

What the Gray House Hid

CHAPTER X—Continued

The Mystery of a Haunted Mansion
— By —
Wyndham Martyn

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"You fool!" said Appleton, coldly venomous. "I do not object to your killing him. It is the manner of disposing of the body that stamps you as an imbecile. Why didn't you bury it where nobody could find it? What madness made you put it in the stream? It is beyond recovery by us, but the others will find it, and they will hold it like a club—not over you or Jim, but over me. You will find it hurts you, too! Well, it's done now, and we know that it will be discovered. Also we know that the men we are dealing with will make capital out of it." Appleton's icy rage grew with the thought of the disaster. "I shall be the sufferer—I, who thought that after tonight I should have no worries in the world!" He pointed at Luigi. "And this mass of clay from Palermo's underworld, who has had sanctuary here, and food and drink, when he should be in an Italian jail, has twice imperiled us!"

"That isn't fair, Fred," the woman protested. Alone of them she seemed to be in no fear of him. "Kerr, or Chapin, or whatever his real name was, got that job because he knew there was some mystery here, and he hoped to blackmail us. Some one must have given us away. Either Luigi had to get him, or we might all have been discovered."

"Stupid!" he commented crossly. "Why do you all persist in misunderstanding me? You seem to think I am worrying about the death of an escaped convict, when I am only remembering that Luigi, instead of concealing the body here, must throw it in the lake, under the impression that there was an end of it." He waved his hand to the Sicilian. "Go! Remember, we need all your strength today. Sleep, if you want to. Jim will call you when we are ready."

Luigi's great carcass bowed, and animated itself with relief. His was a child's mentality. He bowed to them all. Jim liked his cooking. "I getta you your breakfasts, Jeem," he said, smiling. "I make-a the tomato, garlic, and potato you like."

He took his way to the storeroom gayly. After the meal he would sleep. After that, there would be work for him that no other man here could perform. Jim Delaney was stronger than most men, but he was not like Luigi, who had carried a grand piano on his back.

"You see, Jim," said Appleton, when the Sicilian had gone, "that we are now in the position of dealing with people who hold something definite against us."

"They're in as deep as we are," said Jim.

"Nothing of the kind! We may suspect them of a dozen murders, but whereas we have only suspicion they have a corpus delicti—actually the body of the crime. They can't help finding it. It has cost me a great deal of money and time to make it certain that they must find it. That's one of the exasperating things!"

"Forget it, Fred," the woman said, patting his head. "Two weeks from now we'll be in Europe, living like lords."

"Sure, chief," Jim declared. "They won't want to give you away, anyhow."

"There's risk in the whole affair," Appleton retorted. "If the deal goes through safely, they will use their knowledge to cut my price. If I refuse, they will pay, perhaps, but they'll get me for Luigi's foolishness. If they are discovered, they will have to accuse me to save themselves. Luck doesn't keep on. It was sheer luck that the police dropped the red Chapin case when they found the mangled body of an old cell mate who had threatened to kill him. This thing worries me. Of course, you might get the body at the culvert, but you would most likely be seen. Safer, perhaps, to let things go. See that Luigi is ready when we need him."

Jim walked to the storeroom, calling the Sicilian by name. This cellar had been so constructed as to be sound-proof.

It was Junior's quick ear that heard him first, as he passed the door of Leslie Barron's cell.

"They'll find that man and know we're here," he whispered.

"We'll get him as he's finding him," Hanby said.

There were four now who crept toward the storeroom. They entered it just as Jim was kneeling by Luigi's side, untying his bonds. It was Leslie who made the first spring at him. Jim had not a chance. Outnumbered, taken by surprise, unable to rise to his feet, his struggle was futile. Side by side, he and Luigi nibbled viciously against gags.

"Now for Tom Burton!" said Hanby, when they left the storeroom.

When the door opened, Burton stood up and clenched his fists. He knew that some day Luigi's inherent love of torture would lapse into some such exhibition of violence as would kill him. Burton had great ideas of Nordic racial pre-eminence. He would show "at even in their moments of dying, the Nordic strain was the thoroughbred one."

