



The Third Degree

A NARRATIVE OF METROPOLITAN LIFE

By CHARLES KLEIN
AND
ARTHUR HORNBLow
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WALTERS



SYNOPSIS.

Howard Jeffries, banker's son, under the still influence of Robert Underwood, a fellow student at Yale, leads a life of dissipation, marries the daughter of a gambler who died in prison, and is disowned by his father. He tries to get work and fails. A former college chum makes a business proposition to Howard which requires \$2,000 cash, and Howard is broke. Robert Underwood, who has been engaged to Alicia, Howard's stepmother, has spent \$2,000 on the Astoria, and is apparently in prosperous circumstances. Howard recalls a \$500 loan to Underwood, the remains unpaid, and asks him to ask him for the \$2,000 he needs. Underwood, being acquainted with his intimacy with Mrs. Jeffries, Sr., becomes a sort of social highwayman. Discovering the true character she denies him the loan.

CHAPTER IV.

The richly decorated reception rooms, brilliantly illuminated with soft incandescents of flowers arranged behind banks of flowers were filled with people. In the air was the familiar buzz always present in a room where each person is trying to speak at the same time. On all sides one heard fragments of interesting conversation.

"So good of you to come! How well you're looking, my dear."

"My husband? Oh, he's at the club, playing poker, as usual. He hates music."

"I've such a terrible cold!"

"Trouble with servants? I should say so. I bounced my cook this morning."

"Aren't these affairs awfully tiresome?"

"I was so glad to come. I always enjoy your musicales."

"Dr. Bernstein coming? How perfectly delightful. I'll ask him for his autograph."

"What's psychology?"

"Something to do with religion, I think."

"Haven't we been having dreadful weather?"

"I saw you at the opera."

"Doesn't she look sweet?"

"Oh, I think it's lovely."

People now arrived in quick succession and, forming little groups, the room soon presented an animated scene. The women in their smart gowns and the men in their black coats made a pleasing picture.

"My dear Mrs. Jeffries, how do you do this evening?" exclaimed a rich, deep voice.

The hostess turned to greet an elderly and distinguished-looking man who had just entered. Directly he came in voices were hushed, and on every side one heard the whisper:

"There's Judge Brewster, the famous lawyer."

There was a general grating of necks to catch a glimpse of the eminent jurist whose brilliant address to the jury in a recent case celebra had saved an innocent man from the electric chair.

Richard Brewster was a fine example of the old school statesman-lawyer of the Henry Clay type. He belonged to that small class of public men who are independent of all coteries, whose only ambition is to serve their country well, who know no other duty than that dictated by their oath and conscience. Directly, brilliant and forceful orator, there was no office in the gift of the nation that might not have been his for the asking, but he had no taste for politics. After serving with honor for some years on the bench he retired into private practice, and thereafter his name became one to conjure with in the law courts. By sheer power of his matchless oratory and unanswerable logic he won case after case for his clients and it is a tribute to his name to record the plain fact that in all his career he never championed a cause of which he need be ashamed. Powerful financial interests had attempted to secure his services by offers of princely retainers, but without success. He fought the trusts bit by bit every time he found them oppressing his profession.

Alicia advanced with extended hand. "This is indeed kind, Judge," she exclaimed with a gracious smile. "I hardly dared hope that my poor musical would be so honored."

The old lawyer smiled good-humoredly as he replied graciously: "I don't know much about music, m'm; I came to see you." Looking around he added: "You've got a nice place here."

He spoke in his characteristic manner—short, nervous, explosive sentences, which had often terrified his opponents in court.

"Lawyers are such flatterers," laughed Alicia as she nervously fanned herself, and looked around to see if her guests were watching.

"Lawyers only flatter when they want to," interrupted Mr. Jeffries, who had just joined the group.

Alicia turned to greet a new arrival and the lawyer continued chatting with his host.

"I suppose you'll take a rest now, after your splendid victory," said the banker.

Judge Brewster shook his head dubiously.

"No, sir, we lawyers never rest. We can't. No sooner is one case disposed of than another crops up to claim our attention. The trouble with this country is that we have too much law. If I were to be guilty of an offense I would say that it is practically lawless."

"So you're preparing another case, eh?" said Mr. Jeffries, interested.

"What is it—a secret?"

"Oh, no—answered the lawyer. "The newspapers will be full of it in a day or two. We are going to bring

I Don't Know Much About Music, M'm.

test against the city. It's really a great case that should interest every citizen; a protest against the high-handed actions of the police."

The banker elevated his eyebrows. "Indeed," he exclaimed. "What have the police been doing now?"

The lawyer looked at his client in surprise.

