

# The Step on the Stairs

By ISABEL OSTRANDER

## CHAPTER XI—(Cont'd.)

"She asked if the Griswold woman had displayed any particular talent in any direction such as amateur theatricals or that sort of thing, but all I recalled of the creature had done had been to sketch clever but rather cruel caricatures now and then for our amusement."

"Just one more question, Mrs. Tyrrell," begged Barry. "You said the girl's hair looked as if it had been bleached out in the sun; do you remember whether it was curly or straight?"

"Straight as a string," Mrs. Tyrrell responded. "Irene's hair had been soft and curling about her face, while her sister's was flat and dank and unpleasant-looking as though she had been drowned." Now I recall, I must hurry or you'll miss your train."

He took leave of Mrs. Tyrrell at the station just as the New York train was pulling in, but made no attempt to get aboard; instead he waited for the Western express and as he entered the Pullman he checked to himself.

"What a coincidence! Fate played quite a mean game!"

## CHAPTER XII

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"I watched her as she sat upon her stool, painting, saw that her breast was on a level with the third step of the stairs in the portrait, and getting behind it, made the spot on the canvas with a bit of red paint. You see, I planned during that week just what I should do. I knew that she often worked at night and I only awaited my opportunity."

"She nudged and even smiled slightly at Craig, who stood awkwardly, fidgeting in his huge hands, the tiny pistol he had retrieved from beneath the bulky heap of music."

"That's what I did it with; I carried it for seven years, but I finished with it now."

"What made you go down again afterwards, Miss?" Craig evidently felt that something was expected of him. "I mean when the medical examiner was there and ordered you away from the scene?"

"I wanted to smear the brown paint which I knew was still wet on the canvas, over the bullet hole so that it would not be so readily discovered, and I did." She turned to Barry. "I don't in the least care what happens to me now; but I am curious to know what made you suspect me at first."

"The calibre of the pistol used," he replied. "It was distinctly a woman's weapon; Mrs. Vane was the ruthless, predatory type who if she turned sex outlaw would be the natural enemy of all women; you were the only other feminine tenant in the house and you made contradictory statements. When I found the bullet hole in the canvas I knew the shot must have been fired from just outside the window, the fire escape was the only means of access and the choice lay between you and Mr. Griswold. He would not have paid me to do it for all these years if he had meant to run his own neck into a noose by eliminating her, so when I started West we were pretty sure of our ground, Sergeant Craig and I."

"But the steps we heard on the stairs?" Professor Semynov exclaimed.

"They were those of Mr. Griswold ascending and a moment later Mr. Ladd descending," Barry remarked. "Chief, I think our case is finished."

"May I speak?" Professor Semynov rose before the official could reply. "If it can be proven that this young lady was for years an inmate of an institute for the crippled and feeble-minded I think that I can assist in furthering the ends of real justice, providing you are willing, sir, to entrust her to my care. A nine-days' sensation in the newspapers, a year or so for Miss Barrows in a quiet retreat of which I know, and which the District Attorney himself will endorse and the world will have forgotten, alike the evil woman whose execution took place beneath this roof and the manner of it."

"I'll take a chance on you any time, Professor!" The chief spoke in a relieved tone. "Sergeant Craig, see that Miss Barrows is placed in the prison ward at Bellevue temporarily, under the charge of manslaughter."

After the young woman had been led away sobbing hysterically, Professor Semynov turned once more to Barry with a whimsical smile.

"You were right, my friend, it had everything to do with the crime after all; that step on the stairs."

(The End.)

"In the meantime, however, she had found her husband again, succeeded by a rise in making circumstances appear in the eye of the law as though he had condoned her unfaithfulness, and has been blackmailing him ever since, playing with fire but never again permitting herself to be burned, since it would mean the loss of her income."

"She may have almost forgotten the first mad escapade, but she reckoned without that little sister of the girl-wife whose life she had brought down to the grave."

"She was plentifully supplied with money and the little sister was with her own living to make, while she pursued her search, but she continued it for seven years, and then, the long arm of coincidence stepped in and placed her enemy within her reach. Only two things puzzle me; when she first knew that Mrs. Vane was Miriam Griswold, and what became of the small pistol with which she fled from the fire-escape through the bull's-eye which she had previously marked upon the carvas of the portrait straight into Mrs. Vane's heart. Can you tell us, Miss Barrows?"

