

CHAPTER XXXII

IN THE SILENCE OF BLACK NIGHT

THEY wanted to wait for him, those two stricken women in the gallery, to take him home with them, for in their hearts was no resentment, only pity. But Tommy Tinkle would not let them. He sent word to Billy that he had them in charge, and took them home, and said what consoling things he could. It was not much of a lapse, it was more excitement than anything else, Billy would have him all right in the morning, such things were to be expected, and wasn't it a stunning speech that Billy made!

Yes, such things were to be expected, and that was the awful tragedy of it. Again the spectral shadow claimed its firm seat in the blue eyes and the dark gray, and the Stuart women took up the allotment nature had made for them.

Billy telephoned them shortly after they reached home. Hal was resting quite comfortably now. He had not drunk very much. He had sipped at his champagne without knowing it, and then he