

Absolutely Nothing

By MYRA C. LANE

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"And that's your business, seeking to ruin women's reputations for money!"

Thelma Norton, white-lipped, her gray eyes blazing, confronted Alan Leeson in the office of the detective agency.

She was a magnificent woman, with the appearance of some queen of tragedy.

Tall, willowy, erect, she dominated the man, controlled him, terrorized him by the force of her personality.

Nevertheless, Leeson pulled himself together. "Mine is a legitimate profession, Mrs. Norton," he answered coolly.

"So is the spy's," she answered. "You are no better than a spy, the lowest, meanest thing that ever crawled upon the face of the earth."

Alan Leeson bit his lip. His eyes fell. He knew that it was true.

"How much is my husband paying you for this wonderful discovery that, before I married him, I had what is commonly called a 'past'?"

Leeson might have rejoined that he had a retainer of a hundred dollars a day, with twenty-five thousand more to be paid upon discovery of evidence which would enable him to obtain a divorce.

And he might have said, what, in fact, he was going to say, that he had won the bonus.

"That is part of my private business, Mrs. Norton," he returned. "And you think it legitimate?"

"Was it legitimate on your part to behave as you have done, morally speaking?"

"I can't discuss my affairs with you. I shall put up the hardest fight possible. You know what sort of creature has hired you to spy on me—a man from whom I would separate myself as soon as possible if it were not for my child. You know his reputation?"

"No, Mrs. Norton. I am not hired to inquire into your husband's reputation."

"You know why he has suddenly become so eager to discover certain facts? You know that he is in the clutches of a certain notorious woman, and is anxious to marry her?"

"It may be possible, but I assure you it is not my affair. I cannot discuss my employer's business," said the private detective.

"And how does he propose to obtain his divorce on the ground that I had 'this past'?"

"Your former husband, Mrs. Norton, is living?"

An incredulous cry escaped her. "Living?" She clasped her hands together. "Oh, surely—surely you are deceiving me, Mr. Leeson! He died eight years ago, before I married Mr. Norton under my maiden name."

"Unfortunately, he did not. When your husband placed the matter in my hands, I discovered, rather by accident, that James Bannerley's death was feigned, for the purpose of enabling him to escape the attentions of the police. His international coups had netted him a considerable sum of money, and, like a prudent man, he decided to assume another name and retire from the world. He has retired very smoothly and safely, his past has been forgotten, and he is not likely to come into prominence again."

"Where—where in heaven's name is he?"

"He is a member of parliament for a district in South Australia, and a prominent farmer there. He is happily married and has four children."

"And that's the man I once loved and married!" murmured Thelma Norton. And suddenly she turned to Leeson.

"You are getting probably a large sum for your investigations. I don't know whether you get more for finding this evidence, but have you no pity at all?"

"Pity doesn't go with my profession, Mrs. Norton."

"My little boy, deprived of a mother's care, my reputation—"

"I can do nothing for you, Mrs. Norton," answered the detective.

"Then God do so to you and more also!" she retorted, as she swept out of the office.

Next afternoon Leeson stood before his employer, Norton chewed his cigar at his desk. Leeson had his typewritten report in his pocket.

"Leeson," said Norton, "I sent for you because . . ." His voice dropped. "See here, I guess there's nothing you can find. Thelma isn't that type of woman. So—we've got to manufacture something. See? Some evidence that 'I give me what I want. We've got to get false affidavits and—"

Leeson started. "We don't do that kind of business, Mr. Norton," he answered.

"Don't, eh? Then I'll have to get someone who does. You've had a fine lot of money out of me, and so far you've found out absolutely nothing."

"Absolutely nothing," answered Leeson, "and your next employees are likely to find out absolutely nothing too, because—Mrs. Norton's life has been entirely blameless."

A Rule for Public Speaking. I once asked Colonel Ingersoll, the most effective public speaker I ever heard of, to what he attributed his power. "Avoid elocutionists like snakes," he said, "and be yourself."

Andrew Carnegie in his Autobiography.

Rare Example of Courtesy. When a very young girl, in order to reach my place of employment each day, I had to walk quite a distance after leaving the street car. One morning it was raining heavily and I had no umbrella. As I alighted from the car a young man stepped up to me and quietly walked along by my side, shielding me from the rain with his umbrella. I was very shy and did not know what to say or do, so said nothing. When we arrived at my destination, I tried to thank him, and he gravely bowed and went on his way.

