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BLACK, GREEN or MIXED

THE RED BUTTON

A MYSTERY STORY OF NEW YORK

By WILL IRWIN

"As if," interpolated Rosalie, "you wasn't going to do that! Now tell the inspector about this Mr. Wade."

"He is my friend and attorney," replied Mrs. Hanska. "He lives in Arden. I have known him ever since I went there. He visited New York three times to attempt some legal settlement with Captain Hanska. He wanted me to get a divorce. I wasn't quite ready to do that, even if I could have found grounds. But I was willing to have a legal separation—something which would have rid me of Captain Hanska and let me go my own way. I authorized Mr. Wade to offer part of my mother's property, if that would do any good. The Captain was living in a boarding-house. I knew his ways well enough to realize that this meant extreme poverty. He refused everything. He told Mr. Wade that as soon as he had arranged something—he didn't say what—he would find me and compel me to go with him. I realized that I must get farther from New York. I had a few possessions of Captain Hanska's. I wanted to return them and close with him forever. Mr. Wade had an idea of making one last appeal, and I asked him if he would deliver those things at the same time. Yesterday morning Mr. Wade came down to New York. That's all I know—until I saw the newspapers—" She stopped there. Her color faded and her hands fell apart with a gesture of despair. "And I brought her straight to you," said Betsy-Barbara with a triumphant air, as though her extraordinary cunning had settled the case for all time. "Now the inspector took up the examination again, for Rosalie sat musing, here eyes on Constance Hanska."

"What were the things you sent?" he asked.

"Let me see—what were they? Betsy-Barbara, you helped pack them. An old miniature of the Captain—"

"And some family photographs—" Betsy-Barbara put in briskly.

"And an old mahogany shaving mirror which had belonged to his father—"

"And a Mexican hat-band and two knives, and an Irish blackthorn stick and a silver cigarette-case—"

A stethoscope upon Inspector McGee's pulse would have jumped an inch as Betsy-Barbara pronounced the word "knives." But his disordered face betrayed no emotion. He checked his interruption. In fact, through two more items, and when he returned to the subject, he worked backward like a good attorney, concealing his pertinent question in a fog of impertinent ones.

"What kind of a cigarette case?"

"Chased silver and turquoises—a Russian design."

never spoke of it after I told him. He was a gentleman. He only tried to serve me as a gentleman would under the circumstances."

"Has it struck you," asked the inspector, "that this might be used as a motive?"

"This is perfectly dreadful," cried Betsy-Barbara. "Constance, you shall not stay here another minute. You come with me to a lawyer!"

"That's right," said Rosalie Le Grange shortly. "Inspector McGee, you can excuse us!"

"Not for a while," said Inspector McGee shortly. "Madame, I must have your official statement about what you have just told me—before I let you leave."

Now Constance had risen, and Betsy-Barbara, in a state of suppressed fury, stood beside her, flashing sparks from her golden hair and her blue eyes and her little white teeth. Inspector McGee stepped to the door to summon a stenographer. And Rosalie, quick as thought, slipped up beside Constance.

"Not a word more than you can help about this proposing to you—not a word," she whispered.

"Step into this room, ladies," said McGee. "I'll join you in a moment. We won't need you, Mrs. Le Grange."

Alone with the inspector, Rosalie Le Grange stood regarding him from top to toe. He faced her in a little embarrassment, which he covered with bluff. "Well, you carried your presence off nicely," he said. "Anybody else thought you were sore on me?"

For answer, Rosalie drew up a corner of her skirt, and said, "Sometimes," she said, "I hate a cop!"

"Martin McGee laughed uneasily. "Well, we got the goods," he said; "motive's established all right."

"You got the goods, not me," replied Rosalie. "don't you count me in on that game, Third Degree! On the likes of her!"

But Inspector McGee, more interested just now in his professional problem than in what any woman thought of him, was pursuing his own train of reflection.

"In love with Hanska's wife—and Hanska's maltreated her—and she wanted a divorce and couldn't get it. Wade and Hanska had quarreled. Wade goes up there with his curio shop and lays it down on the table. They quarrel again. Wade's a fence. He picks up that knife and lets him have it just by instinct. Then he walks out of the door and gets rattled and beats it. Of course, it would be hard to establish first degree murder on what we've got now, but we'll have it."

