that the change was made—vigorously protesting. They have pleaded unceasingly for Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Remedy "liquid form." And finally, to fully satisfy all, I have at last granted the request. Both tablets and liquid can now be had from your Druggist. He may be out of the liquid remedy, but can easily secure it for you. Show him this announcement.

The announcement that will now naturally exist because of the change, will in itself prove gratifying to me as well. Racine, Wis., 4-29-1906. C. I. Shoop, M.D.

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CEYLON TEA
As evinced by its annual sale exceeding 14,000,000 packets.
ASK YOUR GROCER FOR IT
In lead packets only at 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c and 60c per lb.
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Will interest you in the numerous Summer Resorts of

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Be Live Turn Old
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Silver Berry Forks

These make a very nice wedding gift and so likely to be duplicated.

One dozen Sterling Silver Berry Forks, in handsome silk lined case. \$11.75.

You have the choice of dozens of other combinations in silver at this store.

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JEWELER
17 King Street East

FELL INTO THE LOCK.

Little Girl Saved From Drowning by Companion and Locktender.

St. Catharines, May 11.—A five-year-old girl, Leitha Thomas, while crossing the old canal on the gate at lock three on her way to school to-day slipped and fell into the lock. She would have been drowned but for one of her little girl companions seeing her dress as she fell, and holding her head above water until James Tillman, lock tender, ran to her assistance and pulled her out.

Bush Fires at Nelson.

Nelson, B. C., May 11.—Bush fires are raging with unabated violence in every direction in this district and the atmosphere is filled with dense smoke. Reports from the surrounding country, east, west and south, all show extensive fires in progress. Unless a heavy rain follows quickly the loss will be very great.

Four Killed, Four Injured.

Lynchburg, Va., May 11.—A freight train crashed into the rear of another with two pushers to-day a short distance east of the city, derailling two engines and killing four men and injuring four others. The wreck occurred on the Norfolk & Western Railway.

Razor Hones.

Just received a large importation of Razor Hones, including Belgian Hones, Italian, Arkansas, Deerick, Carborundum, Apart, Swatty, Dark Blue and Light Green Water Hones, etc. Also Deerick and Arkansas Pen Knife Sharpers. See window, Gerrie's Drug Store, 32 James street north.

Bad in Old Days.

Philadelphia, May 11.—J. L. Yarnall, aged 80 years, to-day shot his wife, who is 72 years old, and afterwards killed himself. The woman's condition is critical. The shooting occurred at Ardmore, a suburb. The motive is not known.

At R. McKAY & CO'S., Monday, May 14, 1906



Interest is Centred Upon Our May Sales

The first two weeks of May are almost over, and with them the liveliest May selling this store has known. That interest is well centred upon the May sales this establishment is running is very evident, and our efforts accordingly have increased.

To make the second half of May more interesting even than the first is now our aim.

Our buyers are on the warpath, and their fresh victories will be proclaimed as they occur.

For Monday the following will make good buying. Much more added when you get here.

Have Fancy Silks For Your Best Gowns \$1.25 and \$1.35 Values 59c

This lot of Silks is the balance of our "Half Price" importation from Paris; 68 Dress and Waist Lengths to choose from. This being a "Fancy Silk Season," you are sure of getting the latest effects, as well as many novelties. No lady can afford to miss this opportunity. Silks worth up to \$1.35 per yard, on sale Monday 59c

Extra Special Sale of Fine Black Lustre 54 Inches Wide, Regular Value 75c, Monday Price 47c

200 yards of extra fine Lustre goes on sale Monday, very much reduced. The black is perfect and will make up splendid summer dresses. This is the Black Lustre Sale of the season. See this grand bargain, on sale Monday, regular value 75c, Monday price 47c

Black Silk and Wool Crepe de Chine Sale Our Regular \$1.00 Quality, for 69c

If you want a fine Black Dress, this is an excellent opportunity. The quantity is limited, so would advise you to come early Monday; an excellent chance for you to secure a nice Black Dress Length, our regular selling, \$1 quality, for Monday 69c

Mercerized Vestings 12½c

20 pieces White Mercerized Vesting, in small, neat figures, polka dots, stripes, and floral designs, also a limited quantity of White Vesting, with colored spots, special 20c value, Monday 12½c

French Over Check Muslin 25c

New arrivals of French Ormandy Muslin, with colored over checks, in browns, greens, blues and pink, with dainty Dresden floral patterns, very nifty, regular 35c, Monday special 25c

Mill Ends Stripe Flannelette 7½c

1,000 yards mill end Strips Flannelette, light and dark, narrow and broad patterns, up to 36 inch width, regular 10 and 12½c quality, Monday your choice 7½c

We Announce an Extension of Our Curtain Sale

On account of the unfavorable weather this week, which prevented many from proceeding with their housecleaning, we will continue our great May Curtain Sale for a short time longer. This sale is an annual event and offers you values which you will find at no other time of year. Let us cater to your needs. We have a magnificent stock for you to select from.

Offer No. 1

This lot of Curtains consists of three different prices, each lot better than the others. They are bona fide curtains, and the values are genuine. The designs will please you, not too much figure or pattern, all are in strong, durable double thread.

Sale \$98c pair, regular \$1.25 and \$1.35 values.

Sale \$1.18 pair, regular \$1.50 values.

Sale \$1.50 pair, regular \$2 and \$2.50 values.

Offer No. 2

We have too many curtains in this lot by far, and wish to give some extra good values in order to speedily reduce the stock. Here you get your choice of English Madras Net and double thread weaves; also strong Scotch Fish Net Curtains. The designs are high class copies of much more expensive curtains, all are 3½ yards long by 50 to 72 inches wide.

Sale \$1.87 pair, regular \$2.50 values.

Sale \$2.50 pair, regular \$3.25 and \$3.50 values.

Sale \$3.45 pair, regular \$4.25 and \$5.50 values.

Offer No. 3. Very Special

We have secured about a hundred pairs of odd lines from a large clearing house. Not more than three to a pair of any one design. They are splendid hand made Irish, Brussels, Point, de Arabe and Duchesse Net Curtains, particularly suitable for drawing rooms. These curtains are extra value and will not last long. Shop early and get an early choice.

Sale \$4.95 pair, regular \$6.50 to \$7 values.

Sale \$7.39 pair, regular \$9 to \$10 values.

Special Sale on Monday in These Lines

Beautiful Madras Muslin Drapery, for over hangings in windows at 68c yard

New Pole Trimmings, in cherry and oak, all complete, with 5-foot pole, etc. 25c set

Wool Felt, 2 yards wide, various colorings, special for Monday only, at 63c yard

Tapestry Table Covers, 2 yards each way, durable colors, novel designs, new \$2.37 each

R. McKAY & CO.

55 57, 59, 61, 63 King Street East

THE EVENING TRUTH

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PURCHASE

BUTTER-NUT BREAD

(UNION MADE)

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Your grocer has it.

Springstead's Steam Bakery

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The Times as an advertising medium is unexcelled in Hamilton.

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Artistic skill and taste fashion our goods. Each style is intended to harmonize with the surroundings. We can suggest at once the kind best suited to a

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To NEW YORK

2.25 A. M. Daily, with through Pullman sleeper, through to New York, and dining car serving breakfast and dinner.

5.52 A. M. Daily, through sleeper and dining car to Buffalo, and through coach to Buffalo, connecting with parlor and dining car to New York.

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