

A MYSTERIOUS QUEST.

CHAPTER XXVII.

SECRET PROTECTORS.

"And you will not let me stay here?" The signorina looked down, seemingly embarrassed by the other's penetrating glance.

"Oh," she whispered at last, "you are a woman. Cannot you understand that there are times when we would shut out even the stars from peeping into our windows?"

"Open your door and speak, if you need me. I shall not be asleep."

"The signorina looked up as if to answer, but closed her lips again, and after one other frightened glance up and down the hall, drew back into her own room and closed the door."

"She will not come with me; she prefers to be alone," that lady observed, in low tones, as she entered behind the curtain.

"Quite right, madam. We must doubt all will pass off well, and that morning will come without an event. Do you intend to go to your room or remain here?"

"Oh, I should as like to stay right here. You inspire me with so much confidence. And then, I feel that I ought to be one of the watchers; for, after all, this is my house and she is my guest, and my place is where I can be of the greatest service to her."

"Then come here, Miss Aspinwall, after you have satisfied the curiosity of that person whom I see looking out of the door down yonder. I shall only require of you silence; the rest I will take upon myself."

"She thanked him with a gesture, and hurried down the hall. Not one person only, but two or three others had by this time found the courage to unlock their doors and look out, and for each and all she had a word of explanation that was either so natural or so soothing that peace soon settled upon the house; and when quiet was fully restored, she came back, and, dropping into the seat pointed out by the detective, added herself to the number of watchers gathered to protect the signorina from the unknown danger they believed to menace her."

"Will they succeed, or will her enemy prove more subtle than they, and find a way to approach her, notwithstanding their united care?"

CHAPTER XXVIII.

LA SOXNAMBULA.

Two hours went by—two long, bewildering hours, or so they seemed to Hilary Aspinwall, crouching in her dim corner and listening with divided attention, first, for any signs of disturbance in the hall before her; and, secondly, for that something, hardly amounting to sound, which constantly and with increasing effect

THE PATIENT B. AIN

A tireless worker so long as supplied with rich, red blood. The brain is one of the most patient and industrious organs of the body. It can be induced, by good treatment, to perform prodigious work. But it is sensitive and will not brook abuse. It responds to the lash at first, but if the lash is laid on too hard it balks.

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testified to her overwrought nerves that the one whom unconsciously possessed the power to move her was still within her walls, sharing her watch and more than partaking in her anxiety.

"It was now two o'clock, and the house was still, almost to the point of oppression. Only the sound of swaying boughs swishing against walls was to be heard from without while within, there was nothing to disturb the absolute serenity of the place, unless it was the beating of Hilary's heart and the tick of the great clock in the library below."

The curtain drawn in front of her retreat falls without a wrinkle, and is so transparent that she sees the flame of the candle beyond burning like a hazy star through its meshes. On this star she has fixed her eyes so steadily that she sees nothing else, not even the detective who stands so near her, with his ear and not his eye bent toward the hall.

Hilary Aspinwall asks this question, but she does not betray her anxiety by so much as the involuntary catching of her breath. She feels that Mr. Gryce is listening, and that is enough. But her eye is on the star I have spoken of; and, suddenly—whether it be fact, or only the effect of her agitation—she perceives that star grow cloudy. Something grows in size and obscures the light of the flame, and finally casts a shadow on the curtain itself. The sound, which is like the softest step, fills her with a horror that would unconsciously cause a shriek to leave her lips, if Mr. Gryce were not close at her side.

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wide-open and staring eyes there is no look of life, but rather the dull glassiness of unconsciousness and death. Yet she stands upright, and moves with swift, unerring steps directly toward them.

"A sonnambulist! She is walking in her sleep!" whispered the detective; and he watches her as if he felt his own good sense and trained self-possession vanquished by the fascination of her mechanical approach.

But, just as it seemed as if she were bent upon directing her steps into their retreat, she pauses, turns, and sets her foot upon the staircase. Instantly he broke from the spell which bound him, and uttering a low whistle, that scarcely disturbed the silence as much as the rustling of her dress against the banisters, he waited till he heard a slight movement in the hall beneath, which proved that the watchers he had left there had heard his warning.

Meanwhile, in the hall beneath, Mr. Degraw and James stood in the shadow made by the library door, staring with wondering and startled eyes, the precise and automaton-like descent of the woman in

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In England the ladies have entirely abandoned wearing hats which is due entirely to this new discovery. It has been proven that Henna leaves contain the ingredients that will positively grow hair. That they contain this long-looked-for article is proven every day.

