The Girl of the Orchard

By... Howard Fielding

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CHAPTER VIII.

THE BEACON AND THE WRECK.

THE north wind was gaining strength as the day advanced. The orchard was a mass of tossing boughs as I looked down upon it from my window. Those trees must have been planted by an inspired geometrician, for the design was such that whatever point of observation might be selected there was always one tree, and only one, between the observer and the lodge. It seemed perfectly easy to move a little way and get a clear view, but at the precise instant when any given tree passed from the line of vision another interposed. The branches hung low, and the lodge was on a hummock, so that it waving green yell always fluttered before it.

There was no strong temptation to look that way, for Miss Scott's side of the lodge was the nearer to the house, and Miss Scott, by all accounts, was not a romantic object. Nevertheless I had acquired a habit of staring down into the orchard, and on this particular day the high and rising wind so tossed the boughs that I had a better view than usual. I saw Miss Scott sitting by the door, and I made her out to be angular, awkward and well past her youth, yet these were guesses, for the distance was considerable and my glimpses momentary as the green billows of the orchard rose and fell.

Presently I saw Jimmy Lanoine go down the crooked path, and I was not surprised. He exchanged a few words with Miss Scott and then dodged round the corner of the house, passing beyond my vision. Half an hour later I was startled to see him coming along the carriage way that led from the road. There was, however, no mystery in his return by this route, for the "lay of the land" was such that he could have passed from the lodge to the road with our bcage visible from any part of the house, unless perhaps the roof.

He paused just outside my window and seemed about to deliver a remark of tremendous importance; then he changed his mind and went on without saying anything. This was one of Jimmy's favorite methods of making himself obnoxious; it was a rite in his religion of mystery, and it sometimes grieved me sorely when he thus invoked his god to be reminded of his sister. As for the physical resemblance between them which Lucy Ann had mentioned, I had never been able to see it but I was beginning to be painfully aware that there was a certain similarity in their ways.

It was grotesque—the likeness of a fearful caricature. That which was with Anna a pretty air of reticence, the veiling of some sweet fancy, a delicious riddle, appeared in Jimmy as arrant trickery. This will a family trait often disclose itself in varied form in the different individuals, and beyond a doubt the prudent may now and then gain valuable warnings in this way. But I did not wish to be warned; I did not believe that it was necessary, and many a time I could most willingly have laid a hand upon James not in the way of kindness when he performed before my eyes this dire mockery of his sister.

No [illegible] I passed the window. I saw [illegible] Ann [illegible] I [illegible] Jimmy [illegible] to [illegible] Well [illegible] long path. It invited me, and not in vain.

There were half a dozen boats on the strip of beach, and I chose the one that pleased me best. It was a rule at Mrs. Witherspoon's to follow one's impulses in such matters. I judged that a person whose impulses proved to be defective would be gently eliminated from this idyllic spot and that the discovery of his unfitness would be prompt. Such was my confidence in this notion that at the end of the first week I would have gone into the Witherspoon stable and saddled a horse with my eyes shut, sure that had I been the sort of fellow to take the wrong horse I should not have remained so long a guest of the house.

I paddled out into the lake. There was still a trace of color in the sky, and all the air seemed to be most delicately rose tinted. The mere eye could not see this, could not watch it fade into the faint gray of the ashes of roses, but it was none the less visible. There were whispers from all the shores. The rough hill spoke in its own way; the low ground where the willows grew had a very different story and the orchard another. I was naturally most interested in the orchard, and I propelled the boat to a favorable position, keeping my distance, however, as I had been taught.

Suddenly I became aware of a light upon the shore. The lake meanwhile had clothed itself with indistinctness that was not the dark, but scarcely more penetrable. That light had a reddish glow, and it illuminated nothing except the narrowest path upon the water. I made it out to be a fire of little sticks kindled upon the rocks that were quite rugged at the eastern side of the orchard's sen edge near the hill.

It was so placed as to be visible over a small area only, and this I knew from having come so suddenly into the view of it. Now, what should a light be kindled for upon the shore except for the sailor who seeks a harbor? A beacon is set upon a rock as a guide to show the way. But there are false lights, of course, and the mariner must exercise great caution; he must not set all sail in a hurry.

