They Love Her —Then Disappear

THE VANISHING MEN

What Becomes of Her Sailors?

By RICHARD WASHBURN CHILD

U. S. Ambassador to Italy

Author of "The Velvet Black," Etc., Copyright, C. P. Dutton & Co.

THIS BEGINS THE STORY

Peter De Wolfe, an American aviator, instead of going home after the war, accepts an invitation of his friend, Benham, of the British Air Ministry, to visit the latter's home. He hears of a beautiful recluse, Ricean Sclerossa, whose personality and career are mysterious. Muriel Benham, the Colonel's sister, falls in love with him, and at their last meeting shows signs of renouncement.

AND HERE IT CONTINUES

PETER was not lacking in perception; he knew at once that his visit at the Benhams' must come to an end. All the cold assurance in Muriel's heart, all the steady, stable English look had gone. No refusal of hers to vote or smoke a cigarette or adopt an article of clothing which in any way neglected to unsex her could have proclaimed her as a woman rather than as a companionable playmate as completely as did this scorching, half-terrified, hungry look in her shimmering, lowering eyes.

"Come on now," he said aloud to the private soldier who had stopped obeying orders. "Let's walk. Let's walk hard and fast and long."

He was wondering now whether he had made his journey to Bermuda in vain, whether instead of willingness to solve the puzzle that Benham had set him was waiting for the thing he had been a piece of intelligence leading to Ricean. When he and the girl had slipped down the slope into the sunken garden that led across the moonlit lawn, walked blindly into the silver stream through the ripples that grew at the water's edge.

"You are not cross?" asked Mrs. Benham inquiringly.

"Cross? Cross with Peter De Wolfe? Why, you? Goddess, you know better."

She looked up at him, her face watching him as she would look at a god or at a devil as a setter in golf looks over to catch a glance of approval from his master. Peter expected no more from her. He knew he must part, as he must go back to London. This was only how Benham and certainly not to Beatrice's sister, who had for months received much from an acquaintance with the stray American who showed no desire that to live a lifetime of Muriel's program of days and years would be a close second to a term in prison for having a heart in the Wall Street financial office. He supposed, and rightly, not actually, at once, that Muriel had read a book or two. Keep One Balance. He figure upon the expansion of can be generated in families, as to accommodate mentals of marital existence of which half-concealed existences of which are aware, each for himself believes as to our armored neighbor. Marriage fact, was just the generation mental human forces really put to give a glorious exhibition of pluck up the cracks of a [illegible] most of us, but here [illegible] her cover, but like [illegible] endless faith in the [illegible] and conception.

The depression which fell upon the girl, as if a shadow cast by the gathering about them, [illegible] back from Saint Dennis's [illegible] ten miles to the wind, gave to [illegible] ing of the crisis to [illegible] he was under no obligation to [illegible] that which the night would bring [illegible]

At dinner [illegible] talk to Mrs. Benham, to [illegible] ment he found that behind [illegible] there were a great many years of order- [illegible] ly thinking which [illegible] not, not assumed by [illegible] family had [illegible] onto the shelf in [illegible] carefully [illegible] like bolts of cloth with [illegible] able pattern. It was [illegible] while to have Muriel [illegible] almost a relief to [illegible] long Burne-Jones [illegible] sitive lips contracting [illegible] eyes and be [illegible] broad strong face of [illegible] took a delight in [illegible] proud of a [illegible] whimsical. Each [illegible] ward toward the [illegible] who, with her [illegible] weighed at least [illegible] Muriel stared at her [illegible] which might be [illegible] jealousy.

Peter, as he [illegible] with Mr. Benham, faced the long French [illegible] a curved bay at the end [illegible] room. The floor was [illegible] and flowers [illegible] to the room with [illegible] warm dark [illegible] houses, but just [illegible] of his own [illegible] of the door, [illegible] driveways of the [illegible] the side door. I [illegible] thought he had [illegible] It might have [illegible] own white linen [illegible] flick of movement [illegible] his eye to [illegible] cup.

"What did you [illegible] suddenly.

"It was [illegible] spot in the world [illegible] son's face."

Muriel [illegible] Right outside [illegible]

Peter stared [illegible] thought of how [illegible] be just as [illegible]

The smile [illegible] the electric [illegible] just behind the [illegible] down its light [illegible] of yellow [illegible] ing there, and [illegible] she had stood [illegible] had been looking straight into [illegible] She wore no hat and [illegible] in immense [illegible] color of certain [illegible] autumn which are [illegible] but both colors [illegible]

"Her Irish mother," he [illegible] aloud. He knew of [illegible] He knew by her hair and [illegible] eyes in which, even [illegible] there appeared the [illegible] described by [illegible] British officer had not [illegible] beauty. There was [illegible] about it, a [illegible] awful as well as [illegible] the beauty of [illegible] the dust and [illegible] living warmth [illegible] which compared to [illegible] white was as [illegible] silk. She stood in the [illegible] Peter learned later to [illegible] teristic a posture [illegible] with resignation. [illegible] knows. Perhaps [illegible] protect his [illegible] with small [illegible]

That she wore a white [illegible] over which a white of [illegible] from her half bare shoulders De Wolfe did not notice. She was one who can not be described in details, and her clothes made no [illegible] though their [illegible] colors and contrast in any other case might have left a vivid picture. One never saw her except as a whole—a woman too short of stature, if one measured, but the height of a goddess if one only looked, a girl whose face, though capable of a great [illegible] of expression, nevertheless

He knew at once who she was. He knew by her hair and [illegible] great dark eyes in which, even from a distance, there appeared the [illegible] as described by young Benham