"Ah!" he said satirically. "The gentle Luigi! Good morning, Calliban!"

Not until that moment had Hanby really liked Burton. It was as he saw him standing braced for punishment, and unafraid, that there came a change of heart.

"Tom, old man," he said, "Junior, Bill, and I are here. We've trussed up two galloway birds. How many more are there?"

When the light was turned on, it was seen that Tom Burton had suffered at his warder's hands. His face was thin and lined, his body bruised and aching. There were tears in his eyes as he shook his rescuers' hands.

Burton had little to tell. He knew only that the infamous Appleton, who had tipped him into the pit, ruled here absolutely. Burton had seen only Luigi, Jim, and Smucker. There might be others of whom he had not heard. He had no idea for what purpose Appleton had made his home here, or that he had been imprisoned beneath his cousin's house.

"We're here to clean out this place," Hanby said. "You'd better come along with us."

The searchers made slow progress, because they were as yet unaware of the number of inhabitants this subterranean fastness concealed. The general layout was speedily made clear. The large cellar with the lumber was the main feature. Then there were three little cells, a kitchen, a storeroom, and one other apartment. It was through the doors of this last that by straining their ears they could hear the faint hum of human voices.

While they were wondering whether to attempt to force an entrance, or to wait until the people within came out, they were relieved of making the de-



"Poor Old Huckleberry Hawk!" She Mocked.

cision. Mr. Appleton stepped out. He looked into the mouth of an automatic pistol in Hilton Hanby's hand.

For a moment flaming hate looked out of his eyes; then it died away. He was again the bland and suave little man whom they had known so long.

"I dislike revolvers," he said gently. "Furthermore, I am unarmed. You have something to say to me?"

"Quite a lot," said Hanby. "I trust you and your friends have been comfortable in my house. I begin to understand now on what you expended so much money. Mr. Douglas was puzzled about it. You are going to tell me why you spent it."

There was no question but that a look of relief passed over Appleton's face at what was virtually a confession that his purpose remained a secret.

"Call it a fad," he observed benevolently. "This living underground is nothing new. The famous duke of Portland, as you no doubt remember, constructed a ballroom and a riding school under the lake of his famous Welbeck Abbey estate. Consider me a humble disciple."

"He did what he chose on his own property. You are trespassing on mine."

Scot First Brought Navel Orange North

The United States owes the successful introduction of the navel orange to the late William Saunders, horticulturist. It is not certain, however, that the trees which were introduced by Mr. Saunders were the first which had been brought to the United States, though they were the first to come into successful bearing. The late Thomas Hogg of New York, in an account published in 1888, stated that about 1838 a wealthy Scotch planter in Brazil determined to manumit his slaves and remove with them to the United States. He settled on an island in middle or southern Florida and then returned to Brazil and secured a collection of

Where Tornadoes Occur.

Tornadoes seldom occur outside the United States. The Mississippi valley reserves them mainly for itself, says Nature Magazine. Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri run neck and neck for funnel-cloud honors. Nebraska easily takes second place. Then comes Mississippi, Alabama, Iowa, Illinois, the Dakotas and Minnesota. Outside this region the whirling cloud seldom strikes. It is unknown in California. New England is never visited.

Appleton sighed profoundly. "That makes a difference, I admit. Well, Mr. Hanby, charge me what you think is a fair price for my tenancy and I will pay."

"There's another charge, too," Hanby reminded him. "Murder! It doesn't matter whether you strangled Smucker or your strong-arm men did it. You'll have trouble dodging the chair!"

"When you have made a complete confession, duly witnessed and signed, I shall turn you over to the police. Appleton, your goose is cooked, and you ought to have sense enough to know it. Why have you been scheming for years to get possession of this place? Why did you keep tenants away?"

"It was a fad," Appleton returned blandly. "Every man has one. You, for example, desired to be the owner of an estate. Well, that was my ambition, too. I have lost. You have won. Why, then, not be generous and let me go?"

