

SERIAL STORY

ELUSIVE ISABEL

By JACQUES FUTRELLE

Illustrations by M. KETNER

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SYNOPSIS.

Count di Rosini, the Italian ambassador, is at dinner with diplomats when a messenger summons him to the embassy, where a beautiful young woman asks for a ticket to the embassy ball. The ticket is made out in the name of Miss Isabel Thorne. Chief Campbell of the secret service, and Mr. Grimm, his head detective, are warned that a plot is brewing in Washington, and Grimm goes to the state ball for information. His attention is called to Miss Isabel Thorne, who with her companion, disappears. A shot is heard and Senior Alvarez, of the Mexican legation, is found wounded. Grimm is assured Miss Thorne did it, he visits her, demanding knowledge of the affair, and arrests Pietro Petrosini. Miss Thorne visits an old bomb-maker, and they discuss a wonderful experiment. Fifty thousand dollars is stolen from the office of Senator Rodriguez, the minister from Venezuela, and while detectives are investigating the robbery Miss Thorne appears as a guest of the legation. Grimm accuses her of the theft, the money is restored, but a new mystery occurs in the disappearance of Monsieur Boissacur, the French ambassador. Elusive Miss Thorne reappears, bearing a letter which states that the ambassador has been kidnapped and demanding ransom. The ambassador returns and again strangely disappears. Later he is rescued from an old house in the suburbs. It is discovered that Pietro Petrosini shot Senior Alvarez and that he is Prince d'Abuzzi.

CHAPTER XVII.—(Continued.)

"He was bribed," was the ready response. "Now, Warden," the masked intruder continued peacefully, "it would be much more pleasant all around and there would be less personal danger in it for both of us if you would release Signor Petrosini without question. I may add that no bribe was offered to you because your integrity was beyond question."

"Thank you," said the warden grimly, "and it shall remain so as long as I have this." He tapped on the desk with the revolver.

"Oh, that isn't loaded," said the masked man quietly.

One quick glance at the weapon showed the warden that the cartridges had been drawn. His teeth closed with a snap at the treachery of it, and with his left hand he pulled back one of the levers—that which should arouse the jailers, turnkeys and guards. Instead of the insistent clangor which he expected, there was silence.

"That wire has been cut," the stranger volunteered.

With clenched teeth the warden pulled the alarm.

"And that wire was cut, too," the stranger explained.

The warden came to his feet with white face and nails biting into the palms of his hands. He still held the revolver as he advanced upon the masked man threateningly.

"Not too close, now," warned the intruder, with a sudden hardening of his voice. "Believe me, it would be best for you to release this man, because it must be done, pleasantly or otherwise. I have no desire to injure you, still less do I intend that you shall injure me; and it would be needless for either of us to make a personal matter of it. I want your prisoner, Signor Petrosini—you will release him at once! That's all!"

The warden paused, dazed, incredulous before the audacity of it, while he studied two calm eyes which peered at him through the slits of the mask.

"And if I don't release him?" he demanded at last, fiercely.

"Then I shall take him," was the reply. "It has been made impossible for you to give an alarm," the stranger went on. "The very men on whom you most depended have been bought, and even if they were within sound of your voice now they wouldn't respond. One of your assistants who has been here for years unloaded the revolver in the desk there, and less than an hour ago cut the prison alarm wire. I, personally, cut the police alarm outside the building. So you see!"

As yet there was no weapon in sight, save the unloaded revolver in the warden's hand; at no time had the stranger's voice been raised. His tone was a perfectly normal one.

"Besides yourself there are only five other men employed here who are now awake," the masked man continued. "These are four inner guards and the outer guard. They have all been bought—the turnkeys at five thousand dollars each, and the outer guard at seven thousand. The receipt of all of this money is conditional upon the release of Signor Petrosini, therefore it is to their interest to aid me as against you. I am telling you all this, frankly and fully, to make you see how futile any resistance would be."

"But who—who is this Signor Petrosini, that such powerful influences should be brought to bear in his behalf?" demanded the bewildered warden.

"He is a man who can command a vast fortune—and Senior Alvarez is at

the point of death. That, I think, makes it clear. Now, if you'll sit down, please!"

