

WILL SLEUTH-HUSBANDS SAVE WIDOW AND CHILD OF "EMPEROR OF SAHARA" FROM BUFFETS OF FATE

Mme. Lebaudy, Cleared of Blame for Killing Eccentric Multi-Millionaire, Weds Frenchman, Daughter Marries Son

Lives of Two Women, Beautiful and Gifted, Have Been Succession of Grim Tragedies

HAVE the tragic Mme. Lebaudy and her pretty, pathetic daughter Jacqueline found in their recent marriages refuge at last from the Nemesis that has followed them for years?

Was it this Nemesis which first made them meet, then fall in love with, then soon and now marry the father and son Sudreau, to whom a double ceremony united them?

Or was there no Nemesis? Was Jacques Lebaudy, "Emperor of the Sahara," slain by his wife, simply crazy?

The courts, during his eccentric and adventurous lifetime, said he was insane; the boulevard gossips of Paris tell of an early love tragedy and point out that, since then, all of his apparently crazy actions might very easily have been the actions of a man driven frantic by the pursuit of enemies who even followed his family after his murder.

Mme. Lebaudy, who fired the bullets that ended the spectacular career of the self-appointed "Emperor," has married Henri Sudreau, famous French detective, whom, in those deeply shadowed days, she had hired to protect herself and her daughter.

Jacqueline Lebaudy has married Roger Sudreau, the son of her mother's new husband.

But Jacqueline and Roger had been married before. They had been married once before, but Jacqueline had suddenly fled from her youthful husband and, with her mother, had tried to hide herself in an obscure little town in France.

There were at that time mystic stories of an Egyptian fortune teller whose prediction of the two women caused the marriage. The mystics even went so far as to say that this fortune teller was in the employ of the Nemesis of the Lebaudys.

Beautiful Actress Found Dead in the Seine

And these rumors revived the gossip of an early love affair of the late Jacques Lebaudy. They told of his life with the beautiful Mlle. Lande, one of the fairest ornaments of the Parisian stage. They related a sudden break in marriage to a titled man, of the race that was used to lure her to a houseboat on the Seine and of the subsequent finding of her body floating in the water.

Her death was never fully explained. Influential persons of great wealth in France can cover up these things better than in the United States and, after the nine days' wonder had subsided, the affair was forgotten, except by those who knew the principals.

And it was apparently never forgotten by the Nemesis.

Many things that happened after Lebaudy's death make it seem probable that what filled him with such apprehension were real flesh-and-blood enemies—strangely persistent and implacable enemies whose thirst for revenge could be satisfied only by depriving Lebaudy of his wealth or dipping their hands in his life blood.

And then these mysterious foes, cheated of their vengeance in Lebaudy's lifetime, seemingly pursued his daughter Jacqueline as relentlessly as they did the old "Emperor."

As a result the little heiress to a fortune of more than \$30,000,000, instead of being one of the happiest of girls, was one of the unhappiest.

Mother and Girl Had Fine Chance for Happiness

When the two women, Mme. Lebaudy and her daughter Jacqueline, were first united in marriage, almost everybody who had been following this tense real-life drama felt relieved and pleased. At last, it was thought, Jacqueline and her mother would have a chance to make up for the misery they had endured during the last years of the "Emperor's" life.

But these hopes were never realized, for the heritage of her wealth began to exert its maddening influence over mother and daughter.

Before they were fully united in enjoyment of the new life which Lebaudy's death made possible, their peace of mind was destroyed by a series of strange occurrences which can be explained only by the theory that the enemies who dogged the "Emperor of the Sahara" for so many years were still pursuing his wife and daughter.

On three different nights their home was broken into, and on one of these occasions the two women were almost formed while the house was in flames. The surprising thing about these burglaries was that no money, jewelry, or silverware was taken.

What the intruders came in search of they apparently knew was to be found among Lebaudy's voluminous private papers, which filled several rooms in the house. Each time the house was broken into these papers were left in the greatest confusion—strewn about the rooms as if every one of them had been carefully examined.