I am a good skipper of small craft. I can paddle over the roll of a boar, and [illegible] I [illegible] suddenly there came a sound as if a hand had been laid upon a stringed instrument; the [illegible] were already lightly struck, and at last I heard a woman's voice singing softly—an air that was new to me. Considering this matter in a coldly rational fashion, it was evident that if the lady had wished me farther away she would have sung more loudly. Her voice was so wonderfully clear, even in this whisper of singing, that I felt sure she could have made the music audible across the lake. Plainly, then, this was an invitation, and upon the strength of it I cut my distance from the shore in half. Yet the song neither ceased nor grew louder.

My boat must have been visible. It might look white or black in the night, for that my eyes could not determine because [illegible] I [illegible] Jimmy [illegible] to [illegible] Well [illegible] harsh sound. It seemed to me that a man of our might have gone aground and made his [illegible]

I was [illegible] from the shore, but perhaps the girl did not know it. My boat may have been quite invisible. For that [illegible] it was more difficult. It had the effect of a low fog upon the water, so that my [illegible] was not easily discernible. It [illegible] to be as it was to me, so I may well [illegible] that I was much closer to the land.

Whatever [illegible] I saw or believed, it is still was the voice [illegible] The [illegible] would never have dared to publish it in the log that I hit, for he would have found few that could sing it. I think a special dispensation must have been granted me, for I got through the first stanza like a nightingale, but I perspired freely with terror. Then I wanted, and by my sensations of dilation it should have been 1 o'clock in the next afternoon when I heard a blessed sound from the shore. It was the guitar, and presently the lady sang again. She had chosen "Heart's Delight," a quaint little melody, and Sibyl's favorite of all, as I remembered. I have strong faith in the power and the will of chance to deceive a man, but to take this for coincidence was an impossibility.

It could be only Sibyl that sang to me, and I must have been less susceptible to emotion than was the wood of the boat that bore me if I had not thought tenderly of the little girl who had wept in the dark at "Heart's Delight" in the old days.

In the voice itself there was nothing whatever that reminded me of Sibyl. It was not girlish, and of course I could not fully realize the difference that the years had made. She was still a child to me, and the voice was womanly. I would have said the singer had been taught not only by thoroughly competent masters, but by her own emotions; well taught by both, and in the school of the heart one gets no degree at 19—it is indeed an early age to be admitted.

I made no analysis at that time; I merely thought that it was strange. Therein it was the more agreeable. I did not wish to reduce this adventure to the level of the known. It was all I asked to sit there in the red ray of fire and speak the language of notes with a dream girl incarnated from the lane night.

There was an interval of silence. Obviously it was for me to break it, and I suddenly began to ransack my brain for a good song. That was the wrong place to investigate. If I had left my brain at Mrs. Witherspoon's it would have been better. Precedings that are worth obeying at such times arise from the deep seated, unerring region of instinct. I could not think of the right song, but if I had sung without thinking there would have been no chance of mistake.

While I hesitated, a little breeze sprang up from the south. The lake of my boat was high, and she swung up on her stern as on a pivot, pointing toward the shore and making way in that direction. I put my oars in, my near, but too late. There was a roof in the Witherspoon lake, and I struck it. The keen edge of the boat grated upon the pebbles with a peculiarly long and heavy sound. It seemed to me that a man of our might have gone aground and made [illegible]

I was [illegible] from the shore, but perhaps the girl did not know it. My boat may have been quite invisible. For that [illegible] it was more difficult. It had the effect of a low fog upon the water, so that my [illegible] was not easily discernible. It [illegible] to be as it was to me, so I may well [illegible] that I was much closer to the land.

