

SERIAL STORY

ELUSIVE ISABEL

By JACQUES FUTRELLE

Illustrations by M. KETNER

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SYNOPSIS.

Count di Rossi, 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 Senator 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's visitor. She is a wonderful expert, 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 Minister Boissac, 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 Senator Alvarez and that he is Prince d'Abuzzi. Grimm figures in a mysterious jail delivery. He orders both Miss Thorne and d'Abuzzi to leave the country; they are conveyed to New York and placed on a steamer but return. Grimm's coffee is drugged and upon regaining consciousness he finds a sympathetic note from Isabel Thorne.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Compact.

A room, low-ceilinged, dim, gloomy, sinister as an inquisition chamber; a single large table in the center, holding a kerosene lamp, writing materials and a metal spheroid a shade larger than a one-pound shell; and around it a semicircle of silent, masked and cowed figures. There were twelve of them, eleven men and a woman. In the shadows, which grew denser at the far end of the room, was a squat, globular object, a massive, smooth-sided, black, threatening thing of iron.

One of the men glanced at his watch—it was just two o'clock—then rose and took a position beside the table, facing the semicircle. He placed the timepiece on the table in front of him.

"Gentlemen," he said, and there was the faintest trace of a foreign accent. "I shall speak English because I know that whatever your nationality all of you are familiar with that tongue. And now an apology for the theatrical aspect of all this—the masks, the time and place of meeting, and the rest of it." He paused a moment.

"There is only one person living who knows the name and position of all of you," and by a sweep of his hand he indicated the motionless figure of the woman. "It was by her decision that masks are worn, for, while we all know the details of the Latin compact, there is a bare chance that some one will not sign, and it is not desirable that the identity of that person be known to all of us. The reason for the selection of this time and place is obvious, for an inkling of the proposed signing has reached the Secret Service. I will add the United States was chosen as the birthplace of this new epoch in history for several reasons, one being the proximity to Central and South America; and another the inadequate police system which enables greater freedom of action."

He stopped and drew from his pocket a folded parchment. He tapped the tips of his fingers with it from time to time as he talked.

"The Latin compact, gentlemen, is not the dream of a night, nor of a decade. As long as fifty years ago it was suggested, and whatever differences the Latin countries of the world have had among themselves, they have always realized that ultimately they must stand together against—against the other nations of the world. This idea germinated into action three years ago, and since that time agents have covered the world in its interest. This meeting is the fruition of all that work, and this," he held the parchment aloft, "is the instrument that will unite us. Never has a diplomatic secret been kept as this has been kept; never has a greater reprisal been planned. It means, gentlemen, the domination of the world—socially, spiritually, commercially and artistically; it means that England and the United States, whose sphere of influence has extended around the globe, will be beaten back, and that the flag of the Latin countries will wave again over lost possessions. It means all of that, and more."

His voice had risen as he talked until it had grown vibrant with enthusiasm; and his hands pointed his remarks with quick, sharp gestures. "All this," he went on, "was never possible until three years ago, when the navies of the world were given over into the hands of one nation—my

country. Five years ago a fellow-countryman of mine happened to be present at an electrical exhibition in New York City, and there he witnessed an interesting experiment—a practical demonstration of the fact that a submarine mine may be exploded by the use of the Marconi wireless system. He was a practical electrician himself, and the idea lingered in his mind. For two years he experimented, and finally this resulted." He picked up the metal spheroid and held it out for their inspection. "As it stands it is absolutely perfect and gives a world's supremacy to the Latin countries because it places all the navies of the world at our mercy. It is a variation of the well-known percussion cap or fuse by which mines and torpedoes are exploded.

"The theory of it is simple, as are the theories of all great inventions; the secret of its construction is known only to its inventor—a man of whom you never heard. It is merely that the mechanism of the cap is so delicate that the Marconi wireless waves—and only those—will fire the cap. In other words, this cap is tuned, if I may use the word, to a certain number of vibrations and half-vibrations; a wireless instrument of high power, with modifying addition which the inventor has added, has only to be set in motion to discharge it at any distance up to twenty-five miles. High power wireless waves recognize no obstacle, so the explosion of a submarine mine is as easily brought about as would be the explosion of a mine on dry land. You will readily see its value as a protective agency for our seaports."

