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RENGO FRUIT RAPIDLY REDUCES EXCESS FAT WITHOUT THE AID OF TIRESOME EXERCISES OR STARVATION DIET

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This illustration shows what Rengo Fruit has done in the way of reducing fat.

Rengo Fruit is a product of South America and it has been recently discovered to possess some very remarkable properties which will reduce excess fat and build up the strength and health of anyone who eats it regularly for a short time. It is a product of nature, delicious to the taste and safe and harmless in all its properties. It will not injure the digestive organs as so many drugs and medicines do.

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Rengo Fruit requires no exhausting exercises or starvation dieting to help it out as so many of the so-called fat remedies do. You can go right ahead and attend to your regular daily duties. It compels proper assimilation of the food and sends the food nutrition in to the muscles, bones and nerves and builds them up instead of piling it up in the form of excess fat. It is not a medicine in any sense of the word but a mild, pleasant, harmless fruit put up in concentrated form in small packages for convenience.

If you suffer from excess fat send your name and address today for a trial package of Rengo Fruit milled free in plain wrapper. Fill out free coupon below.

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CHAPTER XVI.

NOT a day passed that the captain of the patrol did not ride down to the door of the Kelly cabin and leap from his saddle with some fanciful greeting, carefully and ornately uttered. So much he retained of his Kentucky breeding.

"The sheriff's army grows apace, but does not march," he announced one morning.

Ann could not understand this humorous defiance of law—this colossal recklessness. "What will you do when it does march?"

"Meet it and bust it."

"Tell me, now," she said to him at another time, "what is your real motive? Why should you be the champion of the rights of labor?"

He astonished her by giving back earnestness for earnestness. "I'll tell you, my lady. Labor has got to fight. This union is the coming thing. The toilers have not only got to stand together, but they've got to drill. I'm going to have a little military training, and I'm going to give western labor its first lesson in the power of military organization."

"Rob and Kelly both stand for the thing that is going out. They think any man has the same chance they have, but I tell you this union that they despise is the coming order."

In truth, Kelly and Raymond were watching Munro's rise to power with growing uneasiness. He was now in almost complete control of the camp, and though he still deferred to the union and its committees, his reckless bravery, his prompt execution of orders and his knowledge of military forms had made of him the chief source of command, the only adequate regulative force on the peak. Those on the outside did not hesitate to call him "the arch devil of the district," and the whole western world was filled with his doings, his reckless speeches.

His fame had fired the hearts of all the dead shots and restless spirits of the west, and from an irregular squad of twenty-five or thirty men his force had risen to nearly 200 heavily armed and hardy horsemen.

Raymond, though keeping keen eyes upon Munro, was unable to find cause for war in any word or act of the gambler, nor could he fathom Ann's mind either toward Munro or himself. She appeared to find Munro diverting and spoke of him only in that way. If she understood his "home life," it made no change in her attitude. It was inconceivable that a refined girl should tolerate a man who passed from one ignorant and vicious woman to another and yet Ann's greeting remained gracious, if not friendly. What it was when they were alone, he dared not think.

As for Raymond himself, he continued to punish himself by putting aside the many opportunities which came to plead his own suit, and took a morbid sort of pleasure in his renunciation. "There will be one man at least who will not persecute her," he said sagely and bent his best energies to the work of developing his plan.

One afternoon as Ann and Mrs. Kelly sat sewing and chatting together a woman suddenly appeared in the open door. She was large and high colored, her hat was awry, and there was a wild glare in her eyes and a look in her face that froze even Nora into silence. Both stared at their strange visitor in breathless apprehension till she pointed her unsteady finger at Ann and hoarsely cried out:

"So you're the one that's cut me out?"

The muscles of one cheek contorted and her eyelid drooped like that of a paralytic as she fixed a baleful look on the astonished girl. After a moment's pause she stepped uncertainly upon the threshold and leaned against the jamb. "Well, you'd better watch out. If you don't give him up, I'll kill you!"

"She's crazy," whispered Nora.

The intruder fumbled in her absurdly flamboyant skirt and at last drew out a pistol. "Now you better hop!" she said, with menacing calmness.

Ann rose, white and calm. "Who are you? What do you want?"

"Who am I? I'm Jack Munro's wife, that's who I am, and I want you to let him alone, that's what I want. You can understand that, can't you?" Her big, flabby face again contorted horribly.

Nora found tongue. "You go away or I'll call Matt."

"Call him. What do I care for him? I ain't afraid of no man livin'. No, sir; let him come. But I got no war with you; you're all right. But that thing there, with her fancy dresses—I'll pin Jack alone."