Grave of the "Emperor" Twice Broken Open

Whether the visitors to the house found what they came after was impossible to say. Lebaudy's lawyers could throw no light on the mystery. If Mrs. Lebaudy had any talking as to the nature of the previous document that was sought among the records of her husband's adventurous life she kept it a secret.

Her alarm was increased by two attempts that were made about this time to open the grave of Jacques Lebaudy

These few developed toward the end of his life, when his reason might easily have become unseated by the realities which he had so long been in dread of. He carried food about in his pockets because he was afraid of being poisoned if he ate in hotels or restaurants. He dodged from one hotel to another and often vanished from his usual haunts for weeks at a time in the hope of throwing his pursuers off his trail. He carried much of his wealth about with him.

Even his plans for establishing an empire in Africa and a kingdom in Bolivia may not have been as crazy as the world thought. Seated on a throne, with an army of hired mercenaries to protect him, he would have been infinitely safer from his enemies than he ever could be as a plain citizen of France or the United States.

Lebaudy Family Showed Taints of Insanity

Toward the end of his life, his actions and habits became so astonishingly erratic that there was probably no doubt of his insanity. There was a taint of it in his family anyhow, and the theory is that his mind finally gave way entirely under the strain of this mysterious Nemesis.

Most remarkable of all is the fact

in a nearby cemetery. Each time the ghouls were frightened away by chance passers-by before they had succeeded in reaching the casket.

Distracted, Mrs. Lebaudy set armed guards to watch over the grave. She engaged numerous detectives to follow her and Jacqueline about and brought Sudreau and his son from France to guard her and Jacqueline in their home.

And then, closing her palatial Long Island home, she and the girl took up the same sort of gipsy existence Jacques Lebaudy had so long led.

After several months of this nervous flitting from one hotel or one city to another they sailed for France. On the voyage over Jacqueline's friendship for Roger Sudreau ripened into love. Soon after their arrival in Paris they were married.

But even love and marriage, it seemed, could not free the young heiress of the burden of her father's heritage of hate.

It was the last woman who didn't begin the trouble that from her husband's papers. There was no quarrel, he said—the trouble vanished without a word of explanation.

When young Sudreau finally succeeded in reaching his wife to the obscure village where she had hidden herself he found she had taken her mother with her. Mrs. Lebaudy refused to let him or his father see the girl. She declared the marriage had been only one of convenience—to enable Jacqueline to come at some time into full possession of her huge fortune.

Wild Paris Rumors Kept Lebaudy Romance Alive

Paris began to buzz with all sorts of rumors. It was said that the Sudreaus, father and son, would bring suit, and that the husband could claim half of Jacqueline's fortune under the French law if she should divorce him.

Most surprising of all were the stories that the machinations of fortune-tellers and sorcerers had torn the little heiress from her husband—that their "evil eye" had blighted the flower of her love.

The part fortune-tellers are said to have played in Lebaudy's Jacqueline's home was not only dramatic and strengthened the suspicion that the girl was being poisoned by the same mysterious enemies who pursued her father.

This would not be the first time such charlatans have been used to obtain the confidence of a victim in order that harm might be done her.

But just lately came the announcement

toward the end, even went so far as to claim that he had never married Mme. Lebaudy, nor introduced her as his wife, and that Jacqueline was not his daughter. The little girl herself made a pathetic statement when she appeared before the Grand Jury, which freed her mother of the charge of murdering Lebaudy and declared the act self-defense.

Jacqueline said: "I was born in France and three years later father went into his Sahara adventure. I can't even remember him as being anything but mean to me. The first time, it seems, that I have any recollection of him was at the Savoy Hotel, in New York.

"He never was good to me. He never even spoke to me unless it was to order me around. He always looked like he didn't like me, and he made mother cry every time he saw her. That always made me cry, for I love my mother so.

Daughter Was Denied Friendship of Others

"I never could play with other children. I couldn't even go to school. He wouldn't give us enough money for that. Even when I was in St. Joseph's (a school on Long Island) mother had to come and take me out because he would not pay the bills. He wanted me to work, and lately was always ordering me to do things around the house—even to build fires.

