

The RED MOUSE A Mystery Romance By WILLIAM HAMILTON OSBORNE

CHAPTER VI. BRUTES, every one of them and Billy Murgatroyd the worst of all! The exclamation fell from Shirley Bloodgood's lips. "Why, I thought you liked Mr. Murgatroyd, Shirley?" "You have things badly twisted, Miriam—he likes me! And, suddenly rising to her feet, she clasped her hands impulsively. "Oh, Miriam, I've good news for you!" "Good news? What good news?" Miriam asked incredulously. "Prosecutor Murgatroyd," she began, "told me in confidence—" "In confidence?" Miriam repeated. "Then you had better not—" Shirley shook her head belligerently. "Oh, no," she laughed. "It's all right, Billy Murgatroyd likes to tell things to me. He told me once that he believed that to be one of the con trolling motives that led to matrimony—that a man should have somebody to tell things to."

and, holding the key, locked it tight. "No, no," she muttered, "they shall not take him—I won't let them—he belongs to me!" In a frenzy she piled up the light chairs and tables and pushed them against the door to form a barricade, crying the while to Stevens: "Help me, quick! We've got to keep them out! We must not let them in, must not!" Shirley caught her in her arms. "Don't, dear, don't! We can't help it, don't you see?" "Of course we can't help it," after a moment Miriam said resignedly and proceeded to pull the chairs and tables away that she had so vigorously piled up. Wearily she fell into a chair. Miriam entered the room, McGrath following soon after. At the sight of them Miriam rushed back to her husband, speaking his name softly. "If you would only let him sleep—a little while longer," she said falteringly to the men. "You must leave him to us, ma'am," spoke up Miriam. And suddenly together the men bodily lifted Chaltoner from the sofa and as suddenly dropped him back again. At this use of physical force Miriam covered her face with her hands and sobbed. "There's a bump here that we'd best attend to," said Miriam, running his hand over the outline of Chaltoner's clothing. The next instant revealed a revolver which they took from Chaltoner's hip pocket. "Is the thing loaded?" queried McGrath. "Ma'am ladies," said Miriam, crossing the room, "we're fair people, and Prosecutor Murgatroyd is fair. You seen us take this here firearm from Mr. Chaltoner just now, didn't you?" Miriam and Shirley nodded in acknowledgment. Miriam requested that they take a good look at it. "Don't give it to me!" cried Shirley. "Give it to me," said Miriam unhesitatingly. "You see that there's five chambers loaded, don't you, Mrs. Chaltoner?" asked McGrath. Miriam looked at it helplessly. "Five chambers loaded?" she asked innocently, unsuspectingly. "Here," broke in Miriam, "let me show you. And be counted slow! One, two, three, four, five; all full, see?" Miriam paused, then he said: "And one chamber empty?" "Oh, yes," she acknowledged almost eagerly as he placed his finger on it, "there's surely one chamber empty. I see it now!" McGrath hesitated, but Miriam went on: "Will you smell it, please—just the end of it—the muzzle?" "A Fourth of July smell," Miriam faintly ventured, "gunpowder, of course!" McGrath had another card to play. "Look at this here figure on this here gun, will you, ma'am? Here—there it is. I want you to tell me what it is." "What is it, Shirley?" asked Miriam, bringing it closer to the light. Shirley peered at it. Finally she declared: "It's '38,'" touching the gun lightly. "There, now," exclaimed Miriam, "no one can say we ain't been fair. You saw us take it from him. You examined it, and you told us what you saw. That's fair, see?" "Yes, but what of it?" asked Shirley and Miriam in one breath. McGrath opened his eyes in mock wonder. "Why, bless me, didn't you know? This here Colonel Hargraves was shot by a bullet that came out of a '38 caliber revolver; that's all. We wanted to be fair."

"Fair?" Shirley cried bitterly. "And Mr. Murgatroyd sanctioned such methods—will use them for evidence!" But even then Miriam did not understand. She was watching Miriam and McGrath, who were lifting Chaltoner up and dropping him—watching them draw him up to a standing posture and then throw him back again on the sofa, calling the while: "Wake up! Wake up!" "I've got to sleep," was all they could get out of him. At last a drop more vigorous than the preceding ones caused Chaltoner to open his eyes. Then he closed them again. "Are you James Lawrence Chaltoner?" asked Miriam loudly, peremptorily. "I am," Chaltoner answered. "Now leave me alone." And now again the bell. And a moment later Murgatroyd, the prosecutor, stood in the doorway. The heat of much haste was on his brow. "Has he talked?" Murgatroyd asked. "No," answered the men. "Lift him to his feet." The men did so. And then the women heard him snap sharply: "Chaltoner, wake up! This is Murgatroyd, the prosecutor!" Chaltoner opened his eyes, yawned stupidly and stood squarely on his feet without any help. "Hello, Murgatroyd!" he said. "Chaltoner," said Murgatroyd, "I am not here as your friend. I am the prosecutor." "I understand," said Chaltoner. "Very well, then," went on Murgatroyd, "you know why I am here. I charge you now, Chaltoner, with the murder of Colonel Richard Hargraves. Do you understand me?" "Perfectly," was Chaltoner's reply. "You want to take me into custody? All right, only let me sleep when I get there, will you?" "Wait a minute, Chaltoner," persisted Murgatroyd. "It's my duty to inform you that anything you say will be used against you. You must not

