



THE RED LOCK

A Tale Of The Flatwoods

By David Anderson

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CHAPTER XVII—Continued.

"Has Texie Collin passed the gate today, Uncle Asbury?—you know 'er, don't you?"

"Oh—she rid up this way—" "Did she?—no, she didn't pass." He hobbled a step closer.

"The woodsman made no reply. It is even doubtful if he heard. His mind was flying fast from point to point of every possibility that lay between Black rock and the tollgate."

"His lips twisted into a hard grin; tightened till they squeezed every mite of mirth out of it. He had lost the trail; like a hound at fault, had actually run by it—and here it lay, right where he had crossed it hours before."

"He came out of the bushes and found where the gangplank had freshly scarred the mud; searched the shore for footprints; found them—the marks of a shapely small shoe, and the print of a stylish boot heel."

"But there was a task calling—tense; insistent; mayhap horrible. Taking out his pocketbook, he put the flower carefully away; frowned hard down the river shore."

"Knowing that the narrow by-road led through the wooded flats almost to Alpine island, angled sharply and crossed to the bluffs something more than a mile above Black rock, he went back to Graylock, left Browne prancing and pawing the weeds, and rode cautiously on down the river."

"Just short of the point where the narrow road angled toward the bluffs, he again hid Graylock, went on foot, some distance farther and stole through the trees to the river bank."

"The woodsman was just stealing back through the limbs of the cottonwood, with the bold intention of creeping farther down the bank and swimming out to the island, when a man came out of the snug little cabin, carefully closed the door, fumbled a white as if locking it and stood on the dimly"

five forward deck looking guardedly about. There was no mistaking the somber frock coat, neck stock and high hat—it was Caleb Hopkins.

"As he rowed up around the head of the island and across the north channel to shore, he passed within less than fifty yards of where the woodsman lay concealed, his eyes hard and dangerous, his fingers betraying an almost irresistible inclination to stray toward the butt of the revolver at his hip."

"The unguarded safe, the bundles of money under the floor of the cabin at the homestead, crossed the woodsman's mind. But there was a far higher stake in his tense thought just then than safes and bundles of money. The frock coat and high hat were no sooner well out of sight than he sprang up from where he lay in the thicket at the edge of the bottoms and hurried back to the skiff; slid it out from the willows and crossed the channel to the island. There he hid it again and slipped through the tangle of underbrush and driftwood to where he could get a view of the houseboat."

"In the fast gathering shadows he crept to the edge of the island; crawled with extraordinary care under the hand rail to the diminutive forward deck."

"The door he had watched Hopkins fumbling over he had locked—padlocked on the outside. He stood still and listened—some one was moving about inside the cabin, and a speck of light showed behind a narrow crack between the door and the jamb."

"Very guardedly he crossed the deck and brought his eye close to the crack—it commanded a view of a narrow section of the room. A candle was alight somewhere at the side, and a shadow—one shadow—flitted about the floor. The shadow slid across the section that he could see; deepened; disappeared; and in its place—Texie. She came to the door on the outside of which he was crouched and tugged at the latch, as she had probably done many times since being left a prisoner, but the stout padlocked hasp held firm. With an exclamation that held just a shade of petulance, she turned away."

"He watched her till she passed out of range of the crevice—doubtless to sound the walls for some other means of escape."

"But the narrow opening had told him what it heartened him much to know. He took a bullet from his pouch; flattened it between his teeth; with his powerful fingers forced it noiselessly into the keyhole of the padlock in such a way as to make it impossible to insert the key; jammed it so tight with the blade of his pocket knife that nothing short of a locksmith's tools could have dislodged it. Crawling along the gangway to the after deck, he rendered the padlock"

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on the rear door equally useless; listened a moment to the quick restless steps inside; crawled under the hand rail to the bank and, with every precaution known to woodcraft to hide his trail, recrossed the island to the skiff."

"He shoved the skiff into the water, rowed up around the head of the island, down the south channel and back to the houseboat. Fastening the skiff to the willow, he unhitched the rope from the willow on the bank; sprang lightly to the forward deck, being careful to keep out of range of the crevice between the door and jamb; picked up one of the two light poles with which such craft are propelled; pushed off; suffered the snug little vessel to catch the drift of the current and, being careful to keep well within the shadow of the willows, let it drift down the channel."

"Far down toward the lower point of the island a narrow pocket gashed into the rather steep bank—a place well known to the woodsman. Carefully withdrawing the boat from the current as he approached, he deftly turned the prow; poled the little vessel into the slack water of the pocket and far up under the overhanging vines and branches, where it would likely escape anything short of the very closest scrutiny, either from land or water; hitched it securely to a tree on the bank; went back to the deck and stood listening."

"The girl inside the cabin had repeatedly wrenched at the doors as the vessel drifted down the channel. Several times she had called the name of Hopkins, begging him to release her, doubtless believing it was he that set the boat adrift. To all this the woodsman had returned no answer."

"She must have known when the boat stopped, must have heard the scrape of the limbs and vines as it was poled up into the pocket, for there followed an interval of silence. He could not resist the longing to steal once more to the narrow crevice where the bar of candle-light escaped. He brought his eye close; peeped within."