IS RICH REGION

Valley of the Rio Grande Famous for Its Early Crops.

River Also a Landmark in Expeditions of Spanish Explorers—Heard Shot Like That at Concord.

"The Rio Grande, flowing between Texas and Mexico, which has been giving an all too realistic imitation of the Mississippi on a rampage, is normally so shallow and sluggish that immigration agents and customs officers are kept busy 'shooing' back Mexicans who would enter the United States by the simple and informal procedure of wading in," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society in regard to the country's latest flood region.

"It is hard," continues the bulletin, "for the Mexico-bound traveler to realize under normal conditions that the ribbon of water meandering through a broad bed of sand is the stream that in Spanish means 'The Great River.' But once a year, at least, and sometimes often, the Rio Grande fully lives up to its name."

"The loam banks of the lower Rio Grande and its broad, fertile valley, covered with a heavy growth of the thorny mesquite—half shrub and half tree—was long considered a wilderness and given over to deer, wild pigs, armadillos and jackrabbits. Then came ranchmen to graze great herds of beef cattle among the feathery sea of green. Large areas somewhat removed from the river are still given over to cattle raising."

"But near the stream pumping stations and irrigation canals have come into existence in recent years, and each spring and summer thousands of carloads of watermelons, cantaloupes, onions, cabbage, and other vegetables stream north from the region to help feed the more northern portions of the country. For this region, near the warm Gulf of Mexico and barely outside the tropics, competes with Florida and the Imperial valley in producing early crops."

"Still more recently another development has taken place which promises to make the Rio Grande a second San Joaquin valley. Between a million and a half and two million citrus fruit trees have been planted, and in the winter of 1921-22 the first carloads of oranges and grapefruit were shipped out."

"Historically, the Rio Grande has held a prominent place. It was one of the chief landmarks in the famous expeditions of the Spanish explorers who pushed up into Texas and on to New Mexico and California four centuries ago. Later it became a sort of southern Concord; for if the shot fired in Massachusetts in April, 1775, was 'heard round the world,' a shot fired on the banks of the lower Rio Grande on another April morning seventy-one years later by Gen. Zachary Taylor's soldiers might be said to have been heard over an area of half a million square miles. That area was added to the United States as a result of the shot; for it brought on the Mexican war which resulted in the annexation of what is now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and parts of New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. In addition, this skirmish near the mouth of the Rio Grande led to the confirmation of the annexation of Texas which had brought an additional quarter million square miles under the American flag."

"Part of the region lately inundated was known to thousands of doughboys during the mobilization along the Mexican border, shortly before the United States entered the World war. Port Isabel, almost at the mouth of the Rio Grande, came into newspaper fame in the fall of 1920, when Senator Harding, having just finished the strenuous campaign which took him to the White House, went there for big game fishing."

The Bloom of Summer. There is a slight but perceptible color in the atmosphere of summer. It is not visible close at hand, nor always where the light falls strongest, and if looked at too long it sometimes fades away. But over gorse and heath, in the warm hollows of wheat fields, and round about the rising ground there is something more than air alone. It is not mist, nor the hazy vapour of autumn, nor the blue tints that come over distant hills and woods. As there is a bloom upon peach and grape, so this is the bloom of summer. The air is ripe and rich, full of the emanations, the perfume from corn and flower and leafy tree. In strictness, of course, the term will not be accurate, yet by what other word can this appearance in the atmosphere be described but as a bloom?—Richard Jefferies.

Easily Computed. The simple one had just bought his first motor bike and set off on a grand tour in the country. The first night, after a fairly safe ride all day, he put up at a country hotel, putting his motor bike in the stable.

Next morning, before leaving, when paying his bill, he inquired the charge for the garaging.

"Well," said the landlord, "it's rather difficult to say, as I usually charge \$1 for a horse per night."

"That's all right," said the simple one. "My bike's two and one-half horse power. Here's \$2.50."

Quick Cigarette Production. Machines are now in use which make cigarettes at the rate of 50,000 an hour and which pack 15,000 an hour.

Paste. A paste effective for mending fine china can be made by dampening rice flour with cold water and stirring it gently on the back of the stove until it becomes quite thick. Since the paste is white, it scarcely shows in mending.

