

The Fighting Hope

Novelized by
VIRGINIA LEILA WENTZ

CHAPTER VII.
THE BURNED LETTER.

THE picture of Robert, her husband, came up before her vividly. Robert, the gentle little man who always failed; what a difference between his case and the case of this other, the man who had set him there behind bars! And she had been listening to this Temple! She had been stirred and moved by him! Oh, it was shameful—shameful!



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But, thank God, that telephone bell had rung in time to save her. She could still be the tigress for duty's sake; she could spy upon him and watch a little longer.

Temple's changed manner when he had hung up the receiver with a bang assisted her materially. It was no longer the prince that she saw. It was a fighter, bitter, determined. Every one who knew him knew what it meant when his lips met in that hard, straight line; when that red gleam lay level in his eyes.

"Well, Miss Dale," he said abruptly, "you'll have a chance to see now whether or not I am a thief. They're going to put me in the dock, confront me with that dirty little scoundrel Granger, set my record for honor and honesty in the balance against the word of a thief, make me face that liar Brady."

"When—when will they do this?" the woman asked. Her voice was strangely hard, metallic, but in his agitation Temple did not notice it.

"I don't know, but it can't be long delayed. And to think that's what she'll be coming home to, my blessed little mother!" His eyes involuntarily sought the portrait over the mantel.

"Can a man work, slave, struggle uprightly all his life long, for no other reward than this? Because a sneaking little thief lies about me must I go down to a prisoner's dock, for the time being disgraced, to fight, a felon in the public eye, for the honor I have never tarnished?"

Craven swept in like a veritable whirlwind. His eyes were scintillating, his teeth smiling.

"I've just been indicted, Craven," said Temple before the elder man could speak.

"Indicted!" The lawyer laughed a sneering laugh of triumph. "Humph! Much we care now for an indictment. Come on, old boy, come on! Craven's outside, and he's got the goods!"

Temple crossed with the letter over to his safe, then paused.

"Hang my memory!" he said. "If I haven't forgotten the combination, as usual! Call Miss Dale."

When Anna Granger entered, calm, businesslike as ever, neither of the men got a hint of the way in which her nerves were tingling nor of the volcano of emotion raging back of those quiet gray eyes.

"Awfully sorry to disturb you again, Miss Dale, but, you see, once more that pesky combination's clean escaped me. We must look up this letter; it's of vital import."

She bowed, not trusting herself to speak, and walking over quietly, unlocked the safe. Temple put the letter in and locked the safe himself.

"We win, Miss Dale, we win!" he cried like a joyously excited boy. Then his voice became tender and grave.

"I'll get it for you, Robert," she said. "Will you mind waiting for me here? Come, Craven, Esterbrook's man is outside and we have to sign some papers to send down by him."

When the door had closed behind the men Anna stood for a second stock still, the pupils of her eyes blackening strangely. Of vital importance! Temple's words rang in her ears.

At first Robert's well known chirography danced so that she could not read his words, but all too soon the dancing stilled itself, and the words stared out in deadly lines of damning guilt.

From the Play by WILLIAM J. HURLBURT

NEGLIGEE STYLE.

Stunning Tea Coat Made of Flouncing.

and fought the physical duress bravely as they encroached upon its territory. The woman, her fingers scorched brown, held it until it fell away in charred, glossy scraps, watching it with a sort of charmed, awful interest.

With an effort she raised herself to her feet. The gaping doors of the opened safe stared at her. Mechanically she crossed over, closed them and locked the combination.

Then, inevitably, her eyes sought the fireplace. The mocking, dancing flames stung her like so many scorpion tongues. Was it wild fancy or was Cato really watching her with that dumb, awful reproach in his eyes?

"Hello! Yes. What's that you say? Esterbrook, the district attorney, wants me on the wire! All right. Tell him to step up here I am." And then to the district attorney.

"You want to see that Granger letter personally tonight? Yes, where? At your home. Very well. I'll fetch it down myself tonight. Goodby."

"Miss Dale," he said, turning to his secretary, "I think if you'll get me that letter out of the safe I'll take the next train for New York."

The room seemed to be darkening. She made a few steps toward the safe, tottered and fell upon the divan. With a long shudder that relaxed all her young limbs her senses left her.

"Poor little woman, she's been working too hard! I ought to have thought of that!" Temple rang the bell for Mrs. Mason.

"Mrs. Mason, is that you?" said Temple, without looking around. "Will you come here? Poor child, I'm afraid she needs your care."

Anna raised herself by an effort. Her first half conscious impulse was to throw herself into the arms of the woman standing by her. Then as she perceived Mrs. Mason clearly, as her reason came back and her gaze steadied, the impulse died.

velop them. It only shows a man what he already is. Temptation's a test, that's all.

"Why, you see he wasn't even man enough to come to me and tell me that he'd been tempted. Instead he must offer the plea of a martyr—fool me, trick me, lie to me. I can't stand a lying man!" Again she seemed to smell the sickening, cloying honey-suckles.

[To be Continued.]

Deep embroidery founcing was used for this attractive negligee jacket, revers of the embroidery, edged with lace, turning back to show a little vest of batiste and lace with a cravat of knotted pink ribbon. Lace insertion is used for belt and sleeve trimming.

Regular Habits. It is a good plan to have a regular time for reading. One accomplishes so much more in this way and besides establishes a kind of intellectual habit that is a good thing in itself.

Contrasting Hems Give Individuality. The deep border or hem, reaching anywhere from knee to hip, is a dominant style note of this season's frocks. This deep hem is becoming to the figure if adroitly proportioned, and only

the slenderest figure may wear the hem reaching clear to the hip, as in this frock of gray satin.

White Gaiters Are Worn. The woman who has pumps and does not wish to get high shoes until late in the winter can now use her cloth gaiters and be very much in style.

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Notary Public, Olympia, Washington. Between Women. "How exasperatingly clever she is!" "Yes, but how consolingly homely!"

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