forget that I am the prosecutor." Miriam came forward quickly. "Oh, Laurie, dear, don't say anything just yet!" she cried in alarm. Shirley seconded her warning, saying quickly: "Don't say a word to Mr. Murgatroyd until you have seen a lawyer." Chaltoner, still aulen, looked over his shoulder at his wife. "Who's saying all this? Only a lot of women. What do they know? And turning back to Murgatroyd: "See here, Murgatroyd, it's got this straight, shall we? And he looked at him full in the eye. "You're the prosecutor and anything I say will be used against me, is that right? Well, this little matter is just as simple as A B C." And, suddenly drawing himself up to his full height, he went on in a loud, clear voice: "I waited for Richard Hargraves with—" "I warned you!" cried Murgatroyd, stretching forth a hand. Chaltoner scornfully refused to listen. "And when I found him—" He glanced about him defiantly and gave an imitation of a man taking aim and shooting. "There, now, you know the facts." Murgatroyd turned to his two men. "It's a case of willful, deliberate, premeditated murder—murder in the first degree. Take him away." Shirley was on her feet in an instant. "Oh, Mr. Chaltoner," she cried, springing forward, "why did you tell him?" "Come on!" Chaltoner called out gruffly to the men. "Take me away!" He did not even glance at his wife who clung to the girl and sobbed on her breast. The prosecutor nodded to his subordinates, and immediately they seized Chaltoner by the arm and started toward the door. "No, no," cried Miriam, tearing herself from Shirley's hold, "don't take him away!" And again and again with all the force left in her: "No, no, no! Oh, Laurie!" The doors closed behind the men. Then Miriam sank down upon the sofa and wept. She had told and sobbed as though her heart would break. (To be continued.)

Notice of Appointment. Estate of Minerva Masters deceased. The undersigned has been appointed and qualified as executor of the estate of Minerva Masters, late of Highland County, Ohio, deceased. Dated this 12th day of February A. D. 1910. G. A. ROBERTS. WILSON & McBRIDE, Attorneys.

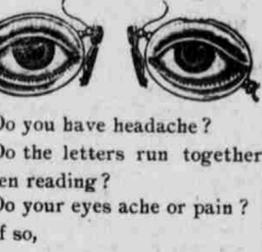
Legal Notice. To John W. Cummings of Hartford City, Indiana, James T. Cummings of Washington, C. O., Ohio, George Cummings of Ipsaw, Illinois, Earl Rhoads, of Fowler, Kansas, Clarence Rhoads, of Springfield, Ohio, Melvin Rhoads, Zella Rhoads, Wilbur Rhoads, Ova Rhoads, and Ena Rhoad, of near Cynthiana, Pike County, Ohio, Ethel Cumming and Tressie Cummings, seamstresses, R. F. D. Adams County, Ohio: You will take notice that I have presented to the Probate Court of Highland County, Ohio, for allowance to me against the estate of Daniel Cummings, deceased, a certain will with interest thereon at 6 per cent per annum from the 6th day of September 1907, and that said court has fixed the time for hearing the same on 6th day of April, at 10 o'clock a. m. CHARLES E. CUMMING. One of the executors of the estate of Daniel Cummings, deceased.

