

# What the Gray House Hid



The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion  
by Wyndham Martyn

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## THE STORY

Hilton Hanby had purchased a country place—the Gray house, near Pine Plains, Miss. Selena, a former tenant, warns him that the house is under a curse. Further alarming details are impressed upon Adolf Smucker, Hanby's secretary, by a man who claims to have been chauffeur for Sir Stanford Seymour, former occupant of the place. The Hanbys laugh off the warnings. But they are shocked when they hear that the caretaker of the Gray house, a man named Kerr, has been mysteriously murdered. Hanby consults his friend Pelham. The family starts for the new home. Appletton, a clerk of Douglas and Smith, the agents from whom Hanby bought the Gray house, urges Pelham to dissuade Hanby from occupying the Gray house. Hanby considers asking Leslie Barron, long an admirer of Celia, to join the house party. Mrs. Hanby declares she likes the house. Pelham becomes a member of the household. Leslie Barron arrives making four able-bodied members of the Hanby household. A phone call from a man who declares he is an old acquaintance of Hanby's and interested in ornithology, but whom Hanby cannot identify, urges him to preserve a part of the grounds as a bird sanctuary. The idea appeals to Hanby and he makes the promise. The Hanbys take possession of the Gray house. A stranger introducing himself as Frederick Appletton, calls at the Gray house and is welcomed because of his interest in bird life.

## CHAPTER VI—Continued

After luncheon Hanby admitted that the workmen were not accomplishing what the contractor had promised. "Since you bring up the subject," said Mr. Appletton, "may I point out the probable causes?" He spoke with much assurance on work and workmen, on the cost of material, and on the manner in which grafting foremen could deceive even the intelligent but amateur scrutiny of a man like Mr. Hanby. "I wish you were out of a position," Mr. Hanby said, when Appletton finished. "May I ask why?" "I'd ask you to be my agent here. Besides these improvements, I have three tenant farmers who want repairs for barns and houses, and I'm bound to say they seem most unreasonable. I came here to play, not to work." Appletton smiled. He had the look of one who delights to bring good news. "Things generally turn out for the best," he observed. "I left the employ of Douglas & Smith last week. Strictly speaking, I could not afford to do so; but, after almost thirty-five years, to have to take orders from one with not one-third of that service was too bitter. I am not a proud man, Mr. Hanby, but I resigned. This is a business trip, Mr. Clarke, of America, is considering alterations, and I hoped he might select me to supervise them." "It's Clarke's loss," said Hanby. "I need you more than he does." Mrs. Hanby was very glad at the news. "Where will you stay?" she asked. "There is no accommodation near." "Perhaps you have a room over the garage," he suggested timidly. "I am accustomed to look after myself." "All the rooms are occupied. Why not stay with us until something suitable turns up? This is an enormous house, as you know." Appletton was made specially welcome because his coming exempted each member of the household from some unaccustomed and unwelcome task. Junior had been deputed to see that the workmen finished the swimming pool on time. Celia's arithmetic was strained at estimating the cost of lumber. These labors Mr. Appletton took over. The Hanbys liked him for his simplicity. He told them about his wife, whom he adored—an invalid lady unable to leave New York because of some special treatment for rheumatism that she was taking. The foreman of masons resigned directly he found a man over him whom he could not fool. Appletton's mild appearance deceived him. It was one of his grounds of grievance when he sought an interview with Mr. Hanby. "You say Mr. Appletton swore at you something terrible?" Hanby scoffed. "Don't be about it! Mr. Appletton couldn't do a thing like that, but I'm liable to turn rough any time an inefficient loafer tries to put up a fool story like that. Get out!" "And the audacity," Hanby told his wife, "to say that old Appletton called him foul names." They laughed together at the absurdity of it.