"Sit down?" bellowed the warden. Suddenly he was seized by a violent, maddening rage. He took one step forward and raised the empty revolver to strike. The masked man moved slightly to one side and his clenched fist caught the warden on the point of the chin. The official went down without a sound and lay still, inert. A moment later the door leading into the corridor of the prison opened, and Signor Petrosini, accompanied by one of the guards, entered the warden's office. The masked man glanced around at them, and with a motion of his head indicated the door leading to the street. They passed through, closing the door behind them.

For a little time the intruder stood staring down at the still body, then he went to the telephone and called police headquarters.

"There has been a fall delivery at the prison," he said in answer to the "hello" of the desk-sergeant at the other end of the wire. "Better send some of your men up to investigate."

"Who is that?" came the answering question.

The stranger replaced the receiver on the hook, stripped off his black mask, dropped it on the floor beside the motionless warden, and went out. It was Mr. Grimm!

CHAPTER XVIII.

Notice to Leave.

At fifteen minutes of midnight when Miss Thorne, followed by Signor Petrosini, entered the sitting-room of her apartments in the hotel and turned up the light they found Mr. Grimm already there. He rose courteously. At



"I Want Your Prisoner, Signor Petrosini—you Will Release Him at Once!"

sight of him Miss Thorne's face went deathly white, and the escaped prisoner turned toward the door again.

"I would advise that you stay, your Highness," said Mr. Grimm coldly. Signor Petrosini paused, amazed. "You will merely subject yourself to the humiliation of arrest if you attempt to leave. The house is guarded by a dozen men."

"Your Highness?" Miss Thorne repeated blankly. "You are assuming a great deal, aren't you, Mr. Grimm?"

"I don't believe," and Mr. Grimm's listless eyes were fixed on those of the escaped prisoner, "I don't believe that Prince Benedetto d'Abuzzi will deny his identity?"

There was one of those long tense silences when eyes challenge eye, and mind is pitted against wit, and when it is hauled around to a new, and sometimes unattractive, view of a situation. Miss Thorne stood silent with rigid features, colorless as marble; but slowly a sneer settled about the

lips of Signor Petrosini that was, and he sat down.

"You seem to know everything, Mr. Grimm," he taunted.

"I try to know everything, your Highness," was the reply. Mr. Grimm was still standing. "I know, for instance, that one week ago the plot which had your freedom for its purpose was born; I know the contents of every letter that passed between you and Miss Thorne here, notwithstanding the invisible ink; I know that four days ago several thousand dollars was smuggled in to you concealed in a basket of fruit; I know, with that money, you bribed your way out, while Miss Thorne or one of her agents bribed the guard in front; I know that the escape was planned for to-night, and that the man who was delegated to take charge of it is now locked in my office under guard. It may interest you to know that it was I who took his place and made the escape possible. I know that much!"

"You—you—!" the prince burst out suddenly. "You aided me to escape?"

Miss Thorne was staring, starting at them with her eyes widely distended, and her red lips slightly parted.

"Why did you assist him?" she demanded.

"Details are tiresome, Miss Thorne," replied Mr. Grimm with the utmost courtesy. "There is one other thing I know—that the Latin compact will not be signed in the United States."

The prince's eyes met Miss Thorne's inquiringly, and she shook her head. The sneer was still playing about his mouth.

"Anything else of special interest that you know?" he queried.

"Yes, of interest to both you and Miss Thorne. That is merely if the Latin compact is signed anywhere, the English-speaking countries of the world might construe it as a casus belli and strike soon enough, and hard enough, to put an end to it once for all."

Again there was silence for a little while. Slowly the prince's eyes were darkening, and a shadow flitted across Miss Thorne's face. The prince rose impatiently.

"Well, what is the meaning of all this? Are you going to take me back to prison?"

"No," said Mr. Grimm. He glanced at his watch. "I will give each of you one-half hour to pack your belongings. We must catch a train at one o'clock."

"Leave the city?" gasped Miss Thorne.

"Impossible!" exclaimed the prince.

"One-half hour," said Mr. Grimm coldly.

"But—but it's out of the question," expostulated Miss Thorne.

"One-half hour," repeated Mr. Grimm. He didn't dare to meet those wonderful blue-gray eyes now. "A special car with private compartments will be attached to the regular train, and the only inconvenience to you will be the fact that the three of us will be compelled to sit up all night. Half a dozen other Secret Service men will be on the train with us."

And then the prince's entire manner underwent a change.

