

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 sues 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 by 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 pays \$50,000,000 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 XV. The Dance of Death.

A FLUSH of excited pleasure overspread Stuart's face as he led his beautiful hostess to the dining room. Apparently entering the banquet hall they were stepping outdoors into an enchanted pine forest. The walls were completely hidden by painted scenery representing the mountains of western North Carolina. The room had been transformed into a forest, trees and shrubbery melting imperceptibly into the scenery on the walls and mocking birds were singing in cages hidden high among the boughs of the trees.

"Why, Nan," Stuart gasped, "that's a view of the river hills at home where you and I used to roam."

"Well, if you hadn't recognized it, I should never have forgiven you. Are you pleased with my fantasy?"

"Pleased is not the word for it," he replied quickly. "I'm overwhelmed, never thought you so sentimental."

"Perhaps I'm not; perhaps I've only one this to please a friend. Do you wish to feel at home in this little spot I've brought back by magic to-night from our youth?"

"I'm afraid I'll wake up and find I'm dreaming."

Stuart gazed with increasing astonishment at the peculiarly somber effects of the ball-room. He had expected a scene of splendor. Instead the impression was distinctly funereal. The lights were dimmed like the interior of a theater

ment at the magnificently set table. Winding in and out among the solid silver candelabra a tiny stream of crystal water flowed among miniature trees and flowers on its banks. The flowers were all blooming orchids of rarest coloring and weirdly fantastic shapes.

The service was all made for this occasion, silver, cut glass and china. Each piece had stamped or etched on it the coat of arms of his native state, with the motto, "Peace and Plenty."

"And you've done all this in six weeks? It's incredible."

"The world will say tomorrow morning that I have given this lavish entertainment for vulgar display. In a sense it's true. I am trying to eclipse in splendor anything New York has seen. But I count the fortune it cost well spent to have seen the smile on your face when you looked at that painting of our old hills. I would have given five times as much at any moment the past ten years to have known that you didn't hate me."

"You know it now."

"Yes," she answered tenderly. "You have said so with your lips before, now you mean it. You are your old handsome self tonight."

Apart from the charm of Nan's presence Stuart found the dinner itself a stupid affair, so solemnly stupid it at last became funny. In all the magnificently dressed crowd he looked in vain for a man or woman of real intellectual distinction. He saw only money, money, money!

In spite of the low murmurs of Nan's beautifully modulated voice in his ears he found his anger slowly rising, not against any one in particular, but against the vulgar ostentation in which these people moved, and the rapid assumption of superiority with which they evidently looked out upon the world.

But whatever might have been lacking in the wit and genius of the guests



She Sang as He Had Never Heard Her Sing.

who sat at Nan's tables, there could be no question about the quality of the dinner set before them.

When the feast ended at 10:30 Nan led the way to the ballroom, where the entertainment by hired dancers, singers and professional entertainers began on an improvised stage.

During this part of the program the women and men of the banquetting party who were to appear in the fancy dress ball at 12, including Nan, retired to the rooms above to dress for their parts.

Stuart noted with some astonishment the peculiarly somber effects of the ball-room. He had expected a scene of splendor. Instead the impression was distinctly funereal. The lights were dimmed like the interior of a theater

during the performance, and the walls gilded ceilings with their mural decorations seemed to be draped in filmy black crepe.

The professional entertainment began on the little stage amid a universal gabble which made it impossible for anything save pantomime to be intelligible beyond the footlights. Star after star, whose services had cost \$1,000 each for one hour, appeared without commanding the slightest attention.

Stuart turned to the program in his hand and idly read the next number: "A song by an unknown star."

He was wondering what joke the manager was about to perpetrate on the crowd when his ear caught the first sweet notes of Harriet's voice singing the old song he loved so well, the song she had first sung the day he came from the south.

