

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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"Impossible!" groaned the young man, starting as he heard a step on the walk without.
"Your need has become strangely imperative," proceeded the other. "Has Miss Page?"
Frederick took a step forward and laid his hand on his father's arm.
"It is not for her," he whispered. "It goes into other hands."
Mr. Sutherland, who had turned over the document as his son approached, breathed easier. Taking up his pen he dipped it in the ink. Frederick watched him with ever whitening cheek. The step on the walk had mounted to the front door.
"Nine hundred and fifty?" inquired the father.
"Nine hundred and fifty," answered the son.
The judge, with a last look, stooped over the book. The hands of the clock pointed to a quarter to 10.
"Father, I have my whole future in which to thank you," cried Frederick, seizing the check his father held out to him and making rapidly for the door. "I will be back before midnight." "And he flung himself down stairs just as the front door opened and Wattle stepped in.
"Ah!" exclaimed the latter as his eye fell on the paper fluttering in the other's hand, "I expected money, not paper."
"The paper is good," answered Frederick, drawing him swiftly out of the house. "It has my father's signature upon it."
"Your father's signature?"
"Yes."
Wattle gave it a look, then slowly shook his head at Frederick.
"Is it as well done," said he, "as the one you tried to pass off on Brady?"
Frederick cringed and for a moment looked as if the struggle was too much for him. Then he rallied and eyeing Wattle firmly said:
"You have a right to your distrust, but you are on the wrong track, Wattle. What I did once it would be impossible for me to do again, and I hope I may live to prove it. As for that check, I will soon prove its value in your eyes. Follow me up stairs to my father."

guilty of a big crime you are willing to incur suspicion of a small one. It's a wise move, my boy; but look out! No tricks with me or my friendship may not hold. Meantime I cash this check tomorrow." And he swung away through the night with a grand opera selection on his lips.
Frederick looked like a man thoroughly exhausted when the final echo of this hateful voice died away on the hillside. For the last 20 hours he had been the prey of one harrowing emotion after another, and human nature could endure no more, but demanded rest.
But rest would not come. The position in which he found himself between Amabel and the man who had just left was of too threatening a nature for him to dwell upon any thought save how to avoid the doom menacing him. Hiding himself in his room, he sought a way of escape. But one presented itself. It was a cowardly one, but anything was better than to stand his ground against two such merciless antagonists as had arisen in his path. So he resolved upon flight.
Packing up a few necessities and writing a letter, which he left on his table to be given to his father in the morning, he made his way down the stairs of the now darkened house to a door opening upon the garden. To his astonishment he found it unlocked, but giving little heed to this in his excitement he opened it with caution and, with a parting sigh for the sheltering home he was about to leave forever, stepped from the house he no longer felt worthy to inhabit.
His intention was to take the train at Porchester, and that he might reach that place without inconvenient encounters he had decided to make use as far as possible of the path through the fields. This led him north and along the ridge that overlooks the road running around the base of the hills.
But he did not think of this or indeed of anything but to step on quickly, for it was too desirable for him to leave on the early morning train for him to forfeit this chance of doing this by any unnecessary lagging. But he was not destined to take that or any other train out of Porchester at present, for when he reached the fence dividing Mr. Sutherland's grounds from those of his adjoining neighbor he saw drawn up in the moonlight just at the point where he had intended to leap the fence the form of a woman with one hand held out to stop him. It was Amabel.



"Where have you hidden my money?" he asked.

not avail against the softness of this snave yet merciless being. Only a will as strong as her own could hope to cope with this smiling fury, whom he was more than ever determined never to marry.
"A man does not need to wait long to miss his own," said he. "And if you have taken this money, which you do not deny, you have shown yourself very ungrateful, for danger lies close to the person holding the money than to the one you may vilify by your attacks. This you will find, Amabel, when you come to make use of the weapon with which you have thought to grieve yourself."
"But, but!" was her contemptuous reply. "Do you consider me a child? Do I look like a babbling infant, Frederick?"
Her face, which she had lifted to his in saying this, was so illumined, both by her smile, which was strangely enchanting for one so evil and by the moonlight, which so etherealized all it touched, that he had to think of that other purer, truer face he had left at the honeysuckle porch to keep down a last wild impulse toward her, which would have been his undoing, both in this world and the next, as he knew.
"Or, do I look simply like a woman?" she went on, seeing the impression she had made, "and understanding herself and you and all the secret perils of the game we are both playing? If I am a child, treat me as a child; but if I am a woman!"
"Stand out of my way!" he cried, catching up his valise and striding furiously by her. "Woman or child, you shall know that I will not be your plaything to be damned in this world and the next!"
"Are you bound for the city of destruction?" she laughed, not moving, but showing such confidence in her power to hold him back that he stopped in spite of himself. "If so, you are taking the direct road there and have only to hasten. But you had better remain in your father's house, even if you are something of a prisoner there in company with my very insignificant self. The outcome will be more satisfactory, even if you have to share it with me."
"And what course will you take," he asked, pausing with his hand on the fence, "if I choose destruction without you rather than perdition with you?"
"What course? Why, I shall tell Dr. Talbot just enough of what I know to prove you to be as desirable a witness in the impending inquest as myself. The result I leave to your judgment. But you will not drive me to this extremity. You will come back and—" "Woman, I will never come back. I shall have to dare your worst in two weeks, and I will begin by daring you now."
But he did not keep the fence, though he made a move to do so, for at that moment a party of men came hurrying by on the lower road, one of whom was heard to say:
"I will bet my head that we will put our hand on Agatha Webb's murderer tonight. The man who shoves \$20 bills around so heedlessly should not wear a beard so long it leads to detection."
It was the coroner, the constable, Knapp and Abel en route to the forest road on which lived John and James Zabel.
Frederick and Amabel confronted each other and after a moment's silence turned as if by a common impulse toward the house.
"What have they got in their heads?" queried she. "Whatever it is it may serve to occupy them till the two weeks of your probation have passed."
He did not answer. A new difficulty had entered his already overcrowded life.
Let us follow the party now winding up the hillside.
To be Continued.

