Sensational Selling of the Lahr-Bacon Co's Stock

(DEPARTMENT STORE OF EVANSVILLE, INDIANA.)

The sale of this fine stock of Dry Goods has aroused the interest of every consumer in the vicinity. At no time have we offered you greater values. The character of the goods and the extremely low prices must certainly appeal to every body. Everywhere in the great store you will find the very merchandise you are in need of marked about half the price you usually pay. The most important sale tomorrow is the CARPETS.

15c Silk Veiling 3c a yd.
All silk veiling from the Lahr-Bacon stock in plain nets, dots and fancy colors, worth 15c yd., go at.... **3c**

BOSTON STORE
OMAHA
J. L. BRANDEIS & SONS.
16 & 18 DOUGLAS

New Golf Skirts $4.98
Ladies' fine golf skirts, made of fine frieze materials, all wool, fancy stitched facing, made with 16 rows of stitching around bottom—the best skirt value ever known—go at.... **4.98**

Sale of Sample Jackets

Most of these sample Jackets are the new Eton styles and embrace all the latest ideas, also Boleros and Box Coats, Fly Front and Tight Fitting Jackets, made of tucked taffeta, braided taffeta, cheviot, broadcloth, coverts, etc; every one made for this season's trade; on sale at just half their worth—
Eton Jackets, worth $19, for..... **$9.50**
Eton Jackets, worth $14 for..... **$6.98**
Box Coats, worth $15, for..... **$7.50**
Box Coats, worth $10, for..... **$5.00**
Box Coats, worth $7.50, for..... **$3.75**
Jackets at $5.98, $4.98 and $3.75, worth double.

Ladies' All Wool Cheviot Skirts—Made with separate flounce, wide band of fancy trimming, a regular $7.00 value; a fortunate purchase permits us to sell them to you for **$3.98**

Laces and Embroideries

from the Lahr-Bacon Co. at 1-2 and 1-3 Price

Very fine torchon and French valenciennes laces and insertions, in neat, dainty patterns—all qualities; Lahr-Bacon's price 8c yd., our price **2½c** yd

Normandy, valenciennes, net top oriental, and linen torchon laces and insertions, all extra fine quality, many different patterns, all widths, Lahr-Bacon's price 35c yd. **5c** and **10c** yd

Fine laces and insertions, including galoons, chantillas, Venice, etc., in a great variety of patterns, newest styles, Lahr-Bacon's price up to $1, our price.... **15c 19c 25c 39c** yd

Everybody knows that we are headquarters for fine embroideries, but these are the biggest bargains we have ever offered. Fine swiss, nainsook and cambric embroideries, neat fine edges, fine open work effects, Lahr-Bacon's price up to 20c yd., our price..... **3½c 5c** yd

All the finer embroideries and insertions in medium widths, neat, fine and showy patterns, in swiss, nainsook and cambric; their price to 50c, our price..... **15c 19c** yd

Thousands of pieces of all-over embroideries and tuckings, in plain and lace effects, ½ yard lengths—worth up to $1.00 yard, go at..... **15c** each

Ladies' Fine Kid Gloves

from the Lahr-Bacon Co., on sale at half their value.

Lahr-Bacon Co. were importers of the very highest class real Kid Gloves—some were marked to sell up to $3.00 a pair. Every pair is perfect, in all sizes and all colors, go in three lots at, pair,

69c 98c $1.49

Worth up to $3.00 a pair.

Sale of Lahr-Bacon Co.'s Carpets and Rugs

SOME ARE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

All the carpets that we purchased from the Lahr-Bacon stock will be placed on sale tomorrow. The remarkably low prices at which these carpets will be sold—is bound to make this the most phenomenal carpet sale Omaha has ever known. Lahr-Bacon Co. were very large dealers in carpets. The stock comprises only the best makes, such as Bigelow Axminister, Smith's Moquette, Hartford Axminster, Lowell Ingrain and other well known brands. Some of these carpets are damaged, others slightly mussed in handling, but most of them are absolutely sound and perfect.