"Why, my dear sir, you must have seen by the papers what's been going on in our city of late. The papers have been full of it. Police brutality, illegal arrests, assaults in station houses, star-chamber methods that would disgrace the middle ages. A state of affairs exists to-day in the city of New York which is inconceivable. Here we are living in a civilized country, every man's liberty is guaranteed by the constitution, yet citizens, as they walk our streets, are in greater peril than the inhabitants of terror-stricken Russia. Take a police official of Capt. Clinton's type. His only notion of the law is brute force and the night stick. A bully by nature, a man of the coarsest instincts and enormous physical strength, he loves to play the tyrant. In his presence he poses as a kind of czar and fondly imagines he has the power to administer the law itself. By his brow-beating tactics, intolerable under Anglo-Saxon government, he is turning our police force into a gang of ruffians who have the city terror-stricken. In order to further his political ambitions he stops at nothing. He lets the guilty escape when influence he can't resist is brought to bear, but in order to keep up his record with the department he makes arrests without the slightest justification. To secure convictions he manufactures, with the aid of his detectives, all kinds of perjured evidence. To paraphrase a well-known saying, his motto is 'Convict—honestly, if you can—but convict!'

"It's outrageous," said Mr. Jeffries. "No one can approve such methods. Of course, in dealing with the criminal population of a great city, they cannot wear kid gloves, but the specific complaint on which the suit is based?"

"Capt. Clinton," replied the judge, "made the mistake of persecuting a young woman who happened to be the daughter of a wealthy client of mine. One of his detectives treated her to a charge of shoplifting. The girl, mind you, is of excellent family and irreproachable character. My client and his lawyer tried to show Capt. Clinton that he had made a serious blunder, but he brazened it out, claiming on the stand that the girl was an old offender. Of course, he was forced at last to admit his mistake and the girl went free, but think of the humiliation and mental anguish she underwent! It was simply a repetition of his old tactics. A conviction, no matter at what cost.

"What do you hope to bring about by this suit?"

"Arouse public indignation, and if possible get Capt. Clinton dismissed from the force. His record is none too savory. Charges of graft have been made against him time and time again, but so far nothing has been proved. To-day he is a man of wealth on a comparatively small salary. Do you suppose his money could have come to him honestly?"

In another corner of the salon stood Dr. Bernstein, the celebrated psychologist, the center of an excited crowd of enthusiastic admirers. Alicia approached a group of chattering women. Each was more elaborately dressed than her neighbor, and loaded down with rare gems. They at once stopped talking as their hostess came up.

"It was so good of you to come!" said Alicia affluently to a fat woman with impossible blonde hair and a rugged face. "I want to introduce Dr. Bernstein to you."

"Oh, I shall be delighted," smiled the blonde. Gushingly she added:

"Not exactly, but almost as bad. The girl was a waitress or something like that in a restaurant. She's very common, her father died in prison. You can imagine the blow to old Jeffries. He turned the girl's drift and left him to shift for himself."

Alicia approached her husband, who was still talking with Judge Brewster. She was leaning on the arm of a tall, handsome man with a dark Van Dyke beard.

"Who are you discussing with such interest?" she demanded, as she came up with her escort.

"We were talking of Capt. Clinton and his detestable, police methods," said the banker.

"Judge," said Alicia, turning to the lawyer, "allow me to introduce Dr. Bernstein. Doctor, this is Judge Brewster."

The stranger bowed low, as he replied courteously:

"The fame of Judge Brewster has spread to every state in the union."

A faint smile spread over the face of the famous lawyer, as he extended his hand:

"I've often heard of you, too, doctor. I've been reading with great interest your book, 'Experimental Psychology.' Do you know," he went on earnestly, "there's a lot in that. We have still much to learn in that direction."

"I think," said Dr. Bernstein, quietly, "that we're only on the threshold of wonderful discoveries."

Pleased to find that her two distinguished guests were congenial, Alicia left them to themselves and joined her other guests.

"Yes," said the lawyer musingly. "Man has studied for centuries the mechanism of the body, but he has neglected entirely the mechanism of the mind."

Dr. Bernstein smiled approvingly. "We are just waking up," he replied quickly. "People are beginning to look upon psychology seriously. Up to comparatively recently the layman has regarded psychology as the domain of the philosopher and the dreamer. It did not seem possible that could ever be applied to our practical everyday life, but of late we have made remarkable strides. Although it is a comparatively new science, you will probably be astonished to learn that there are to-day in the United States 50 or 60 psychological laboratories. That is to say, work shops fully equipped with every device known for the probing of the human brain. In my laboratory in California alone I have as many as twenty rooms devoted to this work, and equipped with all the necessary instruments—chronoscopes, kymograph, tachistoscopes and ergographs—instruments which enable us to measure and record the electric beats as accurately as the Bercillon system."

