

THE ROOT OF EVIL

BY THOMAS DIXON



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SYNOPSIS

Stuart, southern lawyer in New York, is in love with Nan Primrose. His friend, Dr. Woodman, who has a young daughter, is threatened with the loss of his drug business by Bivens, whom he befriended years before. Stuart visits the Primroses.

Nan wants Stuart to accept a place with Bivens' chemical trust. He dislikes Bivens' methods and refuses. Bivens cautions him.

Bivens is in love with Nan. Stuart refuses the offer, and Nan breaks her engagement with the lawyer. Bivens asks Woodman to enter the trust.

Woodman will not yield and sides Bivens' company. The promoter tells the doctor he and Nan are engaged. Harriet Woodman is studying music. Stuart takes Nan for a day in the country.

Stuart pleads with Nan to give up Bivens, but the spell of millions is on her and she yields to it.

Nan becomes Mrs. Bivens. Harriet loves Stuart, but he does not know it. Nine years pass. Stuart becomes district attorney. He investigates criminal trusts. Nan asks him to call.

Stuart wants Woodman to end his suit against Bivens, but the doctor stands firm. Bivens aids Stuart in his investigation of crooked financiers.

Stuart's revelations aid in bringing on a crisis. Bivens promises to aid the Van Dam Trust company, which is in trouble. Woodman needs money badly.

In the stock market slump engineered by Bivens, Woodman and many others lose all. The trust company fails because Bivens, at command of the money king, breaks his word. Stuart faces his critics in front of Bivens' bank.

The mob attacks Stuart and injures him slightly. Nan sees it and reveals her love. Bivens piles \$30,000,000 on a table and calls Stuart to see the money to refute rumors of his financial weakness.

Stuart is tempted to join Bivens as his confidential man. He accepts an invitation to visit the Bivens house and is received by Nan.

At a meeting of the disconcerted, at which Bivens is denounced, a bomb thrower is killed by his own missile. Woodman decides to continue his fight against Bivens.

CHAPTER XIV. The Unbidden Guest.

THE bitter reference to Bivens and the crime of his corner in wheat had roused Nan's fighting blood. She would accept the challenge of this rabble and show her contempt for its opinions in a way that could not be mistaken. She determined to give an entertainment whose magnificence would startle the social world and be her defiant answer to the critics of her husband. At the same time it would serve the double purpose of dazzling and charming the imagination of Stuart. She would by a single dash of power end his indecision as to Bivens's offer and bind with stronger cords the tie that held him to her.

Her suggestion was received with enthusiasm by her husband.

"All right," he said excitedly, "beat the record. Give them something to talk about the rest of their lives. I don't mean those poor fools in Union square. Their raving is pathetic. I mean the big bugs who think they own the earth, the people who think that we are new comers and that this island was built for their accommodation. Give them a knock out."

Nan spared no expenditure of time, money and thought to the perfection of her plans. She employed a corps of trained artists, took them to her home, told them what she wished and they worked with enthusiasm to eclipse in splendor New York's record of lavish entertainments—but always with the reservation which she had imposed that nothing be done that might violate the canons of beauty and good taste.

The long dreamed night came, and her guests had begun to arrive.

One was hurrying there to whom no engraved invitation had been sent, and yet his coming was the one big event of the evening, the one thing that would make the night memorable.

The confession of love for Stuart which Harriet had sobbed out in her father's arms had been the last straw that broke the backbone of his fight against Bivens. In a burst of generous feeling he made up his mind to eat his pride, drive from his mind every bitter impulse and forget that he had ever hated this man or been wronged by him. He could see now that he had neglected his little girl in the fight he had been making for other people and that her very life might be at stake in the struggle she was making for the man she loved.

Bivens had once offered to buy his business. He had afterward made him a generous offer to compromise his suit. He had never doubted for a

moment that a compromise would be accepted the moment he should see fit to give up.

He instructed his lawyer to withdraw the appeal before the day fixed for filing the papers. The lawyer raved and pleaded in vain. The doctor was firm. He wrote Bivens a generous personal letter in which he asked that the past be forgotten and that he appoint a meeting at which they could arrange the terms of a final friendly settlement.