Whatever [illegible] I saw or believed, it is still was the voice [illegible] The [illegible]

YOUR NEW EASTER SUIT TOP COAT OR RAIN COAT

All mankind like to be attired in his best togs on a holiday. Easter is the most important holiday and the biggest fashion day of the year. Everybody is out on parade. This joyous day is only about a week away. Plenty of time, of course, to get a new suit, top coat and other dress accessories, but, there is a sense of satisfaction in being prepared. Frank and Levey's Great Clothing Department is at your service and can fit you out as no other can. More and more good dressers and shrewd buyers are coming to know that **Money Is To Be Saved By Buying Frank & Levey's Clothing,** and without any sacrifice of the virtues of shapliness, style and character. Many of the men you meet who are credited with having their clothes made to order by high class tailors are fitted out here at a saving of half. When buying clothing of us you have at your command the greatest stock in western N. Y. to choose from and everything the very best at moderate prices.

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It is to be hoped that the efforts of Secretary Cortelyou to devise a plan for the more rigid examination of the mental condition of immigrants will result successfully. As ex-Representative Lockwood of the New York state lunacy commission points out, a very large percentage of the inmates of state insane asylums consists of persons of foreign birth. The matter is one which should receive serious consideration and may require the establishment of a special corps of alienists to pass upon the mental qualities of foreigners seeking admission to this country.

This paper prints Auction Bills.

Nothing Equal to Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for Bowel Complaints in Children.

"We have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in our family for years, says Mrs. J. B. Cooke, of Nederlands, Texas. "We have given it to all of our children. We have used other medicines for the same purpose, but never found any thing to equal Chamberlain's. If you will use it as directed it will always cure." For sale by O. E. Yates & Son, Andover, and N. E. Coston, Greenwood.

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AN ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY!

Number of Long Pending Issues to Be Settled.

MOROCO, EGYPT NEWFOUNDL'D

French Surrender Soverignty Over Shore of Newfoundland and Receives an Indemnity—French North African Empire—England's Protectorate Over Eeypt Not Affected.

Paris, April 6.—Foreign Minister Delcasse had a long conference with M. Paul Cambon, French ambassador at London, relative to the Anglo French colonial treaty settling several long pending issues, prfincipally in regard to Morocco, Egypt and Newfoundland. M. Cambon will return to London today and it is the expectation that the treaty will be signed toward the end of the present week.

The main points are settled but there are some details capable of causing delay. For instance, the Newfoundland government does not wish the French fishermen to retain the right of catching their own bait of shore. However, this is considered to be a minor detail and not likely to affect the general agreement.

France surrenders her sovereignty over the Newfoundland shore and receives an indemnity. The latter is two fold, first for French individuals giving up property along the surrendered shore, and second for the French government's relinquishment of its sovereignty. The reports current setting forth the amount of indemnity are inaccurate, as it is the present intention to submit the amount of the indemnity to The Hague tribunal.

Morocco will figure in the treaty Spain seeks the partition of Morocco so that she may control a portion of the country. France opposes the partition, believing the future of the country depends upon its unity. Great Britain has no territorial but commercial ambitions only in Morocco and therefore the treaty will safeguard her commercial rights and ensure against fortifying the coast opposite Gibraltar. Thereafter France and Spain will adjust the political future of Morocco but the indications are that the present treaty will so strengthen the French position that her North African empire eventually will stretch westward to the Atlantic.

The Egyptian agreement does not affect Great Britain's protectorate over Egypt, being confined to the administration of the Egyptian debt. Great Britain having a larger latitude in disposing of the surplus without the concurrence of France.

France gets improved facilities in reaching Lake Tchad and other points in French Central Africa. This concession is a partial return for the surrender of her sovereignty over the Newfoundland shore.

One may readily understand how much larger Koreen is than it looks on the map when it is recalled how many hundreds of thousands of Russian and Japanese troops are marching up and down that neck of land without getting in gunshot of each other.

The Federation of Labor is urging its members to "avoid nonunion whisky." The Washington Post pertinently suggests that it would be still better if the advice were amended by striking out the word "nonunion."

The great skill in warfare shown by the army and navy of Japan will prepare the world for the information that Christianity is making rapid strides in that country.

The battleship Kearsarge of today appears to be as able with her guns as was her predecessor in the civil war.