"Mr. Grimm," he said earnestly, "it is absolutely necessary that I remain in Washington for another week—remain here even if I am locked up again—lock me up again if you like. I can't sign compacts in prison."

"Twenty-five minutes," replied Mr. Grimm quietly.

"But here," exclaimed the prince explosively, "I have credentials which will insure my protection in spite of your laws."

"I know that," said Mr. Grimm placidly. "Credentials of that nature cannot be presented at midnight, and you will not be here to-morrow to present them. The fact that you have those credentials, your Highness, is one reason why you must leave Washington now, to-night."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CASTE A BARRIER IN INDIA

Snobbery Sifted Into Fanatical Religious Faith Pale Description of Social Conditions.

First of all caste is a question of birth, and there is no entry except by birth. A worker in a coal mine may become a part owner thereof, and his daughter marry a peer, and his grandson become a peer of England. No millions will enable the low caste Hindu to marry into a Brahman family or even to touch the hand, or throw his shadow on the food of a Brahman in India.

If a man is excommunicated by his caste fellows in India, no one of the caste will eat with him, accept water from his hands or marry him. His own wife will not touch him or speak with him. He is dead to his family. The barber even will not shave him, or cut his hair, or his toe nails.

A Brahman clerk has been known to distribute legal documents by throwing them down at the end of the village street in which live his low caste brethren. Letter carriers have been known to refuse to enter the houses of, or to permit themselves to come into personal contact with those of a lower status than themselves.

If one could picture to oneself social snobbery lifted into a fanatical religious faith, it would be a pale description of the iron subdivisions of caste in India. There is no patriotism,

and can be none, in a country thus divided against itself.—Scribner's Magazine.

Of Ancient Vintage.

Ernest G. Walker, who is a journalist with a national reputation, arrayed himself one evening with particular care, as he was going to the home of a politician on whom he wanted to make a big impression.

On his way, he stopped at his office and asked George Brown, his assistant, for an opinion on the costume.

Brown said it was all right, but checked himself when he noticed that Walker's high hat looked as if might have been of rather ancient vintage.

"Where did you get that hat?" he asked.

"Won it on a bet on a presidential election," explained Walker with some pride.

Brown looked at it a moment and then queried solemnly, "Hayes or Garfield's?"

Buddhism and Animal Life.

It must be said of Buddhism that it has left one indelible mark all over India, China, and the east, and that is the teaching of gentleness and kindness to one another and to animals. Buddha taught that life is but a prolonged endeavor to escape from suffering, and that, therefore, to cause others to suffer is the unforgivable sin—Price Collier in Scribner's Magazine.

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

500,000 Trout Caught.

More than half a million trout were caught in the streams of Pennsylvania during the season of 1911, according to an estimate made by William E. Meehan, State Commissioner of Fisheries. This figure is based upon returns made to the commissioner from clubs affiliated with the United Sportsmen of Pennsylvania and by individual fishermen, together with observations made by Mr. Meehan and his wardens. This catch, the commissioner said, would amount to about 100,000 pounds, or \$40,000 in value, and should go far toward disproving the statements made and printed that trout fishing is declining in Pennsylvania and the streams are being "fished out." The returns made came from twenty-six clubs, whose officers reported that 1,345 of their members caught 73,902 trout in 194 streams. Ten other clubs reported inability to get accurate data. In addition 387 persons reported the catch of 2,680 trout in forty streams, so that 1,732 people took 76,582 trout from 239 streams, enabling estimates of the total catch to be made.

First List Of Private Banks.

State Banking Commissioner William H. Smith is compiling what will be the first complete list of the private banks ever made in this State. It will embrace every kind of bank that receives deposits, and the number is expected to be surprising. The information is being gathered for the enforcement of the new State law regulating banking by concerns not under State supervision, which will be in the hands of a State board which will organize under the terms of the Alter law before the first of December. The work of Mr. Smith will be of importance, because the larger cities of the State have numerous banks which make a business of handling the money of foreigners and they have never been under State supervision, to the occasional misfortune of many depositors. Mr. Smith, who was formerly a newspaper man and later a bank examiner, has given the gathering of information about private banks, especially those managed by foreigners, personal attention and the results bid fair to be interesting. It is stated that less than one hundred private banks are taxed by the State, more than four times that many being officially unknown, although having large deposits.

Dry Headquarters.