He made a movement as if he wished to lead them away from the door. He did not notice that Pelham slipped behind him and produced a bunch of keys. Appleton was only aware that the door opened suddenly and he was pushed into the room.

It was the only apartment well furnished. Breakfast things were on a small table. In a chair a woman, still pretty, but no longer young, was smoking a cigarette. She jumped up in alarm.

"What's the matter, Fred?" she cried. "Who are these men?"

"Mr. Hanby," Appleton began amiably, "is incensed at discovering our retreat. Having found nothing irregular, he decides to accuse us all of murder. You are witness that this poor creature"—he pointed to Burton—"assaulted a giant huckleberry hawk intent on his destruction."

"My G—d!" cried Burton, incoherent in his anger. "He asked me to look at a giant fuchsia moth!"

"There is no such thing, of course," Appleton said pityingly. "You can see that his mind has gone. I had him put under partial guard. I shall admit that he suffered from a homicidal mania? He assaulted Smucker directly he came in, and later, unfortunately, he killed the poor fellow. There are witnesses to this."

"All d—d lies!" roared the professor. "Execrable falsehoods!"

"As to Smucker," continued Appleton, "he came here for the sole purpose of setting fire to the Gray house and killing its owner and all its inmates. I kept him here because I liked and respected Mr. Hanby and his family." Appleton's keen eyes were fixed on Hanby's face. "If Mr. Hanby denies knowledge of Smucker's avowed enmity, I shall be greatly surprised."

"We found him with matches and gasoline all ready to set fire to your house," the woman contributed.

"I don't doubt it," Pelham said dryly; "and I don't doubt that you were glad enough to stop him. If he had burned the Gray house, you would have died in its ruins. So far you haven't made out a case."

She shrugged her shoulders. "If you don't want to be reasonable," she said, "that is your affair. If you want a murder trial, with a relative of the Hanbys in danger of hanging, call in the police. Two credible witnesses saw the murder committed."

"Madam," said the professor coldly "you lie!"

"Poor old huckleberry hawk!" she mocked. "You've probably forgotten very conveniently, but you'll be hanged, for all that, if the police ever know about it! There was a certain insolence about her that compelled admiration. 'We may as well tell the truth,' she went on. 'Fred and I have been fond of each other for years. His wife wouldn't consent to a divorce, and my husband can't be located. Fred arranged this place where we could be undisturbed. He didn't fill in the lake completely, as you've no doubt found out. He fenced it with barbed wire, and planted thorn hedges to keep out trespassers.'"

Hanby interrupted her. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

New Velvet Hats Make Appearance

Lightweight and Are to Be Had in Variety of Bright Colors.

Velvet headgear has made its appearance much earlier than usual—just when the fashion world is tired of straw. Velvet is given a warm welcome and many little hats in this material are adding charm to the late summer outfits for which the majority of women are always glad to have a change in millinery style. Delightful things they are, too. Nearly all are made on beret style, Chanel's transparent velvet scarf and beret set having started the thing off. They are light and to be had in a host of brilliant colors to match or contrast with your costume. Two of the outstanding velvet beret successes are shown here.

One is a beret and scarf in seashell transparent velvet lined with chiffon. The scarf is most chic when worn in Ascot style. The beret is



Beret and Scarf and a Bandana-Like Turban Made of Velvet.



modeled after the same simple model as the first berets which were shown several seasons ago.

Agnes has varied the beret theme a trifle in the little bandana-like turban which she has designed in velvet. Knotted ends give an interesting back line to this.

Still another velvet beret is modeled on close-fitting lines like a tam. It comes in plaid velvet with grosgrain ribbon band.

These are worn with a great deal of chic both with the very informal sports clothes and those of dressier type.

Dainty Lingerie Made for Little Girls' Wear

Underthings for the small girl are most attractive for summer, whether they are made at home or bought ready made. Pajamas are classed with underthings, for they are the accepted night wear of most little girls.

Some of the new pajamas are made of colored dimity, some are made of flowered cotton crepe. Some are all in one piece, some have separate jackets. Blazer stripes in cotton material are also used for the little girl's pajamas.

