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A Desperate Play

By S. S. PEACH

Tired with her long journey and a bit disgusted with her errand, Jean Gifford descended from the dingy coach and found herself standing on the platform of a small country station, dimly lighted, gloomy with the night. "What a crazy way to be married!" she exclaimed to herself. "I hope there is some one here to meet me." She turned sharply. "I demand to be taken back! I do not know this place!" The Welch cottage, so I was told, is near the lake. The guide caught her in a strong grasp. "Young lady, you come with me!" His gentleness was gone. At first she thought of struggling; then she went obediently up the path. One of them opened the door and pushed her in. She found herself in a living room, decorated with heads of captured game. A woman was busy at a table. "Well, we landed her!" her guardian said, smiling. "I guess that wedding will not be pulled off!" Jean turned. "Oh, I see—I am not at the Welch cottage?" she cried. The man smiled. "No, it is not. You might as well know how we worked it. Mr. Sabin learned of the marriage at the Welch cottage, and we just stepped in. Your father is on the way to get you, and your sweetheart will have to pick another date." She looked at him. "So Mr. Sabin does not want me to marry unless I marry him, and father is coming to make me marry some one else. Is that it?" "You bet!" She laughed. "Probably Mr. Sabin owns this cottage or hired it. Is he here?" "He will be—guess he's coming now." The door opened and a tall, thin-faced man entered. "How do you do, Mr. Sabin?" she said, smiling. He turned to the watching, grinning man and stammered: "This isn't the girl. What is—?" "But—!" one of the men said with astonishment. Jean leaned back and laughed heartily. "I am not. I was to be a friend at the wedding—a bridesmaid. I came ahead to get a few things ready. Your information was incorrect; and by the way, I guess the wedding is over by this time." She looked at her watch and held it out for inspection.



He Stopped Short and Stared at Her. "But I am going to the Welch cottage and I understood we went directly there by car," she said wonderingly. "We can make it quicker by motorboat, miss," was the answer. Her suspicion allayed, she went to the shore and found a motorboat waiting, and in it another man. Her fear returned, but a friendly greeting disarmed her.

She was carefully handed to a seat and the boat started off with motor humming softly. As they glided along, the dark shores sliding by in a twinkling, she heard the faint, far sound of an automobile.

"I supposed this was an almost deserted country," she said to the man across from her, "but that sounds like a car." He started and listened, and at the same time, so it seemed to her, the boat went ahead at a faster pace. "Well, there are a few cars around here—not many, though," the man answered. "We use more boats than cars in this country. I can't imagine who that is."

Before them lay the silvery expanse of the lake; on the right the dark masses of the woods. Something made her shiver—she did not know what, but decided bravely that it must be the dampness rising from the cold lake.

The moon rose over the hills; its light brought clearly into view the men and she saw, for the first time, who were her companions. Both were dressed in the rough garb of the northern woodsman or guide. She began to be puzzled and worried.

"Where are you taking me?" she asked. The man opposite her stirred. "Don't be worried, miss. We will take care of you," he said quietly. She thought she read a hidden meaning in his voice, even though he seemed to try to conceal it.

"Very well," she answered quickly; "but I want to know just where we are going. Are you headed for the Welch cottage?" "Pretty near there," he answered.

"I want to go there—not pretty near there!" she said sharply, rising. He caught her arm with a firm hand and drew her back. "You keep quiet. I promise you no harm will come to you," he said bluntly.

Cotton Gears. Cotton which has been put under hydraulic pressure of from 6,000 to 8,000 pounds and made into gears, produces an article superior to that made of steel. Softer than steel, the cotton wears under friction.

Our Gifts. As the Magi came bearing gifts, so do we also bear gifts that relieve want; gifts that are sweet and fragrant with friendship; gifts that breathe love; gifts that mean service; gifts inspired still by the star which shone over the City of David two thousand years ago.—Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Pizarro's Famous Voyage. December 23 is the anniversary of the fifth start of Pizarro, in 1530, from Panama for Peru. The daring voyager refused to give up his dream of finding gold in the Andean Kingdom. The success of his enterprise from a money standpoint astounded the world and resulted in the conquest of the Incas.

She sank back, her heart beginning to pound. Something was wrong, beyond a question. She saw the boat change its direction; starting across the lake, in entirely the wrong direction if her judgment was right. Not knowing what to do, she sat quiet, growing colder each moment, with something that was not the coolness of the mist about her. She did not know how many half hours passed before she saw the gleam of a light. Swiftly the boat drew inshore.

"Here we are, miss," her guardian said. Swiftly and tremblingly she rose. Aided by the men, she mounted the dock, and stared about her. The whole surroundings were strange to her—even the lights gleaming from a hunting cabin back in the woods did not seem friendly.

