## The Mystery of Agatha Webb.

By Anna Katharine Green. Author of "The Leavenworth Case," "Lost Man's Lane," "Hand and Ring," Etc., Etc.

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Meantime a strange scene was taking place in the woods toward which she had seen Frederick go. The moon, which was particularly bright that night, shone upon a certain hollow where a buge tree lay. Around it the underbrush was thick and the shadow dark, but in this especial place the opening was large enough for the rays to enter freely. Into this circlet of light Frederick Sutherland had come. Alone and without the restraint imposed upon him by watching eyes he showed a countenance so wan and full of trouble that it was well it could not be seen by either of the two women whose thoughts were at that moment fixed upon him. To Amabel it would have given a throb of selfish hope, while to Agnes it would have brought a pang of despair which might have somewhat too suddenly interpreted to her the mystery of her own sensations.

He had bent at once to the hollow space made by the outspreading roots fust mentioned and was feeling with an air of confidence along the ground for something he had every reason to expect to find when the shock of a sudden distrust seized him, and he flung himself down in terror, feeling and feeling again among the fallen leaves and broken twigs until a full realization of his misfortune reached him, and he was obliged to acknowledge that the place was empty.

Overwhelmed at his loss, aghast at the consequences it must entail upon him, he rose in a trembling sweat, crying out in his anger and dismay:

"She has been here! She has taken it?" And realizing for the first time the subtlety and strength of the antagonist pitted against him he forgot his new resolutions and even that old promise to Agatha Webb and uttered oath after oath, cursing himself, the woman and what she had done until a casual glance at the heavens overhead, in which the liquid moon hung calm and beautiful, recalled him to himself. Ceasing his vain repinings and silencing with a fierce but determined effort the fierce demon in his breast, he turned from the unhallowed spot and made his way with deeper and deeper misgivings toward a home made hateful to him now by the presence of the woman who was thus bent

upon his ruin. He understood her now. He rated at its full value both her determination and her power, and had she been so unfortunate as to have carried her imprudence to the point of surprising him at that moment in one of the hollows of that midnight copse it would have taken more than the memory of that day's resolves to have kept him from using his strength against her. But she was wise and did not intrude upon him in his hour of anger, though who could say she was not near enough to hear the sigh which broke irresistibly from his lips as he emerged from the wood and approached his father's

A lamp was still burning in Mr. Sutherland's study over the front door, and the sight of it seemed to change for a moment the current of Frederick's thoughts. Stopping with the gate in his hand, he considered with himself and then with a freer countenance and a lighter step was about to proceed inward when he heard the sound of a heavy breather coming up the hill and paused, why he hardly knew, except that every advancing step occasioned him more or less apprehen-

The person, whoever it was, stopped before reaching the brow of the hill and panting heavily muttered an oath

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CONVERSATIONS

clearly and hurriedly spoken occupy the following

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which Frederick heard. I nough it was no more profane than those which had just escaped his own lips in the forest, it produced an effect upon Frederick which was only second in intensity to the terror of the discovery that the money he had so safely hidden was

Trembling in every limb, he dashed down the hill and confronted the per-

son standing there.
"You!" he cried. "You!" And for a moment he looked as if he would like to fell to the ground the man before

But this man was a heavyweight of no ordinary physical strength and adroitness and only smiled at Frederick's heat and threatening attitude. "I thought I would be made welcome," he smiled, with just the hint of sinister meaning in his tone. Then, before Frederick could speak, he said: "I have merely saved you a trip to Bos-

ton. Why so much anger, friend? You have the money. Of that I am positive." "Hush! We can't talk here," whispered Frederick. "Come into the grounds, or, what would be better, into

the woods over there." "I don't go into the woods with you," laughed the other. "Not after last night, my friend. But I will talk low. That's no more than fair. I don't want to put you into any other man's power, especially if you have the money.' "Wattles"- Frederick's tone was broken, almost unintelligible. "What do you mean by your allusion to last night? Have you dared to connect

"Pooh, pooh!" interrupted the other good humoredly. "Don't let us waste words over a mischance word I may have let drop."

"I don't care anything about last night's work or who was concerned in it. That's nothing to me. All I want, my boy, is the money, and that I want devilish bad or I would not have run up here from Boston, when I might have made half a hundred off a countryman Lewis brought in from the Canada wilds this morning." "Wattles, I swear"-

But the hand he had raised was quickly drawn down to the other.

"Don't," said the older man shortly. "It won't pay, Sutherland. Stage talk never passed for anything with me. Besides, your white face tells a truer story than your lips, and time is preclous. I want to take the 11 o'clock train back. So down with the cash. Nine hundred and fifty-six it is, but. being frie

go. "Wattles, I was to bring it to you tomorrow, or was it the next day? I do not want to give it to you tonight. Indeed I cannot, but-Wattles, wait,

stop! Where are you going?" "To see your father. I want to tell him that his son owes me a debt; that this debt was incurred in a way that lays him liable for arrest for forgery; that, bad as he thinks you, there are facts which can be picked up in Boston which would make Frederick Sutherland's continued residence under the parental roof impossible; that in fact you are a scamp of the first water and that only my friendship for you has kept you out of prison so long. Won't it make a nice story for the old gentleman's ears?"