The act had lifted a load from his heart. The sum he would receive, if but half Bivens' original offer, would be sufficient to keep him in comfort, complete his daughter's course in music and give him something with which to continue his daily ministry to the friendless and the lowly. It was all he asked of the world now.

He wondered in his new enthusiasm why he had kept up this bitter feud for the enforcement of his rights by law when there were so many more urgent and important things in life to do.

He waited four days for an answer to his letter and receiving none wrote again. In the meantime the day for final action on his appeal had passed and his suit was legally ended. On the last day his lawyer pleaded with him for an hour to file the appeal suit and then compromise at his leisure. The doctor merely smiled quietly and repeated his decision:

"I'm done fighting. I've something else to do."

When Bivens failed to reply to his second letter he made up his mind to see him personally. He was sure the letter had been turned over to a lawyer and the financier had never seen it. He called at Bivens' office three times and always met the same answer:

"Mr. Bivens is engaged for every hour today. You must call again."

On the fourth day, when he had stayed until time for closing the office, a secretary informed him that Mr. Bivens was too busy with matters of great importance to take up any new business of any kind for a month and that he had given the most positive orders to that effect to all his men. If he would return the first of next month he would see what could be done.

The doctor left in disgust. He determined to break through this ceremonial nonsense, see Bivens face to face and settle the affair at once.

When he should see him personally it would be but a question of five minutes friendly talk and the matter would be ended. Now that he recalled the little traits of Bivens' character he didn't seem such a scoundrel after all, just the average money man who could see but one side of life. He would remind him in a friendly way of their early association and the help he had given him at an hour of his life when he needed it most. He wouldn't cringe or plead. He would state the whole situation frankly and truthfully and with dignity propose a settlement. It was just at this moment that the



"Mr. Bivens is engaged for every hour today."

doctor learned of the preparations for the dinner and ball at the Bivens palace on Riverside drive. The solution of the whole problem flashed through

his mind in an instant. They would have professional singers without a doubt, the great operatic stars and others. If Harriet could only be placed on the program for a single song it would be settled. Her voice would sweep Bivens off his feet and charm the brilliant throng of guests. He would have to accompany her there, of course. At the right moment he would make himself known. A word with Bivens and it would be settled.

He lost no time in finding out the manager of the professional singers for the evening and through Harriet's enthusiastic music teachers arranged for her appearance. From the moment this was accomplished his natural optimism returned. His success was sure. He gave his time with renewed energy to his work among the poor.

On the day of the ball Harriet was waiting in a fever of impatience for his return from the hospitals to dress. At half past 7 their dinner was cold and he had not come. It was 8 o'clock before his familiar footstep echoed through the hall.

He ate a hasty meal, dressed in thirty minutes and at 9 o'clock led Harriet to the side entrance of Bivens' great house on the drive.

He was in fine spirits. He rejoiced again that he had made up his mind to live the life of faith and good fellowship with all men, including the little swarthy master of the palace he was about to enter. And so with light heart he stepped through the door which the soft white hand of death opened. How could he know?

As Stuart dressed for Nan's party he brooded over his new relation to his old sweetheart with increasing pleasure. Never had Bivens' offer seemed more generous and wonderful. His pulse beat with quickened stroke as he felt the new sense of power with which he would look out on the world as a possible millionaire.

He gazed over the old square with a feeling of regret at the thought of leaving it. He had grown to love the place in the past years of loneliness, but was deciding too soon, perhaps. There were some features of Bivens' business he must understand more clearly before he could give up his freedom and devote himself body and soul to the task of money making as his associate.

He went across the square to take a cab at the Brevoort. His mood was buoyant. He was looking out on life once more through rose tinted glasses. At Eighth street he met at right angles the swarming thousands hurrying across town from their work—heavy looking men who tramped with tired step, striking the pavements dully with their nailed shoes, tired, anxious women, frowzy headed little girls, sad eyed boys, half awake—all hurrying, the fear of want and the horror of charity in their silent faces. And yet the sight touched no responsive chord of sympathy in Stuart's heart as it often had: As he drove uptown the avenue flashed with swift, silent automobiles and blooded horses. These uptown crowds through whose rushing streams he passed were all well dressed and carried bundles of candy, flowers and toys.

