

The Beautiful White Devil.

CHAPTER X RETRIBUTION.

I had seen nothing of Alie since I had said good night to her the previous evening, nor did I receive an invitation to visit her until breakfast had been over some time. Then Walworth entered my cabin.

"Her ladyship," he said, taking a seat on my locker, "has sent me to say that she would be glad to see you aft, if you could spare a few moments. Before you go I want to explain the situation to you. The matter on hand, as you may guess, is the case of that scoundrel Ebbington, and as he will be present she thinks it best that a little precaution should be observed."

"In what way do you mean?" I answered. "Of course I am ready to do anything she may wish, but I'd like to have my instructions clearly explained to me first."

"Well, I have been commissioned to inform you that she thinks it would be better in case of accident that Ebbington should suppose she has abducted you as well as himself. That is to say, instead of being her guest on board the schooner you are her prisoner. Do you understand?"

"Perfectly. She is afraid lest any harm should occur to me, when I leave her yacht, by reason of my association with her. It is like her thoughtfulness."

"Shall we go?"

I signified my assent, and we set off. When we reached Alie's cabin, we found her reclining on a couch at the farther end, the bulwark as usual at her feet. She held a packet of papers in her hand, which previous to our arrival, it was evident she had been perusing. At the other end, near the companion ladder, but on the starboard side, between two sailors stood the prisoner, Ebbington. He looked, as well he might, hopelessly miserable. He opened his eyes in astonishment when he saw me enter. I, however, crossed the cabin with Walworth and stood on the port side without letting him see that I recognized him. Then solemn silence fell upon us all for nearly a minute. While it lasted Alie sat with her chin on her hand, staring steadfastly at Ebbington. Under her gaze he lowered his eyes, and when I noticed that his fingers twitched convulsively over and round each other I could imagine the state of his mind. The fellow was plainly as frightened as it was possible for him to be. Then Alie lifted her head and spoke in a voice as soft as a kitten's purr.

"Mr. Ebbington," she said, "do you know me?"

He did not answer, but I saw the first finger and thumb of his right hand clutch at his trousers leg and hold it tight. That action was more significant than any words. Again she spoke:—"Mr. Ebbington," she said, "my honorable agent, ask you again do you know me?"

Once more he refused to answer.

"You seem undecided. Well, then, let me trespass upon your time and tell you a little story, which will perhaps help you to remember. You may listen, Dr. De Normanville, if you please. You must know, Mr. Ebbington, that once upon a time there was a woman who, for no fault of her own, found herself at enmity with the world. She had necessarily to be continually moving from place to place and to be always on her guard against betrayal. The better, therefore, to conduct her business she engaged a man to reside in a certain place and to supply her from time to time with certain important information. The man was poor; she made him rich. He had nothing; she gave him everything. He was despised; she made him honored. He was in trouble; she saved him, not once, but twice, and made him happy.

"You, Mr. Ebbington, who are such an honorable man, would think that that man would have been grateful, wouldn't you? Well, he pretended to be, and perhaps for a little time he really was. But his feelings soon underwent a change toward his benefactor. When he had money, he wanted more. He knew his employer's secret, and at last, as a brilliant finale, he resolved to trade upon it. Then what idea do you think came into that faithful servant's mind? You will never guess. Why, neither more nor less than the betrayal of his benefactor to her enemies. And for what reward, think you? Millions? A million? For half a million? A quarter? No, no! For the miserable sum of \$5,000. It seems incredible that a man could be so foolish and so base, doesn't it? But, nevertheless, it is true. Perhaps he thought the woman, having escaped so often, must inevitably be caught before long, and being a business man he remembered the old adage that 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.' At any rate, he went to the authorities—this noble, trustworthy, grateful man—and, like Judas, proffered his perjury for a price. But he was bargaining without his host—or hostess. For if he could be so clever the woman could be cleverer still. She was warned in time, and thereupon hatched a counterplot for his destruction. How well that plot has succeeded I don't think I need tell you, Mr. Ebbington. Dr. De Normanville, I am exceedingly sorry that you should have been drawn into it too. But under the circumstances you will see that it was quite impossible for me to leave you behind to give evidence against me. You need have no fear, however. If you will pass your solemn word to me that you will reveal nothing concerning me or my actions when you go back to civilization, I will trust you so far as to give you your freedom again, and on the first possible opportunity, do you think you can let me

have that promise?"

I saw the part I was expected to play and at once fell in with it. Affecting to take time to consider, I presently said:

"What can I do? I am in your hands entirely, and it would be worse than useless for me to resist. I will give you that promise, of course."

