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The Mystery of Agatha Webb.

By Anna Katharine Green. Author of "The Leavenworth Case," "Lost Man's Lane," "Hand and Ring," Etc., Etc.

Copyright, 1900, by Anna Katharine Green.

"I do not know whether to regard ber as the victim of her husband's imbecility or of some vile robber's cupidity. Can you find the key to the other drawer?"

"I will try." "Suppose you begin, then, by looking



The perfect serenity of her countenance struck him. pocket, if no marauder has been here." "It is not in her pocket."

"Hanging to her neck, then, by "No; there is a locket here, but no

key. A very handsome locket, Mr. Sutherland, with"-"Never mind, we will see that later; It is the key we want just now."

"Good heavens!" "What is it?" "It is in her hand; the one that lies nderneath."

"Ah! A point, Fenton." "A great point." "Stand by her, Fenton. Don't let any one rob her of that key till the coroner comes and we are at liberty to take

"I will not leave her for an instant." "Meanwhile, I will put back these He had scarcely done so when a

fresh arrival occurred. It was one of the village clergymen.

CHAPTER IV.

A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN. This gentleman has some infor mation to give. As he was returning home from the bedside of a sick palish loner-some little time before he la been run against on this very cer by a man rushing out of the gateway in a state of great agitation. This man held something in his hand that glit



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tered, and, though the encounter near Mr. Fenton who spoke. "She's crazier

than Philemon, it seems to me."

There was some reason for this re-

middle of the yard, like one on watch.

The bood which she had dropped from

her head when she thought her eyes

and smile might be of use to ber in the

furtherance of her plans had been

drawn over it again, so that she looked

more like a statue in gray than a liv-

ing, breathing woman. Yet there was

menace in her attitude and a purpose

in the solitary stand she took in that

circle of board girded grass which

caused a thrill in the breast of those

who looked at her from that chamber

"A mysterious young woman," mut-

"And one that I neither countenance nor understand." interpolated Mr.

The coroner gave him a quick look

seemed about to speak, but changed

CHAPTER Y.

BLOOD ON THE GRASS.

The inquiries which followed elicit

unlocked, and, secondly, that the con-

Then, his attention being drawn

"Where does this key belong?" h

been taken. That key she holds should

"Then let it be made use of at once.

It is important that we should know

whether theft has been committed here

as well as murder," And drawing the

the drawer and brought it and its con-

nounced the doctor. "See, here ar

deeds and more than one valuable

bond. I judge that she was a richer

has been robbed of her ready money.

It was doubtless in the other drawer.

"How came she by the key, then?"

"Oh, yes, Batsy! I had forgotten

"She had heart disease, I doctored

"The look of her face confirmed

To be ContinueL

TAKING ITIE HEINS.

Johnny Agan, 2:051/4, is one of the fast-

Harry O, 2:06%, is the only horse, trotter or pacer, that has started and won

money at every grand circuit meeting

Mazette, 2:071/4, who was distanced in

the first heat of the 2:08 pace at Hart-ford in 2:07%, is said to have worked the

Sir Alcantara, 2:10, over the half mile

1900. Oscar L. 2:681/4. was the first.

track there in 2:04% later.

ly, taking a record of 2:25%.

mare, is trotting halves in 1:10.

her for it. The fright has killed her."

key out he handed it to Mr. Fenton.

"No money here," said he.

woman than any of us knew."

the now empty drawer.

find it full of mysteries"

"Batsy's death, for instance?"

that she was found dead too."

"Without a wound, doctor."

Batsy's removal to the bed.

open both these drawers,"

tents to the table.

sked.

cupboard.

key in her tightly closed hand.

of death.

tered the minister.

ly upset them both, he had not stopped to utter an apology, but stumbled away into the darkness, in a dazed and feeble way, showing that he was neither young nor active. The minister had not been able to see his face, but noticed the ends of a long beard blowing over his shoulder as he hurried

Asked if he could give the time of his encounter, he replied that it was after 11 and before 12, for he was in his own "Did you look up at these windows

before leaving?" asked Mr. Fenton,

for this interview had taken place in the presence of the dead. "I must have, for I now remember they were both lighted."

"Were the shades up?" "I think not, or I should have noticed the ceiling of the room. I remember seeing nothing."

"How were the shades when you proke into the house this morning?" inquired Mr. Sutherland of the constable. "Just as they are now; we have mov-

ed nothing. The shades were both down-one of them over an open win-"Well, we may find this encounter

of Mr. Crane's of decided importance." "I wish I had seen the man's face," remarked the latter. "What did the object look like you saw glittering in his hand?"