He turned abruptly, to the small figure of Miss Shaw, but this time she did not shrink, he was there the slightest surprise or hesitation as she replied:

"Yes, the pistol is here. I knew that Professor Semynov's apartment was the only one in the building which would be exempt from search, so while I was downstairs with you, Sergeant Barry, before Sergeant Craig came up to slip in here, the door had been left open, and I dropped the pistol behind that pile of violin music. I could see it hadn't been touched for months."

"It is nearly a month since," the young woman went on, "going out late one evening I passed Mrs. Vane's door and heard her in a heated discussion with Mr. Griswold. Of course I knew he was from the day he came here to live, so I stopped and listened. She was making a demand for more money and I soon heard enough to tell me that my search was finally ended. I had a speaking acquaintance with her already, and a day after that night I managed to have her invite me into her studio."

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# Modern Girls Air Knotty Problems

Happy and Jolly But Not Frivolous, Declares Speaker

Oxford, (Eng.)—The modern girl became vigorous in her own defence in the course of a conference which was held recently at St. Hugh's College.

It was the conference of the National Council of Girls' Clubs, attended by girls employed in factories, in trade, and in domestic service.

"The problem of the modern girl arose during a discussion on the functions of the clubs."

"I am tired," declared Josephine Duckworth, secretary of the Liverpool Union of Girls' Clubs, "of hearing those endless criticisms of the modern girl. The girl of to-day as seen in our clubs has a sense of responsibility of which any notion of the community could be proud."

"When you get to know her as we know her at the clubs, you see that she has a very much greater sense of responsibility and a desire for service than her Victorian predecessor. What is merely a happy and jolly outlook on life is too often interpreted by those eager to criticize the modern girl as frivolity. She takes a sane and healthy interest in politics, but she has not much time for partisanship."

Miss A. Quint, of Manchester, suggested that the girl of to-day had to do all her living in her leisure time because her work was so exacting.

"Therefore," said Miss Quint, "she seeks out 'crowded hour' or 'glorious life' to make up for the long day at the factory or shop. Clubs are beginning to realize that this is the reason why so many girls seek excitement in the form of pictures, dances, and the streets."

In a debate on the ways in which women may be helped in their work by legislation, a number of the girls read short papers which were followed by a general exchange of views.

Miss E. Godfrey (Shoreline) declared that a girl should not be turned away from a labor exchange as "not genuinely seeking work" because she refused to take a floor-mopping job.

"It is unfair to the mistress and to the girl," she urged, "to force unsuitable material into domestic service. When the servant is given every evening, one half-day a week, and every Sunday free, like other girls, then I will take a floor-mopping job myself, but not before then."

Miss Dorothy Elliott, National Union of General and Municipal Workers, of protected against taking unsuitable people into domestic service. "There was no reason, she said, why domestic service should not be restricted by laws and other industries work."

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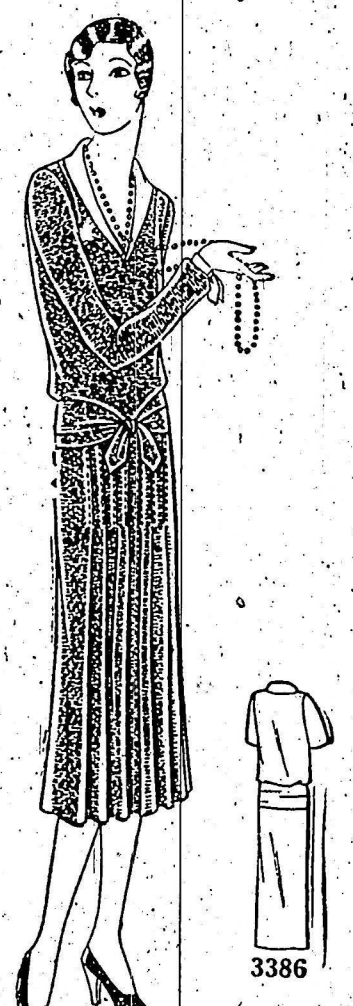
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# What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON  
Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson  
Furnished With Every Pattern.



A silk and wool crepe mixture in Riviera blue that answers many daytime needs. It expresses simplicity and good taste to wear now beneath the fur wrap, and may be worn all through the Spring.

The unpressed plaits of the skirt are secured by stitching to keep his fluff. They create charming youthfulness in their soft ruffling fullness across front.

The rolled collar is of plain blue crepe.

Style No. 3386 comes in sizes 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.