"Very good. Then I will let you go." To the men guarding Ebbington she gave an order in their own tongue, and they at once removed their prisoner. Then, turning to Walworth, she said:

"The mailboat is evidently in sight. Were your instructions explicit to the men on board her? Do you think they thoroughly understand what work they have to do?"

"Thoroughly," he answered. "I schooled them myself. There will be no bungling, you may rest assured. Matheson is in command, and he has never failed us yet."

"In what capacities did they ship?"

"Matheson as a missionary board for Shanghai, Calderman as a tourist for Nagasaki, Burns as a tea merchant for Fuchau, Alderney as a newspaper correspondent to the east generally, Braham as an American mill owner traveling home via Yokohama and San Francisco, Balder as an Indian civilian on furlough visiting Japan."

"Very good. And you instructions to them?"

"Will be rigidly carried out. As they come up with the yacht, after seeing our signal of distress, Matheson and Balder will make an excuse and get upon the bridge. Once there they will cover the officer of the watch with their revolvers and do the same for the skipper if he is there or directly he comes on deck. They will then compel him to leave to. Burns by this time will have taken his station at the first saloon companion ladder, Alderney doing the same at the second. Calderman will be at the engine room door and Braham at the forecastle. Then we shall send a boat and take off our man."

"That will do, Mr. Walworth. You have arranged it admirably, and I am sincerely obliged to you."

A flash of pleasure rose on the man's usually sallow cheek. He did not answer, however; only bowed and went on deck. Then Alie turned to me.

"Dr. De Normanville," she said, "I have not yet thanked you for your help in this last adventure. Without your assistance I don't know whether I could possibly have brought it to such a successful issue."

"You must not thank me," I answered. "Is it possible that you can imagine I would have let that scoundrel betray you? Alie, you know how much I— But there, I have given you my promise, so I must not say what I want to do."

She took my hand and looked into my face with a sweet smile that was very different from the one she had worn when she talked to Ebbington.

"Not yet," she said very softly. "Some day you shall say it as often as you please. In the meantime we must get to business. Will you come on deck and see this comedy played out or would you rather remain down here?"

"I should like to go on deck with you," she said.

When we emerged from the hatch, what a change was there. I looked and could hardly believe my eyes. Aloft, where only an hour before the two well staid masts had reared their graceful heads, now hung a raffle of broken timber and disordered cordage. Forward of the foremast the port bulwark was completely broken down, or appeared to be, while over the side from it hung another display of broken gear. In spite of the gay awning aft and the R. C. Y. S. burgee at the gaff end the Lone Star presented the appearance of a complete wreck. But the meaning of it all was what puzzled me. However, I had not very long to wait before I received enlightenment.

Alie had gone aft and was now leaning against the port bulwark watching with a glass the movements of a large steamer fast rising in the horizon. I strolled up just in time to hear her say to Walworth and the officer of the watch, who were both watching it:

"She is steering directly for us. Run up the English ensign to half mast, Mr. Patterson, and when you think she's near enough throw out more urgent signals for assistance."

Her orders were carefully obeyed, and before very long the vessel was near enough for us to distinguish her answering pennant. The wind had completely dropped by this time, and the sea was as smooth as glass.

When the vessel was scarcely more than two miles distant, Alie turned to her chief officer and said:

"I think she's close enough now. Tell her that we're going to send a boat."

While she was speaking a string of flags had broken out upon the mailboat. Walworth read them through the glass he held in his hand.

"She wants to know our name."

"Reply 'Yacht Sagittarius, owner Lord Melkard, from Rangun to Nagasaki.' He is one of the directors of the company, and that will induce them to give us their immediate attention, or I shall be very much surprised."

She was quite right, for no sooner had the message been deciphered than another went up.

"Again Walworth reported. This time it ran:

"Send your boat."

"Dispatch the boat," said Alie. Instantly Walworth and the tall man with the scar on his face, whose name I have said was Patterson, went forward, and within three minutes Alie's own gig was manned and overboard. Walworth, I noticed, was in command of her, so I took up the glass he had left upon the skylight and brought it to bear upon the mailboat, now less than a mile distant. She presented a handsome picture as she lay there, her great bulk riding upon the smooth water as securely as if it would be possible for her to defy the elements, whatever storm might

With the aid of the strong glass I was using I could plainly distinguish her, and from the scarcity of passengers on her decks it was evident that something unusual was occurring on board. Presently our boat got alongside and the gangway was lowered. A consultation seemed to be going on upon the bridge, and after a few moments a man was seen to ascend and descend the steps leading to it. Five minutes later two men passed down the gangway, and once more our boat put off to us.