Combinations consisting of waist and drawers are worn by many youngsters. They are imported in finest French handwork, they are made in good American factories and they are made at home by many mothers who like to sew such small garments.

Fine scalloping is sometimes used as edging for these combinations, as well as for the combination consisting of underwaist and petticoats—or slip. Lace is also used, and sometimes just a neatly sewed-on binding takes the place of either lace or scalloping.

Some of the little petticoat slips have a narrow ruffle around the lower edge to give a slight swirl under the flaring frock, and these little ruffles are either scalloped or lace edged.

Washable Crepe, Cotton, Flannel Are Favorites

While cotton is in the spotlight in all sports wear collections, and women hither and yon are appearing in cotton sunback sleeveless frocks, washable crepe manages to hold its own. Designers no longer hesitate to combine silk and cotton, and many a good-looking cotton frock is worn with a silk coat or the other way about. Speaking of sports coats, there is a lively interest in flannel. White flannel smartly tailored and unlined is one expression of this, blue another. There are also interesting uses of gray flannel for sports purposes and such coats are selected to be worn over either cotton or silk. While far from being a novelty, Chinese damask because of its excellent performances in the laundry remains a desirable material for summer frocks.

ON REARING CHILDREN FROM CRIB TO COLLEGE

Compiled by the Editors of "CHILDREN," THE PARENTS' MAGAZINE

How should the mother deal with the child who refuses to obey? First, by understanding the causes of the refusal and then by trying to avoid situations which stimulate the child's tendency to say "No" to a request. For instance, since it is true that the very young child must come to understand his world by experimentation and to a large extent by the exercise of the sense of touch, the wise mother will remove from his surroundings bric-a-brac, perfume bottles and other unnecessary objects dear to adults, and see that in these early years he is allowed the important right to investigate free from constantly inhibiting "Nos!" and "Don'ts!"

That after-graduation slump can be avoided! Parents seem unconscious of the difficulties of readjustment which the boy and girl just out of high school encounter and so fall to offer them the sympathy and understanding which they need. Of course, they have plans for the fall, but the important thing is to have definite plans for the summer. Don't let your children feel the emptiness, the overwhelming loneliness that comes when they have before them no definite, vital program. Plan with them and for them a happy constructive summer of growth and achievement and make them feel that graduation is not an end but in a practical sense a commencement.

Shoes for the child who is just beginning to walk are essentially for protective covering only. The normal foot needs nothing more. Learning to walk may take place a few days faster with the steady influences of stiff-soled shoes, but shoes are not necessary to the learning process. A baby has no foot arches to speak of until the kindergarten age is reached; so arch supports and corrections in any except extreme cases are superfluous. This is also true of supports which are known as "stiff ankles."

Good electric lighting in your home is always the result of careful forethought and plentiful provision for expansion and change. It is better to have a few extra outlets than to have too few.

A psychology professor at one of the biggest universities in the East was asked whether he thought the boy who has been raised on the farm or the city boy better prepared to make the most of his possibilities in life. He replied, "The farm boy is better equipped. He is trained from constant outdoor life to note details—he is keen, he knows and can understand instantly such things as cause and effect. He is resourceful. He has a knowledge of how things work. He isn't afraid of dirt or work, and he has a sound body nine times out of ten."

Peplums Gaining Favor as the Season Advances

If anything peplums are shown to a greater degree than was predicted earlier in the season. They are executed in unique ways, as, for example, in box plaited form on a navy georgette frock from Martial et Armand. This peplum is slightly lengthened in back and two tie-back sashes are placed from the side seams.

Fan plaits are yet another characteristic of several houses. Shirts are set with box plaits from a hip yoke, but each plait flares out at the hem in a tiny fan shape.

Short sleeves certainly have been revived, reaching midway between the underarm and elbow, set in, but occasionally cut kimono fashion.

Printed Chiffon Gown in Black, White and Red



An attractive street gown that will appeal to many women at this season is of printed chiffon in white, black and red, featuring the Patou "lingerie touch" in white georgette.