Legal Notice. The heirs at law of Fred Igo, deceased, of Henry Igo, deceased, of Charles Igo, deceased, late of Champaign, Ill., of Daniel Minor, deceased, late of Windsor, Shelby County, Ill., of Monroe Minor, deceased, late of the state of Iowa, of Eunice Sewell (nee Minor) deceased, late of Terre Haute, Ind., whose names and places of residence are unknown, will take notice that N. W. Igo, as plaintiff, on the 7th day of February, 1910 filed in the Common Pleas Court of Highland County, Ohio, where the same is now pending, a petition for the partition of the real estate of which Mahalia Minor, late of Highland County, Ohio, died, and which is situated in Concord Township, Highland County, Ohio, and bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

Legal Notice. The unknown heirs of Thomas H. Long, deceased, will take notice that on the 16th day of March, A. D. 1910, Anna M. Spencer filed her petition in the Common Pleas Court of Highland County, Ohio, being case No. 28, against the said unknown heirs of Thomas H. Long, late of Highland County, Ohio, deceased, praying for an order of cancellation and release of record of a certain mortgage executed and delivered by George Fuller, and others, to said Thomas H. Long, said mortgage bearing date of May 13, 1882, and duly recorded in Vol. 20, Page 48, of Highland County mortgage records and covering the following real estate: Situate in the state of Ohio, county of Highland and village of Hillsboro and described as follows: Being the undivided one-half of the west half of lot, Number twenty-two (No. 22) as the same is known and designated on the recorded plat of said village; and for further proper and equitable relief in the premises, said parties are required to answer said petition on or before May 14, 1910, or the allegations thereof will be taken as true and the relief prayed for granted by the court. ANNA M. SPENCER, Plaintiff. James A. Wilkins, Attorney.

The heirs at law of Fred Igo, deceased, of Henry Igo, deceased, of Charles Igo, deceased, late of Champaign, Ill., of Daniel Minor, deceased, late of Windsor, Shelby County, Ill., of Monroe Minor, deceased, late of the state of Iowa, of Eunice Sewell (nee Minor) deceased, late of Terre Haute, Ind., whose names and places of residence are unknown, will take notice that N. W. Igo, as plaintiff, on the 7th day of February, 1910 filed in the Common Pleas Court of Highland County, Ohio, where the same is now pending, a petition for the partition of the real estate of which Mahalia Minor, late of Highland County, Ohio, died, and which is situated in Concord Township, Highland County, Ohio, and bounded and described as follows, to-wit:

First Tract—Beginning at a stone in the Mayville road, S. W. corner of Thomas Houstain's land of said survey, the ce running with said Houstain's land S. 80 degrees E. 8 poles to a stone; thence N. 4 poles to a stake; thence S. 10 degrees W. 4 poles to a stake; thence N. 80 degrees W. 8 poles to a stone in the Mayville road; thence N. W. 4 poles to the beginning, and being the same premises conveyed to Margaret Minor and recorded in deed book 14, page 20 of said county. Second Tract—Beginning at a stone corner to Margaret Minor's lot and running E. 8 poles to a stone; thence N. 4 poles to a stake; thence W. 8 poles to the Mayville road; thence S. on the side of the road 4 poles to the beginning, being the same premises conveyed to Mahalia Minor and recorded in Vol. 84 page 154 of the deed records of said county. Third Tract—Beginning at a stake in the Mayville road, Margaret Minor's S. W. corner, thence S. 4 poles, with the road to a stone; thence E. 8 poles to a stake; thence N. 4 poles to a stake in said Minor's corner; thence with her line poles to the beginning, containing 32 po. or more or less, recorded in deed book 82 page 402 of said county. The said Mahalia Minor held the title to the first tract by descent from her mother, and the second and third tracts by purchase. The parties above named and referred to will take notice that they have been made parties defendant to said petition and are required to answer the same on or before the 2nd day of April, 1910, or an order of partition of said premises will be taken as prayed for in said petition.



Do you have headache? Do the letters run together when reading? Do your eyes ache or pain? If so, Dr. C. F. Faris, The Eyesight Specialist, Will correct the trouble for you with a pair of accurately fitted glasses. EXAMINATION FREE. OFFICE—First door east of Economy Store, Main street, Hillsboro.

Teachers' Examination. The Highland County Board of School Examiners hereby gives notice that examinations for applicants for certificates will take place in the school building at Hillsboro, on the first Saturday of every month. Examinations will be held on the third Saturday of April and on the second Saturday of May. As prescribed by law, the fee for teachers' examinations will be 50 cents, while for Patterson examinations no fee is charged. N. B. LA MONDA, Pres. J. S. FARIS, Hillsboro, O. Clerk Board of Examiners.

Notice of Appointment. Estate of Robert Stuart, deceased. The undersigned has been appointed and qualified as administrator de bonis non with will annexed of the estate of Robert Stuart, late of Highland County, Ohio, deceased. Dated this 8th day of March, A. D. 1910. ARTHUR BOOK.

Notice of Appointment. Estate of Araminta Barrere, deceased. The undersigned has been appointed and qualified as administrator of the estate of Araminta Barrere late of Highland County, Ohio, deceased. Dated this 23rd day of March A. D. 1910. W. H. BUNNERT.



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