

## What the Gray House Hid

The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion

by Wyndham Martyn

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### THE STORY

Hilton Hanby has purchased a country place—the Gray house, near Pine Plains, Miss Selenos, 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. Appleton, a clerk of Douglas and Smith, the agents from whom Hanby bought the Gray house, urges Pelham to disengage 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 Appleton, calls at the Gray house and is welcomed because of his interest in bird life. Hanby foresees trouble in connection with work to be done on the estate with which he is unfamiliar, and gladly engages Appleton as his agent.

"That's the very thing I've come about, Mr. Hanby. You don't mind if I smoke a cigarette, do you? Thanks! I must ask you to be patient for a few moments. It is a truisim to say that everything is relative, isn't it? Very well, then. If you, or I, or Miss Selenos, believe in our hearts that some one thing or another, apparently insignificant in itself, is the most vital thing in our lives, that thing is actually the most important. This is modern teaching. The trouble is that we judge the interests of others by our own standards." She turned to Bill Pelham. "Jazz music, to you, may be the most important thing since Tubal Cain's time. I despise it. To me a fine symphony orchestra represents music at its apotheosis."

"I knew it," declared Bill, gratified. "I said so."

"I don't think you quite understand," said Doctor Byers, a little puzzled.

"I think we do," remarked Hanby. "What you mean is that the thing motivating your client will seem very insignificant to us. What is her interest in my house, and why did she



"Undoubtedly the Poor Creature is Mad," Said Hanby.

desire me not to live here? I should like to know how my family can desecrate it. I think that was the word she used."

"All she wants to do," said Doctor Byers, "is to be allowed to remove something she buried here. She has had great trouble. It seems that Douglas & Smith referred her to a Mr. Appleton, who had complete charge of houses and properties flat in this county."

"A most conscientious man," Hanby said warmly. "I know him well."

"Perhaps too conscientious," My client, having vivid dislikes, immediately declared him to be a libertine, scoundrel and thief."

"Your client," asserted Hanby, "should be in the county asylum for the insane."

"I disagree. She is neither dangerous nor likely to become a charge on the community. She believes that Appleton arranged the eviction in order to spite her. Certainly it need not have been so drastic. She did not refuse to pay the rent because she was without means. She refused because certain alterations were not carried out. These alterations were not embodied in the contract that Appleton drew up. Legally she had no case. She is sure that Appleton deliberately tricked her. She was so upset that she went to Algiers to live. When she came back, she made another effort to rent the place through Douglas & Smith. They referred her to Appleton again, and he refused."

"Why?" Pelham asked. "It stood empty long enough."

"Appleton would not recommend her to old Miss Coryell, who owned it, as a suitable client. Miss Coryell believed in him implicitly. It seems amazing that Mr. Douglas can place such reliance on him."

"Not amazing to those who know him," Hanby retorted, unable to see why Frederick Appleton should be criticized thus.

"My client appealed to successive tenants to allow her to remove what she had buried, but again the Appleton influence intervened. One ten-

ant, a Mr. Seymour, seemed likely to be agreeable, but Appleton stopped that. He informed Mr. Seymour that a tenant has no legal right to allow any excavation without the consent of the owner, Miss Coryell. Like most Englishmen, Mr. Seymour was afraid of offending against any such statutes as hedge about landowners, and had to refuse. He laid the blame squarely on Appleton. My client, having no legal adviser at the time, behaved with great unwisdom. She hired men to go there by night, and Appleton bobbed up in time to prevent them from entering. I regret to say that Miss Selenos made a regrettable scene."

"I am bound to say I am not drawn to her," Hanby remarked. "I had a very unpleasant interview with her. What has she buried? Why did she bury it?"

"Mr. Hanby," Doctor Byers said in her pleasant voice, "forget for a minute that she offended you. Consider her as a lonely old woman grievously deceived by a man forty years ago. Is she the first to become embittered? Is she the first to turn to what we call the lower animals?"

"You mean those dogs?"

