

ELUSIVE ISABEL

by JACQUES FUTRELLE
ILLUSTRATIONS by M.G. KETNER

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SYNOPSIS.

Count di Rosini, the Italian ambassador, is at dinner with diplomats when a messenger summons him to the embassy, where a beautiful young woman asks for a ticket to the embassy ball. The ticket is made out in the name of Miss Isabel Thorne, chief of the secret service, and Mr. Grimm, his head detective, are warned that a plot is brewing in Washington and Grimm goes to the state ball for information. His attention is called to Miss Isabel Thorne, who with her companion, disappears. A shot is heard and Senator Alvarez of the Mexican legation, is found wounded. Grimm is assisted by Miss Thorne and they discuss a wonderful experiment. Fifty thousand dollars is stolen from the office of Senator Rodriguez, the minister from Venezuela, and while detectives are investigating the robbery Miss Thorne appears as a guest of the legation. Grimm accuses her of the theft; the money is restored, but a new mystery occurs in the disappearance of Monsieur Bolsesgur, the French ambassador. Elusive Miss Thorne reappears, bearing a letter which states that the ambassador has been kidnapped and demands ransom. The ambassador returns and again strangely disappears. Later he is rescued from an old house in the suburbs. It is discovered that Pietro Petrosini shot Senator Alvarez and that he is Prince d'Abuzzi. Grimm figures in a mysterious jail delivery. He orders both Miss Thorne and d'Abuzzi to leave the country; they are conveyed to New York and placed on a steamer, but return. Grimm's coffee is drugged and upon regaining consciousness he finds a sympathetic note from Miss Thorne. The conspirators against the government are located and their schemes are overheard. Grimm orders d'Abuzzi to destroy the unsigned compact. Isabel exclaims to obey and is termed a traitress by the conspirators. The detective informs high government officers of the scheme. Prince d'Abuzzi leaves the country and the plot is abandoned.

CHAPTER XXVI.

In Which They Both Win.

Mr. Grimm dropped into a chair with his teeth clenched, and his face like chalk. For a moment or more he sat there turning it all over in his mind. Truly the triumph had been robbed of its splendor when the blow fell here—upon a woman he loved.

"There's no shame in the confession of one who is fairly beaten," Isabel went on softly, after a little. "There are many things that you don't understand. I came to Washington with an authority from my sovereign higher even than that vested in the ambassador; I came as I did and compelled Count di Rosini to obtain an invitation to the state ball for me in order that I might meet a representative of Russia there that night and receive an answer as to whether or not they would join in the compact. I received that answer; its substance is of no consequence now.

"And you remember where I first met you? It was while you were investigating the shooting of Senator Alvarez in the German embassy. That shooting, as you know, was done by Prince d'Abuzzi, so almost from the beginning my plans went wrong because of the assumption of authority by the prince. The paper he took from Senator Alvarez after the shooting was supposed to bear vitally upon Mexico's attitude toward our plan, but, as it developed, it was about another matter entirely."

"Yes, I know," said Mr. Grimm.

"The event of that night which you did not learn was that Germany agreed to join the compact upon conditions. Mr. Rankin, who was attached to the German embassy in an advisory capacity, delivered the answer to me, and I pretended to faint in order that I might reasonably avoid you."

"I surmised that much," remarked Mr. Grimm.

"The telegraphing I did with my fan was as much to distract your attention as anything else, and at the same time to identify myself to Mr. Rankin, whom I had never met. You know him, of course; I didn't."

"When next I met you it was in the Venezuelan legation; you were investigating the theft of the fifty thousand dollars in gold from the safe. I thrust myself into that case, because I was afraid of you; and mercifully destroyed a woman's name in your eyes to further my plans, made you believe that Sonorita Rodriguez stole that fifty thousand dollars, and I returned it to you, presumably, while we stood in her room that night. Only I stole the fifty thousand dollars! All the details, even to her trip to see Mr. Griswold in Baltimore in company with Mr. Cadwallader, had been carefully worked out; and she did bring me the combination of the safe from Mr. Griswold on the strength of a forged letter. But she didn't know it. There was no theft, of course. I had to intention of keeping the money. It was necessary to take it to distract attention from the thing I did do—a sealed packet inside the safe to get a sealed packet that contained Venezuela's answer to our plan. I sealed that packet again, and there was never a suspicion that it had been opened."