Many Writers of Begging Letters. Professional begging letter writers to the number of 249,000 are registered by a London charitable society, which makes a business of investigating the truth or otherwise of any begging letter received.

ROYALTON

August 24—Miss Lucille Munholland of Anoka spent the week end in town with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bouck returned Sunday from a week's motor trip in the northern part of the state.

Mrs. A. C. Wilson and daughter Marion returned Sunday from an extended trip East, visiting Montreal, Quebec, New York, Washington, Toronto, Detroit and Chicago cities.

Mrs. A. M. Watson entertained a number of children Monday afternoon in honor of her son Robert's birthday.

Prof. Weechy, Superintendent of Schools for the coming year, has rented the C. C. Young residence and with his family have taken possession.

Mrs. R. J. Batzer visited friends in the twin cities the past week.

Mrs. Fred Cairnes and daughter, Margaret and Elizabeth, of Rice, spent several days the past week at the home of Mrs. Street.

Mrs. A. A. Fitch entertained a few friends at cards Thursday afternoon.

Fred Galley motored to Funkley Sunday and returned Monday with his family, who were visiting relatives there.

Mrs. Winkler, who has been nursing Mrs. L. J. Dassow for the past two months, has returned to her home at Holdingsford. Mrs. Rose Murphy of St. Paul is now taking care of Mrs. Dassow.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Skinner and son of Minneapolis are visiting relatives in town.

Dr. and Mrs. E. H. McGonag, Mrs. J. N. Carnes and Miss Nellie Wakefield who have been visiting relatives here the past week, left Thursday morning by auto to visit Mr. and Mrs. Ruel Lambert of Funkley.

Chas. Bennowitz has rented Mrs. M. F. Street's residence and the family will take possession the first of September.

Mrs. Street has taken apartments at White Bear for the winter, and her niece, Margaret Cairns, will live with her and attend High School.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

Early celery is best bleached with boards or paper. Earth may be used on late celery. Earth is likely to cause early celery to rust and decay.

The new tariff on bulbs will tend to make them higher in price this year. This, coupled with the usual loss in forcing, will very materially raise the price of cut flowers next spring.

Buy bulbs now for planting this fall. Tulip, hyacinths and daffodils make good house plants. Tulips and crocuses may be planted in the yard or garden to advantage. Get both Darwin and early flowering sorts.

The highbush cranberry is exceptionally full of fruit this year. Its bright color makes it a worth while shrub. As a rule this fruit will hang on the tree until late in winter and is both ornamental and a good food for birds. The fruit also makes good jelly.

A single flower often looks better in a vase than a large number tightly set. Each flower should have a chance to show its individuality. Never crowd if you would have the best effects.

Take some products to the local fair. Study the products and that other people bring and learn the best methods of growing and exhibiting crops. Overgrown specimens of fruits or vegetables no longer take premiums at good fairs. They must be even in color, shape and size, and free from blemishes. There is no excuse for insect or disease marks. Both can be kept off if properly sprayed.

August and September are good months to study gardens and landscape work. September brings out the Autumn colors of fruit and foliage, both of which means much in a landscape. Le Roy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

BILL SAM'S DICTIONARY



By J. L. MARTIN

Lem Gardner, who always did like his "lucker" came not getting drunk last Sunday night. A fellow sneaked up to Lem's house with some real "moonshine," which he offered to sell to Lem for twenty dollars a quart. All that Lem lacked of getting drunk, was he didn't have the twenty dollars.

MOONSHINE: The ghost of departed "spirits." Bill Sam's Dictionary, page 637.

MEMORY THAT IS MARVELOUS

Authentic Feats of Blind Musicians Are Among the Most Remarkable on Record.

Remarkable feats of quick memorizing by blind musicians have been recorded by the National Institute for the Blind.

Fred Turner, one of the most accomplished blind musicians in Scotland, recently memorized all of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" and in four months trained his choir and accompanied the entire work on the organ, while Sinclair Logan, the blind composer and organist, memorized Somervell's "The Passion of Christ," a fairly complicated cantata occupying 75 minutes in performance—trailed his choir and accompanied a highly successful performance in less than two months, during which he was working under the stress of other heavy memorization work for an important recital in Liverpool for the National Institute for the Blind, in addition to his normal professional duties.