Let's see green, jersey, navy blue crepe silk with white crepe collar and a yellowish and brown tweed are effective combinations.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred); wrap in cellophane for each number, and address your order to: Wilson Pattern Service, 77 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Sing, Boys, Sing!

Everyone's against you!  
Well, they won't be long;  
Nothing's so quick  
As a thoughtless throng!  
Don't take any notice,  
But keep on along,  
And you'll be a richer  
And just sing this song:

Where there is a valley  
There's a hill as well;  
What will come to-morrow  
You can never tell.

Life is rather dreary,  
Well, it might be worse;  
Some folks may be looking  
In an empty purse,  
But you've had a richer  
And just sing this song:

Where there is a valley  
There's a hill as well;  
What will come to-morrow  
You can never tell.

CHARACTER

That which raises a country, that which strengthens a country, and that which dignifies a country, that which spreads her power, creates her moral influence, and makes her respected and submitted to, bends the hearts of millions, and bows down the pride of nations to her—the instrument of obedience, the fountain of supremacy, the true throne, crown, and scepter of majesty; this aristocracy, is not an aristocracy of blood, not an aristocracy of fashion, not an aristocracy of talent only; it is an aristocracy of character. That is the true heraldry of man.

EFFICIENCY

Men noted for efficiency almost never appear to be hurried. They seem to have plenty of time for every task that comes to them. Likewise they have ample time for leisure. Indeed, the former but the appetite for the latter.

# FOR THE Woman Reader

FLORENCE RIDDICK BOYS  
(Copyrighted)

As the Chemist Sees Us

A chemist analyzing that comparatively unknown element, Woman, has described her as follows:

Element: Woman.

Occurrence: Found wherever mail exists. Seldom in free state. With few exceptions the combined state is to be preferred.

Physical Properties: All colors and sizes. Usually in disguised condition. Face covered by a film of composite material. Boils at nothing and may freeze at any moment. However, melts when properly treated. Very bitter if not well used.

Chemical Properties: Very active. Possesses great affinity for gold, silver, platinum and precious stones. Violent reaction when left alone. Ability to absorb expensive food at any time. Undissolved by liquids, but actively greatly increased when saturated with spirit solutions. Sometimes yields to pressure. Turns green when placed beside a better looking specimen. Ages very rapidly. Fresh variety has great magnetic attraction.

Note: Highly explosive when in inexperienced hands.

The Kitchen Interesting

Fortunate is the woman who does not have to carry on a job in a noisy, dirty factory; or in the artificially lighted office; but whose work-day life is spent in her own home where she can make her surroundings what she will. There is no need for her to permit her kitchen—the room in which she spends most of her time—to be drab and cheerless when a little thought and a few cans of paint will transform it into a place of beauty and charm.

Color is the chief factor which determines the influence a room has upon us. In childhood our first choices are for strong, crude colors—bright reds and yellows and greens. An educated taste learns to love the subtleties of grayed-down tints, which are more restful and pleasing, but they need not be tame and uninteresting.

A few years ago, we were carried away by the white enamelled kitchen. But we soon came to realize that it looked cold and institutionalized. A more lovable kitchen is one with soft yet cheery colors, with some individuality of its own and a varied, homely atmosphere.

Color has an influence on our mental attitudes. Red is an aggressive, inflaming, quarrelsome color. Blues and greens are cool. Yellow is sunny and happy. Any strong color soon grows monotonous, and gets on our nerves. Better neutral backgrounds with soft tints, as tannish and with touches of bright color to give gaiety.

A sunny room can be made cheerier. A dark room will be brightened by light colors. Blue-gray, green-gray, and buff are lovely for walls, with a darker blue for the window shades, or a shell pink, coral-pink, or light yellow, or try black and white on the floor. Line the cupboard with orange or burnt color for cheer.

Let the curtains repeat some of the dominant shades of the room and stress one brighter color. Bands or pipings of blue or orange may be added to the color scheme, or a shell pink or two on the wall may be painted a glad color or contain a row of bright colored dishes to introduce color. One advantage of limiting the heightened colors to curtains, shelves and dishes is that you can change them easily at will, if you get tired of your color scheme.

Fashions, Fads, Follies

Those who hope to keep the hemlines far above the ankles, and the Madama Grunty legs below the knees, will find that the newest and smartest are short, yet many still clinging about the hips.

ANY SEASON  
Is Vacation Time  
In Atlantic City

ANY VACATION  
Is An Assured Success  
If You Stay at the

ST. CHARLES

With the Finest Location and the Longest Porch on the Boardwalk.