"She was standing near the middle of the floor, listening intently and apparently in deep thought. As he watched, he saw a sudden light leap to her face and wake the wonder of her eyes. She crossed the floor; came close to the door and, with the caution of a woodcraft almost as fine as his own, softly called: "Jack!"

"It took the utter sum of the man's resolution to keep still. He watched the wonder of her eyes transform to disappointment and despair; watched her stand clasping and unclasping the slim fingers of her shapely small hands."

"One consideration alone restrained him from beating to fragments the disabled padlock and setting her free—right in that stout cabin, with its doors secured by jammed locks that could not be opened without breaking, securely hidden at the end of a covered trail, was the safest place in the Flatwoods for her just then. There would be hard faces and quick fingers in the red-roofed cottage that night."

"But even so, it was the most difficult thing the big woodsman had ever tried to do in his life to turn away from that door and go back to the skiff."

"With set and serious face he rowed up the channel, around the head of the island, across to the mainland and carefully stepped ashore; dropped both oars into the river; set the boat adrift; stood a moment watching it float away and, with extraordinary pains to hide his trail, hurried back to Graylock."

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The Door He Had Watched Hopkins Fumbling Over He Had Locked—Padlocked on the Outside.

Trifles Used Are Odd and Artistic

Numerous Gay Decorations Among Accessories for Milady's Apparel.

Quaint jingles are attached to a card of little ornaments made of ribbon and silk flowers, called lingerie sets—rings, rosettes, bow-knots and streamers which are sewn on the front or the shoulders of white and light-colored underwear. Most of these dainty tricks are done in Dresden colors, but there are as many shades as there are silks and chiffons of which the lingerie is made: pale rose, blue, yellow, green, orchid and violet. And with each card is a merry little verse."

"Things to intrigue the fancy of elegantes are the little fans that have just been received from Paris by an exclusive New York shop. Novelties in fans are of a variety as great as the new fashions in stockings. The latest, writes a fashion correspondent in the New York Times, are the reverse idea of the huge feather, spangled and lace affairs that have been conspicuous and popular through the winter season."

Among these fans are some of such intrinsic artistic value as to be included in the catalog of a museum of fine arts. An ingenious novelty is a little fan of white satin, with spangles and lace applique, which, when closed, "breaks" in the middle and folds to a length of four inches—to be easily carried in an evening bag. It may be mentioned that these fans, with a few exceptions, are not costly. They make the most graceful gifts."

The mah jong fad has been carried into some of the accessories of dress, and is found just now in umbrellas and parasols. The newest are short and chubby, even more so than were those of last season, when the club-like handles with short, blunt ferrules were introduced. They are made also on frames like those of the Japanese paper sunshades, of bamboo, the ribs close together. The handles, of colored wood, highly polished, of ivory or of colored composition, are marked with the figures and the pawns—to use a chess phrase—of the Chinese game. The covers of the parasols are almost all of gaily colored silk, brilliant green and flamingo red being much used."

Taffeta and Milan Used for an All-Black Hat



Dignity is the keynote of this little spring hat in which taffeta is interwoven with the milan straw of the crown and also used as a facing. It's all in black.

Nothing else is so youthful, so smart, and no other model so inspires a woman to look to her figure."

Beltless Dress Shown Among Spring Fashions

One conspicuous feature of the new spring models is the beltless dress, observes a fashion writer. Heretofore, the chemise tunic, or coat dress, has been broken by a narrow belt tied loosely about the low waistline, though not breaking the straight silhouette. But now no belt is seen, even on the dresses to which are added platings, floating or attached godets and flounces, flat or shaped. These, joined to the bodice, are simply stitched without other finish."

Tunics are seen in many gowns from the best couturiers. They are both long and short, extending to a point but a few inches above the bottom of the skirt, or ending at the line of an ordinary overblouse, but in every case absolutely straight and beltless."

Kasha Cloth and Twill Are Favored Materials

The ultimate return of the strictly tailored suit has been seen for two seasons past. Other styles for the street have come and gone, and women have turned with a renewed appreciation to the severe straight lines of skirt and coat, untruncated and well tailored."

Chic Blazer Jacket and White Plaited Skirt



Showing winsome modified blazer jacket for spring wear. It is combined with the popular white plaited skirt. It is of red flannel, trimmed with white soutache.

Some of the new waistcoats are made of somewhat "loud" patterns in woolsens and linens—gay checks and blocks and stripes—yellow and green, black and white, scarlet and white, and endless other striking combinations and contrasts."

Vogue of Lace

Lace has a vogue which seems in no danger of diminishing. The Parisienne is wearing wide lace sleeves from elbow to wrist and a lace skirt, the rest of the gown being usually a hip length mandarin coat of velvet."

Waistcoats Are Made of Woolens and Linens

The prestige of the tailleur for the season is assured. One of the signs is the waistcoat, the new, ultra-smart affair that is cut so severely as to be easily mistaken for a man's "vest," that detail in which he appears always to have a particular pride."