"I should not like to venture an opinion. I saw it but an instant." "Could it have been a knife or an old fashioned dagger?"

"It might have been." "Alas, poor Agatha! That money, something she so despised, should cause the death of a creature so grand and simple! Unhappy life, unhappy death! Fenton, I shall always mourn for Agatha Webb."

"Yet she seems to have found peace at last," said the minister. "I have never seen her look so contented." Then leading Mr. Sutherland aside he whispered; "What is it you say about money? Had she any considerable amount of it? I ask because in spite of their humble means of living she always put a generous donation on the plate, and I have received more than once during my pastorate an unexpectedly large and anonymous contribution for certain charities. As it was always for sick or suffering children I"-

"Yes, yes. I have no doubt it came from her. She was by no means poor, though I myself never knew the extent of her means till lately. Philemon was a good business man once, but they evidently preferred to live simply, having no children living"-"They have lost six, I have been

told." "So the Porchester folks say. They probably had no heart for display or for even the simplest luxuries. At all events they did not indulge in them."

"Philemon has long been past indulg-ing in anything." "Oh, he likes his comfort, and he has had it too. Agatha never stinted him." "But why do you think her death was due to her having money?"

"She had a large sum in the house and there are some who knew this."

"And is it gone?" "That we shall know later."

As the coroner arrived at this moment the minister's curlosity had to wait. Fortunately for his equanimity no one had the presumption to ask him to leave the room.

The coroner was a man of but few words and but little given to emotion. Yet they were surprised at his first

"Who is the young woman who is standing outside there, the only one in the vard?" Mr. Sutherland, moving rapidly to

the window, drew aside the shade. "It is Miss Page, my housekeeper's niece," he explained. "I do not understand her interest in this affair. She followed me here from the house and could hardly be got to leave this room, into which she intruded herself against my express command."

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ONE LESSON ENOUGH,

THE STORY OF AN ENGINEER WHO SLEPT WHILE ON DUTY.

Turilling Ride the End of Which Wreck and Awful Loss of Life-Narrow and Lucky Escape.

"There is something about railroading that conduces to sleep. It may be the ramble that causes drowsiness, it may be the long hours on duty, but in many cases, in my judgment, it is the failure of the employees to secure needed rest when they have the opportunity. During my 20 years' experience as a driver of the iron horse I knew of hundreds of severe wrecks due entirely to some one being 'asleep on the post of duty.' Even the responsibility imposed on the man would not have the effect of causing him mark. Guarded by the high fence from the gaze of the pushing crowd without. she stood upright and immovable in the

to keep awake.' The speaker was one of the oldest railroad engineers in the country, who, after 20 years in charge of the throttle of a other pursuits not so dangerous or excit-ing. A question or two about the old times put the ex-railroader in a talkative mood, and he continued:

"But once in my railroad career did I turn my engine over to my fireman and go back to the caboose for a little rest, and the narrow escape that I then had from a severe wreck and the killing and wounding of hundreds of sleeping passer gers taught me a lesson that was never forgotten. The incident occurred in Illi-nois in February, 1879. At that time I was running an engine pulling a fast freight on the Illinois Central railroad. My fireman was a young man whom I had instructed in all that he knew about Sutherland. "I have just shown her the displeasure I feel at her actions by dismissing her from my house." railroading. My health was not of the best at that time, as I had been an annual victim of the ague that pervades southern Illinois, and my system was shattered from the 'shakes.' In addition his mind and turned toward the dead there was some sickness among the mem bers of my family, with the result that my nights at home would be broken up in looking after the comfort of the loved ones. Business on the railroad was brisk, and there was a beavy passenger traffic due to the annual Mardi Gras celebration ed one or two new facts. First, that

in New Orleans. all the doors of the house were found "On the night in question my train was running south. I had a 51/2 foot stable had been among the first to Rogers engine and was hauling 40 load-come in, so that he could vouch that ed cars. Afong about 10 o'clock I found that I could hardly keep my eyes open no disarrangement had been made in The road ahead of me was clear of trains for an hour or more. About the only thing of importance in view was to meet the rooms with the exception of and pass the Chicago express at Makan-da, which was 24 miles away. I then the dead woman, he discovered the yielded to temptation. Placing my fire-man in charge of the throttle, with the head brakeman to do the firing, I went back to the caboose to secure a little I should not have taken this step if I had not reposed every confidence in my fire-They showed him the drawers in the man, and I believed that he was thor-"One is empty," said Mr. Sutherland. oughly competent to run the engine. If the other is found to be in the same condition, then her money has

