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FREE

THE AVENGER

by Walter Forder

PROLOGUE

The tableaux curtains of the Orpheum Theatre descending like a sweeping cloud, stemmed the tumult of noise from the applauding audience and the fanfaring orchestra. The performer on the stage never moved from the dazzling spot lights, but as he bowed to the plaudits, he decreased marvellously in height.

Writhing his shoulders and concerting his body with movements like those of an Eastern dancer, he appeared to shrivel and diminish; uncatchy and not at all pleasing to watch, yet Mysterious was a great magnet of receipts for the box office. Billed as the 'man who grows before your eyes,' he manipulated his body, muscles, and joints, puzzling the medical world and delighting the patrons of variety entertainments.

"Stand by, sir, for a 'call,'" shouted the stage manager from his board of electrical signal switches. Upward swept the mighty curtains, permitting the roar of applause and then down again to comparative silence.

Mysterious moved slowly and somewhat wearily from the stage; American vaudeville was much harder than the British idea of it, and he was dead tired. Three shows a day tested his powers of endurance, but strengthened his balance at the bank.

"Guy in your room, Mysterious!" called out an attendant, as he scuttled by with a piece of scenery. "Guess he wants to sell cheap jewelry or a set of new band parts."

Continuing down the corridor the performer threw open a door and peered around. There was no waiting visitor; he laughed. "Jim." A husky voice startled him, and from a hanging cluster of costumes a small, and furtive figure, emerged blinking into the light.

"Bill?" The other stared for a second, then gripping the little man's shoulders added softly, so softly, that it was like a caress. "At last!"

"Expecting me, Jim?" There was a pathetic note in the fellow's husky voice.

"I've been on this tour for fifteen weeks and every night I've expected you; it's good to see you. Why did you hide, what sort of stuff do you think brothers are made of?"

"I felt I ought to drop out of mother's life and yours after that spell of the Big House. But seeing your name on the bills gave me a hankering for the old life and home. Jim, I want to break away from this life; racketeering can be pretty low down."

The performer smiled happily. "And I knew I'd hear you say that, too. Well, what's preventing you, Bill? Turn over a new leaf and start right in with me."

"They won't let me—Razzini and his gang; they're after me now."

"Won't let you?"

"Daren't, they fear what I know. But somehow, Jim, I've got to get out."

Mysterious thrust his brother down in a chair. "See now, make yourself easy while I change. Let's have as much of the story as you care to tell—or tell me nothing, I don't mind. You're coming back to England with me. I'll smuggle you out as my assistant man's baggage man."

The younger man's eyes brightened with a light of hope, then instantly froze again into dull darkness, for he glimpsed a slowly moving door reflected in the make-up mirror. Silently and fascinated, like one cowed by continual horror, he waited and watched.

The door opened slowly and almost treading upon one another's heels three men entered.

"Stick 'em up!"

Fruit Discoloration Checked Chemically

Thiocarbamide Keeps Salad Looking Fresh and Nice for Weeks

The benefits of abstract scientific research are utilized in most unexpected places. The hostess of an air liner told one of the scientists at the Boyce Thompson Institute, N.Y. for Plant Research of her difficulty in the keeping of fruit salad looking nice and fresh because the apples and peaches discolored so rapidly.

The scientist recalled an experiment in plant physiology in which pieces of plant tissue were placed in the ground after being treated with various chemical substances and that one of the pieces was removed several months later looking just as white and fresh as the day it was buried. The substance with which the piece was treated was thiocarbamide, said Dr. William Crocker, director of the institute who a few weeks ago received the gold medal of the American Institute.

Thiocarbamide, he said, is entirely non-toxic and tasteless, and he exhibited several trays of apples that had been cut for varying periods. Each batch was divided into two parts, one that had not been treated, which showed a brown discoloration, and one that had been treated with the chemical, remaining as white as the minute they were cut.

Tears Cost Money

Tears cost a lot of money in Hollywood. In the first place, it takes quite a time to induce a satisfactory flow, and time is worth dollars in the film studios.

In the second place, complete "make-up" of an actress is necessary after every "cry." And, thirdly, the emotional strain, actresses claim, leaves them with such a "hang over" that they are unable to work the following day. The film is held up—but wages are paid just the same.

The Season for MAPLE SYRUP

When the early settlers came to this continent, they found the Indians making a delicious sugar from the sap of the maple tree. Very soon they too began using this native sweet and have improved on the quality and methods of production ever since.

A record season for the maple syrup industry was expected when the sap first started to run, but the warm weather in the latter part of March proved a set-back. However, the recent change in weather has started the production again, and the general outlook is much better. Don't count on too liberal supplies, however, get your supply of maple syrup as soon as you can.

Canada, of course, leads in the production of this exclusively North American treat, so it's almost a tradition in many homes in this country to serve it when it first arrives on the market. Pancakes and maple syrup are an old story so we are suggesting some additional ways in which to utilize this delicious "native" product.

