

## The Breaking Point

By Mary Roberts Rinehart

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(Continued From Yesterday.)

The contempt in Dick's voice whipped the color to Gregory's face and clenched his fist. But he relaxed in a moment and laughed.

"Don't worry, Bassett," he said, his eyes on Dick. "We haven't any reason to like each other, but he's bigger than I am. I won't hit him." Then he hardened his voice. "But I'll remind you, Clark, that personally I don't give a damn whether you swing or not. Also that I can keep my mouth shut, walk out of here, and have you in the next hour, if I decide to."

"But you won't," Bassett said smoothly. "You won't any more than you did it last spring, when you sent that little letter of yours to David Livingston."

"No. You're right. I won't. But if I tell you what I came here to say, Bassett, get this straight: It's not because I'm afraid of you, or of him, Donaldson's dead. What value would Melis's testimony have after ten years, if you put him on the stand? It's not that. It's because you'll put your blundering foot into it and ruin her career, unless I tell you the truth."

It was to Bassett then that he told his story, he and Bassett sitting, Dick standing with his elbow on the mantel-

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What you must have is real bran—KELLOGG'S BRAN, and if you will eat it regularly each day you will become a different person within a week or so. Kellogg's Bran, with its natural bulk, sweeps, cleanses and

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**Forhan's**  
FOR THE GUMS  
More than a tooth paste  
—it checks Pyorrhea  
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way you look at it, and he had a rotten deal. Sometimes a man goes," he added, with a wry smile, "and the other fellow reaps."

Bassett went out after that, going to the office on the chance of a letter from Melis, but there was none. When he came back he found Dick standing over a partially packed suitcase, and knew that they had come to the end of the road indeed.

"What's the next step?" he asked bluntly.

"I'll have to leave here. It's too expensive."

"And after that, what?"

"I'll get a job, I suppose a man is as well hidden here as anywhere. I can grow a beard—that's the usual thing, isn't it?"

Bassett made an impatient gesture, and fell to pacing the floor. "It's incredible," he said. "It's monstrous. It's a joke. Here you are, without a thing against you, and hung like Mahomet's coffin, between heaven and earth. It makes me sick."

He went home that night, leaving word to have any letter for L. 22 forwarded, but without much hope. His last clutch of Dick's hand had a sort of desperate finality in it, and he carried with him most of the way home the tall, grave and patiently courageous figure that saw him off with a smile.

By the next afternoon's mail he received a note from New York, with a few words of comment pencilled on it in Dick's writing. "This came this evening. I sent back the money. D."

The note was from Gregory and had evidently enclosed a one-hundred dollar bill. It began without superscription: "Enclosed find a hundred dollars, as I imagine funds may be short. If I want home I'd get out of here. There has been considerable excitement and you know too many people in this burg."

Bassett sat back in his chair and studied the note.

"Now why the devil did he do that?" he reflected. He sat for some time, thinking deeply, and he came to one important conclusion. The story Gregory had told was the one which was absolutely calculated to shut off all further inquiry. They had had ten years; ten years to plan, eliminate and construct; ten years to prepare their defense, in case Clark turned up. Wasn't that why Gregory had been so

## MAGIC BAKING POWDER



or she would have had nothing to fear. He wrote out on a bit of paper three names, and sat looking at them: *Hattie Thorwald, Jean Melis, Clifton Hines.* (To be Continued)

## What rest equals this—to sleep—and not to know it?

There is a way to put even your dreams to sleep—yet you do not know the way. Doubtless you are paying the toll of indifference to your sleep equipment.

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The "Banner" and all other Simmons springs are economical because they last. They do not sag or break down with use. They keep their life and resiliency for many years. Like Simmons beds and mattresses, they are priced to fit any pocketbook.

Look for the Simmons Label. Beware of imitations

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Doctors approve because Fleet Foot are healthful and allow the growing feet to develop naturally.

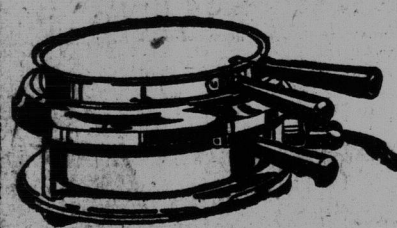
Mothers and daddies approve because Fleet Foot wear so well and cost so little.

Kiddies approve because Fleet Foot are so light and comfortable. So Fleet Foot shoes make everybody happy.

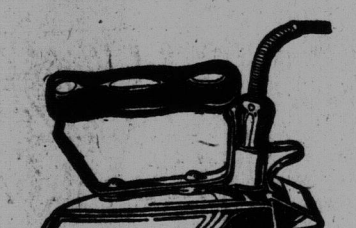
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Fleet Foot was originated and is made only by the Dominion Rubber System. The name Fleet Foot is on every pair. It is your guarantee of quality and value.

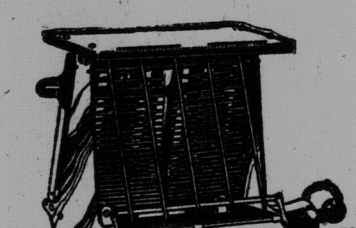
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You won't scorch your fingers when you make toast on our new Reversible Toaster. You don't touch the toast to turn it. And the rack holds the toast flat, so that it toasts evenly all over. It is a very handsome toaster, too.

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