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You don't have to wait for an answer

Mayoralty

To the Electorate of the City of Chatham
Ladies and gentlemen:
I am a candidate for mayor for 1901, and I respectfully ask for your vote and influence.
Faithfully yours,
W. E. McKEOUGH
Chatham, Ont., 19th Nov. 1900
SCHOOL TRUSTEE
To the Electors of Ward No. 2 Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am again a candidate for the office of School Trustee. Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited.
R. M. PAXTON.

ALDERMEN.
To the Electors of This City. Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am a candidate for alderman for this city for the year 1901, your vote and influence are respectfully solicited. Wishing you all the compliments of the season, I remain
Yours etc.
DAVID A. HUTCHISON.
To the Electors of the City of Chatham.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am a candidate for alderman for the coming year. I think my record in the council in the years 1896 and 1897 was such as to merit your approval. Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited.
E. A. MOUNTIER.

To the Electors of the City of Chatham.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am a candidate for re-election as alderman for the coming year, and if my past record merits with your approval, I shall be glad to have your vote and influence.
W. S. MARSHALL.
To the electors of the city of Chatham.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
At the request of a number of citizens, I have been induced to offer myself as a candidate for alderman for 1901. Your vote and influence I respectfully solicit.
Yours truly,
JOHN WADDELL,
Grain Merchant.
Dec. 21st, 1900.

To the Electors of Chatham. Ladies and Gentlemen:
Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited for my election as alderman for 1901.
Yours faithfully,
G. G. TAYLOR.
To the Electors of Chatham.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am a candidate for alderman for 1901 and if my past services has met with your approval I once more ask for your support. Thanking you for past favors I am,
Yours respectfully,
A. B. McCOIG.

To the Electors of Chatham. Ladies and Gentlemen:
At the urgent request of several representative citizens, I have consented to offer myself as a candidate for alderman for 1901.
I would like your support.
Yours, W. F. SMITH,
Barrister.

To the Electors.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
Having been requested by a number of citizens to offer myself for alderman, I have consented to become a candidate. If the electors do me the honor of electing me, I will try to the best of my ability to encourage economy in civic matters and to secure new factories for the city.
WILFRED M. FLEMING.

To the Electors of the City of Chatham.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
It is my intention to again offer my services as Alderman for 1901. I trust that my record as alderman during 1896 and 1897, and as chairman of the finance committee in the latter year is such as to entitle me to your confidence. If elected, I will, as before, strive to look after the city's interests to the best of my ability, and I respectfully solicit your support.
Yours faithfully,
S. B. ARNOLD.

Electors of Harwich and Blenheim
No. 5 Division—Believing that Harwich and Blenheim should both be represented at the County Council, C. L. Von Gunten respectfully asks your vote and influence for his re-election.
With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to all.
2wks
To the Electors of Harwich and Blenheim.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
At the request of a large number of the electors I have again consented to be a candidate for the office of county councillor. Your vote and influence would be thankfully received and, if elected, I promise you to faithfully discharge the duties of said office. My past record is the best guarantee of good work in the future.
JOHN VESTER.

To the Electors of the Township of Harwich.
Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am again offering myself as a candidate for the position of reeve for the coming year. I thank you for the splendid support you have given me in the past, and I trust that I may still retain your confidence, by an honest endeavor while in office to guard your interests, and if again elected I will put forth my very best efforts to guard your interests honestly and impartially. Thanking you for past favors and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, I am yours faithfully,
E. B. TOLLE.

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E. B. TOLLE.

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led into evil habits, suffering from the vices and errors of youth, and troubled with Nervous Debility, Loss of Memory, Rashness, Confusion of Ideas, Headache, Dizziness, No Ambition, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Dreams and Night Losses, Deposits in the Urine, Frequent Urination, sometimes accompanied with slight burning, Kidney Troubles, and Diseases of the Genito Urinary Organs can here find a safe, honest and speedy cure—Charges reasonable, especially to the poor. CURES GUARANTEED.
VARICOCELE and PILES, and KNOTTED VEINS of the Leg cured at once without operation. Doctors will deny this! But we are proving our claims every day. The method is simple, the cure is certain and permanent.
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Have you the seeds of any past disease working in your system? IMPOTENCY or Loss of Sexual Power, and do you contemplate MARRIAGE? Do you feel safe in taking this step? You can't afford to take any risk. Like father, like son. We have a never failing remedy that will purify the Blood and positively bring back Lost Power.
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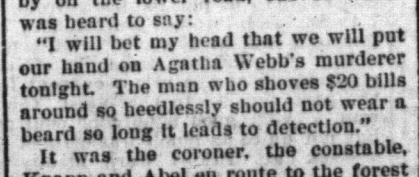
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