$1.00 Carpets at 25c a yd.
We will sell one lot of the damaged carpets, comprising Brussells, Moquette, Axminster, Velvet, etc. These are slightly damaged, and will go in one lot at, yard **25c**

$1.25 Carpets 39c yd.
One lot of Wilton, Moquette, Axminster and Velvet carpets, nearly sound and perfect, go at, yard..... **39c**

$1.50 Carpets 49c yd.
All the Brussells, Moquette and Velvet carpets that are absolutely sound and perfect, all new and beautiful patterns, made for this spring's business—go at, per yard..... **49c**

$2.00 Carpets at 69c yd.
All the best grade of carpet manufactured, Royal Wilton, Hartford Axminster, Bigelow Axminster, Bigelow Body Brussels. In fact there are no better carpets made, all sound and perfect, per yard..... **69c**
These are in hall, stair and parlor patterns, all new for this spring's business.

Made-Up Carpets
We will offer one big lot of all sizes in made-up carpets, in Wilton, Velvet and Brussels, at
Half the Regular Price
Bring the measurments of your room and if you find one to fit, you will secure an immense bargain.

Rugs and Art Squares from Lahr-Bacon Co.
One big lot of 1¼ yard Moquette and Velvet rugs, go at, each..... **59c**
All of the 1½ yard long Smyrna and Wilton rugs, all new and beautiful patterns. Lahr-Bacon's price $2.50—all sound and perfect; we will sell them tomorrow at..... **75c**
All the ingrain art squares, all absolutely sound and perfect. We have divided them into two lots—
$2.98 for the medium size—$3.98 for large size.

Straw Matting Rugs
All the yard and 1½ yards long fringed straw matting rugs go at, each **10c**
All the straw matting mats for cuspidors and flower pots—made to sell at 15c each—go at, each..... **1c**

Extra Special Notice
On account of the large quantity of carpets to be placed on sale it will be impossible to offer the oil cloth, linoleum and drapery on the same day,
On TUESDAY we will sell all of Lahr-Bacon's linoleum that they sold up to $1.50—for..... **25c**
All Lahr-Bacon's oil cloth that they sold up to 50c, absolutely sound and perfect—TUESDAY at, yd..... **15c**
All Lahr-Bacon's Drapery and Lace Curtains go on sale TUESDAY.
All Lahr-Bacon's straw matting that they sold up to 40c—go on sale TUESDAY, at, yd **15c**

Sale of Lahr-Bacon Co.'s Silks and Dress Goods

Lahr-Bacon 75c Dress Goods 25c yard — Tomorrow we will place on sale an immense assortment of all wool and silk and wool dress fabrics, worth up to 75c, at 25c a yard. The lot includes—
42-in Satin Berbers
40-in. Tweed Suitings
40-in Mixed Homespuns
38-in English Coverts
42-in Mohair Brilliantines
42-in Figured Jacquards
38-in Scotch Plaids
38-in French Serges
38-in German Henriettas
25c Yard

Lahr-Bacon $1 Dress Goods 49c yard — All of Lahr-Bacon's highest grade imported and domestic dress fabrics, worth up to $1.50 a yard, on sale tomorrow on bargain square at 49c yard. The lot comprises—
45-in All Wool Poplins
46-in Two Toned Melrose Suitings
50-in Mixed Coverts
42-in Silk and Wool Pierolas
44-in Mohair Brilliantines
42-in English Crepons
44-in French Serges
42-in German Henriettas
Black and all colors
49c Yard

New Black Dress Goods 75c yard —All of Lahr-Bacon's finest black dress goods, worth up to $1.50 a yard, go on sale Monday in black goods department, at 75c yard. The lot comprises—
54-in Clay Worsteds
54-in Broadcloth
42-in. Mohair Pierolas
Silk Finish Brilliantines
Shrunk Cheviots
All Wool Serges
All Wool Henriettas
75c Yard

Lahr-Bacon Co. $2 Silks 98c yard—Black grenadines, 45 inches wide, satin striped, iron frame, figured, sewing silk grenadines and Egyptian, worth $2.00 a yard—65 exclusive patterns on sale, each pattern containing 6 yards, per yard..... **98c**

Lahr-Bacon's 75c Silks 25c-39c Lahr-Bacon's China silks, foulard silks and brocaded silks, worth up to 75c yard, on sale on bargain square at, yd..... **25c-39c**

Sale of Black Taffeta—A big purchase of 300 pieces of 27-in and 36-in black taffeta enables us to offer you during this sale $1 silk at 50c yd, $1.50 silk at 79c yd, $2 silk at $1.19