"How long I slept I do not know, but swoke with the premonition that something was wrong. As I regained my senses I realized by the swaying of the train that it was running much faster than it would have been had I been in charge of the throttle. There was a heavy down grade for five miles to the point where I was to meet the express, and my first thought was that we had struck the grade and gained the impetus. "Springing to my feet, I hurried out the front door of the caboose and climb-

The constable immediately unlocked ed to the top of the first freight car. The sight that met my eyes nearly paralyzed "But papers as good as money," anlight of the heavily feaded express train waiting at Makanda for my train to take the sidetrack and permit it to pass How I got over that train to my engine

Mr. Sutherland meantime was look-I hardly know. But I did.

"Jumping down on the tender, I sprang into the cab, shut off the throttle ing with an air of disappointment into "Just as I feared," said he. "She and took other means to reduce the momentum. I glanced at my fireman. He was sound asleep on the seat. The head brakeman kept him company on the other side. I realized that it was utterly "That is one of the mysteries of the in social to stop the speed of the train, and I had visions of the awful wreck that would follow. My engine was makaffair. This murder is by no means a simple one. I begin to think we shall ing 45 miles an hour, being propelled by the heavily taden cars in the rear, and certain destruction seemed to face the express and the hundreds of sleeping

"As the rules required that I should stop and, after the head brakeman had opened the switch, should pull by the passenger train there seemed to be no way to avert the disaster. All these thoughts flew through my brain in a twinkling, and as I expected to meet death at my post I wondered who would care for my two boys who would become

orphans. "Fortunately the siding was a short one, and that fact, coupled with my reputation as a careful engineer, prevented the disaster at the critical moment and saved the lives of many. The engineer of the passenger train divined from the of the passenger train divined from the rumble made by my train that something unusual had happened. He told me afterward that he knew I would not have approached that meeting place at such a rate of speed if everything was all right. "When my train was about 300 yards from the express, I saw a man run from the express of the express and throw the

track at Pontiac, ills., the other day, is Alcantara's second new 2:10 pacer for Now that Ace, 2:65¼, was the first.

Now that Ace, 2:65¼, is dead, Free Bond, 2:06¼, is the fastest pacer owned in Canada and, according to one critic, the "handsomest road horse in the world."

The 5-year-old chestnut stallion Jeffers, son of Allerton, 2:09¼, and Ellores, 2:08¼, wen the 2:35 fret over the half the engine of the express and throw the switch for me. At the same time I could see by the swinging of a lantern in the rear of the express that the switch at the other end of the siding had also been opened. The disaster had been averted. My train dashed on to the sidetrack, past 2:08%, won the 2:35 trot over the half mile track at Middletown, N. Y., recentthe express and then out on the main track again at the rate of 35 miles an hour, and I could not bring it to a stand-It is said that a 3-year-old filly in Frank Jackson's stable at Belmont park, Philadelphia, by Willard, a son of Wilton, 2:194, and out of a thoroughbred still until I was more than two miles past

the station.
"You can imagine the effect upon the Attantic King, 2:09%, has the honor of being the sire of the two fastest horses racing this season by one stallion. These are the grand circuit pacing stars Frank Bogash, 2:03%, and Harry O, 2:06%.

"You can imagine the effect upon the express if the engineer had not acted as he did. It is needless for me to add that during the remainder of my career on the rail I never left my engine again in charge of that fireman or any other fireman. One such lesson was enough for me.

"Naturally my fireman was much chagrined over his act, but I never had confidence in him afterward. He had been tried in the balance and found wanting. A few years later he was promoted to be an engineer and had been running his engine but a short time when it exploded, tilling him, his fireman and a brakeman." Jockey J. Morgan, the half breed Indian who rode some years ago for Marcus Daly, is now riding in Austria, and in a recent cablegram states he has secured a good engagement with an Austrian stable. When H. K. Devereaux drove John A. McKerron in 2:00½ to wagon at the Cleveland matinee Sept. 8, the quarters were trotted in 32½, 32½, 32½ and 32½ seconds respectively, a remarkable piector statement of matine.

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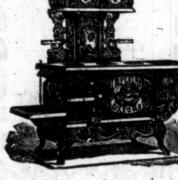
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