No doubt the Japanese Hobsons are thankful that the oscilatory custom does not prevail in their country.

The Chinese show some symptoms of becoming allies of the Japanese. While the Chinamen are rather poor fighters, they might be useful to keep between the Japs and their enemies.

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I have money to loan in all locations, hotels, houses, farms, factories, mills, or any other kind of real estate. Let me know what you want.

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P. O. APPROPRIATION.

Amendment Adopted by Senate Increasing Force of Rural Free Delivery Agents.

Washington, April 6.—The proceedings in the house were enlivened by speeches by Mr. De Armond and Mr. Grosvenor, the former attacking the Republicans for failure to order an investigation into the postoffice charges and to revise the tariff and the latter vigorously defending the Republican party and lauding President Roosevelt for the part he played in the postal investigation, the passage of the Cuban reciprocity law, and the treaty with Panama for the construction of the isthmian canal.

The senate listened to a two hours speech by Mr. Morgan on the Panama canal question and then again took up the postoffice appropriation bill but adjourned without completing its consideration. Some important amendments, aside from those suggested by the committee were agreed to, among them one increasing from two to four ounces the size of franked letters and another adding 25 members to the force of rural free delivery agents.

Mr. Fairbanks suggested an amendment appropriating $20,000 for experimental telephone delivery of special delivery mail in connection with the rural free mail service. He said the intention was to give the country people the best special delivery service and he added that the amendment would in many cases expedite delivery to the extent of 24 hours. He also said that the telephone was here also so general as to render the plan feasible.

Mr. Teller suggested that the amendment should be so changed as to require the government to supply telephones to farmers who have not got them.

Mr. Fairbanks: "That is not required at present."

"Mr. Teller: "It probably will be in the course of another year."

Mr. Teller added that the amendment seemed to him to be "paternalism run mad," and Mr. Fairbanks replied that it was no more paternalistic in character than the free mail delivery in cities.

Mr. Morgan's speech was in especial advocacy of his resolution requesting information from the attorney general concerning the history of the original Panama canal company and was in the main an arraignment of the new Panama company.

PRINCESS LOUISE OF COBURG

Failure of an Attempt to Rescue Her From An Insane Asylum.

Berlin, April 6.—Mattasich, the former lieutenant in the Austrian army whose intrigue with the Princess Louise of Coburg (eldest daughter of King Leopold of Belgium) caused her husband, Prince Philip of Coburg, to have her detained in a private asylum for the insane at Coswig, a suburb of Dresden, Saxony, made an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the princess several days ago.

Mattasich arrived at Coswig in an automobile from Berlin, expecting the co-operation of a restaurant keeper but the latter told third persons through whom the physician in charge of the asylum was informed of the facts in the case.

After waiting for several days in the vicinity to see if the princess took a daily drive, Mattasich concluded that the attempt was useless now, for the princess was nowhere visible.

Mattasich announced in a book which was recently published in Vienna his inflexible purpose to liberate the princess from what he regards as her unjust captivity.

Crown Prince Goes to Copenhagen.

Berlin, April 6.—Crown Prince Frederick William is going to Copenhagen in behalf of Emperor William, to congratulate King Christian on his 86th birthday, April 8. The Vossische Zeitung learns from the best source that the visit occurs only upon the condition that not one of the Cumberland princesses is present at Copenhagen. Negotiations for the engagement of the crown prince to Princess Alexandra were reported to have been in progress last year but to have been broken off by the Duke of Cumberland, her father, exciting the resentment of the emperor.

Bomb Found on Steamer Albany.

Portland, Ore., April 6.—A bomb containing two pounds of powder, a heavy charge of nitro-glycerine and a box of 100 detonating caps, was found on the guard rail of the steamer Albany of the Western Transportation company's line. The fuse had burned almost to the caps but had gone out. From the fact that a quantity of Chinese tissue paper and a white sock such as is worn by Chinese was wrapped round the bomb, it is thought that a plot to destroy the steamer was evolved by Chinese. The transportation company has persistently refused to employ Chinese.

PAGE MURDER MYSTERY

Police Still in the Dark After Consultation With Neighbors.