To be continued tomorrow

After-Dinner Tricks

No. 252—The Bottle Plug

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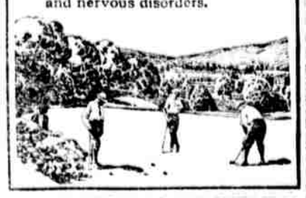

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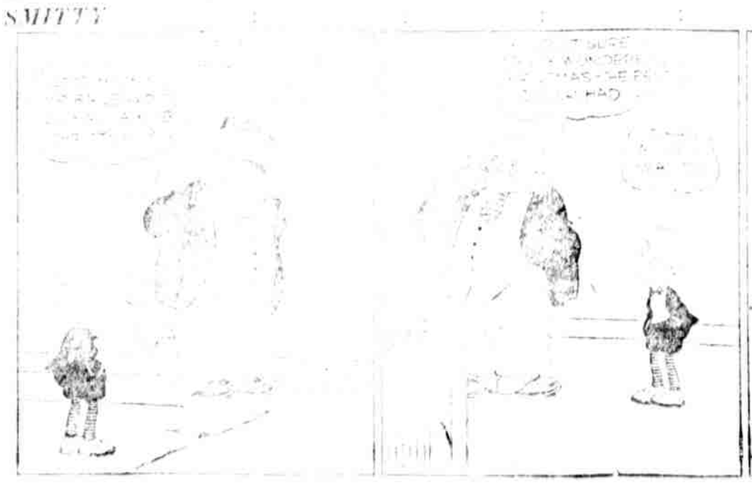

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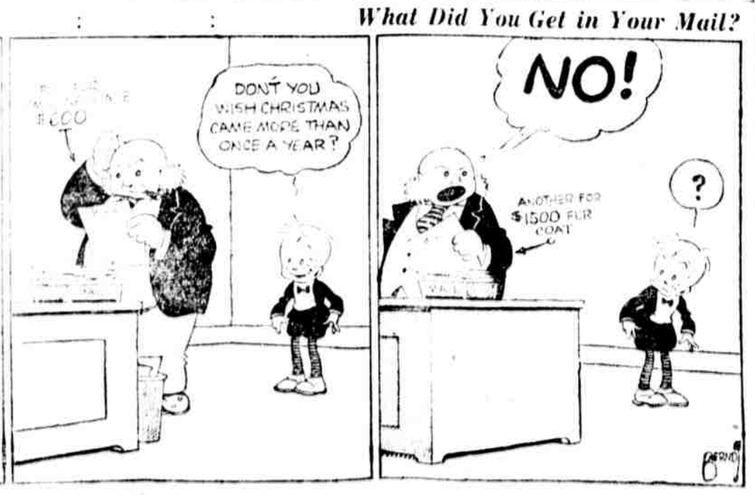

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WIFE AND CHILDREN.

Deaths

ADAMS—Of Woodbury, N. J., on Dec. 24, 1922, [illegible] N. [illegible]. Services and friends, Dec. 27th, at [illegible] A. M., oriental Chapter, No. 185, R. A. M., Delta Council, No. 11, R. and S. M., Kadosh Commandery, No. 20, K. T. La Lodge, A. Y. M. and [illegible] organizations of which deceased a member, are invited to the [illegible] on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, at the Oliver H. Bair Building, 1520 Chestnut st. Interment private. Remains may be viewed Wed. evening.

ADAMS—On Dec. 22, 1922, SARAH M., widow of James L. Adams. Services on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. Thomas Hannah, 230 South Main st. Interment private.

ALBANY, Dec. 22, ANNA M., wife of [illegible] Albany, Inc., 1869, [illegible] of [illegible] general services Thurs., 2 P. M., precisely, at her husband's residence, 547 Roxborough ave., Roxborough, Inc. Lexington Cem.

BAKER—Dec. 22, WILLIAM H., husband of Elizabeth D. Baker, aged 51 years. Relatives and friends also Clifton Heights Council, No. 780, O. of I. C., invited to the funeral, Wed., 2 P. M., from his late residence, Clifton Heights. Interment private. Mt. Zion. Friends may call Tues., 8 to 10 P. M.

BARE, At Yeadon, N. J., Dec. 21, ELIAS BARE. Relatives and friends, invited to the funeral services, Tues., 2 P. M., at 1818 N. 20th st., Int. private.

BRIGHAM—Dec. 22, 1922, FLORE G. Wright, wife of Wilbur and J. Irene Wright Brigham. Relatives and friends are invited to the funeral, Wed., 2:30 A. M., from her parents' residence, 3224 N. 24 st., Brandon. Services at St. Stephen's Church, 10 A. M. Int. at Cemetery of the Immaculate Conception. 9 A. M. Int. at Cathedral Cem.

BLUMENFELD—Dec. 23, ISRAEL, husband of Jennie Blumenfeld. Relatives and friends also Hebrew Lodge, No. 77, I. O. B. A., invited to attend funeral services, Tues., 2:30 P. M., at late residence, 2543 N. 32d st. Int. Montefiore Cem. Kindly omit flowers.

BRODEN—Dec. 23, ABRAHAM T. BORDEN, aged 65. Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral, Tues., 2 P. M., at the residence of his son-in-law, William H. Hatfield, 5310 N. Broad st. Int. Mount Peace Cem.

BROWN—Dec. 21, 1922, THOMAS J., husband of [illegible] Brown. Relatives and friends, also [illegible] Lodge, No. 1, I. O. O. F., [illegible] Encampment, No. 1, I. O. O. F., [illegible] Canton, No. 1, P. M., [illegible] Veteran Association, [illegible] Veteran Association, [illegible] Veteran Association,