

The White Cat

[BY GELETT BURGESS, AUTHOR OF "VIVETTE,"
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I had seen Edna but twice, but from what had happened I was able to form a fair idea of her character. She was, in the first place, by no means the equal of Joy's true self. Mentally she was less developed; in some respects, as Joy had said, a mere child. She was inclined to be untidy, full of animal spirits, and constructive, in a mechanical way. She was not fond of animals; not, at least, of the dogs, and the same strain showed itself, I thought, in her prejudice against Leah as a colored woman. There was something of that lack of charity, also, in the fun she had made of Uncle Jerdon, something of which Joy herself would be incapable. Edna was inclined to be belligerent; Joy was indubitably a sulphuric. Joy, therefore, what would I call it?—indifference?—forwardness?—in the way she had "made up" to me that last evening I spent with her.

Here, perhaps, was a suggestion as to how I might manage her. It was not pleasant; the less so because I must necessarily keep it from both Joy and Leah. From Joy for obvious reasons—I could not think of permitting her to suspect that, even in this other phase, she was in the least lacking in delicacy—from Leah because she was, in her way, finer even than Joy. It would cause her, in fact, the keenest suffering to know that any such thing was going on in the house. And yet I could not quite bear to act, even in these circumstances, secretly. The matter had been left to my judgment; but I could not yet make up my mind what was right. It was a choice of permitting perhaps, but the thought of permitting even the lesser one to obtain troubled me. In a few words, Edna was apparently fond of me. I didn't care to put it any more strongly than that at present, nor to say that I would admit this basis of friendship as a condition in which I could not age her. But the thought was affording me a little more of the problem "Leah came down."

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"She fell asleep while I was undressing her," she said, taking a chair. "I have never seen her so absolutely exhausted. She'll sleep late tomorrow; and," she added with a shudder, "she'll not wake up herself."

"Well, then, we'll have to be prepared for that," I replied. "I'm so afraid of tomorrow," said Leah. "Not for myself, you know, Mr. Castle. I'm willing to endure anything. But if she insists upon my leaving her again, what shall I do? I simply can't leave Miss Joy! What would she ever do without me?"

"I think I can manage it," I said, though, indeed, I was far from being confident. And then, to draw her out more, I added: "What I'm wondering is, if we hadn't better send for Dr. Copin."

"Oh, don't!" she pleaded. "You must take hold of this alone, Mr. Castle. He's been down here several times since you left, and I'm more afraid of him than ever. More even than I am of her."

"Why, what has happened?" "Oh," she cried, "that's just what I don't know. She sent me away usually, and often they were alone together all day. Sometimes they went off on long walks, too."

"With her—with Edna, I mean, or with Joy?" "Oh, with Edna, of course—never with Miss Joy herself."

This gave me more to think about. If she had acted with the doctor as she had with me, a good deal depended upon the kind of man Dr. Copin was.

"You saw nothing, then, to arouse your suspicions?" I asked. "I saw immediately, from her embarrassment, that she had; but she finally said:

"No, nothing to amount to anything. I think it was easy to see her motive in this denial. I thought, she could not bring herself to say anything that might seem like an accusation of her mistress, even her mistress in this other person. She went on:

"There's another thing that worries me. She's been telephoning to the doctor almost every day. She never did that before, and I can't understand it. I don't think of any reason she can have, for physically she's quite well."

"You mean Edna has?" "No, Miss Joy herself. Of course Edna does all the time."

"How long since Joy has been doing so?" "About two weeks—she began, I think, soon after you left."

"And the doctor has been coming oftener?" "Yes."

"Does the doctor come usually when Joy is here, or when Edna is?" "Almost always when it's Edna."

"How does Dr. Copin know when she is here?" "That's a mystery. I've wondered myself about it, but I don't know."

"Leah," I said, after thinking a while, "do you think you can trust me whatever you should happen to notice that seems, let us say, a bit too much like what the doctor might be imagined as doing?"

"You mean?" She drew a quick breath. "Oh, that? Why should you suggest it? Don't ask me to, please!"

"It would be better than permitting you to be driven away, wouldn't it?" I insisted.

She did not answer. "I don't say that any such thing will be necessary," I added, "but I don't want you to be surprised at anything. I don't want in any way, to be underhanded with you."

It seems that you must, in any case leave it wholly to me. That is, of course, provided there is no one else you can call on."

"Oh, there's nobody else! Miss Joy has no near relatives, and anyone we might send for would perhaps be only too glad to have her shipped off to an asylum so that they could get hold of her property. That's what has always complicated it. That's why she lives here alone. It might be, too, why we should watch the doctor himself."

She stretched out her hands appealingly to me. "Oh, Mr. Castle, you must have heard of such cases—I'm told they're common. Can't we drive her away forever?"

The doctor probably knows a good deal more about that than I. I replied, "I think that's probably why he's so much interested. But, if you don't trust him, the very fact that he does know so much about the subject makes him the more dangerous. I must have a talk with him. Do you know when he'll come again?"