When she had overcome about half the distance, I chanced to look forward. To my surprise the raffle, which a few moments before had been disfiguring the side, was gone, and even the bulwark itself had recovered its proper shade and comeliness. Moreover, the tarpaulin which had hitherto covered the center of the deck was being removed, and by the time the boat had completed three parts of the distance that separated us from the steamer a funnel had been uncovered and erected. The chief officer came aft.

"Is everything prepared, Mr. Patterson?" inquired Alie.

"Everything, madam," replied the officer, looking at the boat.

"Steam up?"

"It has been for the last five minutes."

"Very well then, pipe all hands to quarters and stand by to receive the boat when she comes alongside."

As she finished speaking the officer blew a whistle, and immediately the crew, who had hitherto been ordered to remain below, appeared on deck and placed themselves at their respective posts. Against the foremast I noticed a curious mechanical contrivance, the use of which at any other time I should have inquired. Now, however, there was a look upon Alie's face that warned me not to be too inquisitive.

At last the boat came alongside, the gangway was lowered, and a moment later Walworth, accompanied by a big, clumsily built man with a heavy, sensual face, small ferret eyes, a curled mustache and dark hair, appeared up the side. He seemed to wonder what was required of him, and it was evident that so far he had no idea into whose hands he had fallen. I glanced at Alie as he appeared on deck, to discover that she was regarding him out of half closed eyes, just as she had looked at Kwong Fung before she had ordered him off to execution and at Ebbington in the cabin half an hour before.

"Will you let me say that I am more than pleased to see you, Mr. Barkmansworth?" she said in her silkiest tone as he gained the deck. "It was only last month I heard that you were coming to China to take up your residence among us. It is my desire to offer you a warm welcome to the east, hence this reception in midocean. Mr. Walworth, will you be good enough to bring Mr. Ebbington to me?"

Walworth went below and presently returned with the prisoner.

"Mr. Ebbington," said Alie, as the man she addressed took his place beside the newly erected funnel, I have sent for you in order that you may see for yourself how I show my appreciation of those whom the world, to my thinking, does not properly reward. Mr. Barkmansworth, in whose presence you now stand, let me inform you that I am the woman you have so often expressed a desire to meet. I am she whom you boasted in Sydney a year ago you would flog when she fell into your hands as you flogged those unfortunate south sea islanders. In other words, Mr. Barkmansworth, I am the Beautiful White Devil."

Though he must have realized his position long before she had finished speaking, the unfortunate man now for the first time showed signs of fear. Indeed it is my opinion he would have fallen to the ground had not Walworth upheld him on one side, the cookswain of the boat which had brought him doing the same upon the other. Alie continued in the same quiet voice:

"Tell me, you, sir, have you anything to say which I should not treat you as you deserve? So far you have craftily managed to escape punishment from your own authorities, but you must see that cunning will not avail you here. If you have anything to say, say it quickly, for I cannot keep your boat waiting."

The wretched man took a step forward, and the eyes of all on board being upon him, tried to carry the matter off with a high hand.

"What business is it of yours what I do?" he asked.

"It is my business," Alie replied, "because you have threatened what you would do to me when you caught me and also because no one else will see justice done to you."

"You dare not punish me!" he cried. "You shall not! I warn you I am in high authority, and I'll exterminate you as I would a rat if you dare to lay a hand upon me."

"So you try to bluster, do you?" said Alie quietly. "Very good. In that case I need have no scruples at all in carrying out my plan. You flogged those poor women in Yakilavi and that man at Tuarani to death. I will be more merciful. But flogged you shall be. Men, do your duty!"

The words were hardly out of her mouth before four of her crew, who had evidently been instructed in the parts they were to play, sprang forward, seized him by his arms and legs and bore him swiftly from the gangway to the object whose use I had been wondering. Once there his feet were firmly secured, the upper part of his body was stripped to the skin, while, at a signal, a powerful native stepped forward from the crowd, carrying a cat o' nine tails in his hand.

"Lay on 12 lashes," said Alie sternly. The man had a broad white back, and the first cut raised its mark, the second put another alongside it, and by the time the 12 strokes had been administered the blood had begun to flow. After the first cut the wretched culprit no longer attempted to comport himself like a man. He struggled, whined and

finally bellowed outright. When the number was completed, the native paused and looked at Alie. Her face was turned away, but it was as hard as iron.