To carry in the memory Beethoven's 32 pianoforte sonatas, as William Wolstenholme does, and the entire 48 preludes and fugues of Bach, as in the case of H. V. Spanner—two blind musicians resident in London, would seem no light achievement, and yet these form but a small portion of the range of works in the mental storehouse of these men.—Westminster Gazette.

SWANVILLE

August 23—Mr. and Mrs. William Larson and children of Wichita, Kan., arrived here last week for a visit with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Larson. They made the trip by automobile.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger McBae (Miss Gertrude) arrived here Saturday for a visit with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McBae, Sr. They were united in marriage July 3 in Spokane, Wash. Mrs. McBae was a former domestic science teacher in the Swanville school. They left Sunday for Minneapolis where they will reside in the future.

Mrs. Chas. Glantz of Glenwood visited here over Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Stith.

Miss Marion Kelley, who has been visiting here at the Dr. Bussen home, will leave today for her home at Valley City, N. D. She is Mrs. Bussen's niece.

Mrs. M. Leach and daughter Jeanette, Mrs. H. White and daughter of Minneapolis, and Miss Alice respectively of Mrs. J. J. McBae, Sr., visited here at the McBae home over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Buchanan of Minneapolis and Forrest Glantz of St. Paul, visited relatives here over Sunday.

Dr. Bussen and family spent Sunday with relatives at Richmond.

M. J. Connolly and family and Thos. Connolly and family of Glenwood were callers here Sunday.

O. H. Kolbe, who has been cashier of the First State Bank at this place the past seven years, has resigned and has sold his residence property and bank stock to Mr. Koester of Round Prairie, who is to be the new cashier. Mr. Kolbe expects to move his family to Long Prairie about September 1 for the present, but has not decided as yet where he will locate permanently.

Miss Hazel Cox visited the past week with friends at Sauk Centre and Glenwood.

Miss Winnifred Maynard of California, a former teacher in the Swanville school, visited here the past week with Miss Hilda Muske.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Stith will leave today for a visit at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Joe Maloney, of Bowdle, S. D.

J. J. McBae, Jr., is repainting his barn.

St. Peter's Lutheran church of this place held its annual Mission Festival last Sunday. There were several ministers and a large number of people present from out of town.

Rev. Koibe of Glencoe visited here the past week at the home of his brother O. H. Kolbe. He preached Sunday morning at the Mission Festival at St. Peter's Lutheran church.

The board of education has elected the following officers for the coming year: Chas. E. Stith, president; O. H. Kolbe, secretary; and John E. Mason, treasurer. School will open here Sept. 4th.

Superintendent Willard C. Olson and wife arrived here Monday. They have moved into the E. O. Larson residence, where they will reside the coming year. Mr. and Mrs. E. Braatz and children left Sunday for a visit with relatives in North Dakota.

The Misses Green of Rice are visiting here at the E. C. Manwell home.

E. L. Kaliber transacted business in the Twin Cities the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Biteman have moved into rooms at the central house. J. H. Hoff and Leo Biteman have two American eagles while blueberrying in the north part of the state. They have made a large cage for them in the park.

LINCOLN

August 24—Mabel Randall visited Wednesday with her sister Ruth. Grandpa Anderson came home from Concord, Minnesota.

Selma Swanson will teach school near Randall this year. It is Selma's first attempt. We wish her all success.

Mrs. Kunze, Sr., came down from Winnipeg Friday to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Kunze.

Mrs. Osland of Minneapolis visited her aunt, Mrs. John Johnson, leaving her Friday to visit in Fargo. Her daughter remained for a longer visit.

A. O. Holt visited Mrs. Holt at St. Gabriels' Tuesday. Mrs. Holt continues to improve.

Fred McArdeil's brother is visiting at the McArdeil home.

Albin Randall came home from Waukegan Saturday morning. He went to Wadena to visit his sister Ruth, Sunday.

Miss Gladys Bailey of Waukan, is visiting the A. O. Holt family.

Mrs. Gilleen of Bemidji is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Staples. Mae Staples Swanke visited her parents one day this week.

The Summer Club will have a booth on Main street Saturday, August 26. Ice cream, cake, and coffee will be served.