"I lost my temper, I admit," confessed Appletton, at lunch. "I explained that labor owed something to the capital without which it could not exist." "You talked over his head," Hanby said. "I thought that must be it." The old man bothered them very little. He did not intrude. It was his nightly habit to walk about the grounds, puffing at the single cigar he allowed himself, and then to retire. He insisted on making his own bed and keeping his room in order. The servants, after the untidy ways of Junior and Les, found him no trouble at all. "He saves me twice his salary every week," Hanby declared, "and he allows me to be a gentleman of leisure again." "Appletton is all right," said Junior, thinking of the overseer's job that had been his. "We all love him except Les." "What have you against him?" Bill Pelham demanded. "Report all suspicious things to the house detective." Les did not welcome the looks that were cast upon him. "Nothing," he admitted. "I can't like every one, can I?" "Les," demanded Celia, "tell me at once—what is it?" "He reminds me of my Uncle Itus sell, if you must know. He has the same highly polished face. I don't like my uncle, and it's the association of ideas, I suppose." "Les," Celia said severely, "I don't believe that's the real reason." There was no doubt about Leslie's smile. He was a singularly good looking lad when he smiled with small, white, even teeth, and a mouth cut almost too well for a man. "That's all you are going to get from me," he said. "Leave it to the house detective." Pelham interrupted. "I'll give Les the third degree and report to you tomorrow." "Les is full of prejudices," Celia answered. "Don't worry, Bill. He has a young and uninteresting soul. I like me of your age." She turned to her mother. "I confessed to Bill my hopeless passion for him at Al-lenhurst, but he wasn't even flattered." "You were only fourteen. Try him now." "Darling Bill," said Celia seductively, "I love you, and I shall have a hundred thousand dollars on my wedding day. Will you marry me just to spite Les?" "If he'll be my best man. Will you, Les?" "I'll be d—d first!" cried Les hotly. "You see he's really fond of me." "You see he's really fond of me," Celia announced. "Look at the fire in his eyes and the passion in his voice. If ever I marry him, he'll beat me." "Sometimes I'd like to," Les admitted. "Mr. Appletton," said Celia, "is a charming old gentleman with manners that Les would do well to copy." "Charming?" Les cried. "Can any one show me how to gnash my teeth?" "Hush!" warned Hanby. "Here he is." Luncheon was the only meal at which he appeared. "Afraid you were not coming," Hanby said cordially. "I have just paid off the workmen on the swimming pool," he said. "The Japanese tea house on the tennis lawn will be done tomorrow." "You certainly make them work," said Hanby. "I wonder how you do it?" "I reward the efficient and discharge those who shirk their duty. It was my system all the years I was in the employ of Douglas & Smith." "Mr. Appletton!" Celia called. The old man turned his smiling face to

## Grass Grown in India to Make Match Sticks

The fact that lumber for the making of match sticks is becoming scarce in this country tends special interest to a report from British India to the effect that a grass is being successfully employed there for such purposes. At Sholapur there is a factory that is making match sticks from a growth called Surya grass, abundant in some parts of India. The grass is cut into two-inch lengths, winnowed and screened to obtain uniform size, and then boiled in a revolving drum. Twenty-four pounds of Burma paraffin is sufficient for 7,000 boxes of matches. Shaken through a horizontal sifter, the sticks are deposited in horizontal layers, which are secured in a frame for the dipping of the ends, and dipped in a solution of chlorate of potash, sulphate of arsenic, potash of bicloride, powdered gypsum and gum arabic. Six pounds of this mixture provide for the 7,000 boxes of matches. By

her. "I've made a very important discovery about the bird sanctuary." "What?" he said, so quickly that they could see the news disturbed him. "I was wandering past it last night after dinner." "Unwise," said Appletton. "Mosquitoes. Be advised to keep away. So you made a discovery?" "Yes—I saw a great black snake at least seven feet long." "Is that all? My dear Miss Celia, you saw one of the most valuable of the ophidians. The black snake is a rat eater, a mouse hunter, worth his weight in gold to your honored parents in the protection of the song birds. Rats are the natural enemies of the birds. The black snakes are the natural enemies of rats." Instantly guided Mr. Appletton's eyes to Tim, who was at that moment meditating a snake hunt. "Tim will be wise not to kill any but venomous snakes, such as the copperhead." "Tim is not going near the bird sanctuary," his mother declared. After luncheon Appletton sought out Mr. Hanby. "By the end of the week I shall have completed all the alterations," he said. "I have seen to the farm repairs, and have reduced your account keeping to a card index system well within the comprehension of your son."

"That doesn't mean you are leaving us, I hope?" "Alas, yes. My poor wife has had a turn for the worse, and my duty is at her side. Darby and Joan, you know, Mr. Hanby—Darby and Joan!" "I shall have to get some one to take your place." "That should not be necessary," said Mr. Appletton. "Oh, dear me, no! You will have no more trouble with workmen." "I'll see Douglas about it," said Hanby. "I'm going into town in a few days." "I doubt if Mr. Douglas knows of any one. Everything in that line was left to me. In his desire to be courteous to you he might recommend some wholly unsuitable person."