"Really, you astonish me!" exclaimed the judge. "This is most interesting. Think of laboratories solely devoted to delving into mysteries of the human brain! It is wonderful!"

He was silent for a moment, then he said:

"It is quite plain, I think, that psychology can prove most useful in medicine. It is, I take it, the very foundation of mental being, but what else would it do for humanity?"

For instance, can't it help me, the lawyer?"

Dr. Bernstein smiled.

"You gentlemen of the law have always scoffed at the very suggestion of having psychology go to your aid, but just think, sir, how enormously it might aid you in cross-examining a witness. You can tell with almost scientific accuracy if the witness is telling lies or the truth, and the same would be clear to the judge and the jury. Just think how your powers would be increased if by your skill in psychological observation you could convince the jury that your client, who was about to be convicted on circumstantial evidence alone, was really innocent of the crime of which he was charged. Why, sir, the road which psychology opens up to the lawyer is well-nigh boundless. Don't you use the Bercillon system to measure the body? Don't you rely on thumb prints to identify the hand? How do you know that we psychologists are not able to-day to test the individual differences of men?"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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In another part of the room a couple were discussing Mr. Jeffries as he stood talking with Judge Brewster.

"Did you notice how Mr. Jeffries has aged recently? He no longer seems the same man."

"No wonder, after all the trouble he's had. Of course you know what a disappointment his son turned out?"

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HANDY IN PRESERVING TIME

Device That Not Only Protects the Hands, but is of Value in Many Other Respects.

A useful article for housewives who do their own preserving is the jar-holder, designed by an Iowa man. It will not only keep the jars from breaking and allow them to cool quickly, but will save the person who handles them from burning her hands. There is a circular metal frame with holes in it to permit the tops of jars to pass through. Arms with their ends bent out from the frame and fit over the rim of a basin or other large pan, and one of these arms is adjustable so that it can be screwed tight to hold the whole contrivance firmly in position. The jar can be placed in the basin and the framework drawn over them and screwed fast. This leaves space between each jar so that they may cool quickly, where otherwise they stand packed together, and each helps the other retain the heat. Then the jars are filled with the preserving mixture, whatever it may be, the lids screwed on and the basin removed to a convenient place till the preserves cool.

One of the Best Ways by Which Venerable Bird May Be Made Tender and Palatable.

When the "chickens" ordered by telephone turns out to be a venerable hen or rooster, do not despair. There are several ways of transforming it into a respectable family piece of resistance. In fact, by the following method such birds have been made as tender as spring chickens. Let the bird, after drawing, seasoning and stuffing, simmer until over half done. Then place it in the oven with a piece of pork lard over its breast. Pour the liquor over and around the roast in the pan. Finish the cooking in a very hot oven, basting frequently with the drippings. When ready to serve skim off any superfluous fat that may be in the pan before preparing the gravy. The pork prevents the fowl from becoming dry, and if a small onion is also added it will have a more savory flavor. The simmering lessens its toughness. In fact, slow simmering is just the thing for any tough meat, but it should simmer, not boil. Boiling will toughen the tenderest of meat.

TAKES STAIN FROM MAHOAGANY

Disfiguring Spots May Easily Be Removed, Though the Operation Requires Carefulness.

For the thumb mark that so often disfigures mahogany, or that blurred blue which clouds its polish there is a simple remedy which requires only a deft hand and a bit of courage. A soft rag or flannel, dampened with alcohol, must be passed quickly and lightly over the part. Water stains and liquor spots will disappear immediately. The amateur restorer, however, must heed the warning that the work be done with great rapidity and absolute confidence in oneself. To slacken the wipe of the rag on the surface means that the mahogany will be roughened, and made to look streaked or as if glue had been spilled, and a furniture expert will have to be called in to lend his skill toward bringing back the smooth mirror-like surface of the original. In addition, the polish is customary, and the servants worked with a will over every piece, so that their tables and chairs would outshine those of the next big house. A dull finish was unheard of, and the surface means that the mahogany will be roughened, and made to look streaked or as if glue had been spilled, and a furniture expert will have to be called in to lend his skill toward bringing back the smooth mirror-like surface of the original. In addition, the polish is customary, and the servants worked with a will over every piece, so that their tables and chairs would outshine those of the next big house. A dull finish was unheard of, and the surface means that the mahogany will be roughened, and made to look streaked or as if glue had been spilled, and a furniture expert will have to be called in to lend his skill toward bringing back the smooth mirror-like surface of the original. In addition, the polish is customary, and the servants worked with a will over every piece, so that their tables and chairs would outshine those of the next big house. 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