He replaced the spheroid on the table. "But its chief value is not in that," he resumed. "Its chief value is the Latin compact, gentlemen, is that the United States and England are now concluding negotiations, unknown to each other, by which they will protect their seaports by means of mines primed with this cap. The tuning of the caps which we will use is known only to us; the tuning of the caps which they will use is also known to



"The Latin Compact, Gentlemen, Is Not the Dream of A Night, Nor of a Decade."

us! The addition to the wireless apparatus which they will use is such that they can not, even by accident, explode a mine guarding our seaports; but, on the other hand, the addition to the wireless apparatus which we will use permits of the extreme high charge which will explode their mines. To make it clearer, we could send a navy against such a city as New York or Liverpool, and explode every mine in front of us as we went; and meanwhile our mines are impervious.

"Another word, and I have finished. Five gentlemen, whom I imagine are present now, have witnessed a test of this cap, by direct command of their home governments. For the benefit of the others of you a simple test has been arranged for to-night. This cap on the table is charged; its inventor is at his wireless instrument, fifteen miles away. At three o'clock he will turn on the current that will explode it." Four of the eleven men looked at their watches. "It is now seventeen minutes past two. I am instructed, for the purposes of the test, to place this cap anywhere you may select—in this house or outside of it, in a box, sealed, or under water. The purpose is merely to demonstrate its efficacy; to prove to your complete satisfaction that it can be exploded under practically any conditions."

His entire manner underwent a change; he drew a chair up to the table, and stood for an instant with his hand resting on the back. "The compact is written in three languages—English, French and Italian. I shall ask you to sign, after reading either or all, precisely as the directions you have received from your home government instruct. On behalf of the three greatest Latin countries, as special envoy of each, I will sign first."

He dropped into the chair, signed each of the three parchment pages three times, then rose and offered the pen to the cowed figure at one end of the semicircle. The man came forward, read the English transcript, studied the three signatures already there with a certain air of surprise, then signed. The second man signed, the third man, and the fourth.

The fifth had just risen to go forward when the door opened silently and Mr. Grimm entered. Without a glance either to right or left, he went straight toward the table, and extended a hand to take the compact.

For an instant there had come amazement, a dumb astonishment, at the intrusion. It passed, and the hand of the man who had done the talking darted out, seized the compact, and held it behind him.

"If you will be good enough to give that to me, your Highness," suggested Mr. Grimm quietly.

For half a minute the masked man stared straight into the listless eyes of the intruder, and then:

"Mr. Grimm, you are in very grave danger."

"That is beside the question," was the reply. "Be good enough to give me that document."

He backed away as he spoke, kicked the door closed with one heel, then leaned against it, facing them.

"Or better yet," he went on after a moment, "burn it. There is a lamp in front of you." He pointed for an answer. "It would be absurd of me to attempt to take it by force," he added.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Percussion Cap.

There was a long, tense silence. The cowed figures had risen ominously; Miss Thorne paled behind her mask, and her fingers gripped her palms fiercely, still she sat motionless. Prince d'Abuzzi broke the silence. He seemed perfectly calm and self-possessed.

"How did you get in?" he demanded.

"Throttled your guard at the front door, took him down cellar and locked him in the coal-bin," replied Mr. Grimm tersely. "I am waiting for you to burn it."

"And how did you escape from— from the other place?"

Mr. Grimm shrugged his shoulders. "The lamp is in front of you," he said.

"And find your way here?" the prince pursued.

Again Mr. Grimm shrugged his shoulders. For an instant longer the prince gazed straight into his inscrutable face, then turned accusing eyes on the masked figures about him.

"Is there a traitor?" he demanded suddenly. His gaze settled on Miss Thorne and lingered there.

"I can relieve your mind on that point—there is not," Mr. Grimm assured him. "Just a final word, your Highness: if you will permit me, I have heard everything that has been said here for the last fifteen minutes. The details of your percussion cap are interesting. I shall lay them before my government and my government may take it upon itself to lay them before the British government. You yourself said a few minutes ago that this cap was invented and perfected. It isn't possible the minute my government is warned against its use. That will be my first duty."

"You are giving some very excellent reasons, Mr. Grimm," was the deliberate reply, "why you should not be permitted to leave this room alive."

"Further," Mr. Grimm resumed in the same tone, "I have been ordered to prevent the signing of that compact, at least in this country. It seems that I am barely in time. If it is signed—and it will be useless now on your own statement unless you murder me—every man with the highest power in this country. Will you destroy it? I don't want to know what countries already stand committed by the signatures there."

