

# The PURPLE MASK

by Grace Curard  
Novelized from the Motion Picture Play of the Same Name by the Universal Film Mfg. Co.

## SECOND EPISODE

### The Suspect.

"What's your hurry, my pretty one?" said Sphinx Kelly as the astonished Pat stopped in her wild rush from the Cafe Chat Noir.

For an instant Pat's faculties were stunned by surprise. But her brain worked quickly and her hand almost as quick. She dealt Sphinx a resounding slap in the face, and dodging around him, picked up her skirts and ran madly down the narrow street.

Kelly was surprised to move. His eyes followed the retreating girl, and then turning to enter the cafe, he glanced down at his feet to make sure of his step. There was a glint of reflected light and, stooping down, Kelly picked up the Van Nuys necklace where Pat had dropped it during her sudden exit.

The Sphinx pocketed the jewels and entered the cafe. In a moment he reappeared, and walked leisurely along the street in the direction Pat had taken in her flight.

Just ahead he saw a woman's form dart into the doorway of a dilapidated house. Kelly hastened along, and began an investigation. It was, indeed, Pat, whom he had noticed, but his search of every house in that section of the street failed to reveal the object of his quest.

Pat had made good her escape from the Sphinx. That knowledge pleased the old woman, and the money brought relief to her misery. And Pat, safely at home, gained great satisfaction in knowing she could be of service in rewarding the kindness shown to her.

When Kelly returned to his apartments at Des Ambassadeurs early in the morning his two assistants were waiting for him.

"I wish I had followed the butler from the gardens myself, instead of losing sight of him to report," said one of Kelly's men.

"Yes, it is a shame—we had them caught right in the Van Nuys grounds."

Kelly stood for a moment, contemplating his companions in this disappointment. Then he drew the jewels from his pocket and said:

"We will go to Mrs. Van Nuys in the morning and give her what she

sent us after." Kelly's men were far more excited than was their chief, in the knowledge that the Sphinx had once more triumphed.

Pat had said nothing to her aunt about her adventure at the Cafe Chat Noir, and the girl was quite as much surprised as was Mr. Van Nuys when Kelly, and his two assistants, called the next forenoon to return the jewels.

"Mr. Kelly has lived up to his reputation, Pat," said Mrs. Van Nuys, radiantly happy in her good fortune.

The Sphinx was modestly silent. His cold gaze swept Pat's beautiful face and marvelous form without any sign of the admiration the girl was so accustomed to creating.

It was Kelly's disinterestedness that plucked the beautiful girl.

Kelly had a surprise in store for Pat when they were left alone for a moment while Mrs. Van Nuys went to her boudoir to draw a check with which to pay the Sphinx his promised reward.

"Last night, at the Cafe Chat Noir, I saw a girl who closely resembled you, Miss Montez—but, of course, it couldn't be you." The remark startled Pat, for she believed that she had escaped detection when Kelly had so suddenly confronted her.

"Oh, that's one of my weaknesses," Pat managed to stammer in reply. "I'm so ordinary that people are always telling me how much I remind them of other girls."

Pat was covered by the bedding in a poor family's dingy rooms when Kelly entered. To his questions the old hag who lived in the hovel made unintelligible answers. When Kelly tried to search the filthy quarters the old woman arose in rebellion and drove him from the house.

Throwing the covers from the filthy bed, Pat emerged, when Kelly had been driven away, and expressed her thanks to the old hag for sheltering her in the emergency. Pat slipped a few pieces of silver into the old woman's hand.

There was a taunt of defiance in her tone. She gave the detective a searching look from her big blue eyes, and her dainty mouth curled in mild disdain as she repented to his quizzical remark.

"Well, I just thought I'd tell you while I had the opportunity," and the returning Mrs. Van Nuys terminated the conversation.

Hardly had Kelly left the Van Nuys' mansion when, with the suddenness of an unheralded storm, Mrs. Van Nuys was advised of a reverse in fortune that entirely upset her future plans. Like her pretty niece, Mrs. Van Nuys was charitably inclined and largely devoted the surplus of her fortune to charitable deeds. In these plans she was eagerly and heartily seconded by Pat, and when a messenger arrived with a letter that told of financial reverses, Mrs. Van Nuys was heart-broken.

The letter said that her investments with Jakobski & Co. had turned out badly; that her resources would thereafter be limited, although her principal fortune was not endangered. The shock, very naturally, upset Mrs. Van Nuys, and she hastily sent Pat's maid Fifi to summon her mistress.

Fifi found Pat in the gardens, and told her Mrs. Van Nuys would like to see her immediately. Hurrying into

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## City Eye Specialists Tell How Strengthen Eyesight 50 Week's Time In M

**A Free Prescription You Can Have Filled and Use at Home.**

Boston, Mass.—Victims of eye strain and other eye weaknesses, and those who wear glasses, will be glad to know that Doctors and Eye Specialists now agree there is real hope and help for them. Many whose eyes were failing say they have had their eyes restored and many who once wore glasses say they have thrown them away. One man says, after using it: "I was almost blind. Could not see to read at all. Now I can read everything without my glasses, and my eyes do not hurt any more. At night they would pain dreadfully. Now they feel fine all the time. It was like a miracle to me." A lady who used it says: "The atmosphere seemed hazy with or without glasses, but after using this prescription for fifteen days everything seems clear. I can read even fine print without glasses." Another who used it says: "I was bothered with eye strain caused by overworked, tired eyes which induced fierce headaches. I have worn glasses for several years, both for distance and work, and without them I could not read my own name on an envelope or the typewriting on the machine before me. I can do both now and have discarded my long distance glasses altogether. I can count the fluttering leaves on the trees across the street now, which for several years have looked like a dim green blur to me. I cannot express my joy at what it has done for me."

It is believed that thousands who wear glasses can now discard them in a reasonable time, and multitudes more will be able to strengthen their eyes so as to be spared the trouble and expense of ever getting glasses.

Dr. Beck, an eye specialist of nearly twenty years practice, says: "A patient came to me who was suffering from Blepharitis Marginalis with all the concomitant symptoms, as morning agglutination of the lids, chronic conjunctivitis and epiphora. Her eyes when not congested had the dull, suffused expression common to such cases. Having run out of her medicine friend suggested Bon-Opto. She used this treatment and not only overcame her distressing condition, but strange and amazing as it may seem, so strengthened her eyesight that she was able to dispense with her distance glasses and her headache and neuralgia left her. In this instance I should say her eyesight was improved 100%." treatment in a number of cases and have seen the eyesight improve from 25 to 75 per cent in a remarkably short time. I can say it works more quickly than any other remedy I have prescribed for the eyes."

Dr. Smith, an oculist of wide experience, says: "I have treated in private practice a number of serious optic diseases with Bon-Opto and am able to report ultimate recovery in both acute and chronic cases. Mr. B. came to my office suffering with an infected eye. The condition was so serious that an operation for excision seemed imperative. Before resorting to the operative treatment I prescribed Bon-Opto and in 24 hours the secretion had lessened, inflammatory symptoms began to subside, and in seven days the eye was cured and retained its normal vision. Another case of extreme convergent strabismus (cross eyes) escaped the surgeon's knife by the timely use of your collyrium. The tightened external muscles yielded to the soothing and anodyne effects of Bon-Opto. I always instill Bon-Opto after removal of foreign bodies and apply it locally to all burns, ulcers and spots on the eyeball or the lids for its therapeutic effect. By cleaning the lids of secretions and acting as a tonic for the eyeball itself the number of cases of discarded glasses is rendered more acute, hence the number of cases of discarded glasses."

Dr. Conner says: "My eyes were in bad condition owing to the severe