"He may be here at any time. There's no telling. I don't think Miss Joy knows, but I have an idea that he may have arranged it with Edna. You can find that out for yourself to-morrow, can't you?"

"I think that I may be able to find out a good deal, if you'll only close your eyes."

Again that quick, indrawn breath, as if she were struck with a sudden pain, and she rose and stood before me.

"Oh, Mr. Castle, I can't help trusting you! I must trust you!" "Will it help you," I said, looking her straight in the eyes, "if I tell you that I like Joy immensely—that, in fact, I'm very, very fond of her?"

She took both of my hands in hers, kneeling before me. "Oh, Mr. Castle!" she cried, "if you only do! If I could believe that, it would be such a comfort to me! I wanted to believe it ever since you first came down. She's so alone—she has no one in the world but me! She needs you so much! Oh, you could do so much for her!"

"There's nothing, Leah, that I wouldn't do for her, believe me. Nothing! Do you know what that means? It means that I may have to do what she herself would never consent to have me do."

That was as far as I dared to go with the girl; indeed, it was almost as far as I had gone with myself. I could see hints of what it might possibly come to; but just how it would work out, I had no idea. It would be time enough for that, when it was time. But, on the whole, Leah

was pacified and strengthened by my confession. As she was nearly in a state of collapse, by this time I sent her to bed, and remained to smoke in the library.

The question was, now whether Edna wouldn't wonder why I had come down. I had, of course, the excuse of my motor car to account for that, but I thought it likely that she wouldn't be exigent in the matter of excuses, and would be quite ready, for her own reasons, to welcome me to Midmeadows. At any rate, I decided that I would stay, whether or no. Joy I most certainly wanted me here, now that the White Cat was out of the bag, and I was quite prepared to strain a point if necessary, to induce Edna to be hospitable.

It was now ten o'clock, and excited as I was, I found myself in no mood for sleep. So hearing King grinding coffee in the kitchen, I walked out there to make his acquaintance. As I came in, he looked up and grinned serenely.

"Hello! You come back?" he said, affably.

"Yes, I'm back, King," I replied, and stood with my hands in my pockets watching.

"I thought you come!" he said, nodding his head wisely.

"Oh, you did, did you?" I inquired. "Why?"

He went on automatically with his coffee mill, still grinning insanely. "You like Miss Fielding?" he asked audaciously.

"Heaps much!" I said, laughing. He laughed with me.

"Aren't you lonesome here, King?" I asked next. "Not many Chinamen around here, are there?"

"Oh, Chinamen no good! All time make trouble." He poured the ground coffee into a canister and took down a pot.

"There's a Chinese laundry over at the Harbor. Don't you go over there sometimes to smoke a pipe?"

"Aw! No good smoke pipe. More better stay here."

Now this was contrary to the habits of Chinamen as I had known them, and I scented something interesting.

"You no play fan-tan?" I asked. "Aw! Fan-tan no good," King replied contemptuously. "All time lose heap money. No good!"

He shook his head again as he shook down his fire, poked it and went to the sink to wash his hands and wipe them on the roller towel. I watched his deft, precise movements; he was like an amachine in the accurate way in which he handled everything.

"What tong to you belong to, King?" I asked presently.

He gave me a cunning look. "What-a-matter you?" he demanded. "What for you want to know?"

"Hip Sing?" I persisted. "See Yup? Sam Yup? What tong?" "You sabbee China tong?" he asked.

"Oh, sure! You tell me, King. I keep him quiet. I no tell."

"Says!" he exclaimed, approaching me, grinning, "sometime you help me get away?"

"You in trouble, eh? What's the matter? Hatched-men after you?" He still grinned in the absurd way Celestials have, when the subject is most serious. "No catchee me!" he declared.

"Oh, I see. They're trying to find you, eh? What's the matter? You steal China girl? You take tong money? You kill Sam Yup man, maybe?"

He kept his grin and his secret. "That's all light, no catchee me!" was all I could get out of him. But I thought I had a suspicion as to why he was contended to stay alone, so far from any of his race, and never go to town or even smoke opium or play fan-tan at the Harbor.

[To be Continued.]

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Supplemental Examinations in Arts
Faculty Sept. 18-21.

The supplemental examinations in the arts faculty of the Western University will take place on Sept. 18-21, according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, Sept. 18.—Morning, English composition, 1; Greek authors, 2; modern history, 2.

Afternoon—French authors, 1; German authors, 2; Latin authors and prose, 2; junior matriculation Latin authors and prose.

Thursday, Sept. 19.—Morning, English literature, 1; German composition, 2; Hebrew, 2.

Afternoon—French composition, 1; ancient history, 1; Greek authors, 1; junior matriculation, Greek authors and prose.

Friday, Sept. 20.—Morning, Trigonometry, 1; history of philosophy, 4.

Afternoon—Euclid, 1; German authors, 4.

Saturday, Sept. 21.—Morning, Algebra, 1; English literature, 3; German composition, 4.

Afternoon—Latin authors and prose, 1; economics, 4.

