

"Orange Pekoe" is only the name given to a size of leaf—Some good, many poor, Orange Pekoes are sold—The most economical and yet the finest flavoured is "SALADA" Orange Pekoe. Sealed in metal—pure—fresh—delicious—43c per 2-lb.

"SALADA" TEA

289



BEGIN HERE TODAY

Sir Charles Abingdon engages Paul Harley, criminal investigator, to solve for him the mystery of constant surveillance of Sir Charles. Sir Charles asks Paul to dine with him at the Abingdon home. Sir Charles falls from his chair in a dying state. His last words are "Nicol Brinn" and "Fire-Tongue." Paul asks Nicol Brinn to explain to him the meaning of "Fire-Tongue," but he refuses to divulge his secret. Harley and Phil Abingdon, daughter of Sir Charles, are made prisoners at the home of Oruza Khan, an Oriental. Nicol Brinn rescues them and goes to tell the story of Fire-Tongue to the police.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.

CHAPTER XXIII. (Cont'd.)

A strange reddish light prevails now and directly before me I saw a sight of stone steps leading up through a tunnel in the rock. By the light of a pocket torch, which I had provided myself, I began to ascend the steps.

"I had ascended more than five hundred steps, and still the rest would be necessary, when I reached soft of rock or interior platform, on which seven corridors branched off like the spokes of a wheel.

"The damp coolness of the lower stairs an oppressive heat had now descended, and I became aware of continuous roaring sound, which made myself unable to explain.

"Attached to a belt beneath my narrow dress, I carried a Colt revolver and therefore, leaving my rifle and saddle in a corner of the cavern, I selected one of these corridors more or less at random, and set out to explore. This corridor proved to slope gently upward from the platform, and I could not fail to notice that at every step the heat grew greater and greater. It became possible to discern the walls of the corridor ahead because of a sort of eerie bluish light which had now become visible.

"At a point where the heat and atmosphere still were almost unendurable the corridor was blocked by massive iron bars beyond which the reflection of some gigantic fire danced upon the walls of a vast cavern.

"A hundred feet beneath me was a lake of fire! That is the only way to describe it: a seething, bubbling lake of fire. And above, where the roof of the cavern formed in natural cone, was a square section formed of massive stone blocks, and quite obviously the handiwork of man. The fire was too hot to touch, and the heat was like that of a furnace, but while I stood, peering first upward and then downward, a thing happened which I almost hesitate to describe for it sounds like an incident from a nightmare."

"Baffled by a rumbling sound which was perceptible above the roar of the fire below, the centre block in the roof slid open. As I looked up, a monstrous column of blue flame arose, swept up scorchingly, and licked like the tongue of a hungry dragon upon the roof of the cavern. Instantly the trap was closed again; the tongue of fire dropped back into the lake from which it had arisen in the draught of air.

"And right past me where I stood, grid with horror, looking through those bars, fell a white-robed figure, neither man nor woman I could not determine. Down, down into the fiery pit, a hundred feet below!

"One long-drawn, dying shriek reached my ears.

was so darkly lovely that I doubted the credence of my senses; tall and lithe, with the grace of some beautiful jungle creature.

"When she saw that I was awake, she paused and lowered her head in confusion. She wore a possum robe of snowy golden silk, and, standing there with the light of the dawn behind her, she made a picture that I think would have driven a painter crazy.

"Appeal Dog's Case

about Sterling, Ky.—Seventeen-year-old "sheep killing" K-9 dog, Bill, police dog, enjoyed a new lease of life recently as a result of an appeal of his case to Circuit Court.

"He was to have died some time ago, but last minute moves prevented the execution each time. Mrs. Minnie Gay, his owner, said recently she possessed new evidence which the court will turn over to Kaiser Bill's lawyer in the appeal hearing.

"Almost every move except "insanity" has been used to prolong the dog's life.

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"Since I had passed through that strange water-gate to the City of Fire, the day had ended; it was night. And when, finding no further steps ahead of me, I passed along a level, narrow corridor for some ten paces and, look-

Fire-Tongue, Naida held unquestioned sway in this secret city. Her house was separated from the others, and she traveled to and from the temple in a covered litter. To look upon her, as upon Fire-Tongue himself, was death. Women, I learned, were eligible for admission to this order, and these were initiated by Naida.

"As the days of my strange but delightful captivity wore on, I learned more and more of the weird people who, unseen, surrounded me. There were lodges of the Cult of Fire all over the East, all having power to make initiates and some to pass disciples into the higher grades. Those who aspired to the highest rank in the order, however, were compelled to visit this secret city in the Indian hills.

"Then at last I learned a secret which Naida had for long kept back from me. These followers of the new Zoroaster were polygamists, and she was the first and chief wife of the mysterious personage known as Fire-Tongue. I gathered that others had superseded her, and her lord and master rarely visited this marble house set amid its extensive gardens.

"Her garments remained, however, and no one had aspired to dethrone her as high priestess of the temple. She evidently knew all the secrets of the organization, and I gathered that she was indispensable to the group who controlled it.

"Respecting Fire-Tongue, himself, his origin, his appearance, she was resolutely silent, a second Act, faithful to the last. That the ends of this cult were not only religious but political, I saw at a great distance, and the marble building which I judged to be a temple, and forming a crescent before it was a miniature town, each white-walled house surrounded by a garden. It was Damascus reduced to fairy dimensions, a spectacle quite unforgettable."

(To be continued.)

The Outsider

I have looked on at life so long, so long...

The lesser loves and hates have passed me by.

As I were not the shudder and the sigh.

The whispering and the laughter, ever strong.

About me, and avoid. They call me strong.

Who never pauses the weakness to deserty.

Which else, I had not hidden; they defy.

The thing I am not, passless, and wrong.

My half-formed ideals till they shrink and fade.

I have been standing by the outer gate.

Until the very sweetness of a song.

Has terrors for me, and I am afraid.

To enter, I have found this truth too late;

I have looked on at life too long,

too long.

Ethel Davies.

SPAIN CLINGS TO OLD ROYAL COACHES AND PURE-BRED HORSES

MADRID.—Cinderella, if she rammed Madrid in search of a coach, would be dazzled by the choicer presented to her in the royal coach houses next to the King's palace.

The court of Spain always has been distinguished by the splendor of its horsecarriages and, in spite of the automobile, many of these have been retained for use at royal weddings, visits of foreign sovereigns, the opening of Parliament, funerals at which the King is represented. Amazons, vodors from foreign countries are supplied, too, with a gorgeous train of carriages, drawn by blooded horses, which are present their presidential at the palace.

"At a point where the heat and a diaphanous smell were almost unendurable the corridor was blocked by massive iron bars beyond which the reflection of some gigantic fire danced upon the walls of a vast cavern.

"A hundred feet beneath me was a lake of fire! That is the only way to describe it: a seething, bubbling lake of fire. And above, where the roof of the cavern formed in natural cone, was a square section formed of massive stone blocks, and quite obviously the handiwork of man. The fire was too hot to touch, and the heat was like that of a furnace, but while I stood, peering first upward and then downward, a thing happened which I almost hesitate to describe for it sounds like an incident from a nightmare."

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