If the drunken creature had swept a handful of mire into her face Ann could not have been more revolted, more degraded. Fixing a look of disdain on the woman, she said: "You are quite mistaken. Your Jack is less than nothing to me. I despise him and all he represents."

The other wildly laughed. "Ah, yes, you can talk—you're smooth—but I know!" She began to bust. "If you hated him, why do you talk and laugh with him? I saw you yesterday." She raised the pistol. "I tell you, I'll blow you into kingdom come if you don't promise right now to give him up!"

As she advanced the two little lads at play just outside appeared in the doorway, and the sight of them stole the little mother's heart. "Go away, darlin's," she called to them. "Quick, run for dad!"

The woman turned to see who was behind her, and the desperate Nora

seized her by the wrist. "Give me the gun!" she called.

"I won't! Le' go me!" shrieked the intruder, jerking hard in the effort to free her hand.

Ann seized the other arm. "I promise," she said quietly, fixing her eyes full upon those of the infuriated woman, who ceased to struggle. "Now go away."

"You promise?"

"I promise!"

The woman again laughed harshly, drunkenly. "I don't trust you. I'll kill you, then I know. Let go me!" she called. "Let go or I'll smash your face!"

"Matt! Oh, Matt!" called Nora as she clung desperately to that terrible wrist.

Help came from an unexpected quarter. Like a flash, Woo, the new Chinese



"Drop it!" he curtly commanded. "Drop the gun!"

cook of the household, rushed into the room and flung himself on the mad wretch. His long fingers encircled her throat. "Drop it!" he curtly commanded. "Drop the gun!" For a few moments the woman struggled, then the revolver fell to the floor, and Nora snatched it up.

Woo turned the gasping, hiccupping creature to the door and flung her out upon the ground. "You drunk. Go home. Stop home. Me sabbe you—you sabbe me," he said as he bent above her.

Ann interposed. "Don't hurt her, Woo."

He stood beside her while she slowly regained a sitting posture. "She belly laugalous. Me go tell Munro. She right-me kick!"

The poor creature now seemed dazed and broken and began to weep, and with her tears came as abjectly pitiful, as pathetically tawdry, as she had been hideous and menacing in her wrath. Ann shuddered with a bitter nausea, a disorder that was half physical weakness, half mental repulsion. There was something ghastly beyond words in this creature sitting in utter abandonment in her rumpled finery, which the pitiless sun dissected. Stopping, she took the miserable one by the arm. "Get up. You must not sit there."

Slowly the woman rose, all thought of revenge swallowed up in a wave of maudlin self pity. "You're all agin me—all of ye! I guess you wouldn't like it to have your husband stolen by another woman. You let me alone!" she said to Woo, with a flash of anger.

"You pigtail, what business you got to lay hands on a white lady?"

The creature began to pour forth a flood of vile epithets, directed toward the patient Woo, who tried again and

again to lift her and was in the midst of a howl of wrath when Matt came round the corner of the house.

"What's all this?" he asked sharply.

The woman suddenly rose to her feet, well aware that a man had arrived, and began to mumble and weep again. Nora ran to her husband. "Oh, Matt, drive her away. She tried to kill us."

"Who is she? Who are you, and what are you doing here anyway?"

The woman, quite dismayed, began to retreat. "It's all right. She promised. I'm going now."

Woo explained: "She Munro's wife. Belly drunk—altee same crazy. Take um gun—go shoot lady." He pointed at Ann. "Me choke um. She fall on ground. No get up. Nola catchee gun."

Kelly followed the intruder. "You go back to where you came from and stay there or 'twill be the worse for ye, ye murderin' omdamn."

Ann went to her room and flung herself down upon her bed in such abatement as she had never known in all her life. She could not deceive herself. She had brought this horrible assault upon herself by something more than tolerance of Munro.

The woman's ignorance and tastelessness, her common voice, her badly worn, her incredible baseness of speech, all came back. "Ann face!"

Report a real to that being." Of course, she had never for an instant directly encouraged Munro, and yet he had appealed to her and she had listened.

"Rob should have warned me," she complained, her mind going back to the man she could trust. At the moment she could not see or would not acknowledge that Raymond had ventured as far as he dared in revealing Munro's private life. She was too angry with herself and every one around her to be just. As her flaming wrath died she grew cold and bitter. "This is what comes of going outside one's own proper world. I shall never see the peak at once, and I hope I shall never see it or hear it again."

(To be Continued.)

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