The Americans are now placing on the market a preparation containing the extract from Henna leaves, which is having a phenomenal sale. This preparation is called SALVIA, and is being sold with a guarantee to cure Dandruff and to grow hair in abundance. Being daintily perfumed SALVIA makes a most pleasant hair dressing. McMurdo & Co., your druggist, is the first to import this preparation into St. John's and a large, generous bottle can be purchased for 50c.

whose interests they were supposed to be keeping watch. Had they not been warned, they would have thought her a spirit, so noiselessly was her step and so like floating essence the delicate shape, with its ethereal robes and loosened hair, coming, coming, step by step, down the dim staircase into the dim hall, seeing nothing, betraying nothing save a dreamful purpose to enter the empty parlor.

To get in her way was dangerous. To impede her steps or to stop her movements even by a sigh, might induce consequences from which her lover naturally shrank; so, notwithstanding his anxiety he obliged himself to remain where he was and merely peered after her as she glided among the furniture directly to the music-box. This she lifted and put down again with what sounded like a sigh. Did she place a letter under it, or did she feel for one, or was the action purely mechanical and the result of memories which made the artist's heart leap! It was impossible to determine, nor had he time to consider the question, for no sooner had she restored the music-box to its place than she turned, and, to avoid an encounter, he found himself forced to retreat in haste, to his old station in the library, from which point he saw her glide again by the door and move

down the hall into regions where he could not follow her without discovering himself. Yet, feeling the necessity of keeping her in sight, he attempted to slip along through the passages in her wake, and had reached the door leading into the dining-room when he suddenly perceived her returning, and had barely time to draw himself up against the wall before she was upon him, walking less steadily than before, and with a sideways, swaying movement, that filled the lover's heart with terror, and made it a matter of great self-control on his part not to catch her in his arms and lend her the support of his strength and the comfort of his tenderness.

Take Care of the Teeth.

Proper care of the teeth is probably one of the most important duties of the girl to herself in the morning. One of the surest ways to keep the teeth from decay and consequent trouble is conscientious cleansing every single day, even twice or three times, if necessary; but disregard of the teeth will soon bring its own consequences. And indeed good teeth are one of the most valuable possessions of the girl who desires to be as pretty as possible. And that is usually the ambition of nearly every girl. Another important precaution is to be careful of the teeth by avoiding any hard substances or too great an indulgence in candies and sweetmeats.

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UNCLAIMED LETTERS, REMAINING IN G. P. to Jan. 1st, 1912.

Table listing unclaimed letters with columns for names, addresses, and dates. Includes entries for Adams, Miss Hilda; Escott, James; Lefellier, J. B. E.; Rennie, Mrs. C. M., etc.

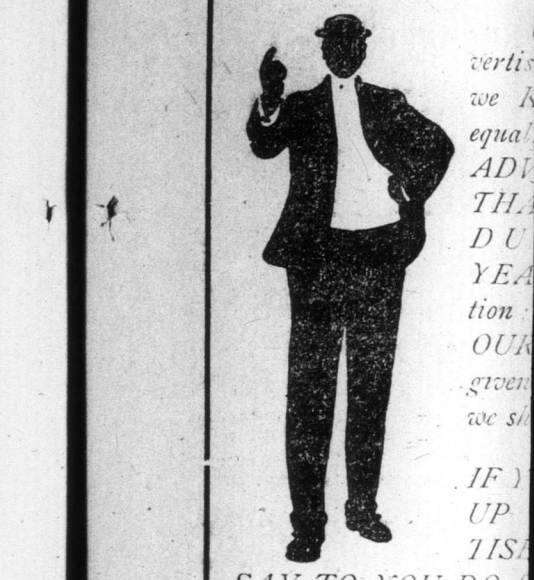
SEAMEN'S LIST.

Table listing seamen with columns for names, ship names, and agents. Includes entries for Rose, Frank; Sheppard, Walter; Fitzgerald, Denis; Braddon, Capt. R., etc.

Complex advertisement for Simplex Roofing Nails, featuring the text 'Simplex Roofing NAILS CAN BE HAD at all the HARDWARE STORES' and 'COLIN CAMPBELL -- Distributor'.

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TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. Mr. Carthy, ill of diphtheria for a week, was taken to hospital for residence, Newtown Road, St. A resident of Cook Street su from the same disease was also to Hospital.

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