

of cannon far out at sea broke the stillness of the summer night. Wrecked houses, whose broken chimneys showed against the sky, told their tale of the ever-present horror. Elspeth closed her eyes. She saw the busy Flemish and Dutch trading boats in the busy canals, the long-necked, snowy swans floating in the water. Leaf-trees scattered the moon-beams on the polished paving-stones in showers of silver. Now the trees are gone. And she thought of the gay band-concerts in the Grande Place to which their father often took them. She and Marianne would choose alternately which café they preferred to patronize. She herself always chose the one on the corner. There the pink grenadier was a little sweeter, the straws a little longer, and one could see the Belfry. She could not remember the time when the Belfry had not been a sight which was a joy to her. As the evenings advanced, all the little children fell asleep, each in its own chair, until the end of the concert made it necessary for sleepy eyes to guide stumbling little feet over the stone-paved streets to bed.

All that was over now. Never again could Elspeth think of the Grande Place without a shudder. Would Carl never come? She sat down on the stone fence at the edge of the canal. The sentry watched her as he ate his sandwich.

Presently a footfall sounded on the bridge, and Elspeth saw Carl crossing the canal. She waited for him where she sat, for she had given her word to the sentry. Carl's heavy boots rang out each step on the smooth stones of the street, and presently he clasped her in his arms.

"Dear little girl," he said, "I have got to fly with orders to another town to-morrow. I want you to marry me, Elspeth, before I go." He held her closely to him.

"You are going to be in danger," she whispered, "Oh, Carl!"

"We are all of us in danger all the

time. But you particularly are not safe here . . . even with my Uncle," he added.

Elspeth clasped both his hands in hers.

"Give me a revolver, then," she said.

"I cannot, dear. If it were found in your possession you would be unmercifully punished. But I will leave one of mine in the desk in my room. If it were not that I am glad that I am here to save you and to learn to love you as I do, I could wish that I had remained in America. I don't like some orders I received to-day." He held her more tightly as he spoke.

"Carl, dear," Elspeth began. "Now you are feeling as I have been sure you would one day." She lowered her voice. "Won't you consent to becoming an American citizen when the war is over, and never, never go back to Germany again?"

"Dear heart, it is hard to promise what one may do, if the world survives. I am sworn into the German Army for the present anyway. You know, I only happened to be in Germany on business when the war broke out. I have never known England and the English, and jumped for the love of adventure, into what everyone in Germany believed would be a six weeks' war. Lots of men from neutral countries did the same. I never expected to have to give orders for bayonetting civilians."

Elspeth shuddered, and Carl kissed her.

"You never seem German, you can't be German," she whispered.

"We are not all bad. Come, dear, I have to report to my Uncle, as I leave before morning," he answered.

Next day, Elspeth heard in the early dawn, the whirr of Carl's aeroplane. He had had his hangar built in the open field behind Madame Cortlandt's chicken-yard. As soon as the girl was free of her duties in the house, she obtained the necessary permit to work in the hospital. After