

The Fortunes of Fanny

She Is Accosted by a Strange Man and Greatly Frightened



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CHAPTER XXXI

Fanny Heiden went downtown to meet Nellie Benson and her friends, who were not mistaken in fancying that people stared at her interestingly. The girl interpreted their glances as a tribute to the beauty of her new furs. She was so proud of them herself that she did not consider it strange that passersby and passengers on the subway train should look at them with admiration.

The truth of the matter was, however, that the face of the wearer of the furs shone with such happiness and satisfaction that the most casual observer found himself looking at her for the mere pleasure of the sight. Fanny was a pretty girl at all times, but today she was so radiant that she was, as the saying goes, "a sight for sore eyes."

She boarded the subway at Eighty-sixth street—the station nearest the street on which she lived. At Columbus Circle she stepped from the train to await her friends. As she did so—and the crowd, passing on upstairs to the street, left her for a moment alone—she stepped forward and lifted his hat.

"Good afternoon," he said with a broad and ingratiating smile. "It's a nice day, isn't it?" Fanny started violently and her heart

form. "What do you say to that?" Terror lest his words should be overheard by bystanders who might suspect that he was tormenting her, for, worse still, that she was the kind of a girl who would allow a strange man to talk with her) made Fanny desperate and gave her courage to speak out the anger that was mingled with her other emotions. Moreover, she caught a glimpse of Nellie Benson's face in the crowd of people coming up the steps, and she knew that a means of escape was at hand.

"I forbid you to speak to me again!" she ordered in a low, tense voice. Then, before the man could reply, she hurried toward the staircase, regardless of the fact that she had to elbow her way unceremoniously through the groups collected at the head of the steps.

"Oh, Nellie!" she gasped, clutching her friend by the arm. "Here's our train just in! Let's get on quickly!"

Before the three girls could express surprise at her frantic haste, Fanny had pulled and pushed them through the throng into the waiting train a moment before the guards slammed the doors. Then she glanced a timid glance through the car window and saw the object of her aversion and fear standing where she had left him. Evidently he had no intention of following her now that she had met her companions.

"What under the sun's the matter with you, that you're in such a mad rush?" Nellie demanded when she had

"No," Fanny faltered. Then she laid her hand affectionately on Nellie's arm. "Nellie," she said, "I can see you don't approve of my furs—but honestly, you have no need to worry. They're mine all right. If things come out as I—as I—hope—why—with a tremulous laugh—"I'll tell you all about it the first one. Can't you believe me, Nellie?"

The face into which he was gazing lighted with a smile of relief. "Of course I do!" Nellie replied. "I won't ask any questions about your beau, because it don't seem fair to nag at you till you're ready to tell. Only, Fanny, her furs sobering again suddenly, "do be careful, dear. If men aren't just what they try to make the girls they want to marry believe."

"I know," returned Fanny. "And I'll be careful."

"And," Nellie admonished, "don't receive attentions from any man till you know all about him. If he loves you, he'll be glad to tell you everything about his folks and his business. It's only men that's got something they're ashamed of that make love to a girl and don't tell her what she's got a right to know if she's a decent sort."

The train stopped at Twenty-eighth street, and the four girls hurried off together. Nellie and her friends laughed and chatted as they ran up the subway steps and walked along the street towards the restaurant which was their destination. Fanny also laughed and tried to talk. But the

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Grid of flower specials: Violets (The season's choicest violets, 6 to 9 o'clock, 2 bunches for...25c), Carnations (Choice Field Carnations, 6 to 9 o'clock, 2 dozen for...25c), Narcissus (Fresh and fragrant Narcissus on sale, all day Saturday. Per bunch...25c), Playing Cards ("Everybody's" Playing Cards, Special all day, 2 for...25c)

EVERYBODY'S

Butterick Patterns For February Have Arrived

Anniversary Specials: Saturday Specials in the Ribbon Section (Main Floor), Anniversary Month Specials on Sale Saturday Night (6 to 9 o'clock, MAIN FLOOR), Collars and Cuffs, Party Cases, Fancy Set Rings, Watch Bracelets, Pearl Beads, Stationery, Oriental La Vallieres, Fancy Hair Pins, Anniversary Glove Specials for Saturday (Main Floor), 2 Button Kid Gloves, 16 Button Gloves, Saturday Specials From the Corset Department (Offering Unusual Values, Second Floor)

"I think," she said coldly, "that you are mistaken." gave a sickening leap. Yet her voice was steady as she replied. "I think," she said coldly, "that you are mistaken in the person. I do not know you." "Perhaps not," the man said again smiling. "But I've seen you at the Cairo barber shop. I never had the pleasure of having you manicure me, for that kind of dandy and dandy business isn't in my line. But I've seen bunches of other fellows lured to your table. Perhaps, with a low laugh, "if you will be nice to me now, I may not be able to resist the temptation of adding one to your list of customers." Fanny flushed hotly. She was too much frightened to know just what to say. Why didn't Nellie come? Why was she not here at the time she promised to be? "Perhaps you will favor me by going for a little walk with me," the intruder said, dropping his voice as the passengers began to gather on the platform.

RATIFICATION MEETING. All citizens of El Paso interested in good government are invited to attend a Meeting in the 41st District Court Room in the Court House at 8 p. m. FRIDAY JANUARY 8TH. to ratify the action of the Joint Committee of Citizens of El Paso and of the Young Men's Democratic Club in the selection of Candidates for the city offices to be filled in the Coming Spring Election. DR. T. J. McCAMANT, Chairman Committee Y. M. D. C. Z. T. WHITE, Chairman Citizens' Committee. (Advertisement.)

Anniversary Month Hosiery Specials Are Splendid Saturday Bargains (MAIN FLOOR), 3 Pairs Women's Silk Boot Hose \$1, Newest Shades in Silk Hose, Per Pair \$1, Women's Fine Grade Silk Hose, Per Pair 75c, SPECIAL! Fay Hose for children—no supporters needed with the "Fay Hose." It buttons at the waist; comes in black and white at, per pair—35c and 25c.

Skirts \$3.95. "Radical Reductions" makes this offer in skirts extraordinary and particularly attractive to every woman in need of an extra skirt. They are plain tailored and long tunic models of serge, gabardine, taffeta, moire silk and novelty cloths, values in the lot up to \$16.50—Choice at \$3.95. Coats \$10. An Anniversary Special that will create unusual buying activity in the garment section Saturday. Newest winter models in zibeline, Ural lamb, Astrakhan, broadtail and novelty cloths; all have high button-up collar, large cuffs and cut with full flare. In belted and semi belted styles. "Radically Reduced" from values up to \$22.50, to \$10.00. Sweaters \$1.50. Formerly Priced \$2.50. All wool, plain and fancy weave sweaters, in red, gray, cardinal and navy; sizes for women and misses—sold regularly at \$2.50.