Offering the ultimate in Service, with Unexcelled Cuisine.

PAINS

No matter how severe, you can always have immediate relief.

ASPIRIN

Aspirin always stops pain quickly. It does it without any ill effects. Harmless to the heart; harmless to anybody. But it always brings relief. Why suffer?

# Salada Orange Pekoe Blend gives greatest satisfaction

"SATADIA" TEA

"Fresh from the gardens"

marked more by blooming in the back and fitting in front than by the belt.

Favorite materials are the Jersey blouses for sports, lace for afternoon and evening gowns, prisms of all kinds on dark backgrounds. Satins, crepes, georgettes and chiffons are good. Green, yellow, navy, black and white are popular colors.

Wrought-Iron

Wrought iron is tremendously popular just now. It appears in lighting fixtures, curtain rods and tie-back holders, tables, chairs, benches, gates, plant stands, grills, fire-place accessories and other furnishings of our homes and gardens.

It is especially appropriate for the Spanish or Italian house and the combination of iron and cement. The wrought iron curtain rod with its removable end pieces and its rod which may be cut any length, is useful for wall draperies as well as for window and door curtains. From it may be suspended a fine tapestry.

Plate Sandwiches

The ordinary sandwich, unless very thin, is a sloppy thing to eat and is composed of too much bread for filling. A more delicious sandwich, and one which is more wholesome for middle-aged people who are prone to eat too much starch, is the plate sandwich.

Cut the crust from a slice of bread, spread it with butter and lay on a plate. On this put your filling. It may be a slice of meat or chopped meat, with a generous serving of succulent vegetables. For example, slice very thin cucumbers and radishes; shred lettuce; add a slice of tomato or onion if you wish, or you may use dried celery, chopped olives, dates, hard-boiled eggs, or anything else which is delicious with bread.

Mix all the ingredients with meticulous care to make them loamy and expect the sandwich to be eaten with a fork. One will thus get almost a whole meal with a sandwich made with only one slice of bread. In the usual sandwich, one must eat six or eight slices of bread to feel satisfied.

Helpful Hints

Rubber-gloves will last longer if you do not always wear the same glove on the same hand. Change them about and turn them inside out to distribute the wear.

Before putting away the out-of-season clothing, look it over and sew on lost fasteners and buttons; mend rips and tears; and remove stains. A rainy afternoon when you cannot work outdoors is a good time for this cozy work.

Stitch three or four layers of old lace curtains together and you will

SMART'S LAWN MOWERS

CANADA'S BEST!

It isn't possible to build a better lawn mower than SMART'S.

Smart's Mowers have proved their superiority wherever grass is grown.

Easy running, keen cutting and absolutely guaranteed.

ASK YOUR HARDWARE MAN JAMES SMART PLANT BROOKVILLE, ONT.

CUNARD CANADIAN SERVICE

CABIN TOURIST THIRD CABIN THIRD CLASS

Would you be inconsistent as this?

Seraggly, unshaven beards are like dull, polished shoes... both are entirely out of keeping with your pride of personal appearance... so keep your shoes at all times smart with "NUGGET" which waterproofs the shoes as it polishes.

NUGGET SHOE POLISH

The NUGGET TIN opens with a twist!

# Five Years As President at 83

The World Pays Tribute to General Hindenburg as Many's Great Statesman

The combination of statesmanly sagacity and military prowess which have made General Hindenburg a name to be remembered in the annals of history is not surprising when one considers the fact that he was born in 1847, and has lived through the most eventful years of the world's history. His long and illustrious career has been marked by a series of brilliant achievements, both on the battlefield and in the halls of power.

General Hindenburg's military prowess was first demonstrated in the Franco-Prussian War, where he played a key role in the decisive victory at Sedan. His leadership and tactical genius were instrumental in the unification of Germany under Prussian rule.

As a statesman, General Hindenburg's influence was felt throughout the early 20th century. He served as the President of the German Empire from 1918 to 1934, a period of immense political and social upheaval. His tenure was marked by a commitment to stability and order, even in the face of growing unrest and the challenges of the Weimar Republic.

General Hindenburg's legacy is one of a man who shaped the destiny of a nation. His military and political achievements have earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens and the world at large. His life serves as a testament to the power of leadership and the enduring impact of a well-lived life.

General Hindenburg's life was a journey of discovery and achievement. From a young boy in a small town to a world-renowned military leader and statesman, he overcame numerous challenges and emerged as one of the most influential figures of his time. His story is a source of inspiration for generations to come.