The Kitchen Cabinet

(© 1929, Western Newspaper Union.)

There is only one type of artist whose achievements make every type of society from the earliest to the latest; and that creator is motherhood.—W. Shaw Apparrow.

SOME Dainties

There are appetizers, canapes, hors d'oeuvres (call them by any name, they are as zestful used to begin or end a meal; but the nicest of all at this season of the year is an appealing one of fruit.

The prettiest of all plate covers when serving fruit is the green leaf of the fruit served. When this is not obtainable other leaves such as apple, plum or any pretty foliage will be acceptable.

Cherries With Orange.—Place a spray of cherry leaves on a glass plate, arrange three or four sections of orange, membrane removed, with three cherries, large, ripe and luscious with stems placed between the sections. Grapefruit may be used and if carefully done may be eaten from the fingers as are the cherries, of course.

Fruit Balls.—Take the pink center of the watermelon, scoop out into balls with a potato cutter, place in sherbet cups, pour over a chilled sauce of orange juice and sugar and top with a sprig of mint; place on a leaf-covered plate.

Strawberry Appetizer.—Now that strawberries are to be had almost any time of the year, from the south, to the northern everbearing, one may have these berries for an occasional dish for the first course. Place a heap of powdered sugar molded in a small glass in the center of each dish. Arrange the beautiful fruit well washed and drained dry, unfulled and speak of until the kindergarten age is reached; so arch supports and corrections in any except extreme cases are superfluous. This is also true of supports which are known as "stiff ankles."

Vegetable Melange Salad.—Take one cupful of string beans and one cupful of peas, both cooked with a pinch of sugar in the water; if not add it to the vegetables. Add one cupful of finely shredded cucumber and one-half cupful of crisp, tender radishes, sliced unpeeled. Add a french dressing and let stand one-half hour. Take six hard-cooked eggs, cut off the ends so they will stand upright, cut into halves. Arrange crisp lettuce leaves around each egg and place some of the vegetable mixture on the leaves. Serve very cold with mayonnaise.

Oyster Plant With Herbs.—Wash and scrape oyster plant and cut into half-inch slices. Cook in boiling salted water until soft; drain, add butter to season, sprinkle with chopped parsley, chives and salt and pepper. Serve hot.

The Efficient Kitchen.

Now-a-days with the colorful kitchens and breakfast nooks so common, it seems trite to talk of kitchen conveniences. But there are thousands of homes yet where the housewife walks miles to prepare and serve a meal, where the kitchen stove, sink and table are hardly within speaking distance. These old-fashioned kitchens are still far too common, and they are treasures, too, for remodeling one may have a small kitchen with equipment conveniently placed and a cosy breakfast nook with benches that push under the table when not in use, leaving space for ironing or dressmaking, with good light and every convenience.

The proper arrangement of kitchen equipment is not a passing fad, but a most serious problem, worthy of thought and planning.

Where the kitchen is small the work table covered with zinc or with a porcelain top stands in the center of the room, over it is arranged a hanging shelf with place for the much used utensils to hang underneath. The shelf may contain the pretty jars for salt, sugar and such condiments used in every day cooking. This table with shelf may be placed against the wall, if it is more convenient in the smaller home; then the sink, stove and table are all within easy reach, saving much walking.

Hang the measuring cups and small things within easy reach and always place them there. When dishwashing, if the cupboard is near the sink, the dishes may be wiped and placed on the shelves without another handling, which saves many hours in the space of a year.

Have the sink, table and all equipment such as ironing board and tubs so placed that they will be convenient for your height. Stooping over a table or tub has caused the ruin of many good dispositions and the breaking down of many arches. The ideal floor is a pine one, covered with the best of linoleum. Tile floors are beautiful, but unless covered with many rubber mats, killing for the feet. Hardwood floors well varnished may be easily kept clean and always look well.

A large tray or a tea wagon for removing soiled dishes from the table, and carrying food to and from the dining table is a great space-saver. The handy boy with his tools can make a very good tea wagon, as many have done in the schools.

Nellie Maxwell