His heart gave a throb of pain. Who could have prepared this humiliation for his little girl? He pushed his way through the throng of chattering fools until he stood alone straight in front of the slender little singer. She saw him at once, smiled and sang as he had never heard her sing. To his further surprise Stuart saw the doctor standing in the shadows at the corner of the stage looking over the gossipping, noisy crowd with a look of anger and horror.

When the last note of the song died away, quivering with a supernatural tenderness and passion, he brushed a tear from his eyes, lifted his hands high above his head and made a motion which said to her, "Tumultuous applause."

She nodded and smiled, and he rushed behind the scenes to ask an explanation.

He grasped both her hands and found them cold and trembling with excitement.

"What on earth does this mean?"

"Simply that I was engaged to sing tonight, and I wanted to surprise you. Didn't you like my song?"

"It lifted me to the gates of heaven, dear."

"Then I don't care whether any one else heard it or not. But I did so much wish that she might have heard it or her husband because they are from the south."

"But I don't understand—your father hates Bivens so."

A big hand was laid on his shoulder, he turned and faced the doctor smiling. "But I don't hate him, my boy! I've given up such foolishness. We've buried the hatchet. I'm to see him in a few minutes and we are to be good friends."

"Bivens invited you here to discuss a business proposition tonight?" Stuart exclaimed, blankly.

"No, no, no," the doctor answered. "I came with Harriet, of course. Her music teacher placed her on the program. But Mr. Bivens and I have had some correspondence and I'm to see him in a little while and talk things over quite informally, of course, but effectively."

"He has agreed to a conference here?" the young lawyer asked, anxiously.

"Why, of course. His butler has just told me he would see me immediately after the ball begins."

Stuart breathed easier and turned to Harriet.

"You look glorious tonight, little girl! Funny that I never saw you in evening dress before. You look so tall and queenly, so grown, so mature. You're beginning to make me feel old, child. I'll be thinking of you as a grown woman next."

"I am twenty-four, you know," she said, simply.

"I have never believed it until tonight. I wouldn't have known you at first but for your voice. I had to rub my eyes then."

The lights were suddenly turned lower, approaching total darkness. The attendants noiselessly removed the temporary stage and cleared the great room for the dancers.

As the chimes struck the hour of midnight, skeleton heads slowly began to appear peeping from the shadows of the arched ceiling and from every

book and corner of the huge cornice and pillars. Draperies of filmy crepe flowing gently in the breeze were lighted by sulphurous hued electric rays from the balconies. Tiny electric lights blinked in every skeleton's sunken eyes and behind each grinning row of teeth. Suddenly two white figures drew aside the heavy curtains in the archway and the dancers marched into the somber room.

The men were dressed as shrouded skeletons and the women as worms. The men wore light filmy gray robes, on which skillful artists had painted on four sides in deep colors the pictures of human skeletons.

The women wore curious light robes of cotton fiber which were drawn over the entire body and gave to each figure the appearance of a huge caterpillar.

The strange figures began to move slowly across the polished floor to the strains of a ghostlike waltz.

From the corners of the high balconies strange lights flashed, developing in hideous outlines and phosphorescent colors of the skeletons and long, fuzzy, exaggerated lines of the accompanying worms. The effect was thrilling.

Suddenly the music stopped with a crash. Each ghostly couple, skeleton and worm, stood motionless. The silvery note of a trumpet called from the sky. The blinking eyes of the death heads in the ceiling and on the walls faded slowly. The trumpet pealed a second signal—the darkness fled and the great room suddenly blazed with 10,000 electric lights. The orchestra struck the first notes of a thrilling waltz, and presto, in an instant the women appeared in all the splendor of the most gorgeous gowns, their bare arms and necks flashing with priceless jewels, and each man bowed before her in immaculate evening clothes.

From the four corners of the vast room were released thousands of gorgeously tinted butterflies, imported from the tropics for the occasion. As the dancers glided through the dazzling scene these wonderfully colored creatures fluttered about them in myriads, darting and circling in every direction among the flowers and lights until the room seemed a veritable fairyland.