Lahr-Bacon Co.'s $1 Silks 49c High cost Foulards, 27-inch Taffetas, Novelty Silks, Brocades and satin Duchesse, in black and colors, $1.00 values, yard **49c**

Cheney Bros.' Foulards, $1.39 value, 67½c yar Fine imported Foulards, all exclusive patterns of from 12 to 15 yards, in the latest designs and the wanted shades—old rose, resedas, new blue, light castors, tans, etc., worth $1.39 a yard, special..... **67½c**

Lahr-Bacon Co's $1.50 Silks 69c yard—High class novelties, Dresden and Persian patterns, warp prints, embroidered novelties, wash silks, satin duchesse, crepe de chene, etc., $1.50 values, on bargain square, yard.. **69c**

All Wool French Challis, Handsome Floral Designs, Beautiful Persian Patterns in Every Tint and Color, Many Silk Striped, 75c and 85c values, on Sale at 39c and 45c a yard.

Millinery Bargains

Sale of the New "Shirt Waist" Hats

Monday we will place on sale a number of original pattern hats, New York and Paris models, that cost from $20.00 to $35.00, at $10.00. Each hat is an ideal creation and portrays the correct fashions. These are positively the best hat values ever offered at **$10**

Ladies' and misses handsomely trimmed hats, designed after leading European and New York models, trimmed with silk and flowers, gilt and steel ornaments, some faced with chiffon, $8.00 values, for **$4.50**

The new shirt waist hats, in all colors, made of fancy braid trimmed with crinkled chiffon, velvet ribbon and gilt ornaments, sold in the east for $3.50, our special sale price **$1.98**

Lahr-Bacon Co.'s Hosiery

On Sale Monday at Half Price.

Ladies', misses' and children's Fast Black Hose, all sizes, full seamless, worth 15c pair, go at **6c**

Boys' and girls' fine and heavy ribbed school and Bicycle Hose, fast black, full seamless, double sole and knees, Lahr-Bacon's price 25c pair, go at **10c-15c**

Ladies' fine quality imported and domestic Hose, in fast black, fancy colored and mercerized cotton, lisle thread and silk finished, all sizes, worth up to 50c pair, go at .. **12½c-15c-25c**

Men's fine plain silk mercerized and fancy colored Half Hose, all colors, all styles, go at, pair **10c-12½c**

Great Underwear Sale

Big Bargains from the Lahr-Bacon Stock.

Ladies' fine jersey ribbed Vests, with crocheted laced and taped necks and armholes, in fine lisle thread, cotton and fancy silk mercerized, all sizes, worth up to 35c each, go at.. **5c, 10c, 15c**

Misses', children's and boys' fine India Gauze and Balbriggan Vests, Pants and Drawers—all sizes **10c, 15c, 19c**

Handkerchiefs

Lahr-Bacon's all linen Hemstitched Handkerchiefs, with hand embroidered corners—worth 15c each—go at **6½c**

All the ladies' fine imported Swiss embroidered and Irish linen handkerchiefs, neatly hemstitched, also handsomely embroidered with worked edge, worth up to 50c each—at **10c-15c-25c**

Men's fine imported China and Japanese silk handkerchiefs, in plain white and fancy colored borders, with hand embroidered silk initials, worth up to 75c—go at, each **29c**

Salvage Sale of Boys' Clothing

$30,000 stock of Wolfers-Goldberg Co. slightly damaged by water.

$2.50 Boys' Suits $1.39
—made of Scotch cheviot, sizes 8 to 15, double breasted, also boys' vestee suits, with open double breasted vests, and shields—stylish garments—sale price, only.. ..... **1.39**

$6 Boys' Suits $1.98
—all high grade novelties, made of fine quality cassimere, cheviots and serges, Little vests made of silk and embroidered French cloth vestee, sailors, and Russian blouse styles—up to $6.00 values, for **1.98**

$10.00 Boys' Suits for $2.98 and $3.98
—highest grade novelties, Norfolks, vestees, three-piece suits, sailors and Russian blouses—also top coats made of English covert cloth—up to $10 values, for **2.98, 3.98**

$7.50 Boys' Suits $2.50
—Double breasted styles, knee pants, ages 8 to 16—vestees, Norfolks, sailors, and Russian blouses, ages 3 to 10 years—made of high grade materials—some are water stained—$7.50 values..... **2.50**

New Patent Leather Shoes

VERY SWELL.

