The Definite Object

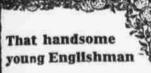
By Jeffery Farnol



This novel is a thrilling tale of a New York millionaire and his quest for an object in life. Mr. Farnol wrote "The Broad Highway" in a New York studio, in the very heart of the district he now uses as a of the district he now uses as a background for the adventures of Geoffrey Ravenslee, and to those lean years is due the author's grasp of New York life and character. His minor characters, Mrs. Trapes, the tenement-house landlady; Soapy, the gunman; Bud McGinnis, the gangster; the pugllistic chauffeur and "the old un" are as truly twrnolesque as his creations of Farnolesque as his creations of "The Broad Highway," and will stick long in the reader's memory.

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MRS. RINEHART PAINTS A MODERN GIRL—"HARDENBERRY" BALL WHAT IS THE MATTER

WITH THE MODERN GIRL? The Chief Indictment Against Her Is That She Is Too Much Interested in Boys, as if This Were a New Vagary

said I.

"I don't know about that," The Lady Girl Proposition'?" I asked Doctor interrupted. "It isn't a book that I would McFabre as he settled himself comfort- want a young girl to read." ably in the Gloucester hammock on my

The genial clergyman is particularly fond of a Gloucester hammock. He can is most entertaining-at the first readlie in it without fear of falling out. He ing. Yet 'Bab' gets in altogether too can never get over his wonder that the many scrapes and worries her parents New Englanders, whom he always thinks altogether too much. I asked my fifteenof as ascetic Puritans, ever thought of year-old girl if she thought it was a good inventing such an admirable convenience book for girls to read, and she said it for loafing in the shade. He is not the wasn't. When I told her that she enjoyed only man west of the Berkshires who it she said, 'But I am different.' But I forgets that New Englanders have long must admit that 'Bab' is like most girls been fond of creature comforts. They of her age." make pie in other parts of the world, but it is ple in name only. The early for that reason I have little fear for the New Englanders built their houses with future. All of Bab's vagaries are on the low ceilings, but their pies are high stud- surface. They are the effervescence of ded, with the ample spaces between the youth. At bottom she is honest and sintwo crusts filled with delicious fruit or care with an ideal which she is trying mincement properly seasoned.

When he had adjusted the pillows to and a most lovable young person, if we his satisfaction Doctor McFabre re- remember that she is a young person and marked that he was not familiar with Mr. do not expect her to behave as if she Ade's views on girls, but that he had were mature. No man could have writsome of his own.

"I do not know what to think of the modern girl," he said. "She never seems to have a serious thought. She is interested in dress and in parties and in boys It is almost impossible to get the girls in my church to do anything. If I make a party of it and give them a chance to get the boys to work with them, they will respond. But I do not like to have religious work done in such a way."

"Terrible, isn't it?" said I with a smile. "You needn't laugh. It is most trying." "Did it ever occur to you that it would be still more trying if it were not so? I suppose it has always been so and always will be so. Back of all the interest of the girls in boys and parties and dress is s fundamental instinct. It is the external evidence of an internal stirring of that emotion which builds homes and safe-

guards the future for the race." "Perhaps so; but it is most trying." "It might not be so trying, doctor, if you would attempt to recall what you thought and did when you were seventeen or eighteen years old. Didn't you have sentimental adventures then?" I asked.

"Yes," he admitted reluctantly, and after a moment his face grew tender and he added: "God bless her, I married her,

"There you are," said I. "And of course she turned out all right."

"Who turned out all right?" asked The Lady, exercising the privileges of unconventional intimacy with our guest and of her character and made it speak and me. She had just come out of the house. "Don't disturb yourself," she said to the did I, doctor, that the book is written in clergyman as he started to get out of the

"We were talking of modern girls," I

"I have often wondered that I came through that trying period without dis- 'Bab's' reflections: ster," she confess

"But you did." "What were you going to say about Ade's book about girls?" the doctor wanted to know.

"Nothing, except to remark that Mrs Rinehart has written a book from a different point of view. She has drawn a portrait of a seventeen-year-old girl that is so true to life that it ought to be re assuring to parents who have forgotten that they were young once."

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"What do you suppose was Mrs. Rinehart's purpose in writing this book?" he went on. He is always looking for a utilitarian end. "You might as well ask what was Mark Twain's purpose in writing "Tom Sawyer" or what was the purpose of Rembrandt in painting pictures of Doctor Tulip and his wife. Mrs. Rinehart has made a portrait of a genuine, whole-souled, romantic, patriotic, spirited American girl. The Lady and Dorothy have both recognized its truth. Truth, like beauty, is its own excuse for being. Mrs. Rinehart is to be congraulated on her success in putting her truth in a most entertaining form."

GEORGE W. DOUGLAS.