"I will not," was the steady response. And then, after a little: "Mr. Grimm, the inventor of this little cap, insignificant as it seems, will receive millions for it. Your silence would be worth—just how much?"

Mr. Grimm's face turned red, then white again.

"Which would you prefer? An independence by virtue of a great fortune, or—or the other thing?"

Suddenly Miss Thorne tore the mask from her face and came forward. Her cheeks were scarlet, and anger flamed in the blue-gray eyes.

"Mr. Grimm has no price—I happen to know that," she declared hotly. "Neither money nor a consideration for his own personal safety will make him turn traitor." She stared coldly into the prince's eyes. "And we are not assassins here," she added.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

YES, THERE ARE FLATHEADS

Babies' Heads Are Bandaged in Asia Minor to Produce the Approved Shape.

People who are markedly broad-headed are more or less flattened at the back of the head. Some of the flattest headed people of the world are among the Armenians and the tribesmen in the highlands of Asia Minor and some of them practice the custom of bandaging the babies' heads in order to get them the approved shape. It is just the opposite in Crete.

With the exception of the better educated people in the towns and in the village in the mountains all Cretan mothers bind the heads of their children when they make them of a nice round form. In fact, when I was pressing home my questions in order to make quite sure of the object the mothers had in view one of them told me that I had a "very bad head," and that my bumps and ridges ought to have been smoothed away in my infancy. Yet, after a fairly exhaustive inquiry, I came to the conclusion that the bandaging in Crete is never tight, and lasts for so short a time that nothing is effected.—C. H. Hawes, in the Wide World Magazine.

Tolstoy's Intensity.
We quoted the other day an interesting description of the count by an eminent Russian writer. Everything in Tolstoy's character, he said, attains Titanic proportions. "As a drinker he absorbed fantastic quantities of liquor. As a gambler he terrified his partners by the boldness of his play. As a soldier he advanced gayly to bastion four, the bastion of death, at Sebastopol, and there he made dying men laugh at his witty sayings. He surpassed everyone by his prodigious activity in sport as well as in literature."—London Times.

ALL OVER THE STATE TOLD IN SHORT ORDER

Media.—Andrew Rhoads, Jr., working at the Franklin Paper Mills, near here, lost his balance, and falling into the machinery, was crushed to death. He was seventy years old and resided at Victoria Mills.

Altoona.—Mrs. John Rauscher, eighty years old, of McKees Gap, died a few hours before her granddaughter, Catherine Green, who lived with her grandparents, was to have been married to Clarence Bowers, of Altoona.

Norristown.—Pursuant to a decree of foreclosure and sale made July 17, 1911, by the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Rapid Transit Company was sold at public sale to the Bondholders' Committee.

Pottsville.—Miss Gertrude Heffner, of Ashland, was awarded a verdict for \$250 and the costs of suit in the case against Charles Brecker, Jr., of the same town, in which she had him tried for a breach of promise to marry, made two years ago, when she was nineteen years old.

Allentown.—As the result of a joy ride in which fourteen young men from Allentown started out in one automobile, eleven were badly injured in an accident at Northampton, at two o'clock the other morning, and it is feared that at least one will die. Several others, if they recover, will be maimed for life.

Pittsburgh.—Following a courtship of seven months, Russell Bissett, aged 16, of Washington, Pa., and Elizabeth Elcher, aged 14, of Glassport, were married at the home of Miss Elcher's aunt, Mrs. Olive Hall, at Glassport. Alderman Cousin, of Glassport, performed the ceremony.

Media.—Charles W. Rider, a former ticket agent at the Upland station of the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad, pleaded guilty to embezzling \$4,400 while he was ticket agent, covering a period of nine years. He returned eight hundred dollars.

Nazareth.—The Nazareth Hall Military Academy reopened with a greatly increased enrollment. During the summer important improvements had been made to the school, which is the oldest boys' school in America. The opening address was made by the principal, Rev. Dr. S. J. Blum.

Ebensburg.—Citizens of Hastings, this county, asked Judge O'Connor to oust the six members of the Hastings School Board, for the reason that because of a deadlock in which the religious and political beliefs of the board members figure they have failed to elect teachers for three rooms in the Hastings schools.

Chester.—David M. Burrows, salesman for a Philadelphia tobacco concern, was held up and robbed here by two footpads, who took his gold watch, stickpin and about five dollars. In their haste the highwaymen missed Burrows' wallet, containing fifty dollars, which was in the inside pocket of his vest.