"Wattles-I-oh, my God, Wattles, stop a minute and listen to me. I have not got the money. I had enough this morning to pay you, had it legitimately, Wattles, but it has been stolen from

"I will also tell him," the other broke in as quietly and calmly as if Frederick had not uttered a word, "that in a certain visit to Boston you lost \$500 on one band: that you lost it unfairly.

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"I want to tell him that his son is a scamp

of the first water.' ore, so that your debt amounted to \$955; that the ten days passed without payment; that wanting money I pressed you and even resorted to a threat or two and that seeing me in earnest you swore that the dollars should be mine within five days; that instead of remaining in Boston to get them you came here and that this morning at a very early hour you telegraphed that the funds were to hand and that you would bring them down to me tomorrow. He may draw conclusions from this, Sutherland, which may make his position as your father anything but grateful to him. He may even- Ah you would try that game, would you?" The young man had flung himself at the older man's throat as if he would choke off the words he saw trembing on his lips. But the struggle thus be gun was short. In a moment both

"I beg pardon, Wattles, but you drive me mad with your suggestions and conclusions. I have not got the money, but I will try and get it. Wait here," "Ten minutes, Sutherland. No longer! The moon is bright, and I can see

stood apart, panting, and Frederick,

with lowered Lead, was saying hum-

the hands of my watch distinctly. At a quarter to 10 I will receive the monfrom you here or seek it in your father's study."

Frederick made a hurried gesture and vanished up the walk. The next moment he was at his father's study

CHAPTER XIII.

A WOMAN IN HIS PATH. Mr. Sutherland was busily engaged with a law paper when his son entered his presence, but at sight of that son's face he dropped the paper with an alacrity which Frederick was too much engaged with his own thoughts

"Father," he began without pream ble or excuse, "I am in serious and immediate need of \$950. I want it so much that I ask you to make me a check for that amount tonight, conscious as I am that you have every right to deny me this request and that my debt to you already passes the bound of presumption on my part and indulgence on yours. I cannot tell you why I want it or for what. That belongs to my past life, the consequences of which I have not yet escaped, but that you will not be the loser by this material proof of confidence in me I feel bound to state, as I shall soon be in a position to repay all my debts, among which this will necessarily

stand foremost." The old gentleman looked startled and nervously fingered the paper he had let fall. "Why do you say you will soon be in a position to repay me?

What do you mean by that?" The flush which had not yet subsided from the young man's face ebbed slowly away as he encountered his father's eye.

"I mean to work," he murmured. "I mean to make a man of myself as soon as possible. The look which Mr. Sutherland gave

him was more inquiring than sympa-"And you need this money for start," said be. Frederick bowed. He seemed to be

losing the faculty of speech. The clock over the mantel had told off five of the precious moments. "I will give it to you," said his fa ther, and he drew out his checkbook.

But he did not hasten to open it. His eyes still rested on his son. "Now," murmured the young man. "There is a train leaving soon. I wish to get it away on that train." His father frowned with natural dis-

"I wish you would confide in me," said he. Frederick did not answer. The hand of the clock were moving on.
"I will give it, but I should like krow what for.

To be Continued

daughters who are going to school. If they are weak, if they feel tired, if they have no ambition to study look out for them. It is only a matter Your own experience should teach you what we refer to. You should not leave your daughters to their own ignorance, for they will surely die intended for any had seen to they will surely die intended for any had seen to they will surely die intended for any had seen to only good to their own ignorance, for they will surely die intended for any had seen to only good to you what we had seen to only good to you what we are good for old ladies and married women as well. They are not only good to you what we are good for old ladies and married women as well. to their own ignorance, for they will surely die intended for any bad purpose and married women can take them under any conditions. burden to you. But if you take proper care of They cure all diseases reculiar to make the conditions. burden to you. But if you take proper care of They cure all diseases peculiar to women. them, they will come forth from girlhood to They are not cure all. They are not to be

womanhood, healthy, strong and cheerful. Is it not your greatest ambition to have them so? At the first symptons make them take Dr. Coderre's Red Pills, and then you need fear nothing, as they will come out of that period as fresh and healthy as you wish to have them. This is true; before going any further, get the proof of what we tell you. We do not fear, for, just as sure as there is a sun, Dr. Coderre's Red Pills will do for yours daughters what they have done for so many others. To prove the truth of our statements we

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ness, was constipated and had back and see across one in time. I was awfully nervous. The dectors cost me money, but they could not help me. Dr. Coderre's Retogether with 'se Purgative Tablets have cured me.

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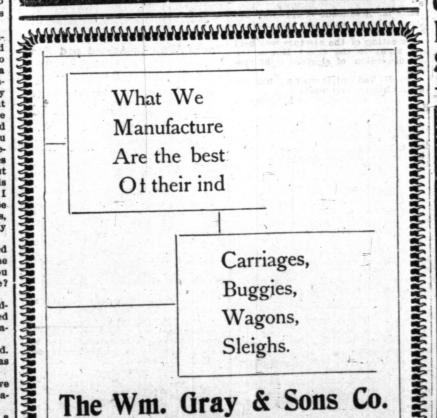
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