"You have so far had six lashes for each of the women you killed," she said. "Now you will have six more for the man you butchered and six more on top of them to teach you to respect myself and the name of woman. Go on!"

By this time the wretched man's pluck was entirely gone. He entreated to be let off, offering large sums of money, to be faithfully paid directly he got ashore, if she would only abate one lash. He might, however, as well have appealed to a stone. The second 12 were duly administered, and he was then cast loose. He fell in a heap on the deck and for some time refused to budge, but on being promised an additional half dozen if he did not do as he was ordered he soon found his feet and bolted down the gangway into the gig alongside, which immediately set off for the mail steamer.

Half an hour later the boat returned, bringing with her the men whose part it had been to insure the stoppage of the vessel and the capture of the passenger. Steam was up by this time, and within five minutes of raising the boat to the davits we were under way. In an hour we had lost sight of the mailboat and were making as straight a course as possible back to the settlement.

That evening I received an invitation from Alie to dine with her in her cabin, and as may be supposed I accepted it, but as the lady whom I had only known as Mrs. Beecher and who had been confined to her cabin by ill health ever since our leaving Singapore was present we only conversed on general topics during the progress of the meal. When, however, we sought the deck afterward alone and came to our favorite spot at the taffrail, Alie said:

"Up to the present you have seen a good many sides of my character, have you not? I hope among them they will not make you think too badly of me."

"Make me think badly of you, Alie?" I cried. "That would be impossible. What have I seen? Let me think. First, I have seen you collecting about you and befriending many of the world's unfortunates; second, I have seen you toiling

the officers' steward standing before me. "What on earth is the matter?" I asked, I'm afraid a trifle irritably. "What on earth are you making all this row about?"

"Something's very much the matter," Walworth answered, taking my arm and drawing me along the saloon. "Ebbington's taken poison."

"The deuce he has!" I cried. "Let me see him at once."

I was thereupon conducted to his cabin, which was on the port side of the vessel, at the farther end of the saloon. I found the patient stretched on his back in his bunk, holding an empty laudanum bottle in his hand.

One moment's examination showed me that life was extinct. He had been dead nearly an hour. In this fashion had Alie's difficulty been solved for her, and perhaps, all things considered, though it seems rather a cruel thing to say, in the best possible manner for all parties.

"There's no chance at all of saving him!" asked Walworth, who had been watching me intently during my examination.

"Not one," I answered. "Ebbington's gone where even the Beautiful White Devil's vengeance won't reach him. Poor devil! Fancy coming into the world for such a fate as this!"

"Humph! Frightened out of his senses, I expect. Well, now, I suppose I must go and tell her ladyship. I'm sorry, doctor, to have troubled you in vain."

"Don't mention it. I'm only sorry nothing could be done. Good night."

"Good night."

I drew the blanket over the face, and then, locking the door behind me, went back to my own cabin.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

ILLINOIS CENTRAL

Personally Conducted

Through Excursion Sleeper

—To—

CALIFORNIA.

Leaves Chicago every Friday at 11:15 p. m., crossing the State of Iowa every Saturday on the daylight train to Omaha. From Omaha the route is the Rock Island to Pueblo, the Denver & Rio Grande to Grand Junction, the Rio Grande Western to Ogden and the Southern Pacific to destination, arriving at San Francisco at 4:15 p. m. on Tuesday and Los Angeles 1:30 p. m. Wednesday. This route is the Scenic Line of the world, and the schedule is so arranged that all the grandest scenic features are passed by daylight, the most beautiful scenery of the Rocky, the Sierra Nevada and the Tehachapi mountain ranges, and such tourist points as Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Lail Lake City, Ogden and Sacramento.

The cars used in this service are modern Pullman excursion sleepers of the latest pattern. They have a Porter in attendance and are supplied with the same quality of linen and bedding as Standard Pullman cars. The rate per double berth is less than half that in Standard sleepers, second class tickets are accepted in these excursion cars. Each train is personally conducted the entire distance by a competent, uniformed special excursion agent, whose sole duty it is to look after the welfare of the patrons of the car.

A beautiful illustrated folder descriptive of the route, cars, etc., will be mailed free by the undersigned. Write for it. J. F. Merry, Asst. Gen'l Pass. Agt., I. C. Ry., Dubuque, Iowa.

Illinois Central.

OF INTEREST TO

STOCKHOLDERS.

