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THE MAN ON THE BOX

By HAROLD MacGRATH

Author of "The Gray Cloth," "The Foggy Glass"

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He bent close to it. Here was the sea, here was the land, here the number of soldiers, cannon, rounds of ammunition, resources in the matter of procuring aid, the telegraph, the railways, everything was here on this pale, waxen cloth, everything but a name. He stared at it, bewildered. He couldn't understand what a plan of this sort was doing outside the war department. Instantly he became a soldier; he forgot that he was masquerading as a groom; he forgot everything but this mute thing staring up into his face. Underneath, on a little shelf, he saw a stack of worn envelopes. He looked at them. Rough drafts of plans, Governor's Island! Fortress Monroe! What did it mean? What could it mean? He searched and found plans, plans, plans of harbors, plans of coast defenses, plans of ships building, plans of full naval and military strength; everything, everything! He straightened. How his breath pained him! . . . And all this was the handiwork of the woman he loved! Good God, what was going on in this house? What right had such things as these to be in a private home? For what purpose had they been drawn? So accurately reproduced? For what purpose?

Oh, whatever the purpose was, she was innocent; upon this conviction he would willingly stake his soul. Innocent, innocent! ticked the clock over the mantel. Yes, she was innocent. Else how could she laugh in that light-hearted fashion? How could her eyes shine so bright and merry? Karloff, Annesley! Karloff the Russian, Annesley the American; the one a secret agent of his country, the other a former trusted official! No, no! He could not entertain so base a thought against the father of the girl he loved. Had he not admired his clean record, his personal bravery, his fearless honesty? And yet, that absent-mindedness, this care-worn countenance, these must mean something. The purpose, to find out the purpose of these plans!

He took the handkerchief and hid it in his breast, and quietly stole away. . . . A handkerchief, a rose, and a kiss; yes, that was all that would ever be his.

Pirate nearly coughed his head off that night; but, it being William's night off, nobody paid any particular attention to that justly indignant animal.

CHAPTER XXL

THE ROSE

On Wednesday morning, clear and cold; not a cloud floated across the sky, nor did there rise above the horizon one of those clouds (portentous forerunners of evil!) to which novelists refer as being "no larger than a man's hand." Heaven knew right well that the blight of evil was approaching fast enough, but there was no visible indication on her face that glorious November morning. Doubtless you are familiar with history and have read all about what great personages did just before calamity swooped down on them. The Trojans laughed at the wooden horse; I don't know how many Roman banquets never reached the desert because the enemy had not paid any singular regard to courtesies in making the attack; men and women danced on the eve of Waterloo—"On with the dance, let joy be unconfined;"



WENT SHOPPING.

my heroine simply went shopping. It doesn't sound at all romantic; very prosaic, in fact.

She declared her intention of making a tour of the shops and of dropping into Mrs. Chadwick's on the way home. She ordered James to bring around the pair and coupe. James was an example of docile obedience. As she came down the steps, she was a thing of beauty and a joy for ever. She wore one of those jackets to which several gray-squirrel families had contributed their hides, a hat whose existence was due to the negligence of a certain rare bird, and many silk-worms had spun the fabric of her gown. Had any one called her attention to all this, there isn't any doubt that she would have been shocked. Only here and there are women who see what a true Moloch fashion is; this tender-souled girl saw only a handsome habit which pleased the eye. Health bloomed in her cheeks, health shone from her eyes, her step had all the elasticity of youth. "Good morning, James," she said pleasantly.

James touched his hat. What was it, he wondered. Somehow her eyes looked unfamiliar to him. Had he been there I could have read the secret easily enough. Sometimes the pure pools of the forests are stirred and become impenetrable; but by and by the common motion subsides, and the water clears. So it was with the human soul. There had been doubt hitherto in this girl's eyes; now, the doubt was gone.

To him, soberly watchful, her smile meant much; it was the patent of her innocence of any wrong thought. All night he had tossed on his cot, thinking, thinking! What should he do? Whatever should he do? That some wrong was on the way he hadn't the least doubt. Should he confront the colonel and demand an explanation, a demand he knew he had a perfect right to make? If this should be evil, and the shame of it fall on this lovely being? . . . No, no! He must stand aside, he must turn a deaf ear to duty, the voice of love spoke too loud. His own assurance of her innocence made him desire to fall at her feet and worship. After all, it was none of his affair. Had he not played at this comedy, this thing would have gone on and he would have been in ignorance of its very existence. So, why should he meddle? Yet that monotonous query kept beating on his brain: What was this thing?

