

The Lady of the Night Wind

By VARICK VANARDY Author of "The Two-Faced Man," "Alibi of the Night Wind," etc

DAILY NOVELETTE THE HANDSOME MAN By Stella L. Cole

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES-By Daddy "THE GIRL IN THE TOWER"

THIS STARTS THE STORY A house party is being given at the country home of Katherine and Dingham Harward. Among the guests is one Conrad Belknap...

not. But I will keep that one. "Would you also keep the other one to return here within two hours?" "I will do that, save in one event. You say, I am quite frank with you. You appear to be so."

"It is a ruby of the size and shape of a pigeon's egg," he went on as if he had not heard her, only she was present only to know that he did. "Imbedded in the center of it is an emerald of two or three karats. It is claimed that nature could not have put it there; that the two jewels are too foreign to each other for such a thing to have resulted from natural causes...

AND HERE IT CONTINUES THERE is nothing to prevent you from attempting it. Mr. Belknap. This is something I keep you from accomplishing it. If you doubt me, try it. I am here; you are there—at a distance of about three yards. Sprig, if you like, seize me, if you can. If you succeed—if you can get close enough to me to touch my hand to the ends of your fingers...

"There are several reasons. For one thing, I am beginning to suspect that your knowledge of him doesn't amount to much; I have begun to doubt if there is anything that you can tell me about him that is worth while. Still, I might nevertheless bargain with you, and hear what you might tell me, if it were not for another consideration. You know that I told him that I was not to be told what that one is."

"Very well. I came to Myquest primarily to get the Eye of Nadia. I believed that because of the threat of Myquest to your life, you would consent to aid me in securing it, but I speedily changed my mind about that. But I came here also to keep an eye on the maid—be close to her where I could watch her—to study her and to determine because of that close observation what her motives and her character are. It is a science that I have mastered."

"Thank you," she replied. "Now, will you be so good as to seat yourself in the armchair behind you? We are here to have done that I tell you around to the chair at the opposite side of the table." "Hub!" he exclaimed, half jestingly. "How do I know that it isn't a trick chair, and that it will fly through the ceiling or disappear through the floor the minute I touch it?"

"I will tell you exactly what brought me to Myquest at this time, exactly why I am here at all—if I tell you precisely what my errand outside will be—will you give me your word that you will keep it if you make the promise that you will not speak or write or otherwise convey any warning whatsoever of my intention?"

"The name of the man whose life I threatened in Roberta's case, and whose life I threatened in yours, is the same. His name is Roderick Maxwellton." "I know now, therefore—I am convinced that I know—where to find the Eye of Nadia; I know what Mme. Savage does with it when she stays at a place like Myquest. I am sure that I can get my hands on it and get away with it within two weeks, where you let me out of this place tomorrow night or the following one."

"Hub!" he exclaimed, half jestingly. "How do I know that it isn't a trick chair, and that it will fly through the ceiling or disappear through the floor the minute I touch it?" "You don't know," she said, "that is the crux of all the mysteries of this house. You don't know them, I do."

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"Do you wish to be free, tell me." "You should have lived in the middle ages," he said, half crossly, half admiringly. "No; I would not then have had the aid of electricity and hydraulics."

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"She is—no, she was once—my wife." "You—wife?" "That was Katherine's turn to be startled. "Yes," he replied. "We were married ten years ago, when she was seventeen and I was twenty-four. She left me within two years—when she found out that I was a crook—and secured a divorce. I am telling you the literal truth, Lady Kate. It is my own weakness that she is the only woman I have ever—er—loved for. I succeeded in finding her again something less than three years ago. She had learned to love another man in the meantime—chiefly, I suppose, because she had never loved me really. She had not married the other man, notwithstanding her divorce from me, because she believed that I would have procured her death if she did so. I unquestionably would have done so, without much doubt. I would have done anything, if I had been able, ever, to find him; to be sure of his identity. I have only known him; I have never knowingly seen him. All that I know about him is his name—his real name, which he does not use."

"I have controlled her up to a certain point by holding a threat over her; and she has dreaded its fulfillment more than she has feared anything else in the world." "A threat! You coerced her by the same method that you used to try to work your will with me?" "Precisely; and my threat against her had to do with the same person as with you."

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"Oh, Helen, I want you to come to the dance at the pavilion to-night. My cousin James from Brown, who is coming down for a day or two, will be there and I do want you to meet him. He is just the dearest, handsomest man!" Helen shrugged her shoulders. "Humph! a handsome man, is he? Say, if there is any one thing in this world for which I haven't the slightest use, it is a handsome man!"

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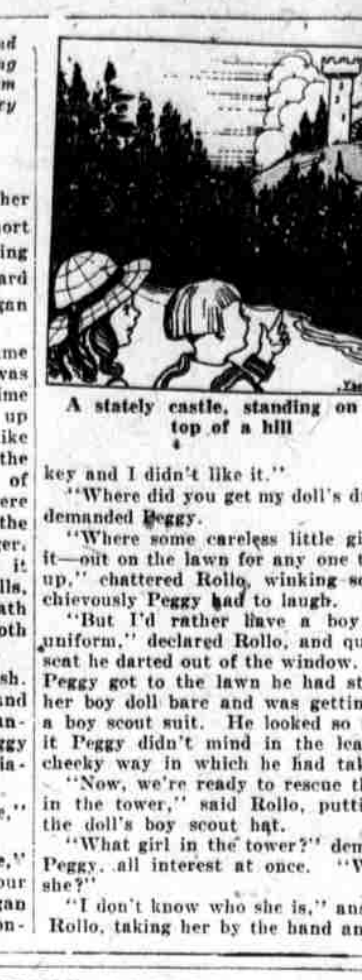
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"The Castle on the Hill PEGGY had spent a long hour at her piano practice. Now, after a short rest, she was amusing herself trying to play a tinkling tune she had heard ground out by a passing hand-organ near the day before."



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