Men, Women, Children

at	$1.50	$1.39
$1.69	$1.98	$1.50
$1.98	$2.50	$2.25
$3.00	$3.00	Strap Sandals
$5.00	$4.00	50c, 75c, 89c, 98c, 1.39, 1.59

Muslin Underwear

From the Lahr-Bacon Co.'s Stock.

Ladies' fine muslin umbrella Drawers and embroidery rimmed Corset Covers, go at **15c**

Ladies' plain cambric and muslin Corset Covers **7½c**

Ladies' fine Cambric Corset Covers, handsomely trimmed with lace and embroidery, many styles, worth up to $1.00, go at **25c-35c-49c**

Ladies' finest muslin and cambric Night Robes, Skirts, Skirt Chemise and Drawers, extra well made, full size, 50 styles, worth up to $2.00, go at **49c-69c-98c**

HAUNTING THE GREENROOM

First Experience of Clara Morris on the New York Stage.

MEETING JAY GOULD AND JIM FISK

Recollections of the Noted Manipulators of the Erie—Characteristics of Fisk—Sorrow at His Death.

(Copyright, 1901, by S. S. McClure Co.)

The following morning we were called to the theater at 11 o'clock to have the play "cut judiciously," as old actors used to say. It was very loosely constructed and besides cutting, the entire play required a tightening up, as it were.

Mr. Daly was the first to greet me and offer hearty and genial congratulations. Everyone followed his example, and that morning I was admitted into the family circle and came into my just inheritance of equality and fraternity. A little surprised, but very happy, I gave back smile for smile, hand-pressure for hand-pressure, for being held off at arm's length by them all, had hurt worse I am sure than they knew, therefore when they offered me kindly greeting I did not stop to study out the cause of this effect, but shut my eyes and opened my mouth, and took what luck had sent me, and thankfully became so much one of them that I never had a clashing word with a member of the company—never saw the faintest cloud darken our good fellowship.

That morning, as the cutting was going on, I advanced and offered my part, but Mr. Daly waved me away. "No," he said, "there's plenty of useless matter to take out, but the public won't want Anne cut—they've none too much of her now."

He gave but few compliments, even to those he liked, and he did not like me yet, therefore that gracious speech created a sensation among the other hearers, and was carefully treasured up by me.

Another of his sayings of that morning I recall. In conversation with one of the ladies I remarked: "As a western woman I suppose I have various expressions to unlearn," when Mr. Daly turned quickly from the prompt table, saying sharply: "Miss Morris, don't say that again, you are a New York woman now, please remember that. You ceased to be a westerner last night when you received the New York stamp."

I thought him jesting and was about to make some flippant reply, when one of the ladies squeezed my arm and said: "Don't—he will be angry; he is in earnest!" and he was, just as he was in earnest later on, when we had become good friends—and I heard him for the first time swear like a trooper because I had been born in Canada; and when I laughed at his anger he was not far from boxing my ears. "It's a damn shame," he declared. "In the first place you are an American to the very marrow of your bones and in the next place you are the only woman I know who has a living, pulsing love of country and flag—oh, the devil! I won't believe it. You, born in a tw'-penny, ha'-penny, little Canadian town under that infernal British flag! See here, if you ever tell anyone that—I'll—I'll never forgive you! Have you been telling that to people?"

I answered him: "I had not, but I had permitted the assertion that I had been born in Cleveland to go uncorrected," and with the sweet frankness of friendship he answered that I had "more sense than he had given me credit for."

Imagine, then, my amazement on the third night of the season when this occurred. In one act I made my exit before the curtain fell, all the other characters being still upon the stage. Having a change of dress there, I always hurried downstairs quickly as possible and, passing in one door and out the other, crossed the greenroom to reach my dressing room. That evening as I ran in I saw a gentleman standing near the opposite door. I turned instantly to retreat, when a voice called: "If you please!"

I paused—I turned. The gentleman removed his hat and coming to the center of the room held out his hand, saying: "Miss Morris—you are Miss Morris?"