Pottsville.—John Carwen, a miner, employed at the Wadesville Colliery, several miles north of this place, was rescued after being buried alive, when all hope had fled. Carwen was working alone at the time. A fall of coal shut him into his chamber. The returning partner of the unfortunate man gave the alarm. A rescue force worked frantically, encouraged by rappings showing that Carwen was still alive. After four hours of dangerous work the man was rescued.

West Chester.—Despondent and worried over adverse business troubles, Joseph Franz, who conducts a local hack business, attempted suicide in his home here by shooting himself in the head with a revolver. After being discovered by members of the family, who hurried to the upstairs room upon hearing the shot, he made attempt again to shoot himself. He was admitted to the local hospital, where his wound was reported as not fatal.

Shenandoah.—A Pennsylvania Railroad passenger train, engine and coaches had a narrow escape from plunging over a seventy-foot bridge near the station here. After the engine turned at the turntable and was backing the train to the station three cows ran upon the track just as the train was about to pass on the bridge. The cows were struck, two killed, causing the front coach to jump the tracks and run twenty-five feet upon the sills on the high bridge. The emergency brake was applied, stopping the train and saving the coach from plunging over the bridge and dragging the balance of the train with it to the rocky bottom, seventy feet below.

Lewisburg.—Bucknell University opened with the brightest prospects for a successful year that it has had in recent years. There are 180 new registrations in the college, and in all departments, the largest in the history of Bucknell.

Norristown.—Mrs. Mary D. Trucksees, announced that her daughter, Maize Trucksees, was married to Harvey W. Kline, on November 27, 1909, in the First Presbyterian Church of New York. The bridegroom is a student at Jefferson Medical College.

TERMS.—The terms of subscription to the Reporter are one dollar per year in advance.

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

Local notices accompanying display advertising five cents per line for each insertion; other wise, 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 E. Lee, 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.

We are authorized to announce that D. J. Gitzinger, of Huston township, is a candidate for the office of sheriff, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic primaries to be held on September 30.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER.
We are authorized to announce that John E. Leister, of Potter township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce that John H. Runkle, of Potter township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the rules and regulations of the Democratic party.

We are requested to announce that John L. Dunlap will be a candidate for County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic voters of the county as expressed at the primaries to be held September 30, 1911.

We are authorized to announce that William A. Stover, of Penn township, is a candidate for the office of the Democratic party on September 30.

We are authorized to announce that William H. Noble, 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 September 30.

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 to be held September 30.

We are authorized to announce that William H. Fry, of Ferguson township, is a candidate for the office of County Commissioner, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries to be held Saturday, September 30.

We are authorized to announce that John D. Miller, of Walker township, is a candidate for County Treasurer, subject to the usages of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce that Frank H. Grebe, of Philadelphia Borough, is a candidate for the office of County Treasurer, subject to the decision of the Democratic primaries to be held September 30.

FOR REGISTER.
We are authorized to announce that Frank Smith, of Centre Hall borough, is a candidate for Register, subject to the usages of the Democratic party.

FOR RECORDER.
We are authorized to announce that D. A. Peterson, of Potter township, is a candidate for the office of Recorder of Centre county, subject to the decision of the Democratic voters of the county as expressed at the general primaries to be held Saturday, September 30.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.
We are authorized to announce that J. M. Ketchum is a candidate for the office of District Attorney, subject to the usages of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce that J. Paul Fortney, of Bellefonte, is a candidate for the office of District Attorney, subject to the usages of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce that J. Kennedy Johnson, of Bellefonte, is a candidate for the office of District Attorney, subject to the action of the Democratic voters at the primary election to be held September 30.

FOR PROTHONOTARY.
We are authorized to announce that D. R. Foreman, of the Borough of Bell-oute, is a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, subject to the usages of the Democratic party.

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.

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, Formerly of Benner township.

FOR REGI TER.
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.

ATTORNEYS.

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DR. SOL. M. NISSLEY,
VETERINARY SURGEON.
A graduate of the University of Penn'a. Office at Palace Livestock Stable, Bellefonte, Pa. Both 'phones. Oct. 1, 1911.

DR. SMITH'S SALVE
CURES: Flesh Wounds, Ulcers, Felons, Carbuncles, Boils, Erysipelas, Scrofula, Tetter, Eczema, White Swelling, Skin Eruptions, Fever Sores, Piles, Burns, Scalds, Chilblains, Corns, Bunions, Chapped Hands, Etc., Etc.

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