Maple Butterscotch Pie

- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup maple syrup
- 1 1/2 cups milk, scalded
- 2 egg yolks, slightly beaten
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 egg whites
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1 baked 9-inch pie shell

Mix together sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Add syrup gradually, stirring to a smooth paste. Add to scalded milk in top of double boiler, stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Then cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Four a small

amount over egg yolks, stirring vigorously. Return to remaining mixture in double boiler and cook 3 minutes longer. Remove from fire, add butter and vanilla, and cool.

For meringue, beat egg whites until foamy throughout. Add sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time, beating after each addition, continue beating until mixture will stand in peaks; turn cooled pie filling into pie shell. Pipe meringue lightly on top. Bake in moderate oven (350 deg. F.) 15 minutes, or until delicately browned.

Log Cabin Rice Pudding

- 3 1/2 cups milk
 - 1 cup rice
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - 1/2 cup maple syrup
- Scald 2 cups milk in double boiler. Add rice and salt and steam 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Heat remaining milk; add to rice and continue steaming 30 minutes, or until rice is tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from boiler heater, add butter and syrup. Serve hot with additional Maple Syrup. Serves 6.

Maple Syrup Sweet Potatoes

- 6 cooked sweet potatoes
 - 4 tablespoons butter
 - 1/2 cup maple syrup
- Cut sweet potatoes in halves lengthwise and place in greased baking dish. Dot with butter and pour syrup over them. Bake in hot oven (400 deg. F.) 1 hour, basting frequently until potatoes are done. Serves 6.

Maple Syrup Fried Mush

- 1 1/2 cups yellow corn meal
- 3 tablespoons salt
- 5 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup maple syrup

Combine corn meal, salt, and 1 cup water in upper part of double boiler; mix well. Add remaining water and mix well, and cook over direct heat until mixture thickens, stirring constantly. Place over hot water, covering closely, and cook 2 hours longer. Turn into loaf pan which has been wet with cold water. Let stand overnight or until thoroughly cold and firm; turn from pan, slice in 1/2 inch slices, dip in flour, and saute in well-greased skillet, turning to brown both sides. Serve with butter and additional maple syrup. Serves 6.

Do Not Expect Food in Pills

Professor of Biology Says Day Is Not Yet Envisaged When All Nourishment Can Be Taken in Pellet

The hope of reaching that advanced state of nutritional science in which we will be able to take all the nourishment we require in the form of a pill is discounted by Dr. James V. Mavor, professor of biology at Union College. The minimum average requirements of the human body is 3,000 calories a day and this energy must be furnished by food. The number of calories might be obtained from a relatively small amount of dynamite, but this material is hardly acceptable to the body as food. Fats supply approximately 9.3 calories per gram and carbohydrates and proteins about half this amount. If all the calories were supplied by fats, 323 grams would be required, or about two-thirds of a pound. A pound of food can hardly be made into a single pill. No matter what other improvements are made in diet in the matter of vitamins or the other factors, we must still meet the minimum requirements in calories, says Dr. Mavor, so the story about man some day taking all his nourishment in the form of a small pill must remain in the book of fables.

A Thanksgiving

Lord, for the erring thought
Not unto evil wrought;
Lord, for the wicked will
Betrayed and baffled still;
For the heart from itself kept;
Our Thanksgiving accept!

For ignorant hopes that were
Broken to our blind prayer;
For pain, death, sorrow-sent
Unto our chastisement;
For all loss of seeming good;
Quicken our gratitude.

—William Dean Howells.

Rubber "Gas Bags" For British Babies

Further Step In Protecting Populace Against Air Raids

A rubber "gas bag" for babies is the Home Office's latest device to make Great Britain's 40,000,000 inhabitants "gas-tight" in the event of war.

A spokesman said last week that babies two years old and under would be provided with a rubber fabric bag capable of enclosing their bodies entirely.

The bag has a pump for injecting air through a filter. The pump must be used every 15 minutes.

For Every Inhabitant
The bag has a pump for injecting air 30,000,000 gas masks which are being manufactured at the rate of 500,000 a week. They are to be delivered in quantities of 30,000 to municipalities throughout the country.

The masks, however, will not be delivered to the inhabitants unless war becomes imminent. Then, the Home Office has guaranteed every Briton will get a gas mask within eight hours.

New airliners will cut the passenger flying time between London and Paris to 75 minutes.

Is Your Handbag Just a "Dump?"

Contents of Purse May Tell Owner's Character

I dropped my hand-bag in a tea-shop the other afternoon, and as its contents fell on the floor I realized that all the world could see... not just a hand-bag... but ME! (writes A. B. in the London Daily Herald).

There was a note-case, rubbed and thin, two diaries (one for 1937, another for 1938), two handkerchiefs (soiled and clean), a powder compact and a lipstick, two letters from friends, an envelope covered with old shopping notes, a comb, a folding clothes brush, a sharp pencil, two loose keys, three and sevenpence, invisible hairpins, two library tickets, a bank pass-book, and some snapshots.

Character Spread Out
That was me. You'll put me down as youngish (powder compact and lipstick), domestic (shopping list and photographs), but not very modern (no cigarettes or matches in the lot). I'm either busy or untidy (two handkerchiefs and two diaries), but busy enough to carry a clothes brush and odd hairpins.