The State headquarters of the Prohibition party in Pennsylvania will be removed to this city from Franklin within the next few days, and it is possible that a location on Market Square not far from the headquarters of the Democratic State Committee will be selected. As soon as the headquarters are selected the office furniture and papers will be moved here and Mr. Rockwood will spend several days a week here directing the campaign work. The prohibition policy this fall is to name full tickets in each county without regard to what other parties may do, this being a course in accord with the principles of the party to which its members have clung for several years. Mr. Rockwood will meet Dauphin county leaders here and discuss the naming of a ticket.

Views Of Milk Shippers.

The State Railroad Commission received two unique letters from farmers in reply to requests for statements as to views of the milk producers and shippers in regard to use of ice cars for shipments. One letter informed the commission that a temperature of sixty degrees is about that of the water which nature supplies from wells and springs, and that if God, "in His all-wise providence, had intended us to drink anything cooler, He would have given us colder water." The other letter states that considering the fact that a farmer shipping one hundred quarts of milk a day pays more than a passenger on a passenger car on a similar trip he is entitled to better accommodations.

Mahogany Colored Tags.

Pennsylvania's automobile license tags for 1912 will be of a mahogany color with the letters and figures in white. This color has been adopted by State Highway Commissioner Bigelow, who will open bids for furnishing fifty thousand such tags to the department on September 19. The tag will bear a keystone in soft metal, which will contain the manufacturers' number, but in all respects except base color will be like the yellow tags of this year.

Can Get Water Charter.

The Attorney General's Department has informed the State Water Supply Commission that no legal obstacle exists to the incorporation of the Evitt's Creek Water Company. It was stated in the application that the company was to operate in Cumberland Valley township, Bedford county, but charges were made that it was to furnish water to the city of Cumberland, Md. It is stated that if the company transgresses its rights after incorporation action may be taken.

TELEPHONE—The terms of subscription to the telephone are one dollar per year in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES—Display advertisements of less or more inches for three or more insertions, eight cents per inch for each issue. Display advertising occupying less space than ten lines and for less than three insertions, from ten to twenty cents per inch for each issue, according to composition.

Local notices accompanying display advertising five cents per line for each insertion; otherwise, eight cents per line, minimum charge twenty-five cents.

Legal notices twenty cents per line for three insertions, and ten cents per line for each additional insertion.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEMOCRATIC.

FOR SHERIFF.

We are authorized to announce that Arthur J. Leach of Potter township, is a candidate for the office of Sheriff, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic primaries to be held September 30.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

We are authorized to announce that John R. Lemon of Ferguson township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic primaries to be held September 30.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

We are authorized to announce that William A. Stover of Penn township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic primaries to be held September 30.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

We are authorized to announce that William H. Noll of Pleasant Gap, in Spring township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic primaries to be held September 30.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

We are authorized to announce that D. A. Grove of College township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries, September 30th.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

We are authorized to announce that William H. Noll of Pleasant Gap, in Spring township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries to be held Saturday, September 30th.

FOR REGISTER.

We are authorized to announce that John D. Miller of Walker township, is a candidate for the office of Treasurer, subject to the usage of the Democratic party. Bellefonte, Pa.

FOR RECORDEE.

We are authorized to announce that D. A. Delrich of Walker township, will be a candidate for the office of Recorder of Centre county, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries to be held Saturday, September 30. Paid.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

We are authorized to announce that J. M. Ketchum is a candidate for the office of District Attorney, subject to the usage of the Democratic party. Paid.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

We are authorized to announce that Paul Forney of Bellefonte, is a candidate for the office of District Attorney, subject to the usage of the Democratic party. Paid.

FOR PROTHONOTARY.

We are authorized to announce that D. R. Foreman of the Borough of Bellefonte, is a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the usage of the Democratic party. Paid.

REPUBLICAN.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

TO EDITOR REPORTER—I hereby announce myself as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Republican voters at the primaries to be held Sept. 30, 1911. JACOB WOODRING, Fort Matilda, Pa.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

TO EDITOR REPORTER—I hereby announce myself as a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Republican voters at the primaries to be held Sept. 30, 1911. HARRY E. ZIMMERMAN, Springtownship.

FOR REGISTER.

TO EDITOR REPORTER—I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Register of Centre county, subject to the decision of the Republican voters at the primaries to be held Sept. 30, 1911. EDWARD J. WILLIAMS, Unionville, Pa.

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