Hanby sensed the dislike the former employee felt for the man who had failed to appreciate him, but this did not sway the new owner in the least. Nor did Appletton's offer to send a man meet with approval. Douglas was one of the biggest men of his calling in New York, and Hanby maintained that he would not recommend any but an expert. When Appletton had gone, Bill Pelham asked Leslie a question. "What was your grievance against that cheerful rotundity?" "I didn't like the way he looked at Celia." "My dear Les!" Bill protested. "That's all right," returned Les, "but you didn't know my Uncle Itus sell." "I've read enough about him in the papers." "About his financial triumphs. I don't mean that. He was as wicked an old bent as ever lived—a calculating, smiling, respect-inspiring old libertine, and he smiled in the fatherly way that your old Applejack has. Now go and laugh and tell the others. Celia will think it a scream." "I'll keep it to myself," said Bill; "but you won't mind if I don't agree with you?" "Poor jealous boy, he meditated, so unhappy at Celia's exasperating ways that he seized on the old-world courtesies of Appletton as offensive!" "Les," he said presently, "you'll have to get over those things." "There are some things no decent man ever gets over," Les replied warmly. "Hist!" warned Bill. "Who comes?" A stranger stepped out of a station taxi, walked over the terrace, and rang the bell. "Who's that?" Les demanded. "Except that she is a professional woman forty-three years of age, height five feet five, weight one hundred and fifty, has two gold stoppings in the lower bicuspids, has never been married, is fond of hiking, and devoted to classical music, I can tell you nothing. But for those details she is a complete stranger upon whom I have never set eyes." "Bill, you're a marvel," said Les. "I dare not contradict you, I am. It all comes out of a correspondence course on how to be a house detective." "How can I check up on the teeth?" Les asked. "You can't. That wouldn't be playing the game. It would be rude of you to ask the lady to open her mouth. Take my word for it."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## Silk Coats Ever on Fashion List

### Black, Blue and Prints Add Interest in Fashionable Separate Wrap.

The silk coat is established as a favorite whether it be black or navy. Black appears to have more distinction for afternoons when women cling to the thoroughly sane practice of having one good-looking black frock in their wardrobe even though living in a color-mad age. The entrance of the silk coat really adds zest to the usual interest in separate coats, without which no spring or summer is possible. The trick of making a coat appear to be a part of the ensemble of at least one costume is a good one to learn so that it may be put into practice. The printed summer coat worn with either a printed or plain dress is not of such immediate concern as the good-looking coat of lightweight cloth or heavyweight silk. Sports coats have little in common with those in question. The fur collar is minus on so many coats that were it not for some stunning contradictions one might be inclined to advocate the coat sans fur. The extremes of fox and gyalak are indulged in by those who feel more at home, not to say more chic, in a fur collared coat. Coats with scarf collars and coats without anything much by way



Ensemble With Coat of Navy Kasha; Frock of Shaded Tones.

of a collar and intended to be worn with a silk scarf appeal to women economically inclined. One may always add fur when desired by wearing a fox scarf, still a most thoroughly approved practice. An attractive ensemble is composed of a coat of navy blue kasha with a frock of shaded tones. The dress is a one-piece affair with simplicity of lines. Matching scarf and purse give added smartness to the ensemble.

## To Remove Grease Spots From Shoes, Bags, Belts

The best way to remove grease spots from leather shoes is to employ any one of the several commercial quick cleaning fluids which is neither inflammable nor explosive—that is, which contains no gasoline nor kerosene with their attended natural greases. These fluids are composed of various solvents other than gasoline. A small quantity is applied directly on the grease spot. Immediately it must be drawn back out of the leather by working over the spot from all sides with a piece of dry Turkish towel so as to absorb into the towel the cleaner together with the grease spot. The solvents in the cleaner of course remove the natural oil from the leather at that spot. These should be restored by rubbing leather lotion into the shoe. Since so many bags and belts are made of identical leathers, they should be accorded the same treatment. Most of them, especially those made of glazed leathers, can readily be washed with suds of any of the noncaustic soaps and then polished with wool cloth.

## Matching Brooches Are in Fashion Lighthouse

Matching brooches are attracting unusual attention this spring. On the two-toned scarf is a large dagger brooch, while the close-fitting hat holds a matching jewel. Bars of black onyx make the center details in these pieces, while baguette diamonds are ranged on either side and diamond triangles finish the end of the decorative sections. The scarf warrants special notice. It is one of those new scarfs with bands of two colors running the full length of the neck scarf. This one is in black for one side and white for the other. Satin is the chosen material.

## Frock of Pale Yellow, Casis Green Felt Hat



This smart frock of pale yellow with an oasis green felt hat is worn by Mary Philbin, the popular "movie" star. The one-piece sports frock is slightly bloused and the skirt is plaited. A finger coat with diamond pockets is used with the dress.

## On Rearing Children from CRIB TO COLLEGE

We can take advantage of the child's desire to govern himself by allowing him more and more responsibility in matters which concern him. To talk things over with him, to ask him what he thinks of this and that, is to feed his inflated ego with the food it craves. We should replace the nagging, infuriated method of dealing with the adolescent with an appeal to his reason as a sensible human being. If we go about the thing carefully and subtly we can guide and direct him in his decisions without offending his self-esteem.

