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SYNOPSIS.

Garrett Coast, a young man of New York City, meets Douglas Blackstock, who invites him to a card party. He accepts, although he dislikes Blackstock, the reason being that both are in love with Katherine Thaxter Coast fails to convince her that Blackstock is unworthy of her friendship. At the party Coast meets two named Dundas and Van Tuyl. There is a guarrel, and Blackstock shoots. Van Tuyl dead. Coast struggles to wrest the weapon from him, thus the police discover them. Coast is arrested for murder. He is convicted but us he begins his sentence. Dundas names Blackstock as the murderer and kills himself. Coast becomes free, but Blackstock has married Katherine Thaxter and fled. Coast purchases a yacht and while sailing sees a man thrown from a distant boat. He rescues the fellow who is named Appleyard They arrive at a lonely island, known as No Man's Land. Coast starts out to explore the place and comes upon some deserted buildings. He discovers a man dead. Upon going further and approaching a house he sees Katherine Thaxter, who explains that her husband, under the name of Black, has bought the island. He is blind, a wireless operator and has a station there. Coast informs her that her husband murdered Van Tuyl. Coast sees. Blackstock and some Chinamen burying a man. They fire at him, but he is rescued by Appleyard, who gets him to the Echo in safety, and there he reveals that he is a secret service man and has been watching the crowd on the Island, suspecting they are criminals. Coast is anxious to fathom the mysteries of No Man's Land, and is determined to save Katherine. Appleyard believes that Black and his gang make a shield of the wireless station to conduct a smugging business. Coast penetrates to the lair of Blackstock's disguise. Katherine enters the room and passes him a note which tells Coast that neither his life or her own are safe.

#### CHAPTER XIV .- (Continued.)

His hand remained on Coast's shoulder, obnoxious but imperative. "And then," he continued after a slight pause, "my fingers remember anything they've ever felt. Let me run my hands over a man's face once, and I'll pick him out of a dozen any time afterwards. Like this."

Before Coast could object Blackstock had brought both hands into. play upon his face; lightly, softly and gently the ten blunt, hard tips of his stubby fingers moved over Coast's features, tapping, pressing, gliding

It was all but insufferable; Coast was conscious that the blood burned in his face like fire, that his heart was pounding-so loud, it seemed, that the other must be aware of it. Revolted, he almost choked at this familiarity of contact which he must needs endure, from the man of all men he had the greatest cause to hate, loathe and despise. He dug his nails into his palms in an effort to enforce submission. Blackstock's face was within two feet of his own; a satiric smile (he fancied) rested upon those crudely modeled, animal features; he realized suddenly that it was the face of a Satyr, simply, naively sensual, as

"Now I know you." He could think of nothing to say but: "Oh?" It was with difficulty that he succeeded in enunciating that.

shoulders, and felt of his arms. "Hard!" commented Blackstock. "You've got strength, haven't you? Not as great as mine, though; you'd girdled it with a collar of iron. "Do him while he slept. you realize I could easily squeeze your breath out of your body. I could!"

him. Its smile was gone. Something posed. ran cold along his spine, and of a sud-

easily; "that is, you wouldn't if you cast from some gigantic bucket. knew my right hand in my pocket was pointing a pistol directly at your heart. much preferable to misery with-Would you?"

stated the truth was responsible for life during the night, Coast might as his coolness. . . . He noted the well know it; for he was armed and instinctive movement of the blind unafraid, and he who knows what to eyes, as if they sought to see if it fear is doubly armed. was true; and he thought: Habit is

Raising his left hand, he grasped stant later, and the man stood back ready at his side. with a short laugh.

"But you wouldn't have fired?" "Not any sooner than you'd have

tried to strangle me." "Of course I'd no such idea-"

have suggested it. You made me breast, roused with a start when some

had been dropped, as if they openly end slipped over upon his side and acknowledged one another as implaca- slept the sleep of the exhausted, proble enemies. And again Coast re- found and dreamless. . . . marked that Blackstock quivered as he had when surprised, an hour before; a ripple of tensed muscles, hardhim from head to foot-and was gone ing to his feet as if to the peremptory hear him yell."

in a twinkling, while the hard smile summons of a subconscious alarmreappeared on the Satyr's features. "Do you really tote a gun, Handy-

"Always." Coast rejoined briefly. "Why-up here-?"

"You never can tell what's going to happen.'

"Perhaps you're right." Blackstock must be. . . . John-hat, cane." One of the servants brought them instantly. "G'd-night, Handyside."

Blackstock hesitated an instant, blackness received him.

Blackstock's conduct. Long after he with him out into the open. was left alone in the room that had He went quickly down through the enigma.

ly unsuspicious reception of him.

clock. Such, in fact, was more or less the case; he who sleeps upon the thought of danger is apt to waken with that thought predominant.