"I remember when we first came to Westbury he used to stay nearly all the time. He was always doing something to mother to make her sad and cry. Sometimes he made her scream. Whoever he said anything to me at all it was something mean. Oh, I longed to go to school; it was the only pleasure I could have had.

"Mother bought me pretty dresses when father was liberal and gave her money. Father was brutal to mother. He nearly killed her once, choking her. "I was upstairs that night (the night

that, while his ordinary life was the life of a man with a subtly disordered brain, he remained to the very end one of the most successful Wall Street stock speculators of his day. It is believed that he nearly doubled his fortune in his few years in America.

But his wife and daughter got none of the benefits of his huge wealth during his life. He seemed to develop a special animosity toward them and,



Jacqueline Lebaudy at time of mother's trial



Mme. Sudreau and her daughter as they appear today



Jacques Lebaudy, eccentric "Emperor of Sahara"



Mme. Marguerite Lebaudy Sudreau and her daughter, Jacqueline, who married her stepfather's son; Mrs. Lebaudy in 1916, when the "Emperor of Sahara" first showed signs of insanity

of the murder). I didn't see father come in at all. I hadn't seen him for more than a week. Mother wouldn't let me. I knew there must be something the matter.

"Mother was always taking my part. Every time he and mother quarreled she would get frightened and would keep me close by her. Last Wednesday she had locks and chains put on the inside of our bedroom doors. Her room and mine open into each other. She didn't tell me what those locks and chains were for, and when I asked her she answered, 'They make it safer.'

"She had to go through my bedroom to the stairs Saturday night. I was standing stiff. I was so afraid. I didn't know what was happening, but I knew it was terrible.

"Father was always doing awful things, and I knew when I heard the shots that he had come home. Mother came back through the room and fell on the bed. I managed to telephone Mr. Moore.

The only time that Jacqueline seemed to soften toward her father was in the conclusion of her statement. She added:

"When father was away he would write mother once in a while and would send 'ten thousand kisses' to me—but he never gave me the kisses when he was at home."

Began Wildest Career of Eccentric Activities

When the props were knocked from under Lebaudy's imperial projects in Africa he gathered his followers about him and bade a tearful farewell to his beloved Lebaudy. On his return to Europe he renounced his French citizenship by declaring his allegiance to King Edward of England, whom he grandiloquently proclaimed his fellow ruler.

For several years after this Jacques was always engaged in enterprises so amazing that the world was never quite sure whether he was a dangerous maniac or only the greatest of practical jokes.

At one time he spent a good-sized fortune in the vain attempt to set up a rival to Monte Carlo on the eastern coast of Italy. To the end of his life he never abandoned his imperial ambitions, and when he tried to establish himself as emperor in one of the Balkan states he just missed plunging Europe into war.

The most surprising thing about Jacques Lebaudy's career was that with all his growing eccentricities he never lost the financial shrewdness for which his father had been famous. While squandering with one hand a fortune on some of his fantastic schemes, he was always accumulating with the other new millions. Within ten years of his father's death during speculations more than doubled the wealth the old Sugar King had left him.

The United States was a country which long had fascinated Lebaudy, and when he finally became disgusted with the lack of interest which Europe took

in his imperial schemes he went to New York to live. Shortly before this he had married Augustine Dellerre, a refined and beautiful Parisian woman of good family.

Lebaudy signaled his arrival in this country by cleaning up a cool million dollars in a few weeks through a bold Wall Street speculation in Erie Railroad stock. He followed this up with other ventures not quite so profitable but equally daring. But just when he seemed about to become a Napoleon of American finance he began to be haunted by the fear that he was being pursued wherever he went by desperate enemies—men and women who were bent on killing him and seizing the scepter which he still believed he wielded over his African dominions.

He established his wife and child in the Long Island suburban town, but he himself was afraid to remain there with them for long. He became a nomad in New York, wandering about from one hotel to another. Sometimes

he would be a guest at a dozen fashionable hotels in a single night, occupying a room at each of them for only a few minutes.