Mothers and fathers everywhere are realizing that they cannot rely on instinct and love alone in bringing up their children. Today we have a science of child-rearing. Doctors in their practice, bacteriologists in their laboratories, psychologists in their clinics, teachers in their classrooms, visiting nurses and social workers in their rounds, are all finding out things vitally important for parents to know and to practice. A number of our great universities have recently established institutes of child development research. The important findings of these institutions should have the widest dissemination among parents everywhere.

A new cookery parchment is on the market made from vegetable fiber and so treated by chemical baths and purest water that whereas most papers break down when wet, this paper grows. The food to be cooked is wrapped in it and then placed in a pan or other utensil. This method of cooking conserves the juices, flavors and mineral elements of the food, and the pan in which they were cooked needs only rinsing instead of scouring. This new parchment may be used not only in the oven but also for steaming and boiling.

Children can do swift work in "rubbing off each other's corners." Watch any group playing or working together and before long you will know, as they know, who is the bully, who thinks he is boss, who is the cry-baby and who is the real leader. They don't talk about it—they just act—and their sense of justice is keen and relentless. Frequently teachers have told me that they had to interfere in the workings of a children's court because "the jury of their peers" was meteing out punishments which, in adult eyes, were much too severe. In other words, they had to save their children from the intolerant verdicts of their own kind.

A package receiver built into the outside wall of the kitchen is especially useful for milk delivery. A table over a ventilated bin to contain vegetables makes a good place for packages just received and not yet opened. Next to this should be a closet lined with shallow shelves on which cans and small boxes may be conveniently arranged.

Parents whose children are planning gardens for the first time this year wonder just how to help them go about it, how to answer their questions about garden-making. Here is a project on which children and parents can work together. Books and magazines on gardens borrowed from the local library will help. The children should be encouraged to draw a plan of the garden and to decide what needs should be purchased.

A new gray kasha tweed coat has a pointed back yoke from which a circular back hangs in plaits. This trend toward fullness in the back is growing.



## Acidity

The common cause of digestive difficulties is excess acid. Soda cannot alter this condition, and it burns the stomach. Something that will neutralize the acidity is the sensible thing to take. That is why physicians tell the public to use Phillips Milk of Magnesia. One spoonful of this delightful preparation can neutralize many times its volume in acid. It acts instantly; relief is quick, and very apparent. All gas is dispelled; all sourness is soon gone; the whole system is sweetened. Do try this perfect anti-acid, and remember it is just as good for children, too, and pleasant for them to take. Any drug store has the genuine, prescriptive product.

## PHILLIPS Milk of Magnesia

## POISON IVY

### Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh

Money back for first bottle if not suited. All Dealers.

## Health Giving Sunshine

All Winter Long

Marvelous Climate—Good Hotels—Tourist Camps—Splendid Roads—Craggy Mountain Views—The wonderful desert resort of the West

Write Croo & Chaffey

## Palm Springs CALIFORNIA

## Kill All Flies! THEY SPREAD DISEASE

From anywhere, DAILY FLY KILLER kills all flies. Best, clean, ornamental, convenient and safe. Made of metal, can't spill or tip over. Will not soil or injure anything. Guaranteed. Instant action.

DAILY FLY KILLER from your dealer.

HAROLD SOMERS, Brooklyn, N. Y.

## WORMS—A CHILD'S GREATEST ENEMY

Look for these symptoms in your child—gritting the teeth, picking the nostrils, disordered stomach. These signs may mean worms. And worms left in the body mean broken health. Don't delay one hour. Frey's Vermifuge kills a child of worms quickly. For 75 years it has been America's safe, vegetable worm medicine. At all druggists!

## Frey's Vermifuge Expels Worms

## Little Richard Helps

Little Richard's mother was showing a prospective tenant some rooms she had for rent. The season being summer, she emphasized the coolness of the basement where the kitchen and dining room were located. Richard, thinking to help his mother, opened a hot-water faucet and said: "See, even the hot water is cold."—Boston Herald.

## Nothing to Wear

Tim—Aren't you going to invite your roommate to your wedding? Jim—No, he's only got one dress-suit.—Life.

A plump lady to laugh merrily is as necessary at a dinner party as a smart man to make wisecracks.

## WILL DO ALL IT CLAIMS TO DO

Mrs. Steele Says of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Pratt, W. Va.—"I was so weak and nervous that I was in bed most all the time and couldn't sit up and I am only 30 years old. I saw your advertising in a magazine and after I had taken three doses of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I could feel that I was better. After taking two bottles I began doing my work and I feel like a new woman. I recommend the Vegetable Compound to my friends and say it will do all it claims to do and more. I will gladly answer all letters I receive."—Mrs. S. E. STEELE, Pratt, W. Va.

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