A moment gone everything had been densely dark, with that narcotic blackness which characterizes the slumbers of the overworked and overwrought. conceded the point graciously. "I Now in a twinkling he found himself don't mind, but you really ought not intensely conscious, in the middle of to take a joke so seriously. However, the floor, pistol in hand, every nerve . . I'm full of sleep and you on the qui vive, every muscle tense.

Gradually he realized that his nerves must have tricked him, that the hairtrigger of his suspended faculties then got his bearings and found the must have been pulled by some comback door with unerring accuracy, mon but unexpected noise. The room On the stoop he paused long enough was bright with garish daylight; at to say: "We'll get together after the doors the chairs were in place, as breakfast and talk business;" and the he had left them; there was not a sound to be heard in the house.

Mystified, Coast waited, staring at Very stealthily he opened the hall the spot where he had last seen the door and looked out. From the silence man, until one of the Chinamen mild- within doors, there was no one else ly suggested that his room was ready. astir. He went out and back to the He followed the fellow stupidly, pre- kitchen, finding it empty. After some occupied, his mind ranging far in fu- momentary hesitation he returned to tile speculation as to the riddle of his room, found a towel and took it

been Power's he sat on the edge of the Cold Lairs to the beach. The Echo dingy bed, his gaze fixed upon was gone, but this did not surprise the reflection of the lamp's flame in him; it had been Appleyard's purpose the window panel-absorbed in the to heave anchor and get away as soon as the gale showed signs of slacken-He could not rid himself of the im- ing. Inside the sheltering spit a pression that an inarticulate menace sturdy little catboat was dancing lurked beneath Blackstock's apparent- crazily at its mooring, but it was evidently deserted, and Coast rightly Was insanity the explanation? Was guessed that the vessel belonged to the man in reality a homicidal maniac. Blackstock, that its tender was the at whose intellect the lust to slay ate boat which Power had been accused of like a cancer? . . . But in such stealing-principally, no doubt, to alcase, would be have delegated to an lay the suspicions of Katherine; some other the assassination of Power? | means of accounting for the man's dis-



Every Nerve on the Qui Vive.

Did he or did he not suspect? Did | appearance had necessarily to be in-How much has Coast to apprehend.

what to guard against? To this latter question his every inturned to safeguard himself-that he surf breaking close inshore. might remain able to protect Kath-

erine. hardly realize how immensely strong likely he had been left in that lonely It came to him that it was not un-I am. See now!" His hands moved cottage with the three Chinese that swiftly back to Coast's throat and they might quietly make away with

With this in mind he took a more detailed inventory of his surround-Coast's face explored the face above ings; and found them hopelessly ex-

Unquestionably he would have been den he was without emotion, quite safer in the open; but the storm was "But you won't, you know," he said water were sluicing the house as if now at the top of its fury. Sheets of

Danger within seemed very out. More than that, if Black-Perhaps the fact that he had merely stock had planned an attempt upon his

Having wedged a chair beneath the knob of each door, he placed the lamp upon the table, turning it low that its Blackstock's right by the wrist and scanty store of oil might last the removed it with a certain firmness. night, and sat down on the bed, the The other hand released him an in- pillow at his back, Appleyard's pistol

Insensibly as the dead hours lagged marked by no disturbance foreign to the storm, his weariness bore heavily upon him. His thoughts blurred into a chaotic jumble of incoherencies. "Of course not; but you shouldn't He nodded, drowsed with chin on unusually violent squall swooped over For a moment it was as if the mask the island, drowsed again, and in the

# CHAPTER XV.

that sudden slip of the mask signify vented. The boat was, of course, no ment, and Attorney General Bell and soulless as its lightless eyes. And a that he had merely allowed himself where to be seen; doubtless Black his deputies it is probable that close vinuous breath offended his nostrils; to appear to be deceived and was but stock had caused it to be carried up to half a million dollars, paid into the his own breath he held, clenching his waiting to deliver some telling stroke and secreted in one of the abandoned State Treasury by counties as their dwellings, or in some recess beneath shares of highway construction exthe bluffs to the west and south.

It was in the shelter of the westerly bluff that Coast stripped and took to stinct answered in chorus: Every- the water. Here, as all round the The hands moved on, down over his thing. He dared leave no stone un- island, the beach shelved boildy, the

Scrubbing his flesh aglow, he dressed quickly, tingling with the exhilaration of his recent contest, every trace of fatigue and drowsiness washed clean away. A sense of life and well-being ran like quicksilver through his veins; he could have sung aloud or whistled but for the sobering thought, never far beneath the surface of his consciousness, of his responsibility. With Katherine to guard and care for, with Blackstock to watch and guard against and circumvent, there could be little room for cheerfulness in his humor.