Free Transportation to Attend the Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, at a meeting held July 18, 1900, adopted the following preamble and resolution:

Upon the recommendation of the president, the resolution adopted July 21, 1897, authorizing the free transportation of stockholders over the company's lines, to Chicago and return, at the time of the annual meeting of the stockholders, was reconsidered and amended so as to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that, until the further order of this board, there may be issued, to each holder of one or more shares of the capital stock of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, as registered on the books of the company a ticket enabling him, or her, to travel free over the company's lines from the station on the Illinois Central Railroad nearest to his or her registered address, to Chicago and return, for the purpose of attending, in person, the meetings of stockholders. Such ticket to be good for the journey to Chicago only during the four days immediately preceding, and the day of, the meeting and for the return journey from Chicago only on the day of the meeting and the four days immediately following, when properly countersigned and stamped during business hours—that is to say, between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m.—in the office of the assistant secretary, Mr. W. G. Bruen, in Chicago. Such ticket may be obtained by any registered holder of stock on application, in writing, to the president of the company in Chicago. Each application must state the full name and address of the stockholder exactly as given in his or her certificate of stock, together with the number and date of such certificate. No more than one person will be carried free in respect to any one holding of stock as registered on the books of the company.

By order of the board of directors,
A. G. HACKSTAFF,
Secretary.

The next annual meeting of the stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad Company will be held at the office of the company, in Chicago, on Wednesday, September 26, 1900, at noon. For the purpose of this meeting the stock transfer books will be closed from the close of business on Sept. 11 to the morning of Sept. 27.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

ATTORNEYS.

J. P. CONNER,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
DENISON, IOWA.
Ex-District Judge. Office over the Crawford County State Bank.

P. E. C. LALLY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
DENISON, IOWA.
Damage cases. Settlement of Estates. Office, front rooms over Crawford County State Bank.

W. M. McLENNAN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Denison, Iowa.
Office in the Goldheim Block.

I. V. JACKSON,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
DENISON, IOWA.
Money to loan on city and farm property at low rates. Optional payments.

JAMES B. BARRETT,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
DENISON, IOWA.
Room 1, First National Bank Building. Loans and Insurance.

PHYSICIANS.

L. L. BOND, M. D.
SURGEON AND PHYSICIAN.
DENISON, IOWA.
Office over Bank of Denison.

WM. ISEMINGER, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
DENISON, IOWA.
Calls attended day or night. Office upstairs over Burk's drug store.

C. H. BOLLES, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
DENISON, IOWA.
Homeopathic. Prompt response to professional calls. Office east of Wilson House.

W. W. HOLMES, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
DENISON, IOWA.
Office on Main street.

H. A. BOYLE, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
DENISON, IOWA.
Office in Cassaday's drug store.

WM. T. WRIGHT, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
DENISON, IOWA.
Office over Shaw & Kuehnle's Bank. Residence, two doors north of city hall.

DENTISTS.

J. C. ROBINSON, D. D. S.,
SURGEON DENTIST.
DENISON, IOWA.
From State University of Iowa, graduate from Northwestern University Dental College, Chicago, also from State Board of Dental Examiners by examination. Satisfaction guaranteed.
Office over Burk's drug store.

B. F. PHILBROOK,
RESIDENT DENTIST.
DENISON, IOWA.
High grade dental work. Teeth extracted without pain. Office over Kelly's shoe store.

FOR THE BEST

CEMENT work at lowest prices consistent with first class work call or address

I. O. Orem, - Denison, Iowa.

Penn Mutual Life Insurance

ESTABLISHED 1847.

ALL FORMS OF LIFE INSURANCE.

C. H. & H. E. RUMSEY, Gen. Agts.,
Des Moines, Iowa.
W. W. Cushman, - Local Agent, Denison.

J. W. BAKER,

Kerosene and Gasolene

Delivered at your homes a great convenience. Always prompt and reliable.

CANS FOR SALE!

LEADING BARBER SHOP

H. D. Lorentzen, Prop.

Under First National Bank,
Four Chairs All Work First-Class

Notice of Appointment of Assignee. To whom it may concern:— You and each of you are hereby notified that the undersigned have been appointed assignees of Aebischer Bros., a co-partnership engaged in the meat market business in Denison, Iowa, that all persons owing said firm are hereby notified to make payment to the undersigned and all claims against said firm shall be itemized, sworn to and filed with the assignees within three (3) months of the date of the first publication of this notice or to be forever barred.

SEARS McHENRY,
BARNEY BRODERSEN,
P. E. C. Lally, Assignees.
Attorney for Assignees. 71-6w



"Lay on twelve lashes," said Alie sternly.