Stuart felt the contagious enthusiasm of thousands of prosperous men and women whose lives at the moment flowed about and enveloped his own.

What was it that made the difference between the squalid atmosphere below Fourth street and the glowing, flashing, radiant, jeweled world uptown? Money! It meant purple and fine linen, delicacies of food and drink, pulsing machines that could make a mile a minute, the mountain and the sea, freedom from care, fear, drudgery and slavery!

After all in this modern passion for money might there not be something deeper than mere greed, perhaps the regenerating power of the spirit pressing man upward? Certainly he could see only the bright side of it tonight.

As his cab swung into Riverside drive from Seventy-second street the sight which greeted him was one of startling splendor. Bivens' yacht lay at anchor in the river just in front of his house. She was festooned with electric lights from the water line to the top of her towering steel masts. The illumination of the exterior of the Bivens house was remarkable. The stone and iron fence surrounding the block, which had been built at a cost of a hundred thousand dollars, was literally ablaze with lights. The house was illumined from its foundations to the top of each towering minaret with ruby colored lights.

Stuart passed up the grand stairs through a row of gorgeous dunkies and greeted his hostess.

(Continued in Friday's Issue.)

Silenced. "Do you know, Clara, we ought not to subscribe to the opera any more. We bind ourselves, and afterward we have to hear the same things over and over again."

"As if that were any reason! I have also bound myself and have to hear the same things over and over again from you."—Megendorfer Blatter.

The Hottest Mines. It is said that the hottest mines in the world are those of the famous Comstock lode. On the lower levels the heat is so great that the men cannot work over ten or fifteen minutes at a time. Every known means of mitigating the heat has been tried in vain. Ice melts before it reaches the bottom of the shafts.

The Postage Stamp Portraits. Thackeray's noted "postage stamp" picture of the English royal family was made by cutting the heads from postage stamps and mounting them on pen sketch bodies drawn by the author with his characteristic humor.

Crop Improvement

"The most valuable of all arts will be the art of deriving a comfortable subsistence from the smallest area of soil."—Abraham Lincoln

THE COUNTY FARM AGENT

How He Works by Arousing a Community Spirit to Co-operate in Developing Production as Well as Marketing.

[National Crop Improvement Service.] The County Farm Bureau in charge of the County agent is in reality an Agricultural Commercial club correlating all of the different forces in the county. The county agent represents the U. S. department of agriculture, the State Agricultural college, the Commercial club, the bankers, the grain exchanges and other national associations.

It is his work to become not only adviser to the farmers, but to harness all of the forces in a county to work together. What he must have is team work.

One of his first duties is to learn the soil conditions, and to put each land owner into touch with the proper information to build up his land.

He asks the agricultural college for aid in short courses, institutes, domestic science, field demonstration, seed testing, drainage, etc., they sending him experts to help him on all of these subjects. He forms his farmers' clubs in each township, and organizes his county committees on social life, shipping and marketing covering all kinds of products, alfalfa and other legumes, dairying, poultry, horticulture, live stock, bees, etc. He visits all the farmers' clubs and granges, and gets each local chapter to consider all of these questions in the work being carried on by the farmers in the township.

The grain exchanges and other national associations lend assistance on corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, hay and help with the pure seed breeding.

The Commercial club and bankers join the organization, and act on the committees on finance, credits, farm accounts, transportation, land, landlord and tenant, silos, and permanent improvements of all kinds.

The marketing committee is perhaps the most important to him. It employs an attorney when necessary and protects the interests of every citizen, whether he belongs to the organization or not, will investigate all complaints, and putting the weight of the entire organization back of it insist that commission men play fair. They also see after the proper packing and traffic matters in connection with the various clubs on various subjects.

He obtains concerted action on road building, and has a strong committee to see that the county officials deliver the goods, and that specific plans are made to improve the roads mile by mile, and to maintain them by dragging, or otherwise, according to conditions. This is one of his most important committees.

Through the public schools he takes up the subjects with various committees on home and social life, libraries, seed testing, and other contests, forms school and home gardens, boys' and girls' clubs, and as many other things as he can find enthusiasm to undertake.