Instead of returning the way he had come, an impulse moved him to scale the bluff, which at this point pre-

sented not too steep an acclivity. As he continued along the sole, approaching the heel of what has been Army Committee will have charge, but likened to a crude sketch of a child's shoe, Coast remarked the crumbling stone walls of what had apparently once been a rude summer house and observatory set atop the highest hillock to seaward. But he had drawn quite near to it before he descried a hem of skirt whipping round a corner of a half-fallen wall. He quickunawares as she stood, half-sheltered from the breeze and wholly invisible from the body of the Island, her back to the weather-beater and lichened stones, her gaze leveled to seaward in somber reverie.

(TO BE CONTINUED.) Why Willie Was Late. "Why, Willie, what kept you so late? Did you have to may after school? I'm afraid you have been

naughty." "No, ma'am, I ain't never naughty, ly to be detected, seemed to shake | Coast awakened with a gasp, jump | naughty, an' I stayed after school to

### FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

Information and Gossip From Harris, urg.

#### Warns About Moving Day.

State Health Commissioner Samuel G. Dixon has called attention to the dangers which attend the annual "fitting" day in Pennsylvania. April 1 is the day on which many persons move, and the Commissioner thinks that they should look into the previous history of their new residences pretty closely, especially from a health standpoint. He says:

"In every community in the Commonwealth there are houses with evil records, and there are ever unsuspecting victims who come to make homes within their deadly walls. No man would knowingly put his loved ones in peril, yet how many persons inquire into the previous history of a dwelling place before engaging it? How many demand a clean bill of health for it and insist that proper precautions be taken to insure its habitability? Within sight of the Capitol at Harrisburg there stands a house that has been responsible for the death of eight persons. The neighbors do not point it out as they pass and there is no tale of haunting spirits connected with it, yet eight persons, father, mother, five sons and a grandchild have been its victims. 'Consumption, inherited,' said the neighbors and friends of this unfortunate family, 'Yes, tuberculosis,' said the experts of the State Department of Health, 'but not inherited. transmitted owing to lack of proper disinfection and sanitation.' There is a trained Health Officer in every city, hamlet and township in the State, but too often householders fail to welcome those warriors for health who come in their canvas armor to wipe out the possibility of subsequent infection of others following contagious and communicable disease."

Liability Board. The State Industrial Accidents Commission has announced that its first public hearing will be held in the State Capitol on April 10 and 11, and Chief Factory Inspector John C. Delaney and Chief of Mines James E. Roderick will appear before the commissioners to give their ideas regarding the proposed workmen's compensation bill to be drafted by the commission. The commission has also extended a public invitation to all employers and employees or group of employees, as well as representatives and persons interested in charitable organizations and insurance companies, who can give information, to appear. It is requested that they write in advance so that time may be allotted to them. At the Harrisburg hearings announcement will be made of the dates for further public meetings to be held during the latter part of April and the beginning of May in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre. It is the purpose to hold other public meetings in Erie, Allentown and Williamsport if a sufficient number of applications to be heard is received.

# To Use County Road Payments.

As the result of a conference held by Auditor General Sisson, Deputy Highway Commissioner Joseph W. Hunter, Chief Engineer Samuel D. Foster, of the State Highway Departpense will be made available for road construction. This money has been accumulating for some time and, thanks to the energy of State Treasurer Wright, the accounts against counties are now as close as they can be made. The general highway construction act of 1905 provided that the State should bear one-half of the expense and that the remainder be divided between the county and district benefited. The idea was that the counties should collect from the smaller districts and settle in sixty days. The accounts were not closely collected and the result was that within the last year or so the State Treasurer had to start "dunning."

## Veterans Shift Celebration.

Harrisburg Grand Army veterans whose observances of Memorial Day have been great occasions in years gone by, have decided to turn the arrangements over to the Sons of Veterans hereafter. This year the Grand it will be for the last time.

#### To Study Care Of Weak-Minded.

Steps to secure information as to the manner in which New York, New Jersey and Maryland are caring for feeble-minded are to be taken by the State Commission on Feeble-Minded and the State Board of Charities. Secened his steps and took her suddenly retary Bromley Wharton, of the board, will inspect Maryland institutions.

#### Spring Arbor Days Named.

The Governor has selected April 2. and April 26 as the spring arbor days and a proclamation announcing the dates and urging tree planting will be

Oxford Power Company Approved. Executive approval has been given to the merger of the Oxford Light. Heat and Power Company and the Oxford Steam Heat Company, of Oxford, under the name of the Oxford Electric

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