Margaret Bottome's Grand- R. W. CHAMBERS daughter

daughter

It is doubtful if the late Margaret Bottome, who devoted the latter years of her life to the King's Daughters and Sons, would be wholly pleased with the literary product of her gifted granddaughter. Phyllis Bottome. Miss Bottome is a finished literary artist, but her choice of subjects is not altogether pleasing. In her latest volume containing "The Derelict" and seven short stories, she has displayed her skill, which is undoubted, chiefly in describing unpleasant things. The story which gives the title to the volume tells of what happens when an English girl, given to helping the fallen, brings a beautiful girl, whom misfortune has overtaken, into close association with the young artist whom she has promised to marry. A situation is produced through the upiliter's blindness that leads to the return of the unfortunate girl to her "But you read it aloud to your girls." "Yes, and we laughed over it, too. It the return of the unfortunate girl to her old life and to the breaking of the other girls engagement with the artist, whose only girl's engagement with the artist, whose only offense has been that he pitied the unfortunate and had been kind to her. It is an un-pleasant story and leads nowhere. "The Liqueur Glass," the story of an English woman who murders her husband and escapes suspicion, is still more disagreeable. It is plausible, however, and is told with dra-matic realism. "An Awkward Turn" is the description of an adventure in marital infidelity accepted complacently by the wife of the guilty man. Miss Bottoms seems to be obsessed by the sex question and to delight in studying the varied abnormal forms in "I think you are right," said I, "and which it obtrudes itself. She can write a charming love story, however, as is proved by the beauty of "Mademoiselle L'Anglaise." in this volume, the tale of a young English girl who goes to Paris to study art, falls in to live up to. She is a most entertaining love with a wild young French artist. He goes to the front when the war begins, is wounded and loses his sight. But the girl, with splendid devotion, more powerful because of its long suppression, marries him in the end in spite of his blindness. Those who are delighted by the display of literary skill and are not repelled by the unpleasant things in the description of which it is used will find pleasure in this book.

THE DERELICT AND OTHER STORIES. By Phylls Bettome, author of "The Dark Tower," etc. New York, The Century Com-pany. \$1.35.

PHILADELPHIA BALL FIGURES IN FICTION

The "Hardenberry" Affair at the Ritz an Incident in a Tale of Mystery

The difference between Arthur J. Balfour statesman of London, and John Reed Scott, lawyer of Gettysburg and Pittsburgh, is that Mr. Balfour gets relaxation by reading Oppenheim novels and Mr. Scott secures it by writing them. By this it is not meant that John Reed Scott in E. Phillips Oppenhelm's other name, but that Mr. Scott's novels are of the type that has brought the Englishman considerable fame. Mr. Scott's latest story, "The Man in Evening Clothes," is a tale of love and mystery that ought to delight the heart of Mr. Balfour, as well a of every other man whose vocation forces him to do hard thinking. There is re-laxation in it because curtosity about the solution of the mystery keeps the interest alive without any effort on the part of the reader. It is just the kind of a book to accupy the time on a lazy afternoon in the eccupy the time on a lazy afternoon in the summer, or in the evening after a day of hard work in the office. The man in evening clothes is a thief who goes about Washing-ten robbing women of their jewels. The story is told by a secretary of the British embassy who is hard put to it to get money to meet his bills. His salary is inadequate and his allowance from his father, an earl, does not cover the defett. He is tempted herself so completely inside of the mind He is tempted

THIS IS "BAB"

ten the book. I imagine that Mrs. Rine

hart was a sort of a 'Bab' in her own

girlhood, or at any rate wanted to be. If

this were not so she could not have got

act so realistically. I did not tell you,

autobiographical form? 'Bab' is a board-

I am seventeen years and eleven days

old, and Juliet, in Shakespeare, was only sixteen when she had her well-known

One's Familey is apt to translate one's finest emotions into terms of food and drink. Yet could I say that it was my

Heart and not my Stomache that was full? I could not I have frequently wondered how it

would feel to be going down a staircase, dressed in one's best frock, low neck and no sleaves, to some loved one lurking be-

low, preferably in evening clothes, al-though not necessarily so. To move statuesqly and yet tenderly, appearing

indifferent, but inwardly seathing, while below passionate eyes looked up as I floated down.

"Could any one who did not know girls

"She must either have experienced

"There was a time when Bab's' par-

ents treated her elder sister so differently

from the way they treated her that 'Bab'

thought she must be an adopted child-

Before I could finish my remark The

Lady confessed that she had the same

feeling in her youth. And just then

Cabot Ames and Dorothy Owen came

"We are talking about 'Bab," said I.

"Isn't she delightful?" said Dorothy.