I smiled assent and gave him my hand. His small, smooth fingers closed upon mine firmly. We stood and looked at each other. He was small and dark of hair and of beard and his piercing eyes seemed to be reading me through and through. He spoke presently in a voice low and gentle, almost to sadness: "I wanted to speak to you," he said. "I'm not going to waste time telling you you are a wonderful actress, because the papers have already done that and all New York will do it, but I see you are an honest girl and alone here—"

"No—oh, no!" I broke in, "my mother is here, too!"

A faint smile seemed to creep about his bearded lips. There was a distinct touch of amusement in his voice as he said: "I-n-d-e-e-d? A valiant pair, no doubt a truly valiant pair. But," his small fingers closed with surprising strength about mine, in emphasis of his words, "but, oh, my honest little woman, you are going to see trouble here!"

He glanced down at the hateful cheap dress I wore; he touched it with the brim of his hat: "Yes, you will have sore trouble on this score; to say nothing of other things, but don't let them beat you! When your back is to the wall, don't give up, but at a last pinch turn to me, Clara Morris, and if I don't know how to help you out, I know somebody who will—she—"

Steps; running steps were coming down the passageway, then tall, dead-white with anger, Mr. Daly stood in the doorway. He almost gasped the words: "What does this mean, sir?" then angrily to me: "Leave the room at once!" I bent my head and moved toward the door, when calm and clear came the words: "Goodnight, Miss Morris; please remember."

Mr. Daly seemed beside himself with anger. "Mr. Gould!" he cried. My heart gave a jump at the name, to save my life I could not help glancing back at them.

"How dare you pass the stage door? You have no more right here than has any other stranger; your conduct, sir—"

The gray blazing eyes of the speaker were met by Mr. Gould's calm, cold, hard as steel; and his voice low and level was saying: "We will not discuss my conduct here, if you please; your office, perhaps;" as I fled down the entry to my own room.

Mr. Daly sent for me at the end of the play to demand my story of the unexpected meeting: "Had I received any note—any message beforehand? Had we any common acquaintance—what had he said to me? Word for word—what had he said?"

I thought of the gentle voice, the piercing eyes that had grown so kind, the friendly promise, and somehow I felt it would be scoffed at—I rebelled! I would only generalize. He had called me an honest girl, had said the city praised me; but when I got home I told my mother all, who was greatly surprised, since she had had only the newspaper Gould in her mind—a sort of human spider, who wove webs—strong webs, that caught and held his fellow men. His words came true. I saw trouble of many kinds and colors. More than once I thought of his promise, but I had learned much ill of human nature in a limited time and I was afraid of everyone.

Knowing much of poor human nature, now, and looking back to that evening, recalling every tone, every shade of expression, I am forced to believe Mr. Jay Gould was perfectly honest and sincere in his offer of assistance.

The first time I saw James Fisk in the greenroom he was surrounded by a smiling, animated party and as he advanced a step unexpectedly I disappeared. I have been told that he laughed at his own disappointment and the suddenness of some claim upon my attention. The second time I was in the room when he entered and at my swift departure he reddened visibly and after a moment said: "If you were not all such good friends of mine I should think someone had been making a bugaboo of me to scare that young woman."

"Oh," laughed one of the men, "she's from the west and is a bit wild yet."

"Well," he replied, "it doesn't matter where she's from, New York's got her now and means to keep her. I'd like to offer her a word of welcome and congratulation, but she won't give a chap any margin," and he resumed his conversation. The third time he was alone in the room and as I backed hastily out he followed me. I ran—so did he—but that was too ridiculous. I stopped at his call and, turning, faced him. He removed his hat and hurriedly said:

"I beg your pardon for forcing myself upon your attention, Miss Morris, but any man with a grain of self-respect would demand an explanation of such treatment as I have received from you. Come now; you are a brave girl, an honest girl, tell me, please, why you avoid me as if I were the plague? Why, good Lord, your eyes are all but jumping out of your head. Are you afraid even to be listening to me?"

Suddenly he stopped; his own words had given him an idea. His eyes snapped angrily. "Well, I'll be blessed!" he exclaimed. Then he came closer; he took my hand and asked: "Miss Morris, have you been putting these slights on me by order?"

"If you please—if you please!" was all I could say. He looked steadily at me, lifted my hand to his lips and said with a compassionate sigh: "Bread and butter come high in New York; doesn't it, child? There, I won't worry you any longer, Brother Daly and I will hold a little love feast over this matter," and with a laugh he returned to the greenroom, where I could hear him singing "Lucy Long" to himself.