"Only a suspicion," Mr. Grimm corrected.

"Then came the abduction of Monsieur Bolsesgur, the French ambassador. I plunged into that case as I did in the other because I was afraid of you and had to know just how much you knew. It was explained to you as an attempt at extortion with details which I carefully supplied. As a matter of fact, Monsieur Bolsesgur opposed our plans, even endangered them; and it was not advisable to have him recalled or even permit him to resign at the moment. So we abducted him, intending to hold him until direct orders could reach him from Paris. Understand, please, that all these things were made possible by the aid and co-operation of dozens, scores, of agents who were under my orders; every person who appeared in that abduction was working at my direction. The ambassador's unexpected escape disarranged our plans; but he was taken out of the embassy by



In a Stride He Was Beside Her.

force the second time under your very eyes. The darkness which made this possible was due to the fact that while you were looking for the switch, and I was apparently aiding, was holding my hand over it all the time to keep you from turning on the light. You remember that?"

Mr. Grimm nodded.

"All the rest of it you know," she concluded wearily. "You compelled me to leave the Venezuelan legation by your espionage, but in the crowded hotel to which I moved I had little difficulty avoiding you Mr. Hastings, your Mr. Blair and your Mr. Johnson. So I came and went freely without your knowledge. The escape of the prince from prison you arranged, so you understand all of that, as well as the meeting and attempted signing of the compact, and the rapid recovery of Senator Alvarez. And, after all, it was my fault that our plans failed, because if I had not been—been uneasy as to your condition and had not made the mistake of going to the deserted little house where you were a prisoner, the plans would have succeeded, the compact been signed."

"I'm beginning to understand," said Mr. Grimm gravely, and a wistful, tender look crept into his eyes. "If it had not been for that act of consideration and kindness to me—"

"We would have succeeded in spite of you," explained Isabel. "We were afraid of you, Mr. Grimm. It was a compliment to you that we considered it necessary to account for your whereabouts at the time of the signing of the compact."

"And if you had succeeded," remarked Mr. Grimm, "the whole civilized world would have come to war."

"I never permitted myself to think of it that way," she replied frankly. "Just a word of assurance now," she went on after a moment. "The Latin compact has been definitely given up; the plan has been dismissed, thanks to you; the peace of the world is unbroken. And who am I? I know you have wondered; I know your agents have scoured the world to find

There are no plans for it in existence, and even if there were he would no more sell them than you would have accepted a fortune at the hands of Prince d'Abuzzi to remain silent. The compact has failed; you did that. The agents have scattered—gone to other duties. That is enough."

"No," said Mr. Grimm. There was a strange fear tearing at his heart—"No one knows the inventor more intimately than I." "No," he said again. "I won from my government a promise to be made good upon a condition—I must fulfill that condition."

"Won't you go if you know you will be killed," and suddenly her face turned scarlet, "and that your life is dear to me?"

"No."

Isabel dropped upon her knees before him.

"This inventor—this man whom you insist on seeing—is half insane with disappointment and anger," she rushed on desperately. "Remember that a vast fortune, honor, fame were at his finger tips when you placed them beyond his reach by the destruction of the compact. He has sworn to kill you."

"I can't go!"

"If I tell you that of the two human beings in this world whom I love this man is one?"

"No."

A shuffling step sounded in the hallway just outside. Mr. Grimm stepped back from the kneeling figure, and turned to face the door with his revolver ready.

"Great God!" It was a scream of agony. "He is my brother! Don't you see?"

She came to her feet and went staggering across to the door. The key clicked in the lock.

"Your brother?"

"He wouldn't listen to me—you wouldn't listen to me, and now—now! God have mercy!"

There was a sharp rattling, a clatter at the door, and Isabel turned to Mr. Grimm mutely, with arms outstretched. The revolver barrel clicked under his hand, then, after a moment, he replaced the weapon in his pocket.

"Please open the door," he requested quietly.

"He'll kill you!" she screamed.

Exhausted, helpless, she leaned against a chair with her face in her hands. Mr. Grimm went to her suddenly, tore the hands from her face, and met the tear-stained eyes.

"I love you," he said. "I want you to know that!"

"And I love you—that's why it matters so."

Leaving her there, Mr. Grimm strode straight to the door and threw it open. He saw only the outline of a thin little man of indeterminate age,

For the Hostess

The Yarn Charm to Find Partners.