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She looked at her watch and held it out for inspection. King Khama. His Majesty Khama, the native king of Bechuanaland, an earnest supporter of prohibition, is reported to be greatly exercised over the recommendation of a government commission, in support of the sale of beer and light wine to the native population. If this recommendation is carried out, King Khama threatens to retaliate by withdrawing the native labor from the gold mines. Such a step would create a very acute labor situation in that country. It looks at present as if breweries and wineries would be obliged to seek some other outlet for their products. It might be well for them to try a more enlightening part of the world where such primitive ideas do not prevail.

Toast to Those Who Stayed. A hero had returned from Chateau Thierry. The day had been spent in excited greetings and matches of delayed news. At last the family was alone; just before dinner the father proposed a toast to the returned hero—the shining eyes of his sisters and his mother, as well as his father's proud smile rested upon the blanketed figure decorated with medals—with a gesture he stopped them.

"Oh, not to me, father, not to me," he cried, "but to the men that fell by my side."

The File Fish. The file fish captured off Land's End is a rare visitor to the English coast, the only previous specimens recorded having been caught so long ago as 1827. It belongs to a numerous and important family of the tropical seas, which are so-called because the first dorsal fin is studded up the front with small projections that resemble the scales of a file. Another peculiarity of these comelooking fish is the gunlock spine, the principle of which was adopted for the earliest safety-razor locks.

Monument to Punch. Men have been honored and women have been honored for their services in war by having statues erected as testimony to their worth. There have been monuments even to animals. But now it is proposed to put up a monument in publication, and a humorous one at that. This probably is unprecedented.

The publication to receive this distinction is Punch, without which it is not quite clear how the Britishers could get along.

Went Right Ahead. "Did you ever run into a telegraph pole?" inquired a lady of a taxi driver. "Yes, ma'am; I've bumped into telegraph poles several times." "Brings you to a sudden stop, doesn't it?" "No, ma'am; the machine stops all right, but I and my fare always keep on going ahead, mostly in the air. Must go somewhere, you know, ma'am!"

Old Rivers and New. Henry praised to me one of the members of an old-established, calm, well-behaved river, as perfectly distinguished from those of a new river. A new river is a torrent; an old one slow and steadily supplied. What happens in any part of the old river relates to what befalls in every other part of it. "Is full of compensations, resources and reserve funds," Emerson's Journal.

Needs Less Food. A few minutes a day in an electric cage giving frequency waves enables a man to get along with less food, according to a Paris scientist.

Armageddon. Armageddon, mentioned in Revelation 16:16, was the plain of Esdraelon, the scene of Israel's victories, and hence the term is used to signify the scene of a momentous test of any kind, especially of a decisive battle. It was used by the Progressive national convention in 1912, and has been frequently used in connection with the war.

"Drink-House Sam—Singapore—Him Know"

That was all that Wallen could get from the native Chinaman before the breath of life left his body—the last of the officers and crew but him, all of whom had died on that plague-ridden ship. Who was Drink-House Sam? What did he know?

The Impostor

Mystery, romance and adventure are combined in this story of the far East in a way that makes every installment entertaining and enjoyable. It is the new serial we have selected and the first installment will appear in an early issue.

Watch For It!
Read It!

MICKIE SAYS

YESSIR, WE SENT YOU A STATEMENT—SURE! WE KNOW YER GOOD FER IT AN' INTEND TO PAY—THE FIRMS WE BUY OUR PAPES AN' INK FROM KNOW WE'RE GOOD, BUT WE GOT TO PAY 'EM EVERY THIRTY ER SIXTY DAYS JEST THE SAME, SO WE GOTTA OIT OUR MONEY WHEN ITS DUE TOD, ER WE CAN'T PAY OUR BILLS, SEE!



SCOUTS AS HEALTH AGENTS.

To make the boy scouts a part of the St. Paul health inspection force is planned by Dr. B. F. Simon, chief city health officer. Doctor Simon thinks the boys will be glad to be enrolled in the service and have the duty of reporting to the department any violations of city health regulations. When a boy scout finds that one of his neighbors is maintaining a nuisance that is menacing the health of the neighborhood, he will be expected to report this to the health office. Then an investigation will be made by a regular inspector.

BOY SCOUT DOINGS.

In Detroit a group of boy scouts cared for a farmer's herd of cattle for a week so as to enable him to attend the bedside of a near relative. Due to a large measure to the work of boy scouts, Hawaii has gone \$25,000 over the top in the War Savings campaign. "The boy scouts were a tremendous factor in accomplishing this record," writes Robert W. Shingle, territorial director. Scouting is booming in this territory, not only on Oahu, but throughout the islands.

Come to Think of It, It Is. "It's better," said Uncle Eben, "to go up like a skyrocket and come down like a stick than to be 'er plain stick all de time."



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References: The Continental Trust Company and mercantile agencies, 6-14-6m.

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