# he Tenant

## Narrow House

By HOWARD FIELDING.

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CHAPTER V.

The Mystery of Ned Ames' Body.

The Maxwell home on High street was a hundred and forty years old. Little of the original structure remained except the great oak framework, which are locked or nailed up. You must en- obeyed her, fearful that his resistance might stand some generations longer. It was untenanted. The young physi-

clan-the last of his race-had abanhuitt a modern house and furnished it her in after him. The lantern which he story that had been agreed upon. She luxuriously in anticipation of his mar- had used on his first search was hidden I had come to take him home, riage with Anna.

Dr. Maxwell was a man of consider able means for that part of the country. He was not in the least dependent upon his practice, otherwise he would have gone to a more favorable location for money making. But situated as he was, he much preferred to remain in Williston. He loved the town for its great beauty, and for the quiet which favored his studies

The old Maxwell place was on High street, about a hundred yards from its junction with a thoroughfare called Broadway, as the Williston people said, because it was the narrowest street in town. The Ames house was on Broadway, which, in its lower part, was the business street of the place. There were three residences on its upper por tion, and Samuel Ames' was the last of them in the direction of High street. Clustered about the function of Broadway and High street were many great trees, some of which extended their branches almost across one or other o the two thoroughfares

It was more than half a mile from Mr. Warren's residence to the abandoned house in which Frank Ames had found his brother's body. There was courage enough displayed in Anna Warren's visit by night upon that dreadful errand to furnish forth a dozen

They avoided the observation of chance passers on the street. It had been agreed between them that they should make all haste; and, after Anna had been convinced of the truth of her companion's story, they should go to his father's house. There was little chance that the discrepancy in time would ever be discovered. It was much safer than a return to the Warren house would

"When I think of this discovery," said Ames, as they trod the silent street, "I am amazed that it had not been already made. What more convenient hiding place was possible? No one visits the old house. Had the grave closed over your sister's body there would have been no suspicion, and my brother's corpse could have lain there until its removal was convenient or until time served for its burial in the

"If this detective had not been convinced that my brother's death was only a pretense, he would have solved with a hoarse cry, Frank sprang for- died; that the pretended death was a My belief in its reality made the solution easy. I went to the house this evening. I secured entrance by means of an upper win-

"All the doors were locked," murmurred Anna, shuddering.

"Yes, and you know who had the keys. Oh, Anna, believe me I do not speak heartlessly, nor am I moved by dealousy. The facts are to blame, not I. Some day when you are able to see my conduct in a clear light I believe that you will know it to be good, that you may even learn to love me as one

"Hush! I cannot listen, Tell me how you found him.

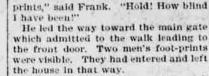
"I knew where to look. I put myself in the murderer's place. Where would he hide it? I thought at once of the cellar. There is a great old-fashinoed furnace there in which a human body could be burned. Why he did not do it that night I could not at first understand. Now I know that he must have been forced to attend to his horsesremember he had ostensibly gone driving-and that having done so he dared not return to the house that night.

"My conclusions were correct, My poor brother's body lay on the cellar when they came in. floor. There was scarcely a pretense of

concealing it. Anna, can you bear the

"I can and will. There is but one difficulty. How can I get into the house?"

ter that way." She did not hesitate. When they had reached the house, she made him enter Ned Ames' house, and with splendid doned it about a year before. He had by the window first, and then he drew self command the girl told him the



"We are too late!" gasped the girl. "Robert is lost." "I have convinced you, then."

"No. no!" "But I have. I know it. Yet the service I would have rendered you is now impossible. I cannot claim the reward." 'Not yet, but work! I shall need a friend. He will need a friend, I do not believe him guilty, but it would be folly to deny that he is in peril. Save him , and I will never forget what you

"That is worth working for," he said. "But it is not all. A man demands more. If I save him, though you yourself believe him guilty, or if he never returns, thus confessing his guilt, what shall be my reward?"

"Urge me no further. I am utterly incapable of thought. Come with me to your father's house. We must be seen there. Then you must take me home. "I have unfastened one of the win-dows on the lower floor. All the doors the horrors of that night, he silently Seeing that she was indeed yielding to might actually distract her.

They found the Rev. Mr. Warren at



"It Is Gone!" He Shouted.

it, and carefully shielding the flame so anyone chanced to be passing, he led the way to the celiar. It was divided any emergency. into two parts by a partition of brick

his hand upon the latch. "Summon up your courage," he said. But why should I say that? You his visitor, and the feelings of the other are doing this night. Courage is the will lie before you."

"Open it," she whispered, awestruck. flashed into the darkness. There was a moment's pause. Then,

ward. "It is gone," he shouted, utterly ob- his track, and to facilitate the murder

livious of caution. "The body is not of Charlotte, which for some reason "It never was here," breathed the girl. "Why have you brought me?"