One of the oldest stunts for Halloween was to find one's future mate by the aid of a ball of yarn. A maiden was to take a ball of yarn and toss it through an open window and then hold the end in her hand and walk away. If she was to carry with in the year the ball would be picked up by the man inside, who began to wind up the yarn and thus draw her back to him. A young matron should use this method of finding partners for her Halloween supper, which is to be served at 8:30. Knowing the preference of her guests, she will have the right man for each maid concealed in the garage. One at a time the girls will be given a ball of yarn, there being one ball for each girl, and she is to go alone through the yard, which is to be lighted only with "jacks" in the trees. When the man winds up his maiden, who is instructed not to drop her end no matter what happens, they will go out a rear door of the garage and into the house by a side entrance. Then the next man is slipped into the hiding place and another girl started to meet her fate. There are to be ten couples, so this will add much to the fun and mystery. If the details as given here are not practical, the same scheme may be worked by throwing the ball over a transom or over a bannister down stairs.

Recipe for Chop Suey.

I give the recipe for chop suey which is fine to serve at Halloween feasts. The rice is to be eaten with chop sticks, which are to be retained as souvenirs, each pair being tied with red ribbon.

One five-pound chicken.
A pound and a half of tender beef.
One pound of celery.
Two pounds of bean sprouts.
One ounce of Chinese sauce, known as soy.
One can of mushrooms.
Salt, thickening.
Cook the chicken and beef together till they are very tender, take out all the bones, add the mushrooms, onions sliced in very thin slices, the celery sliced in thin pieces, and do not cook very long; then add the bean sprouts and the thickening, and last the soy. Enough for ten people.

To obtain the bean sprouts soak beans in water till they absorb it all, then keep them damp and in a very warm place. The sprouts come very quickly, so there is plenty of time to prepare them. Soy may be purchased at a large grocery or at a Chinese store; lacking these, use Worcester-shire sauce. Serve the chop suey in bowls with rice and the tea in cups without handles. For the table centerpiece have a witch's kettle with incense burning inside.

New and Old Tricks.

"We are tired of bobbing for apples," said a young devotee of the department who was asking me for new stunts for Oct. 31. But did you ever bob for them prepared in this way? In a light zinc tub which may be brought from the laundry put at least a dozen red apples, and in four of them conceal a ring, a thimble, a button and a coin. Just press the articles carefully into the fruit and the mutilation is not discernible in the water. The boy or girl getting the ring will be married or engaged within the year. The thimble means no such luck; the one getting it must remain single or unmarried for another twelve months. The coin means wealth and the button means one must win fame or fortune by one's own exertions.

Who remembers the old trick of trying to get a coin out of a pan of flour with the teeth, the hands being tied behind the back? This is a laughable sight. Sometimes a wedding ring is concealed in the flour, and the one getting it will be married within the year. Of course, the coin denotes wealth.

Party Given in Barn.

I must tell you briefly of one party to be given in a barn, where the decorations will be branches of autumn leaves, which remain brilliant in the country far longer than in town. There are to be grinning "jacks" set on posts along the driveway, and inside the barn all the lanterns are to have electric lights to avoid possibility of fire. Cucumbers, squash and many other vegetables are to be made into lanterns and candle holders. The hostess is to dress as an old witch, and all the girls are to have witches' hats, surmounted by black cats, presented to them. The boys will wear hats of scarlet and adorned with horns.

A Chinese feast is to be served at a table where black and scarlet dragons will run rampant. The part of the barn reserved for the party is to be gay with Chinese lanterns, fans, screens and parasols.

Halloween Cakes.

Often a few novel recipes have to creep into the department, so now for these very unusual and seasonal rules: First for "Jack o'lantern" cakes: From a plain loaf cake baked in a sheet cut pumpkin-shaped cakes about two and a half inches wide and two inches thick and ice with frosting colored yellow, with the yolk of eggs or with saffron. While the icing is still moist, insert two small red candles for the eyes and nose and a row of them for the teeth.