"I mean those dogs. The dog is the only animal that has ever made an alliance with man, the only animal that will brave death for its owner, the only really unselfish thing in the world." Doctor Byers looked about her. "You have everything—one of the loveliest women in America for a wife, beautiful children, riches, and this home. My client has nothing but her love for dogs. The second shock of her life was when four of her dogs were poisoned here. I suppose, if I tell you she believed that Appleton did it, you will smile."

"Undoubtedly the poor creature is mad," said Hanby.

His voice was not so vindictive now. It was true, he thought, that he had everything—health, happiness, freedom from monetary care, a friend like Bill Pelham. Insensibly his mood softened.

"She had tarden caskets made and buried them out on a little lawn where a sundial stood. It shocked her immeasurably to learn that Mr. Seymour had removed the dial and made a tennis lawn. She is now in a position to pay for any damages. I may say I am here to make you an offer for this house considerably in excess of what you paid for it."

"It is not in the market," replied Hanby.

"Then will you let her have the little lead coffins removed?"

Hanby smiled a little.

"I suppose you know that my family, who are devoted to that grass court, will be singularly pleased."

"She is prepared to pay."

"No money will buy a ready-made grass tennis court," he reminded her. "Is that a refusal?"

"Does it mean so much to that old woman?"

"It means so much that you would not believe it."

"All right!" Hanby said, sighing. "Go ahead!"

But the lawn was not wrecked. With a sharp steel probe, the house detective discovered the leaden boxes. They were immediately under the net. The removal was skillfully done. Even Junior did not know it had taken place.

"Now that it is all over," said Doctor Byers, "I am commissioned to ask Mrs. Hanby if she will accept this emerald."

Hanby could see that the stone, set in a pendant, was of great value.

"We couldn't think of it," he declared.

"Why not? My client, now that her California property is clear, is certainly worth \$5,000,000. She is a very remarkable woman. Please notice that she did not offer this as a bribe. If you do not take it, her directions are explicit. I am to throw it into the lake."

"Oh, Bill!" said Dina, later. "This is another of the things I've always wanted. It's the most gorgeous stone I've ever seen!"

"You never told me so," he replied, almost jealously.

"It would have made you unhappy to know there was something you could not give me."

"So that's the Selenos mystery!" he said, meditating. "Poor old soul! She couldn't bear the idea of young barbarians at play on her burying ground. Well, if she's happier now, I'm glad, but as a mystery it has diverged badly."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## Historians Unable to Place Queen of Sheba

The nationality of the queen of Sheba, mentioned in the Bible in connection with a visit to King Solomon, is unknown for certain. It is supposed, however, that "Sheba," is merely a variation of the word "Saba," which was the name of a country on the Red sea in southwestern Arabia. This region is now known as Yemen. The Sabaeans were dark-complexioned white people and belonged to the same general family of mankind as the Hebrews. They had extensive colonies in Africa, where they mingled with the Ethiopians, with whom they are sometimes confused. The Abyssinians have a tradition that the queen of

Sheba who visited Solomon was a monarch of their country and their royal family claims descent from Menek, an alleged son of the queen of Sheba by King Solomon. The queen who made herself famous by her spectacular visit to King Solomon was very likely the same person known in history as Queen Balkis of the Sabaeans.—Pathfinder Magazine.

### Largest "Rooms"

The word "room" is not always interpreted in the same way. Some of the places listed might be excluded under some interpretations of the word. Among the largest of which we can find record are the battle gallery of Versailles in France, which is 304 feet long, 43 feet wide. The glass gallery in the same building is 235 feet long, 35 feet wide and 42 feet high. The great hall of the Vatican library, in Rome, is 220 feet long, while the Galleria Lapideria in the Vatican is 700 feet long.

### Wheat Free of Duty

Wheat in bond means wheat imported from Canada by American mills to be ground and the flour to be exported. By this arrangement it is not necessary for the mills to pay the duty.

## Cotton Ensemble for Summer Wear

Material Much in Fashion Picture Where Modes Are on Display.