The present model for women is a distinct contradiction to the loose overblouse. It is fitted trim and presupposes a soft shirtwaist or guimpe, a strictly tailored skirt, plaited or plain, and a severely plain coat. It is a compromise between the tailored suit with normal waistline, shirtwaist and belt, and the elongated blouse that has lately been in favor, dropping the waistline to an indefinite point."

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Comfort Protectors of Unbleached Muslin

Comfort protectors which cover the upper edges of blankets and quilts where they come in contact with the face and hands, are almost a necessity to the fastidious housekeeper who is trying to keep down laundry and cleaning bills."

Make them of unbleached muslin, dimity, flaxon, linene or any other fabric which washes easily. Cut strips of the material one and one-half inches longer than the width across the top of the blanket and from fourteen to eighteen inches wide. That is, dimity of the required length and thirty inches in width will cut two protectors. Fold the material lengthwise and baste and stitch across each end. Turn a one-inch hem on both sides."

Decorate the protectors to harmonize with the color in the bed coverings with which they are to be used. Applique designs in plain ginghams look well on unbleached muslin and the flaxon and dimity lend themselves to dainty cross-stitch patterns. Linene is attractively and quickly finished with Italian hemstitching."

HOME HINTS AND DIET

By INEZ SEARLES WILLSON

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SPECIFIC METHODS OF REMOVING STAINS

The following directions applied to the problem of removing specific stains may simplify the housewife's labor in this respect:

Blood may be removed by soaking first in cold water and then washing in lukewarm, soapy water. Wet starch will absorb the stain from a thick material. Put a lump of wet starch over the spot and, when dry, brush off. Repeat until the stain is gone. Old stains may be removed by means of hydrogen peroxide, to which a little ammonia has been added. Rinse with very weak acetic acid and finally with water. Colors of fabrics are also faded by the peroxide. This fact must not be overlooked."

Cover chocolate or cocoa stains with borax and soak in cold water. Coffee, tea, and most fruit stains may generally be removed by stretching the fabric over a bowl and pouring boiling water onto it so the water will strike the stain with force."

Peach stain is particularly resistant. It is the stain which old-fashioned housekeepers used to tell us would come out when the peach season was over. Rub glycerin over the spot two or three days before washing."

Cream, milk and meat juice stains should be washed first in cold water and then with soap and hot water. Grass stain is one which is frequently found in households where there are small children, and a knowledge of how to treat it is valuable to the mother. Such stains may be soaked in alcohol if the color is not affected, otherwise, make a paste of soap and baking powder, spread over the spot and allow to stand for several hours. Milk may prove effective when the stain is fresh. Hydrogen peroxide and ammonia, or just ammonia may be used. The effect of the agent upon the color must govern the method employed."

Mildew, when newly formed, may usually be removed by strong soap-suds and sunlight. As the old stains are very stubborn, it is well to see that they are not allowed to grow old. In such cases, a strong bleaching agent must be used, and then the question of color enters to complicate the problem."

Medicine stains are soluble in alcohol, in which they are soaked. Iron rust may be removed by covering with lemon juice and salt and putting in the sun or holding in the steam of the tea kettle."

The removal of ink stains is rendered more difficult because it is impossible to know the exact nature of the ink. Colored fabrics may be soaked in sour milk, as the color is unaffected by the mild acid in the milk. Oxalic acid may be effective. Oxalic acid is a deadly poison, therefore it should always be plainly marked and kept on a high shelf. Salt and lemon may be used with success in mild cases."

WHAT WE MUST EAT TO BE WELL NOURISHED Proteins are the "tissue builders." They contain an element, nitrogen, fruit and other foods, but a certain amount of additional "sweets" are craved and the diet should contain them in some form. Fat is another energy giver. It is furnished by such foods as potatoes, rice and other cereals. Starch supplies energy. It is one of the most abundant foods and is found most abundantly in oils, butter and cream. Energy is stored in the body in the form of fats. Mineral salts such as lime, iron, phosphorus and others are needed by the body to build tissue and to counteract certain acid formations which may take place during the process of digestion. Vegetables and fruits and milk are the sources of these valuable substances. Milk is rich in lime, which is one of the reasons it should figure largely in the diet of children. Spinach and beets give us iron, as do raisins. Roughage, in the form of cellulose, which is the woody part of fruits and vegetables, is necessary to regulate body processes and aid in the elimination of waste. Therefore the diet should contain the coarse vegetables such as cabbage, lettuce and asparagus, the coarse breads and gritty cereals. Liquids also aid in elimination of waste. Last, but not least important, are the vitamins, which have been called "the protective foods." The exact nature of these substances is still a problem for the scientist to solve. This much is certain, there are substances present in some foods which are essential to the proper growth of children and the good health of every one. The lack of these substances in the diet is the direct cause of certain diseases. Milk, meat, eggs, fruits and vegetables contain vitamins. All vitamins are not present in all these foods, one may be found in one and another in a different one. Peaches, canned in halves, pears also canned, served with whipped cream and a sprinkling of nuts, are always enjoyed as a light dessert. Serve with white cookies. Chestnuts pounded to a paste after being cooked, added to a custard, make another often asked-for dessert."