"I swear to you that I saw it lying there this night. Bend down!" He held the lantern down to the floor

ement. "There! In the dust do you not se the outline of his form?" She saw it. Dust and ashes lay thick upon the floor, and it was possible to

trace something like the imprint of a human body. "In heaven's name who can have done this?" cried the girl. "Frank Ames, if you have a heart in your breast, answer me: are you speaking the truth?" If ever a man swore to an oath to which credence could not be denied, Frank Ames did it then. It would have been madness to doubt his word. The

no gainsaying it. Hurried search convinced them that the body was not in the old house. Having failed they went out as they had entered. They reached the street by the little side gate which they had used

truth flashed out of him, and there was

"I will return and obliterate our foot-

in the room they entered. He lighted | Frank insisted upon sharing the walk, and the girl dared not refuse. She that it would attract no attention if wished, indeed, to keep him near her that he might act at her command in

A bright fire blazed in the clergyman's with a light wooden door. Frank laid cozy parlor,, and in its light stood Robert Maxwell, waiting. Rev. Mr. Warren was surprised to see

tremble less than I do. No words can two who saw him call for a word that express how I admire you for what you has not yet been put into the language. Maxwell explained his suden return sum of all the virtues. Yet I must warn | by saying that he found his investigayou. When I open this door, his body tions in Boston so simple as to require only a few hour's search. He had reached that city at six o'clock in the He obeyed. The lantern's light morning and had left on the noon express. In that short time he had convinced himself that Ned Ames had not ruse to throw the officers of the law of

> This information greatly interested Mr. Warren, and he would have discussed its bearings at great length with Maxwell, but Anna interposed. She would not permit her father to excite himself further. With gentle persuasion she made him consent to go to rest. But Maxwell and Ames did not leave the house. The situation would be regarded as unusual in any other part of the country; but in Maine the chaperone is an article imported only in small quantities and very little in demand.

hitherto undiscovered, had become ne-

When her father had gone, Anna told Maxwell exactly what she had done that evening. She omitted nothing except Frank Ames' declaration of love for her. Maxwell guessed that, and his wrath knew no bounds. Nothing but the presence of the woman they both loved prevented a personal encounter. Maxwell accused Ames of conspiring against him. He scoffed at the idea that the body of Ned Ames had ever been in the old Maxwell house.

"The idea is monstrous," he exclaimed. "I tell you that Ned Ames is not dead."

Before Frank could frame a reply, a new voice broke into the discussion.
"I beg to disagree with you." It said.
'Eddie Ames is dead, and I have seen his body." All turned toward the door into the

hall, and there stood Mulligan, bowing apologetically. "I knocked several times," he said,



but you were so interested that you did not hear me. Can I come in? Thank you, Miss Warren. And what have you o say in reply to me. Dr. Maxwell?" Frank Ames did not wait for Maxwell's reply. He turned upon Mulli-

"So it was you who removed the body?" he exclaimed. "No, it wasn't. I fond it, but some-

body relieved me of the trouble of removing it. It was there at nine o'clock this evening. It isn't there now. Where is it, I'd like to know? And by the way, Dr. Maxwell, what time did you drive by the house on your way back from the Junction?" "A little before ten."

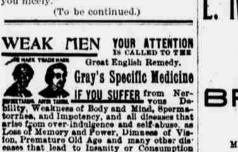
"Returned from Boston rather sooner han you suspected, didn't you?"

Maxwell suppressed an oath. "You know why," he said, angrily. I was dogged by one of your men. If you want me watched, do it yourself.

"Quite so; and I'm pleased to see you. Now, let me briefly state the facs. I didn't believe that Eddle Ames was dead. I believe Horace Riddle's story. But all the same it was my duty to search this town for Ames' bodywhich might have been in that coffin, you know—and I did search. I found it this evening in the cellar of your old house, doctor.

"From the appearance of the body I have no doubt that he died of diphtheria as the record said. Now, how did the body get into that cellar? Thank heaven for the hardened snow under the soft feathery stuff that fell in the latter part of Thursday night. I did a little scraping outside the house and found some foot-prints. They were unquestionably those of the man who brought the body. He wore rubbers, and that's unfortunate. It's in the nature of a disguise. Still by measurements I was able to learn something.

"Will you oblige me with your foot, Mr. Ames? Thank you. Ah, it's much too long. What a long, narrow, aristocratic foot you have, to be sure! Those rubbers never went over your feet. Of course I knew that before. I'm only showing you my method. Now, Dr. Maxwell. So; a very different foot indeed. Those rubbers would have fitted you nicely.



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