In spite of all his vast business interests he maintained no office, but employed messenger boys to follow him about night and day, carrying trunks, bags and suitcases bulging with valuable securities and legal papers and many thousands of dollars worth of gold pieces and banknotes.

During his stay in New York he alternated between princely profligacy and the worst miserliness. One minute he would be distributing \$20 gold pieces to his messenger boy retainers, and the next he would be making his dinner from a crust of bread in the lobby of a fashionable hotel.

Fitted Messenger Boys as Force to Aid Allies

Regarding some of his eccentricities Mme. Lebaudy said:

"When he purchased Phoenix Lodge he would see no one. He rarely went into town, and all purchases were made in the name of his secretary.

"After a time his eccentricities became more marked. He would buy many broken down horses and ride or parade them over the plains and through the town. Then he would send to New York City and engage uniformed messenger boys. He would mount them upon his old horses and parade them over the plains and through the town. He would drill them and said that he was organizing an expedition to aid the Allies.

"He would have his servants light lanterns and place them in the road at night. He would order horses saddled or harnessed to a buggy and tied to trees early in the night so they would be ready for him in the morning.

"Sometimes he would want to be addressed as the Emperor of Sahara. Then he would be called Count. At other times he wanted to be called Mr. Lebaudy. We never knew how to address him. Once he had his servants put lumber and obstructions in the road in front of Phoenix Lodge, and travel through it was impossible. This led to action on the part of the Nassau County authorities and his arrest.

"On several occasions he had the furniture out of his home and placed it in the road or in the grounds surrounding the house.

An event which perturbed him greatly occurred soon after he went to Westbury. In a process aimed at him from New York City tried to reach him at Phoenix Lodge, but did not succeed. The man waited for him in the town square one day. Mr. Lebaudy unexpectedly went to the railroad station. He was served with some kind of a summons. For months after that he would not see anybody."

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Wife Had to Flee From Wild Frenzy of Husband

On one occasion he attacked his own house with an ax when his wife succeeded in slugging him in the mass of rooms in the huge building, which was more like a summer hotel than a family home.

At another time he sought to persuade a former deputy sheriff to aid him in burning down the house, with its inmates.

His employes and some of his neighbors saw him going about with a red lantern hanging from his mouth by a wire handle. He said that he did this for his health.

One of his amusements was riding bareback on a cow and trying unsuccessfully to persuade her to hurdle fences.

Lebaudy frequently withheld money from his wife and servants until they were without food, and when they told him there was nothing to eat, his reply was to go and kill one of the cows he had dinner.

On one occasion he ordered a cartload of ice sent to Westbury, saying that it was necessary to keep his hay cool.

The actual story of the shooting of Lebaudy was told before the Grand Jury by H. W. Moore, Mrs. Lebaudy's counsel.

Chains Put on Doors to Keep "Emperor" Out

He declared that Mrs. Lebaudy acted to protect her daughter from her insane husband. He said that Lebaudy had previously threatened her life, and continued:

"She then had caused heavy chains to be put upon the door of the two rooms occupied by herself and daughter. On one occasion these chains prevented Lebaudy from gaining entry. The State constabulary at Mineola were informed of the trouble there and promised prompt protection.

"On Saturday morning (January 11, 1910), Lebaudy telephoned from New York and told his wife that he was coming out that night. He used language which caused her then to fear his intentions.

"As soon as he arrived, around 6 o'clock, he made a great noise about the lower part of the house, opening the windows and emptying the blazing coals from the fireplace out on the lawn.

"His wife, who was in bed, got up and put on a robe and went down the stairs from the head of the staircase toward the first landing. Lebaudy saw her from the lower hall, rushed up the stairs, grabbed her by the arm, at the same time telling her that he would finish her.

"He swung her around and reached in his pocket for his weapon.

"As he was drawing it she quickly fired with a revolver furnished to her by a friend for her protection.

"He staggered back and fell dead at the foot of the stairs. There were no eye-witnesses to the occurrence, but plenty of evidence as to his intention to kill both his wife and his daughter."

Another early photograph of Jacqueline