"Do you know, I recognized myself in her

so often that I wondered how Mrs. Rine-

hart had found out about me." Dorothy was seventeen not more than five or six

"If that is the case, I shall get the book

the first thing in the morning," said

Ames. "I don't know much about girls

and am planning to take a postgraduate

course in the subject. If this is an au-

thentic document, I think it might serve

Dorothy blushed and tried to take

back what she had said, but Ames

wouldn't let her. She arose suddenly and

announced that she must go home at once. She walked stiffly down the steps,

and as Ames followed her she kept as

The Lady smiled and Doctor McFabre

sighed. "Cabot seems to be waking up,"

as a textbook for beginners."

far from him as possible.

strolling up the walk in the moonlight.

have written that?" I asked the doctor.

something like it or have served as mother confessor to a lot of girls her-

affair with Romeo.

self," he admitted.

years ago.

he said.

does not cover the deficit. He is ter to steal jewels himself and succumbs. ing school girl who tells of her experi-The professional thief discovers what he is "We were talking of modern girls," I ences in school, her trials with her family, how she is misunderstood, her exparison of them with those of Doctor McFabre's youth, which was not so many years ago that it is difficult for him to hart's transcription of her manuscript is hart's t faithful to the girl's orthographical is an excursion to Philadelphia, where the young Englishman attends what is described as the "Hardenberry" ball at the Ritz-Cariton in company with a rich Washington widow and her jewels. He secure the jewels. As to the ball, he says:

The Hardenberry ball was certainly a dazzler. I have not seen anything like it in America; not even in Newport. It was really gorgeous—yet in exquisite tasts. They can do such things in Phila-delphia, I am told, when they have the money and are not afraid to spend it. "Great ball, wasn't it?"

"It was, indeed. It will be talked of next year, which is going some in this generation of forgetters. However, Mrs. Hardenberry's jewels themselves were magnificent enough to tower out of the general run. Did you ever see their equal in this country?"

"Never," I replied. "They were

Philadelphians will have little difficulty in identifying this ball or the person meant by "Mrs. Hardenberry." Mr. Scott might have introduced a detective to solve his mystery, but he has preferred a different and fust as satisfactory way. He also might have had some of the Philadelphia jowels stolen, but he allowed their owners to keep them, for which they must be thankful. If it is as easy for him to write his novels as it is for the public to read them we may expect another in the near future.

THE MAN IN EVENING CLOTHES, By John Reed Scott, author of "The Cab of the Sleep-ing Horse," etc. New York: G. F. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

When Braddock Fought Social life in mid eighteenth century New York, Indian warfare and the growth of the colonies to a sort of self-consciousness form the background for Joseph A. Alt-sheler's new historical romance, "The Shadow of the North." The period is that of the French and Indian War and the climax describes Braddock's defeat. The climax describes brandoca a defeat. The story is habited by a number of persons of historic importance, such as Governor Dinwiddie, of Virginia; Governor De Lancey, of New York; Sir William Johnson, Joseph Brant, and of course the young George Washington. For plot purposes, however, are introduced the hero, Robert Lennox, and his faithful friends. David Williett and the his faithful friends, David Willett and the Onondaga, Tayoga. The trio are scouting in western New York during Johnson's campaign and prove of great value not only to this celebrated Indian fighter but through indirection to Bradock. The course of their adventures gives an absorbing and instructive account of an important era in American history. Further, the story is told in Mr. Altsheler's vigorous and dashing

mtyle THE SHADOW OF THE NORTH: A story of old New York and a lost campaign. By Joseph A. Altsbeler. Hustrated by Charles L. Wrenn. New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.35

Paradise on the Block

Paradise on the Block

"Paradise Auction," by Naibro Bartly, is an absorbing novel, and has as its theme a search for happiness by a group of people who have spent their early lives in play. The author possesses exceptional skill in characterization; her theme is clever and the story is well told. Speaking through one of the characters, Sara Heath, a former actress and divorces, she presents many plain facts about marriage and divorce, this phase of the story being developed while discussing her son's marital troubles. The story recounts the unhappy marriage of Jack Heath, son of Sara Heath, to a selfish woman, who refuses to be compatible; his divorce from her and ultimate happy marriage. The struggle of Mollie Bren, another character, to continue to love her husband after he was permanently injured in a metor accident forms an interesting angle of the novel.

novel.

IN HIS OLD VEIN

A Thrilling Adventure Story With the Plot of a "Movie" Melodrama

If you want to go to the "movies" while sitting comfortably at home you can do it by reading Robert W. Chambers's latest novel, "The Dark Star." Mr. Chambers has returned to his earlier vein and has produced an exciting tale of adventure.

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ROBERT W. CHAMBERS

planet known to the ancients and called Erlik after the Prince of Darkness. Those born at the ascendancy of this star are doomed to be "flung by it out of the ordered pathway of their lives into strange byways, stranger highways—into deeps and deserts never dreamed of." Mr. Chambers selects a group of characters born under this star, one in northern New York. this star, one in northern New York, another in Turkey, a third in Russia and a fourth in Germany and fings them into strange byways and stranger highways in story which deals with the attempt of German spies to get possession of plans of the Turkish defenses of Gallipoli at the

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THE DARK STAR, By Robert W. Chambers, Illustrated by W. D. Stevens, New York, D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50

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