Club meeting with Mrs. Kunze last meeting, while Ladies' Aid met with Mrs. Kapengst. The usual good lunches were served. The next club meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Wm. Hansen while Ladies' Aid meets at home of Mrs. Frank Johnson. All are welcome.

The young folks of this vicinity had a wiener roast Tuesday evening at Mrs. Van Otto's cottage. A great time was enjoyed by all.

Mr. C. O. Burt came out from Little Falls Tuesday to visit his daughters. The Farmers' Shipping Association shipped a full car of stock Tuesday.

Geo. Weber came home from North Dakota. Hub Friesenger was in town Wednesday.

GILBERT

August 24—Mr. and Mrs. J. Mortenson and two children left last week for a visit at (State of Minnesota.) County of Morris.)

In District Court, Seventh Judicial District, Barbara Griggs, Plaintiff, vs. Dellan R. Griggs, Defendant.

SUMMONS THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: You are hereby summoned and required to answer the complaint of the plaintiff in the above entitled action which complaint is hereto attached and herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to said complaint upon the subscriber at his office in the American National Bank Building in the City of Little Falls, in the County of Morris and State of Minnesota, within the time aforesaid; and if you fail to do so, the plaintiff prays that the relief demanded in the complaint be granted. Dated this 23rd day of May, 1922.

C. ROSENBLER, Attorney for Plaintiff, American National Bank Building, Little Falls, Minnesota.

their old home in Iowa. On Sunday morning Roy Mortenson received a telegram calling him to Iowa on account of the sudden death of his father. No further particulars are known at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas Tew and Earl Tew motored to Battle Lake Saturday and spent Sunday with Mrs. Earl Tew. Vivian and Della Johnson spent last week visiting at the home of their aunt, Mrs. Oscar Larson of Little Falls. Miss Alma Johnson, who is employed in Little Falls visited over Sunday at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tuttle, Mrs. Leo Norris and two daughters drove to Brainerd Sunday. Mrs. Norris remained there for a few days visit at the Menard home.

The children and young people of Gilbert have a live and interesting Sunday School here this summer. Meetings are held in the schoolhouse with an average attendance of about thirty.

Miss Anna Johnson is the superintendent of the Junior Class, which was recently organized and named the Sunshine Class. Miss Johnson teaches the Intermediate Class which has taken the name of The Bluebirds. Mrs. Keeckley is the very efficient teacher of the wide awake Senior class.

Homor Ayler of Grand Rapids, N. D., was here last week visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Johnson. From here he went to Barrows to visit his sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. J. Stewart.

SOUTHWEST PIKE CREEK

Aug. 23—Christ Eckman, who has for some time past been employed in Hibbing, arrived Friday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Eckman.

Miss Martha Ringwelski and nephew Frank Carlson of Minneapolis, arrived last week for a visit at the Andrew Ringwelski home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Bart Ringwelski and daughters, Emma and Agnes, and sons, Joseph and Thomas, motored Sunday to Sobieski, where they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Kiedrowski.

Vince Eckman of Little Falls spent Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Eckman.

Michael Wank of Flenzburg is a guest at the Steven Tuzinski home last week.

Miss Susie Hall left Sunday for Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Walkowiak and daughter Stella visited Sunday at the

home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Johnson.

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home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Johnson.

John Kiedrowski home at Swan River. Miss Bernice Ringwelski of Little Falls visited Monday at the Anton Walkowiak home.

Miss Trebatiowski of Little Falls is a Pike Creek visitor this week, a guest of Lillian Ginter.

August 23—Born to Mr. and Mrs. H. Craighead, Thursday, a son.

The farmers shipped a carload of grain to Minneapolis Wednesday. Geo. Simons went to Riverside, Ia., Sunday to bring back his car and also some furniture. Mr. and Mrs. George Simons have resided at that place the past year.

The farmers around here are busy cutting corn and filling silos.

Chas. Lundwall attended to business matters at Little Falls Saturday.

Mrs. Chas. Olsen of Grand Rapids is here visiting friends and relatives.

Axel Eckblad shipped a carload of mixed stock to South St. Paul Tuesday for the farmers.

Miss Edith Olsen was a passenger to Staples Monday.

C. F. Anderson bought a car last week from Walter Goodwin of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Johnson left Tuesday for Minneapolis where Mr. Johnson will be employed in a garage.

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