"You think so, do you?" replied Rosalie. "My, don't promotion make a smart man of a pavement-pounding cop!"

"Guess you don't know," replied McGee. "what this man Wade said when we



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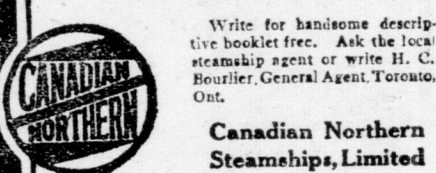
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pinched him in Boston and told him what it was for?"

"No."

"He said: 'I didn't kill him, but I'd like to shake hands with the man who did!'"

"Did he say that?" asked Rosalie; "did he say that?"

"He said that," she said at length, revolving many principles of human conduct drawn from her large experience.

"Martin McGee," she said at length, "told you a while ago I wasn't going to monkey with this thing. But I'm an old fool—and I'm in it—my own way, as I always worked."

McGee laughed.

"I thought you couldn't keep out," he said. "But you'll run against Lawrence."

As the two strange women came through the door, they found Rosalie Le Grange waiting. Constance looked her full in the eye; and suddenly her hands went up to her own face and she stared at herself to her misery. And oddly enough, she turned in her distress not to her friend and companion, Betsy-Barbara, but to this strange woman. As a bruised child runs to its mother, she ran to Rosalie Le Grange and bowed a weary head upon her shoulder. Rosalie took her to the bosom on which—in her own queer way—she had borne the burdens of thousands for thirty long years.

"You poor lamb!" she exclaimed, "you poor lamb! Now, it's going to be all right, dearie—and you're coming home with me!"

"And that!" said Rosalie Le Grange, as she retold this tale to the only person who ever enjoyed her full confidence, "was the queerest case I ever saw of soliloquy custom for a boarding-house."

Wade at the end."

(To be continued.)

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

SARNIA TUNNEL TO SUSPENSION BRIDGE AND TORONTO.

Arrive from the East—7:52 a.m., 10:58 a.m., 1:11 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 10:45 p.m.
Arrive from the West—12:14 a.m., 2:48 a.m., 11:55 a.m., 1:10 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 6:25 p.m.
Depart for the East—12:19 a.m., 2:48 a.m., 7:20 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 2:05 p.m., 4:25 p.m., 6:52 p.m.
Depart for the West—3:57 a.m., 7:40 a.m., 11:18 a.m., 11:55 a.m., 1:40 p.m., 3:20 p.m.

LONDON AND WINDSOR.

Arrive—11:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:50 p.m., 11:05 p.m.
Depart—6:35 a.m., 11:43 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 8:05 p.m.

STRATFORD BRANCH.

Arrive—11:15 a.m., 1:39 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 11:50 p.m.
Depart—6:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 4:55 p.m.

LONDON, HURON AND BRUCE.

Arrive—10:00 a.m., 6:10 p.m.
Depart—8:30 a.m., 4:40 p.m.

Trains marked * run daily. Those not marked, daily, except Sunday.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Arrive from the East—11:42 a.m.

6:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m., 11:25 p.m.
Arrive from the West—4:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:25 p.m., 5:20 p.m., 8:50 p.m.
Depart for the East—4:38 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:35 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Depart for the West—8:15 a.m., 11:50 a.m., 6:55 p.m., 10:10 p.m., 11:23 p.m.
Trains marked * run daily. Those not marked, daily, except Sunday.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Arrive—7:05 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 4:50 p.m., 9:45 p.m.
Depart—7:22 a.m., 2:22 p.m., 5:27 p.m., 10:15 p.m.

PERE MARQUETTE RAILWAY.

Trains depart—6:40 a.m., 7:10 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 2:50 p.m., 4:20 p.m., 16:30 p.m.
Trains arrive—8:45 a.m., 12:50 p.m., 1:50 p.m., 6:10 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

Trains marked with * are through trains, to and from Walkerville. Train marked with † is mixed to St. Thomas only.

Traction Company Winter Time

Commencing Oct. 1, cars leave London 6:50, 7:50, 9:30 a.m., and hourly to 11:30 p.m.

Through cars to Port, 7:50, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday cars to Port, 9:00 a.m., and every two hours to 11:30 p.m. St. Thomas, 8:00 p.m. Time table No. 4 at all stations.

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Oct 10 to 14, Oct 21 to 27

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