A burst of applause swept the crowd as Nan's radiant figure passed, encircled by the arm of the leader.

Stuart nodded and clapped his hands with enthusiasm.

A more marvelous transformation scene could scarcely be imagined.

When Nan had passed he turned to speak to Harriet, but she had gone. A soft hand was suddenly laid on his arm, and he turned to confront Nan, her eyes flashing with triumph, her cheeks flushed and her lips parted in a tender smile.

"Come, I'm going to honor you by sitting out the next two dances."

When she had seated herself by his side under a bower of roses he was very still for a moment. She looked up with a quizzical expression and said:

"A penny for your thoughts. Am I so very wicked after all?"

"I don't think I have ever seen anything more dazzlingly beautiful than your banquet and ball, except the woman who conceived and executed it. I was just wondering whether your imagination was vivid enough to have dreamed half the splendors of such a life when you turned from the little cottage I built for you."

A look of pain clouded the fair face, and she lifted her jeweled hand.

"Please, Jim, I'd like to forget some things."

"And you haven't forgotten?" She looked straight into his eyes and answered in even tones:

"No."

Both were silent for a long while, and then they began to talk in low tones of the life they had lived as boy and girl in the old south and forgot the flight of time.

(Continued in Friday's Issue.)

—Try those Cent-A-Words. They bring good results.

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

Whereas, There exists an appropriation of \$17,500.00 made by the Highway Department of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Wayne county, which appropriation is available for paving purposes in the borough of Honesdale; 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 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 which 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 street and it is desirable that the said street should be paved as the rails are laid; and WHEREAS, 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 four equal annual installments therefrom, the actual increase of indebtedness would be less than fifteen thousand dollars. THEREFORE:

Section First—That the amount of the borough of Honesdale 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 go into effect and operation from and after the publication thereof after thirty days from the date of its passage.

Section 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 aforesaid.

The foregoing Ordinance was on the Fifth day of June A. D. 1913, ordained and adopted, and passed by the Town Council of the borough of Honesdale in council assembled as an ordinance 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 Honesdale.

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

Approved this Sixth day of June, 1913. CHAS. A. MCCARTY, Burgess.

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

That the present indebtedness is \$17,500.

That the per centage of increase is two per cent.

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

Section 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 aforesaid.

The foregoing Ordinance was on the Fifth day of June A. D. 1913, ordained and adopted, and passed by the Town Council of the borough of Honesdale in council assembled as an ordinance 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 Honesdale.

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

Approved this Sixth day of June, 1913. CHAS. A. MCCARTY, Burgess.

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

Whereas, The Town Council of the Borough of Honesdale, by an Ordinance duly enacted, have authorized and directed the grading, curbing and paving of Main and West Park streets in the said borough, have 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 a 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 at the hour 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 purpose for payment of which the said increase is desired.

The last assessed valuation is \$2,180,180.00.

The present indebtedness is \$17,500.00.

The per cent. of increase desired is two per cent.

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

Direction of the Town Council by ordinance.

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

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

Honesdale, 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 Honesdale 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 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 Honesdale, in council assembled, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same; that the Town Council desire to go into effect and operation from and after the publication thereof after thirty days from the date of its passage.

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

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

Approved this Sixth day of June, 1913. CHAS. A. MCCARTY, Burgess.