All of which shows that the county agent has something more to do than merely go about "advising farmers how to do it."

NEW AGRICULTURAL BUREAU

It Seems to Be Imperative That the Office of Farm Management in the U. S. Agricultural Department Be Constituted a Bureau by Itself.

[National Crop Improvement Service.] The work of the office of farm management of the U. S. bureau of plant industry is assuming huge proportions. It covers the money making side of farming and should be put in a bureau of its own.

It has often been suggested that a bureau of markets be created, but marketing cannot be handled by itself without taking cognizance of the staff to be marketed. Conditions vary so widely that the problem must be studied at close range in each county. No general rules can be formed for marketing, any more than a department store could be run by a bureau at Washington.

COUNTY MARKETING COMMITTEE

Simple Plan to Protect Every Producer Through Business Organization.

[National Crop Improvement Service.] It is necessary first to lay a foundation for honest marketing by creating a marketing commission, or section of the Agricultural Commercial club in each county. Any man is honest, if you watch him close enough, and it will be the business of this marketing committee to investigate all complaints of irregular practice. It must be broad enough to protect every man, whether he has but one bushel, or a carload to market.

"Passing Laws" will not help very much, but the newspapers of every community stand ready and willing to print facts as developed at a hearing before a marketing committee. Publicity is the greatest panacea for all ills.

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"Greater New York's Home Newspaper."

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FINDS PENNY; SURRENDERS IT

That Honest Man Diogenes Sought In Kalamazoo.

Kalamazoo lays claim to having the most honest man in Michigan. Recently a stranger who refused to leave his name entered police headquarters and pushed over on the desk of Sergeant Withers a penny.

"I found that out on the street. You take it and keep it until the owner calls for it," said the stranger.

The sergeant still has the penny, waiting for the owner to properly identify and claim it.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING THE ASSENT OF THE ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HONESTDALE TO AN INCREASE OF THE BOROUGH INDEBTEDNESS.

Whereas, There exists an appropriation of \$17,550.00 made by the Highway Department of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Wayne county, which appropriation is available for paving purposes in the borough of Honestdale; and

WHEREAS, In order to obtain and secure this appropriation the said borough must connect the paved street with an existing State Highway; and WHEREAS, The pavement completed before the first of June 1913. And WHEREAS, The State Highway engineers have made a survey and draft of the streets proposed to be paved, to wit: Main street from the south side of Fourth street to Weaver's crossing, forty feet in width, and from Weaver's crossing to the north line of the borough twenty-three feet in width, along the Trolley line will run, and from Weaver's crossing along West Park street to the west line of the borough sixteen feet wide, there connecting with an existing State Highway; and WHEREAS, The State engineers estimate the cost of a vitrified brick pavement along the said streets at sixty-nine thousand dollars, and WHEREAS, The paper obligations of the said borough together with the present indebtedness would exceed two per cent of the last assessed valuation of the said borough; and WHEREAS, The Wayne County Railway Company are about to lay their rails upon Main street and it is desirable that the said street should be paved as the rails are laid; and WHEREAS, Deducting from the estimated cost, "a." The Appropriation, "b." The amount to be paid by the Railway Company, as per their franchise, which amount is to be paid direct to the pave contractor, would leave a paper increase of indebtedness of not exceeding forty thousand dollars, and deducting the two-thirds of the remaining cost of the said pave to be paid by the owners of real estate bounded by or abutting upon the said streets, which amount is to be paid direct to the borough Treasurer would leave the actual increased indebtedness less than fifteen thousand dollars. THEREFORE:

Sec. First—Be it enacted and ordained by the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale in the county of Wayne and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in council assembled, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That the Town Council desire to make an increase of the present indebtedness and for that purpose set forth the following statement:

"a." That the last assessed valuation of the said borough is two million one hundred and ninety thousand one hundred and eighty dollars.

"b." That the present indebtedness is \$17,550.00.

"c." That the per centage of increase is two per cent.

"d." That the purpose of said increase is to defray the cost of pave upon Main and West Park streets.