He saw that he must wait. Yesterday he had feared nothing save his own exposure. Comedy had frolicked in her grinning mask. And here was Tragedy stalking in upon the scene.

The girl named a dozen shops which she desired to honor with her custom and presence, and stepped into the coupe. William closed the door, and James touched up the pair and drove off toward the city. He was perfectly indifferent to any possible exposure. In truth, he forgot everything, absolutely and positively everything, but the girl and the fortification plans she had been drawing.

Scarce a half a dozen bundles were the result of the tour among the shops. "Mrs. Chadwick's, James."

As the story-teller I am supposed to be everywhere, to follow the footsteps of each and all of my characters, and with a fidelity and perspicacity nothing short of the marvelous. So I take the liberty of imagining the pith of the conversation between the woman and the girl.

The Woman: How long, dear, have we known each other?

The Girl: Since I left school, I believe. Where did you get that stunning morning gown?

The Woman (smiling in spite of the serious purpose she has in view): Never mind the gown, my child; I have something of greater importance to talk about.

The Girl: Is there anything more important to talk about among women?

The Woman: Yes. There is age.

The Girl: But, mercy, we do not talk about that!

The Woman: I am going to establish a precedent, then. I am 40 or at least, I am on the verge of it.

The Girl (warningly): Take care! If we should ever become enemies! If I should ever become treacherous!

The Woman: The world very well knows that I am older than I look. That is why it takes such interest in my age.

The Girl: The question is, how do you preserve it?

The Woman: Well, then, I am 40, while you stand on the threshold of the adorable 20s. (Walks over to picture taken 18 years before and contemplates it.) Ah, to be 20 again; to start anew, possessing my present learning and wisdom, and knowledge of the world; to avoid the pits into which I so carelessly stumbled! But no!

The Girl: Mercy! what have you to wish for? Are not princes and ambassadors your friends; have you not health and wealth and beauty? You wish for something, you who are so handsome and brilliant!

The Woman: Blinds, my dear Betty, only blinds; for that is all beauty and wealth and wit are. Who sees behind sees scars of many wounds. You are without a mother, I am without a child. (Sits down beside the girl and takes her hand in hers.) Will you let me be a mother to you for just this morning? How can any man help loving you! (Impulsively.)

The Girl: How foolish you are, Grace!

The Woman: Ah, to blush like that!

The Girl: You are very embarrassing this morning. I believe you are very sentimental. Well, my handsome mother for just this morning, what is it you have to say to me? (Jestingly.)

The Woman: I do not know just how to begin. Listen. If ever trouble should befall you, if ever misfortune should entangle you, you will promise to come to me?

The Girl: Misfortune? What is on your mind, Grace?

The Woman: Promise!

The Girl: I promise. (Laughs.)

(To Be Continued.)

MEN AND WOMEN.
The Big 40 for men and women. Discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not irritating or poisonous. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper by express, prepaid, for \$1.00, or 2 bottles for \$1.50. Mailed each on request.

PENNSYLVANIA AND STANDARD

Will be Prosecuted by Federal Government,

May Institute Proceedings Directed At President A. J. Cassatt, Personally.

PHILADELPHIA IS THE SCENE.

Philadelphia, June 26.—Philadelphia is to be the scene of the first great prosecutions to be brought by the government against the Pennsylvania railroad and the Standard Oil company. Arrangements for the prosecutions will be completed this week in New York at a conference between Alexander Simpson, Jr., of this city, and Charles E. Hughes.

The chief question under consideration is the advisability of individual prosecutions against A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania. This was plainly indicated today by a lawyer who has been intimately associated with interstate commerce commission hearings.

By both the commissioners and the special counsel appointed by the attorney-general to follow the testimony and prepare for the prosecution it is believed that more good can be accomplished by centering prosecution upon Cassatt than by scattering energy over the prosecutions of the presidents of all the railroads concerned, seven of which are directly controlled by the Pennsylvania.

HUNDRED DOLLARS

Bequeathed to Editor Who Took Exception to Dickens' Article.

A man's last will and testament oft-times tells its own story of the eccentric and peculiar nature of its composer. One of the most eccentric clauses ever seen in a will heretofore was recently resurrected from a pile of old papers at the court house. It was the will of an old gentleman. He had read the works of Dickens. He had also read "American Notes." He was a staunch Cairoite. He died. But a humble editor of a local sheet had also read "American Notes," and he was not forgotten in the old gentleman's will. The editor had warmly resented, in words glowing fire, through the columns of his paper, the manner in which Charles Dickens had berated the "mud-hole" and expressed his disregard for Cairo's great and glorious future, and when the will was opened there was found a clause, a clause which provided that the sum of one hundred dollars be presented to the humble editor, who took exception to Dickens' fame.—Cairo Bulletin.