A fortnight later, finding him again surrounded by the company, he laughingly called out to me: "Don't run away, the embargo is raised! It won't cost you a cent to shake hands and be friendly!" and as I seated myself in the place he made beside him, he added low, "and no advantage taken of it outside the theater!"

The time he won the name of "Jubilee Jim," when the whole country was laughing over his triumphant visit to Boston with his regiment, he made this unsmiling explanation of the matter:

"You see, the Ninth and I were both tickled over the invitation to visit Boston and as there were so many of us I paid the expenses myself. Being proud of the regiment and anxious it should be acquainted with all real American institutions, I arranged for it to stay over Sunday, for there were dozens of the boys who had never even seen a slice of real Boston brown bread or a crock-baked bean—and a Boston Sunday breakfast was to be the educational feature of the visit. Everything was lovely, until the Ninth suddenly felt a desire to pray, as well as to eat—and I'll be switched onto a sidetrack if the minister of that big church didn't begin to kick like a steer, and finally refused to let us pray in his shop.

"Now, if there's anything that will make a man hot as blazes in a minute, it's choking him off when he wants to pray! Some sharply pointed and peppery words were exchanged on the subject. I suppose our numbers rather muddled up his schedule, but if he'd said so quietly, I could have straightened out his heavenly time table, so that there would have been no collision between trains of prayer.

"But no, instead of that, he slams the doors of his church in our visiting faces and in act, at least, tells us to go to—what's that polite word now, that means h——? What—what do you call it—Sheol? Shucks! That word won't become popular—has'nt got any scrap to it! Well, the boys were mighty blue—they thought the visit was off. But I got 'em into the armory, and I said, what amounted to this—I says: 'This visit ain't off—Boston is right as a trivet, and wants us! We ain't bucking against a city, but against that sanctified stihgylke who don't want anyone in heaven but his own gang—but you, see here, when the Ninth regiment wants to pray—I'm d—d if it won't do it. Who cares for the church anyway—where you'd be crowded like sardines and have your corns crushed to agony! We'll go to Boston, boys, and we'll praise the Lord on the Common, if they'll let us, and if they won't we'll march out to the suburbs and have a perfect jubilee of prayer! And what do you think," he cried, grinning like a mischievous boy as he twisted the long waxed ends of his moustache to needle-like points, "what do you think—we prayed out of doors, with all female Boston and her attendants looking on and saying, 'Amen!' and oh, by George! I sent a man to see, and stingylke's church was nearly empty. Ha, ha! I tell you what it is, when a New York soldier wants to pray—he prays, or something gives!" After that he was Jubilee Jim.

His growing stoutness annoyed him greatly—yet he was the first to poke fun at what he called his "unmilitary figure." One evening I said: "Mr. Fisk, I'm afraid you have cast too much bread upon the waters, it's said to be very fattening food when it returns."

"Well, I swan!" he answered; "I'll never give another widow a pass over any road of mine—whether she's black, mixed or grass—for that's about all the bread-casting I do."

I heard much of his generosity on benefit nights, but personally I never tested it. Before my benefit night arrived Mr. Edward Stokes had caught Mr. Fisk on a walled-in staircase, as in a trap, and had shot him down; and then, in that time of terror and excitement, Jubilee Jim proved that whatever else he had been called—man of sin, fraud, trickster, clown—he was not a coward. With wonderful self-control he asked as the clothing was being cut from his stricken body: "Is this the end of me—am I going to die, doctor?"

And when the man addressed made an evasive and soothing answer, that his hopeless eyes contradicted, James Fisk testily continued; "I want to know the truth!" Then more gently: "I'm not afraid to die, doctor; but I am afraid of leaving things all at sixes and sevens! This is the end of me, isn't it?"

"Well, do what you can, and George send for—and for—(his lawyer), and I will do what I can. When can Lucy get here?"

And so he quickly and calmly made all possible use of his ebbing strength—of the flying moments—disproving at least one charge, that of cowardice. He was dying and crowds were awaiting about the hotel where he lay, hungry for any morsel of news from the victim's bedside. That was the situation as I went to the theater. I dressed and went through one act, then as I came upon the stage in the second act I faced Mr. Fisk's private box. I glanced casually at it, and stopped stock still, the words dying on my lips.