



## House of Windows

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sides you are a sick man yet, and these people are dangerous. If it came to a struggle, what chance would you have?"

Mark slipped a serviceable pistol out of his pocket. "I'm a dead shot," he said cheerfully. "I wouldn't need to commit murder in order to effectually disable any undesirable opponent. And I feel quite sure that they will not be on their guard against me. I am known to be a sort of useless fellow, and I have been back from Europe for such a short time—most of which I spent in Vancouver—that it is ten to one against their knowing me by sight. Besides—well, the other is a sentimental reason."

"Let's have it anyway."

"Well, you see, the one ride Miss Christine and I took together was along that very road and to that very inn. I showed her a way to make the motor horn, which is out of order, scream like a banshee. If she is anywhere in that a banshee. If she is anywhere in that inn she would remember the sound of it, I am sure. That would put her on the watch for some way to help us. She would recognize my voice also if I could get within hearing distance—and," bluntly, "I do not think that any one of you (except the governor, whom they know by sight), could possibly have the thing at heart quite as I have."

"Think we might fall down on the job, do you?" grinned the big detective. "But there may be something in what you say. Only there must be modification of the plan. You do not realize how desperate these people will be. Now, how long do you think you will need to convince yourself whether or not the girl is in the house?"

"A half an hour—twenty minutes ought to do it."

"It would certainly give the thing

"It would certainly give the thing away if you loafed longer than that. Well, then, in twenty minutes a second auto will be on hand, and on it will be reinforcements. Mr. Torrance, Mr. Runns Cunningham and myself. We Burns, Cunningham and myself.



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