MAY STAY HERE.

Statement in Motor Age Concerning F. E. Lack Erroneous.

"F. E. Lack, of Paducah, Ky., who has been attending the Travelers' Protective association in Buffalo, has arranged to transfer his factory to Buffalo. He is president of the Lack Manufacturing company and has invented an automobile wheel, which contains its own springs, it is said, and thus does away with the necessity of equipping motor cars with pneumatic tires."—Motor Age.

The Lack Singletree Manufacturing company was asked about this clipping from Motor Age, and the office thought it was a mistake, that there was no idea of moving the singletree factory away from Paducah. The clipping also is in error when it says Mr. Lack invented the wheel, as Mr. W. H. Parham was the inventor. It can be authoritatively stated that should the wheel be the success it now seems assured, Paducah stands an excellent chance of securing the manufactory.

THOUGHT AND ACTION.

New Magazine Established By E. E. Sutherland.

Mr. E. E. Sutherland, a former Paducahan, has embarked in the magazine publishing business in Chicago. Friends in Paducah received copies today of "Thought and Action," which is "devoted to the welfare of health and social conditions, non-sectarian, non-antagonistic, advocating that which will develop wisdom, health and good fellowship among mankind." Mr. A. F. Cox is associated with Mr. Sutherland in the editorship of the magazine. Mr. Sutherland being the managing editor. Mr. Sutherland's many Paducah friends will be interested in his new venture.

The Texas Wonder

Cures all kidney, bladder and rheumatic troubles; sold by J. H. Oehl-schlaeger, 601 Broadway, Dr. E. W. Hall, office 2936 Olive street, St. Louis, Mo.

AMBITIOUS PLAN OF PRES. GOMPERS

Union Labor Exposition For Next Fall.

To Illustrate Superiority of Union-Made Goods and Growth of the Organization.

TWO MILLION MEN INVOLVED.

Chicago, June 26.—President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor sent representatives to Chicago yesterday to arrange for a "union exposition." The object of the fair is to celebrate the achievements of organized labor throughout the world, and especially in the United States.

Minneapolis tentatively has been selected as the place for holding this novel exposition, and it is probable it will take place next November at the same time the convention of the national labor body is in progress in that city.

The aim of Mr. Gompers is to bring together the products of union workmen in every branch of industry to illustrate the superiority which is claimed for this class of goods, and also to demonstrate the growth of the union labor movement in the United States since its inception 60 years ago.

Some idea of the character of the projected exposition may be gained by the announcement that 2,000,000 men, comprising the total membership of the American Federation of Labor are expected to contribute to its success.

Baptist Association.

The General Association of Kentucky Baptists will convene at Richmond this week. The session promises to be unusually interesting. One of the most important questions to be decided will be that of changing the time of meeting. It is believed that the time will be changed from June to November. The next session of the association may be held at Mayfield. It is the rule of the association to hold the meetings in different parts of the state each year.

It is not definitely known whether anyone will go from here or not. Rev. Calvin Thompson and Rev. E. H. Cunningham can not attend, but some of the lay members may go.

Westmoreland, Kan., May 5, 1902: Ballard Snow Liniment Co. Your Snow Liniment cured an old sore on the side of my chin that was supposed to be a cancer. The sore was stubborn and would not yield to treatment, until I tried Snow Liniment, which did the work in short order. My sister, Mrs. Sophia J. Carson, Allensville, Missin Co., Pa., has a sore and mistrusts that it is a cancer. Please send her a 50c bottle Sold by Alvey & List.

Distress Warrant.

The confectionery store of Wurman & Houseman, on Meyers street, has been closed on a distress warrant issued from Magistrate Broadfoot's court in favor of Charles Smith, owner of the building, who claims \$21 due him for rent.

Have You a Cough.

A dose of Ballard's Horehound Syrup will relieve it. Have you a cold?

Try it for whooping cough, for asthma, for consumption, for bronchitis. Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E. 1st street, Hutchinson, Kans., writes: "I have used Ballard's Horehound Syrup in my family for 5 years, and find it the most palatable medicine I ever used. Sold by Alvey & List.

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