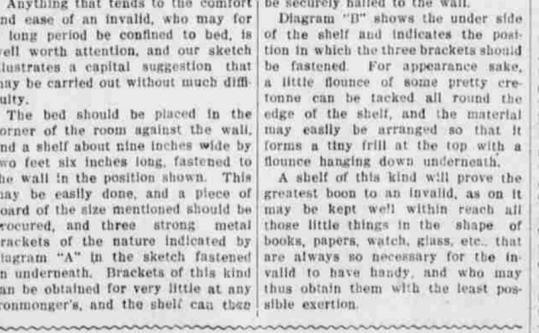
For the "clock faced" cakes, buy a few vanilla wafers, coat with vanilla frosting and let them dry. With melted chocolate and a new small paint brush you make the numerals of the clock, the hands in the center pointing to midnight, "the witching hour."

Children adore these confections, which require only a little time and patience. I am sure every mother is more than willing to do this.

Coats for Children.

For children little coats of taffeta are in vogue. A pretty little model of dark navy blue silk has collar and cuffs of brighter blue, edged with silver buttons.

Invalid's Bed Shelf



Anything that tends to the comfort and ease of an invalid, who may for a long period be confined to bed, is well worth attention, and our sketch illustrates a capital suggestion that may be carried out without much difficulty.

The bed should be placed in the corner of the room against the wall, and a shelf about nine inches wide by two feet six inches long, fastened to the wall in the position shown. This may be easily done, and a piece of board of the size mentioned should be procured, and three strong metal brackets of the nature indicated by diagram "A" in the sketch fastened underneath. Brackets of this kind can be obtained for very little at any ironmonger's, and the shelf can then be securely nailed to the wall.

Diagram "B" shows the under side of the shelf and indicates the position in which the three brackets should be fastened. For appearance sake, a little bounce of some pretty cretonne can be tacked all round the edge of the shelf, and the material may easily be arranged so that it forms a tiny frill at the top with a dounce hanging down underneath.

A shelf of this kind will prove the greatest boon to an invalid, as on it may be kept well within reach all those little things in the shape of books, papers, watch, glass, etc. that are always so necessary for the invalid to have handy, and who may thus obtain them with the least possible exertion.

IN VOGUE

VARIETY IN FALL COLLARS

Simple and Effective Designs Seen in Latest Offerings of Dame Fashion.

Green is the ruling favorite for evening gowns.

Three piece suits of serge are in great favor.

White serge has jumped into favor with a bound.

Skirts show a decided tendency toward drapery.

There seems to be no end of black velvet sashes.

Satins continue to hold a firm position in fashion.

Rows of tiny buttons are used on wraps and gowns.

The directoire coat may be a feature of fall fashions.

There is again springing up a feeling in favor of borders.

Mission handles are still in excellent style for umbrellas.

Each week sees long skirts coming more and more into favor.

TEMPERANCE NOTES

DRINK HABIT AMONG WOMEN

Americans Consume More Liquor Than Do Their English Sisters—Much of It Is Done Openly.

American women drink as much as, if not more than, English women, according to Dr. John D. Quackenbos, who has made a study of the question. Unlike Dr. Murray Leslie, a London physician, who asserted that there is far more secret drinking among women than his generally known, Dr. Quackenbos says that in America women make no effort to conceal their drinking, but proclaim their overfondness for highballs, cocktails and champagne by indulging to excess in public cafes, restaurants and the big hotels. Smoking, too, he says, is a vice coupled with the drink habit that is working havoc among women as well as girls.

"There is not so much secret drinking here as in England," Dr. Quackenbos said, "because women can be seen any night drinking what they fancy and without trying to keep any one from knowing what they are drinking. American women in doing anything good or bad generally go to extremes, and my experience in New York shows it is very difficult to control the drink habit among them because of their unwillingness to make any social sacrifices.

"For instance, they keep going to social functions where punch and other alcoholic drinks are served, and they give wine dinners themselves. They will play with fire and tempt Providence continually. There is one woman now who is a patient of mine who will take as many as ten glasses of brandy at a sitting. And the most unfortunate thing about it is that the habit is developing among young girls, and debutantes at their luncheons and dinners couple it with smoking cigarettes and playing games of chance for money.

"The women of the middle classes in America drink beer, but not to excess, as a rule. It is a custom to have beer with dinners, and if the stuff were pure the harm would be less than it is.

"But tobacco is doing just as much harm as alcohol, for the two go together. And I know that too much tobacco leads to too much alcohol, because the tobacco habit depresses the nerve centers and causes a demand in the system for an antidote, and the antidote for tobacco poison is whisky.

"I can safely say that 75 per cent. of the drink trouble among men, and women, too, is due to tobacco. Where women are not so particular about concealing the fact that they drink they are careful to conceal the fact that they smoke.