Here is my whole character spread out in my hand-bag.

If I had guessed how terribly revealing a hand-bag can be I should have tidied it up long ago.

Household Hints

Paint stains that have been allowed to dry on wood surfaces may be removed by rubbing with a clean cloth dampened with turpentine. Repeat until the spot is absorbed.

If you are using the whites of several eggs and have no immediate use for the unbroken yolks, put them in a cup or a bowl and carefully pour over enough water to cover. This will keep them from getting dry or crusty on the top.

Halves of canned peaches or apricots, dotted with butter and slightly salted, broiled in a shallow dish until a delicate brown, are delicious meat accompaniments.

Never wash the grid of your electric waffle iron. Wipe with a clean dry cloth. If particles of batter adhere stubbornly to the grids, use a wire brush to remove them, then brush again with a soft-bristled brush. Housewares departments sell brushes especially designed for cleaning waffle irons.

Eggs are usually plentiful and less expensive in the early spring and may be a welcome change for an occasional main course from heavier winter menus. Souffles are an attractive and highly nutritious main dish and may be varied in almost countless ways by adding different ingredients—flaked fish, mashed vegetables, cheese—to the basic egg recipe.

Howlers

Prize Errors Picked From Examination Papers

What is a rhetorical question? It is when a lot of questions are asked and there is no answer to it. For example: What has the Prime Minister been doing all these years?

An antidote is a funny story you have heard before.

What is a comma? A comma is something a medium falls into.

Ladies should always take tea in their hats when visiting for a short while.

A spa is a place where people drink bath water.

The Great Plague was a very serious illness which began with a swelling under the arm and spread all over Europe.

The Australians are very fond of the boomerang, which carries its young in a bag outside its stomach.

Household Conscripts

Unmarried girls under 25 who wish to start work in offices or factories must first serve one year as maids or nurses in households or on farms, irrespective of their education or means, under a new German decree.



Help improve your personality with Wrigley's Gum. Keep your teeth white, breath sweet, by using healthy Wrigley's Gum daily—as millions do. The children also love the delicious refreshing flavor of Wrigley's Double Mint. Take some home today.

Opals Are Said To Be Unlucky

Strange Superstitions Centre About The Gem

"I am not afraid of opals," said Mrs. Neville Chamberlain the other day. Neither was anyone till Sir Walter Scott wrote "Anne of Geierstein." That novel contained a strange story about a girl and an opal. It ended in tragedy—and started the legend that opals brought misfortune.

The superstition was confirmed, years later, by the disastrous record of the opal ring Alfonso XIII of Spain presented to his bride. She died soon afterwards.

Alphonso gave the ring to his sister. A few days later she was dead. It passed to the king's sister-in-law. She died within three months. Alphonso then wore the ring himself. He, too, died.

But one fatal gem doesn't make all opals unlucky. People don't refuse to wear diamonds because the Hope Diamond has a bad name.

When black opals were discovered in Australia, Maricn Crawford, the novelist, gave a new twist to the superstition. He started the story that black opals brought good luck. People believed him—and presently the other varieties staged a "comeback," too.

Baroness Slashes Foot Accidentally

Belgian Authoress, Hunter and Traveller Recovering in Manitoba

THE PAS, Man. — Baroness Anne, Guigot de Mishaegen, Belgian authoress, trapper and big game hunter, is recovering from a severely cut foot in her cabin at Granville Lake, 150 miles north of here.

The baroness slashed a artery in her foot when an axe, with which she was cutting wood, slipped.

Following a world tour, the Belgian noblewoman came to Winnipeg last fall. Eager to spend a winter in the north, she left immediately for her cabin, which she purchased two years ago, on the shores of Granville Lake.

She plans to resume her travels late this spring after a winter of hunting, trapping and writing in the solitude of Manitoba's northland.

The Pas is 350 miles northwest of Winnipeg.

COULD HARDLY CLOSE HANDS

Had Rheumatism and Neuritis

"I suffered severely from Rheumatism and Neuritis," writes Mr. W. J. Tracy of Toronto. "I could hardly walk upstairs or close my the swelling left my hands and knees. I could climb stairs and ladder. I advise any person suffering as I did to take Fruit-A-Tives. They give quick relief." Try this real fruit juice, herb and tonic prescription of a famous Canadian doctor. If you suffer, they might clear up your case. 25c. and 50c. No substitute. At druggists.

FRUIT-A-TIVES LIVER TABLETS

PAIN ACROSS KIDNEYS!

YOU may prolong life by taking the advice of a famous physician, which is: "Keep the kidneys in good order, avoid too much meat, salt, alcohol or tea." Drink plenty of pure water and drive the uric acid out of the system by taking Auric in tablet form. It is the discovery of Dr. Pierce of the Invalids Hotel, Buffalo, N.Y. Sold by all druggists. Read what Mrs. W. Horton, 75 Foinette St., Hamilton, Ont., said: "The kidney secretions passed too frequently at times and I would get such a pain across my kidneys. My feet and ankles swelled too. Before I had rubbed using a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Auric I felt so much better." Buy now!