47w4

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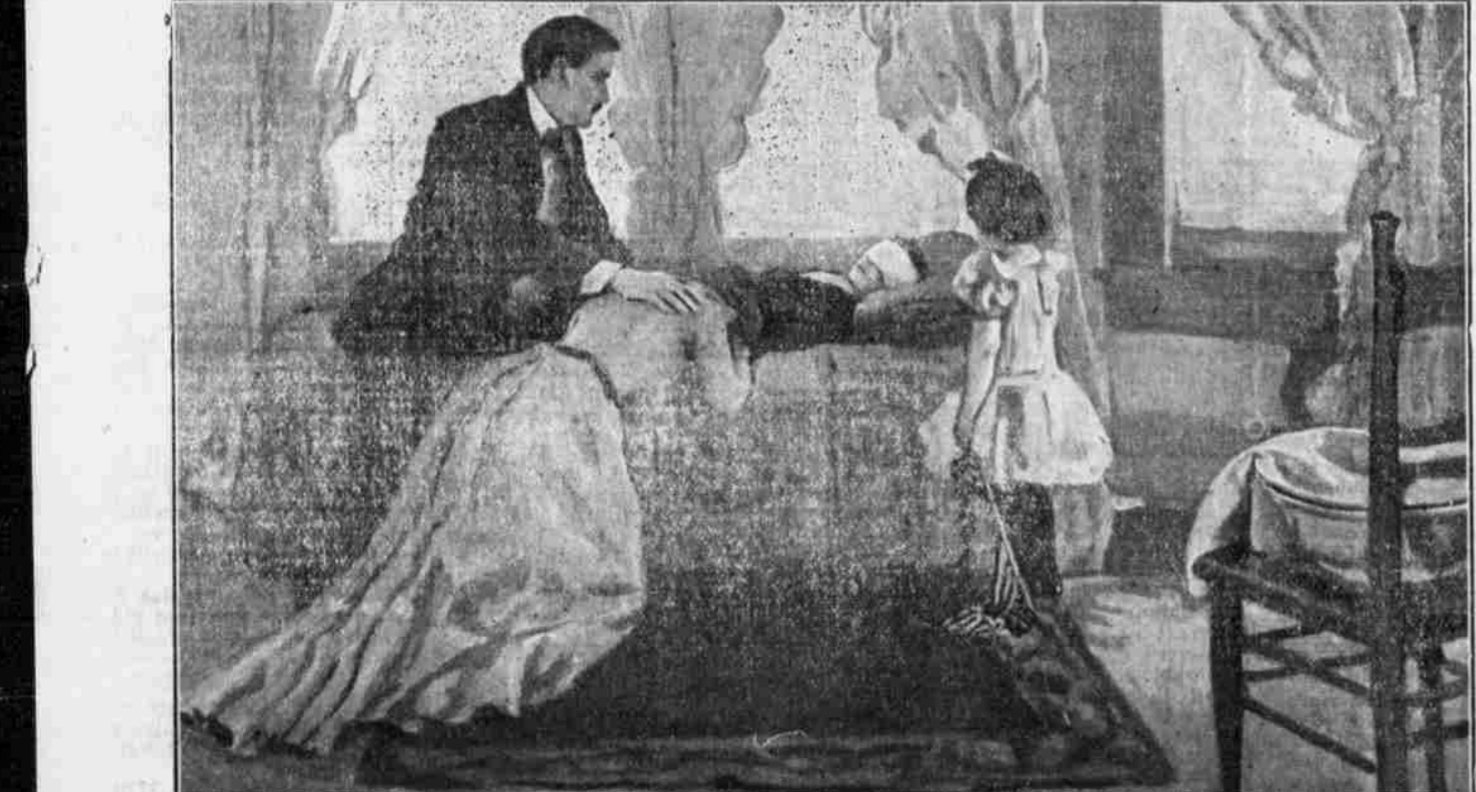
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A FOURTH OF JULY REMINDER—INSIST UPON A SANE DAY. Courtesy of "Life."

Young Patriotic American, do not cause your dear mother's heart to grieve over what might happen on July 4th as is shown in the above illustration. Abandon the idea that Fourth of July can be spent only by firing off canons and ear-splitting giant crackers. Insist upon your parents spending the day under the shadow of some weeping willow tree or alongside a beautiful brook. Take your dinner along and have a picnic. The time would be more pleasantly and enjoyably spent than if in the din of a town or city where some other boy thinks that the only way to celebrate is by the use of the dangerous canon. Prevail upon your parents, girls and boys, to spend a sane Fourth.

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