Morning examinations begin at 9:15 and afternoon examinations at 2:15.

BLOODY BATTLE ON BARK

San Francisco, Sept. 14.—One hundred and fifty Japanese and Chinese cannery hands engaged in a desperate fight with knives on the high seas during the voyage of the bark Electra to this port from Mushagak, and the encounter terminated only after a dozen of the contestants had been wounded, and as many more placed in irons in the vessel's brig. Hardly had the vessel set out to sea from Mushagak before a fight occurred between three Japanese and a Chinaman in the bark's forecastle. This was only a forerunner to the real scrimmage, however, and on Aug. 29, a struggle between the two races began in earnest. Assembled on the forward deck, the Chinese, who outnumbered the Japanese, started trouble over the appropriation of food. A desperate fight followed, resulting in a victory for the Chinese.

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SOME LOST CITIES HAVE TURNED UP

Interesting Discoveries Made in South America by Prof. Saville.

New York, Sept. 14.—The Times says: M. H. Saville, professor of ethnology at Columbia University, returned from a trip to Ecuador on the steamship Panama yesterday, and said that he had discovered the ruins of cities near the coast which contained many evidences of a race hitherto unknown to present day scientists.

The professor's researches extended along the Pacific coast about 50 miles to the north, and about the same distance to the south of the equator. Somewhere between those points, and at a distance of about 100 miles inland, he found evidences of a city of antiquity. The city, he said, had streets lined with houses of "skilful construction. Though the dwelling had been made of light material, a sort of palmetto or thatch, they had been constructed very evidently with a view to withstanding the shocks of the frequent earthquakes of the region, and were intact.

In them were found utensils for cooking and other domestic purposes, made of pottery and wood and the like. Professor Saville said he believed the city had contained 3,000 or more people 500 years ago.

In his opinion the race was one of the highest in civilization living in America previous to the coming of Columbus.

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Come and View Fashion's Novelties in Dress Fabrics For the Autumn of 1907

Those who have worn plain fabrics for the last season or two will perhaps decide that these novelties in dress fabrics are a welcome change for this autumn's dress or suit. They are certainly very handsome, very stylish and very reasonably priced. Among our large collection you find:

All-Wool Fancy Suitings
in olive, navy and seal brown, with narrow black stripes giving a dressy tone to the fabrics. 44 inches wide**75c**

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Hairline stripes are employed to form a plaid design. Exceptionally attractive. Beautiful finish to the goods. Three different shades. Gray, with blue and green stripes; Blue, with several different colored stripes; Olive, with blue and red stripes. 54 inches wide.....**\$1.00**

Exclusive Dress Lengths
The very latest New York styles. Dice patterns in a peculiar but very dressy tone of fawn. Three slightly different patterns. One with tan overcheck; another with pale green overcheck; the third with no overcheck. These are all-wool goods. Per dress length.....**\$6.50**

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If you use these brands and give corresponding attention to the details of your baking, you will have as a result bread which cannot be equaled for quality and nourishing value.

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AT ALL GROCERS 15c lb. ORDER TO-DAY

ONE ON THE KAISER

Has An Amusing But Expensive Experience With Rulers of Siam.

New York, Sept. 14.—Kaiser Wilhelm, says a Berlin dispatch to the Sun, has an amusing and expensive experience in remembering the King of Siam's birthday. The king, while the Kaiser's guest, expressed admiration for the Kaiser's two intelligent dogs that follow their master everywhere. When the king went to Hamburg he expressed a wish to possess a similar pair to take with him to Siam. The remark was communicated to the Kaiser, together with the fact that the king's birthday would occur in a few days, and he gave orders to procure a number of the best specimens of the breed and sent seven pairs for the king to choose from.

The ruler of Siam was so overcome with the kindness of the Kaiser that he accepted all fourteen dogs, which he will take home with him.

It was only when a palace official who had been entrusted with the delivery of the dogs, returned that the Kaiser learned the cost of the gift.

THESE TWO desirable qualifications, pleasant to the taste and at the same time effective, are to be found in Mother's Worm Expeller. Children like it.

The cooking stove has not yet found its way to Scotland, where cooking is still done over an open grate fire.

WRECKED BY DYNAMITE.
Joplin, Mo., Sept. 14.—Dynamite last night wrecked the pressroom and the composing-room of the Joplin News-Herald, an afternoon Republican newspaper, which has been conducting a crusade against the methods of the city council and the police department. Every window in the building was broken, and a new press and six typesetting machines were destroyed. No one was in the building when the explosion occurred.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Company), of Yokohama, has opened a fortnightly service between Hong Kong and Bangkok, Siam.

CHOLERA MORBUS. cramps and hindred complaints annually make their appearance at the same time as the hot weather. Green fruit, cucumbers, melons, etc., and many persons are deterred from eating these tempting things, but they need not abstain if they have Dr. J. C. Kilham's Dysentery Cordial and take a few drops in water. It cures the cramps and cholera in a remarkable manner, and is easy to check every disturbance of the bowels.

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