Sec. Second—That a special election be held in the said borough on the Eleventh day of July, 1913, for the purpose of obtaining by ballot the consent of the electors of the said borough for the said increase of indebtedness for the purposes aforementioned.

The foregoing Ordinance was on the Fifth day of June A. D. 1913, ordained and enacted, adopted and passed by the Town Council of the borough of Honestdale in council assembled, as an ordinance of the said borough, to go into effect and operation from and after the publication thereof according to law.

MARTIN CAUFIELD, President of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

JOHN ERK, Secretary of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

Approved this Sixth day of June, 1913.

CHAS. A. McCARTY, Burgess.

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON COMPANY

Saratoga Springs - and - Lake George

Ten Days' Excursion Saturday, August 2, 1913

Arrange Your Vacation Accordingly.

"b." That the present indebtedness is \$17,550.00.

"c." That the per centage of increase is two per cent.

"d." That the purpose of said increase is to defray the cost of pave upon Main and West Park streets.

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MARTIN CAUFIELD, President of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

JOHN ERK, Secretary of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

Approved this Sixth day of June, 1913.

CHAS. A. McCARTY, Burgess.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HONESTDALE.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale, by an Ordinance duly enacted, have authorized and directed the grading, curbing and paving of Main and West Park streets in the said borough, to be set forth that the cost thereof would increase the debt of the said borough to an amount exceeding two per cent of the last assessed valuation thereof, and that special election for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the electors of the said borough to the proposed increase of the indebtedness; Therefore NOTICE is hereby given that a public election will be held in the Court House in the said borough at the place and by the officers provided by law for the holding of Municipal elections in said borough on

FRIDAY, THE ELEVENTH DAY OF JULY, 1913,

for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the Electors of the said borough to the increase of indebtedness, as mentioned in the said ordinance; said election to be held in the manner and during the hours fixed by law for holding municipal elections and subject to the provisions of law relating to such elections.

The following is a statement of the last assessed valuation of said borough, the per cent of increase, the present indebtedness, and the per centage of increase of which the said increase is desired.

The last assessed valuation is \$2,190,180.00.

The present indebtedness is \$17,550.00.

The per cent of increase desired is two per cent.

The purpose of said increase is to defray the expense of the grading and paving Main and West Park streets with brick.

By direction of the Town Council by ordinance.

MARTIN CAUFIELD, President of Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

JOHN ERK, Secretary of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

Honestdale, 6th June, 1913. 47w4

AN ORDINANCE FOR ASSESSING UPON AND COLLECTING FROM THE OWNERS OF REAL ESTATE BOUNDING OR ABUTTING UPON MAIN OR WEST PARK STREETS, THE TWO-THIRDS OF THE BALANCE OF THE COST OF PAVING AND CURBING THE SAME.

Section First—Be it enacted and ordained by the Town Council of the borough of Honestdale in the county of Wayne and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in council assembled, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same, That there be assessed upon and collected from the owners of the real estate bounding or abutting upon Main and West Park streets two-thirds of the balance of the cost of paving and curbing the same. This balance to be ascertained by deducting from the aggregate cost of paving and curbing the said streets: "a." The amount of the State appropriation, "b." The amount paid by the Wayne County Railway Company to the Pave Contractor. The amount per foot front to be an equal assessment, as governed and controlled by the width of the pavement in front of each of the said owners of real estate bounding or abutting upon the said streets.

Section Second—The assessment made as provided in Sec. First hereof, shall be payable in five equal installments; the first installment shall become due and payable thirty (30) days after the commencement of the work, and the balance in four equal annual installments thereafter; said installments shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent per annum commencing thirty (30) days after the beginning of the work until paid, but the whole amount of the assessment may be paid at any time during the said period.

The foregoing Ordinance was on the Fifth day of June A. D. 1913 enacted and ordained, adopted and passed by the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale, in council assembled, as an ordinance of the said borough, to go into effect and operation from and after the publication thereof according to law, and the final contractor's report and enactment thereof after thirty days from date.

MARTIN CAUFIELD, President of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

JOHN ERK, Secretary of the Town Council of the Borough of Honestdale.

Approved this Sixth day of June, 1913.

CHAS. A. McCARTY, Burgess.