"Silk, satin, calico, rags—" so ran the old rhyme we used to chant while pulling petals off daisies, dropping one to the ground at each word. If I remember correctly, writes a fashion authority in the New York Herald Tribune, the rhyme was for the purpose of telling what material one would have for a wedding dress. It was a companion piece to the "Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief" poem which many a child droned on warm summer afternoons.

This season it might well be the refrain of the woman shopping for her summer sports frocks. There are wool ones, and silk ones, and, of course, the cottons, which with each passing day, are becoming more and more important.

Those garments depending upon patchwork for their smartness, might, by a slight stretch of the imagination, and just to keep up the metaphor, take the place of the rags of the rhyme. They are very charming rags.

Calico has come out of the country woman's piece-work bag, and made its entrance into exclusive society. The cotton ensemble for tennis is among fashion's favorites at the moment. And calico, with its first cousin, ging-ham, has left behind it, with a disdainful glance, the days when it was considered only for kitchen aprons and an occasional patchwork quilt. It now reigns on the country club veranda and the boardwalk at the beach.

### Dress and Coat Combination.

Cotton ensembles consist, of course, of a dress and coat. The dress may be plain and the coat of vivid printed calico. To be very smart the coat should be quilted and may be either short or long. Sometimes calico coats are lined with bright colored silk, incongruous as this may seem. Or again one may be lined with a cotton fabric in plain color and is so made as to be reversible. It then serves a double purpose for, with the plain side out, it may be worn over a printed frock. One day you may have a yellow coat, the next day one of subdued blue, according to your mood.

As for colors and patterns—the choice is unlimited. There are the soft pastel hues, with the tiniest of flowers, which bring to mind the posies grown in grandmother's formal flower beds. And there are prints with larger, brilliantly-hued blossoms, almost garish in their modern feeling. If you prefer figures to flowers your coat may be covered with geometric designs. Polka dots, narrow stripes, any tiny checks also are popular.

Two shades of one color and a dash of black is the recipe for the smartest of sports costumes. It is safe to modify this to one color, but on no account forget to put in the flavoring. It may be in the form of a dark background for a bright flowered print dress, or in striking trimming bands. Crepe de chine in two shades of red is chosen as the basis. The blouse and



Red and White Printed Calico With "Kay Cord" Vestee.

coat are of pink banded black and the skirt is of deep rose. Many a bright-colored scarf is tipped with black.

Ecu with black is a smart color combination. As for all the new and delightful shades of green, with their delectable names, such as lettuce, lime, bud and veronese, these tones are charming in sports clothes when splashed with black. Lovely mimosa yellow and the blue called duck's egg are well chosen sports colors with which to combine a dark shade.

Silks such as surah and foulard in black or navy blue, polka-dotted with white, are important in the making of this summer's clothes. Frequently three sizes of dots are used to ornament a bordered silk, and all of this printing is employed to the fullest in designing, the border pattern forming an effective edge for the fronts and bottom of the coat as well as the skirt hem.

The influence of national thought

and feeling is strongly marked in sports costumes as expressed by various countries. In France, where outdoor games are taken somewhat casually, most of the women who establish the correct wearing of clothes do nothing more energetic than watch games. Therefore many of the French sports frocks are of the spectator type. The Englishwoman, on the other hand, takes her sports seriously, and the dress of English inspiration is likely to be of a much more rugged sort. Because of the chill in the air and the damp climate much wool is worn.

The American woman strikes a happy medium. In her wardrobe she includes both the spectator dress and the participator dress. One she wears as an onlooker, the other she dons when she takes active part in the game. Being able to indulge in luxuries she has frocks of silks and cottons for the warm days and lightweight woollens for cooler weather.

Over her sleekly bobbed or trimly coiffed tresses today's sportswoman



Late Paris Ensemble of Tweed; Trimming Bands of Kasha.

wears a bright beret, a brilliant scarf, tied gypsy fashion, or a small hat of felt or straw.

With cotton frocks one may wear a hat of the same material. These are stitched into shapeliness after the manner of children's hats. Similar ones, of gay printed silk, are to be donned when the tennis player is dressed in this fabric.