"I know that many large the question as to whether a woman hasn't as much right to smoke as a man. It doesn't turn on the question of moral right. The answer turns on the effect smoking has on the woman's character. It destroys womanliness."

Wants Old Ticket Redeemed.

A supplemental complaint was filed with the State Railroad Commission here by W. H. Holt against the increase of suburban rates of fare on the Philadelphia & Reading Railway outside of Philadelphia. He filed a complaint some time ago signed by six hundred persons. The commission has been asked by C. W. Rittenhouse, of Scranton, to investigate refusal of the Pennsylvania Railroad to redeem a ticket bought September 30, 1880, at Tyrone. The railroad contends that punch marks show the ticket to have been used in part and that the record of the sale has been lost.

Harrisburg Curbing Condemned.

Contractors for curbing and paving of Harrisburg city streets have been thrown into a panic by the strict inspection methods adopted by Highway Commissioner W. W. Caldwell. More than two thousand feet of granite curbing on Seneca street have been condemned, some of it after being in place, and sections of asphalt paving are being inspected by experts.

Dairy Inspection.

Dr. C. J. Marshall, State veterinarian, who has taken over the direction of the State's dairy inspection service, conducted until a few months ago by the State Department of Health, has received close to three hundred responses from veterinarians throughout the State who have expressed a willingness to co-operate with the inspection work and to make inspections in their districts for the State.

Disturbed By Church Rule.

Members of the United Brethren Church in this vicinity are considerably disturbed over the action of the conference at Reading directing that the camp meeting at Mt. Gretna be discontinued unless the controversy between the clerical and lay members ends. This action has been communicated to Harrisburg members of the church, by the conference officers, and meetings will be held in an effort to reach an agreement.

Harrisburg's Open Air School.

The city school authorities have established an open air school for children under the plan adopted in Philadelphia, those having a tendency to tuberculosis being cared for in this manner. The school has proved a great success and another probably will be opened.

Pennsylvania Charters.

The following charters have been issued: Smithton Water Company, Smithton, capital, \$30,000, and Saltsburg Electric Company, Saltsburg, Indiana County, \$5,000. Charters were also issued to six water companies to operate in townships of Washington and Allegheny Counties, with headquarters at McDonald, the capital of each to be \$5,000.

Pastors Petition Wilson.

The Harrisburg Ministerial Association passed resolutions requesting Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson not to preside at the brewers' national convention at Chicago. The resolutions will be forwarded to the Secretary.

State Engages Alexander.

If arrangements made by Samuel B. Rambi, Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings, are ratified by the State Board, John W. Alexander, of New York, will paint the mural decorations for the north corridor of the capitol.

One Vote Nominates Man.

R. H. Koch, Republican and Citizens' candidate for Judge of Schuylkill county, was declared the Prohibition nominee as well, because on the official returns he received a single vote under that party caption.

Centipede Is Harmless.

The centipede or "thousand legger," as it is better known in many parts of the State, is just as harmless in these latitudes as a butterfly according to a bulletin which State Zoologist H. A. Surface has completed. The poison with which Keystone State centipedes are credited with is not strong enough to harm anyone, but to enable them to overpower their enemies or prey. Dr. Surface says that the prejudice against the insects is unreasonable and that they destroy much vermin.

Complaints Of Frankford Fare.

Rev. John B. Laird, of Philadelphia, has filed a complaint with the State Railroad Commission, complaining of the rate of fare on the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia & Reading from Broad Street Station to Frankford, and attacking the Reading service. The companies will be asked to make answers.

Capital Stock Doubled.

The Reading Hardware Company, of Reading, filed notice of an increase of its stock from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000.

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

Outside Firms Withdraw.

Four manufacturing firms which sent candy into the State under a guarantee that it complied with the laws were forced to withdraw their goods from sale, because chemists' reports to Dairy and Food Commissioners' Board demonstrated that the candy was adulterated. Over two hundred samples of candies were taken in various parts of the State this fall and the chemical tests showed five in all were not up to the standards required. In one case a Pennsylvania manufacturer was sued and fined, his wares being taken off the market immediately after, but in the other four instances, all of which occurred in Allegheny county, it was found that merchants were selling goods under a guarantee from the makers that it would be in accord with the State laws. The merchants were not arrested, but were required to ship all the candy back to the factory.

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