Weston, Mass., April 6.—The attention of the state and local police, who are trying to bring about the arrest of the murderer of Miss Mabel Page, was directed for the greater part of the day to an investigation in the neighborhood immediately adjacent to the Page homestead.

Two hours were spent in conference with the nearest neighbors of the Page family—Miss Susan Cutter and her sister, Mrs. Helen Tyler, who live with their uncle, Charles Cutter, about a quarter of a mile from the scene of the tragedy.

At the close of the day it was evident that the police were no nearer a solution of the mystery than at any time since the murder was committed. Early at night the state officers returned to Boston.

State Detective Whitney said: "Anything that has been said to intimate that any member of the Cutter house was connected with the death of Miss Page has been without foundation and is absolutely unsubstantiated." He also said no arrests would be made. Officers visited the Page farm and took away a number of articles, including a bicycle used by Miss Page. Members of the Cutter family decline to make a statement

Governor Vardaman Saves a Negro.

Jackson, Miss., April 6.—The negro Albert Baldwin, who killed Engineer Fogarty some time ago, was started for Tallahatchie county for trial. Governor Vardaman, hearing that a mob was forming to take Baldwin from the train and lynch him, telegraphed the officers to take their prisoner to Greenwood and keep him there. Later he sent a detachment of militia to take the negro to Sunner by special train. Baldwin is the man whom the governor some time ago saved from lynching by bringing him under guard of a military company to Batesville and bringing him to Jackson.

Anti-Jewish Disturbance.

St. Petersburg, April 6.—Rumors have reached here, which, however, are unconfirmed, to the effect that a small anti-Jewish disturbance has taken place at Gomel in which about 100 Jews were attacked. A free fight resulted and, according to the reports some Jewish butchers drew their knives and wounded four Christians. Several Jewish stores were destroyed but there were no fatalities.

Europe appears to regard our John Hay as the little joker in the diplomatic game.

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Full line of Gent's Furnishings
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Full line of Tailor-made suits
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The new Spring Styles and Popular Prices are now ready. When you see our line of goods you will see the finest in town. We can convince you. Call in.

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Gigantic Sale of Women's Handsome Sample Suits, Skirts and Waists.

The big purchase of WOMEN'S handsome Paris made Suits includes 300 of the handsomest and be t made garments for Spring. If you buy these you will save money; for this house is noted for the MONEY-SAVING PRICES.

We laid special stress on the Paris Suits; for style and workmanship, they are unexcelled—linings are a great improvement over those usually used.

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Toronto Telegraphers' Strike.

Toronto, Ont., April 6.—The situation remains unchanged with respect to the strike among the operators employed by the Great Northwestern Telegraph company. Of 65 employes about 50 have gone out. The management refuses to treat with the committee of the union and states that in a few days will have the positions of the officers filled.

No Parole For Adams.

Ossining, April 6.—"Al" Adams formerly known as "The Policy King" of New York, will have to serve the remaining three months of his sentence the board of parole, which considered his application for a conditional release, having decided not to parole him. Adams was convicted on April 21, 1902, to serve not less than one year nor more than one year and nine months, besides paying a fine of $1,000

Postmaster General Payne.

Washington, April 6.—Postmaster General Payne, who has been sick for several weeks, was able to attend the meeting of the cabinet.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The undersigned having been restored to health by simple means, after suffering for several years with a severe lung affection, and that dread disease Consumption, is anxious to make known to his fellow sufferers the means of cure. To those who desire it, he will cheerfully send a copy of the prescription used, which they will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Catarrh, Bronchitis and all throat and lung Maladies. He hopes all sufferers will try this remedy, as it is invaluable. Those desiring the prescription, which will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing will please address, Rev. EDWARD A. WILSON Brooklyn, New York

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Exposition Announcement.

The Erie Railroad, the favorite route to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, will maintain its connection with the BIG FOUR ROUTE via Marion, Ohio, an attractive service to St. Louis during the LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION OF NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FOUR.

D. W. Cooke, G. P. A., Erie, New York.

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