### Sports Outfits of Tweed.

For wear over all kinds of sports clothes an ample, comfortable coat or cape is indispensable. The coats shown in Paris this season are made of loose mixed tweeds in tones of white or putty and brown; or white and gray or black; or perhaps of tri-color wool. Others are of cloth closely resembling flannel, with a white flake showing against a neutral background. Many coats are cut to flare out at their underarm seams. Others, however, are straight-cut with a wide double-breasted opening.

At Lanvin's was shown a motoring coat, with a flare at the underarm seam and raglan armholes. This had a standing-up scarf collar, with a buttoned up mitered extension passed through a double slit, and the same buttoned mitered straps at its vertical side pockets. Other coats of striped novelty wool mixtures are cut on straight lines with the stripes used horizontally on the square outside pockets which are cut and stitched in modernistic designs.

Patou is showing straight tweed coats trimmed with lines of stitched straps or of tucks, usually running up and down. These coats are trimmed with high standing beaver collars. At Lelong's sports coats are straight, with slanting or curving stitched designs and straight or scarf collars. A few of these coats, following the movement of other garments, droop in the back and leave a flaring side gore. Straight belted kid coats, with large collars and revers, also are shown.

Coats to wear over sports frocks, on dull days or when sun has set, are shown in three-quarter length. At Vionnet's these are made of ponyskin and are belted, while Patou shows a yellow velveteen cape, with a side flare and a wide white and gray lynx border down the front opening. This is for wear over a sleeveless sweater of egg-yolk yellow velveteen and a white dress. White broadcloth is used for three-quarter length jacket, with aluminum buttons at double-breasted opening and side pockets, which is to be worn over a side-plaited skirt of white broadcloth, as a yachting suit.

Simple tweed princess or leather belted gowns are worn under traveling coats. These often have neck lines and flared gores or godets introduced on each side of the front and back. The sleeves are sometimes split up, with linked wristbands, or a pointed gore narrows into a wristband.

### One Lapel

A new coat in bright navy crepe has a novel closing. The right side is finished with a three-inch facing that extends around the neck to form a turn-down collar and ends in a long scarf that hangs below the waist on the left side. The left front has a finished lapel that buttons across to the right facing.



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Another tendency of the age is embodied in the remark of the young homemaker that her third child was born between the second payment on the radio and the eighth payment on the car.—Greenfield Republican.

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### Rare Finny Specimens

The Danish scientific ship Dana has found two unusual specimens of deep sea fish in Australian waters. One is the female deep sea angler. Her mouth is of extraordinary size and she carries the male angler, a tiny fish in comparison to her own bulk, attached to her body. The other is a lantern fish, a habitat of deeps where it is believed no daylight penetrates. The fish has its own phosphorescent lights, strung along its sides like a row of portholes on a steamer.

### Land Liner

A real "Ship of the Desert" has arrived to supersede the camel. A German engineer is constructing a huge land liner which will enable travelers to cross the wastes of Sahara with all the comforts enjoyed on an Atlantic voyage.



WHAT DR. CALDWELL LEARNED IN 47 YEARS PRACTICE

A physician watched the results of constipation for 47 years, and believed that no matter how careful people are of their health, diet and exercise, constipation will occur from time to time. Of next importance, then, is how to treat it when it comes. Dr. Caldwell always was in favor of getting as close to nature as possible, hence his remedy for constipation, known as Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, is a mild vegetable compound. It can not harm the system and is not habit forming. Syrup Pepsin is pleasant-tasting, and youngsters love it. Dr. Caldwell did not approve of drastic physics and purges. He did not believe they were good for anybody's system. In a practice of 47 years he never saw any reason for their use when Syrup Pepsin will empty the bowels just as promptly. Do not let a day go by without a bowel movement. Do not sit and hope, but go to the nearest druggist and get one of the generous bottles of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, or write "Syrup Pepsin," Dept. BB, Monticello, Illinois, for free trial bottle.

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