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of . Death

Story of Russian Nihilism

By PAUL SZENSKY

was about twenty years old when the organizations which developed the tate revolution began to exert an influence on Russian affairs. It is the young who are caught in such morements, and I was captivated especialty by the secrecy assumed by the uthitists. I applied for admission in a circle of the brotherhood and was duly received as a member. The nihilists fulfilled the meaning of

their name by assassinating those in power who stood in the way of their object. If a person was to be re moved the circle drew lots to decide who should do the deed. I had scureely joined when it was decided to dispatch the then minister of the interior. who was leaving no stone unturned to hunt out our members and send them either to Siberia or the gallows. When this move was decided upon and it was announced that one of our number was to be selected by lot to disputch the minister I first fully realized that I had not got into a society of mysteries, but one of death, and when drew the fatal number that compelled me to become an assassin, in all probability sacrificing my own life as well as that of the man I was appointed to kill. I saw that a choice of two methods of death was permitted me either to die doing my work or be hunted down by an emissary of the society and killed.

I managed to keep up a show of resolution before my fellow members of the circle, appearing to accept the duty that had fallen to my lot, I went home conscious that I would be watched from the moment I left the meeting to see that I made no attempt to shirk my work. Once in my room I began to think what I should do.

All my nature revolted against committing what to me was murder. had joined the society, as I have said, not from a desire to emancipate Russia, but because I had been caught by the mystery surrounding it. It resolv ed at once that I would choose death rather at the hands of my companions than by being cut down as an assassin. Hope is never extinct in youth, and I boped to get out of Russia by eluding those who were watching me. If I could do this I might reach some distant land-America or Australia-in which, by changing my name and al tering my appearance, I might be dend

To lay plans and take measures to assassinate a government official o high rank in Russia required time What I decided upon was to pretent to enter upon the preliminaries of my work as though my intention was to carry it out. In this way I would at tempt to disarm suspicion and have the better chance for flight. I took my father into my confidence, giving him to understand that he was to divulge the situation to no one, not even member of the family. He was, o course, crushed by the news, but offered me what I needed-money to carry out my plan of flight and subsequen vanishment from the world.

He was of assistance to me in an

other way. I had a sister a year younger than myself, who much re sembled me. My father secured passport for her to leave Bussia of the ground that he intended to send her to Berlin to study music, Ou plan was for me to pass the border dressed in her clothes and under he passport. I needed only to secure woman's wig, which my father bough for me. My beard was scant and o so light a color that when closel shaved it was not noticeable, especia ly under a veil. Having purioined and put on my sister's clothes fortunately she was just my height-and bid my father an affectionate adieu, I sailled forth in the middle of the afternoon and went by a roundabout route, doing some shopping by the way, to the railway station, reaching it just in time to make a through train

Knowing the watchfulness of the members of the nihilist circle appoint ed to see that I did not eschipe. I fear ed every moment to see some one of them spying upon me. But my plan of personating my sister was an admirable one, and I doubt not that though my home was being watched when I made my exit the watcher was deceiv ed to think that it was she who was going out. I had no trouble in passing the border under my passport, but that I had chosen to go through in the night gave me a great advantage. breathed freer when I found myself rolling along on German soil, but realized that a lifelong peril was in store

I had no baggage with me, so on reaching Berlin 1 provided myself with some before going to a hotel. bought a perturnateau and filled it with new clothes, telling the store keeper that they were for my brother who was an invalid and could not therefore come for them bluself. Hav ing made my parchases, I nired a room in a hotel where I changed my apparel and walked out through a side door without attracting any attention leaving my feminine garb in the room Golng straight to a railway station, took a train for Hamburg, whence sailed for the United States, under the

of the postoffice. I remained there till far from St. Petersburg. He informed ders to locate me if possible, I knew that they regarded America as the principal refuge for such outcasts from their organization as I, because there is no government spying on strangers here as there is abroad. I took the risk of answering my father's letter. but when the time came round for a reply to my missive I received much making no mention of mine whatever, I was terror stricken, for I knew that my fellow nihilists had been watching my father's mail-doubtless havin confederates in the postoffice and linu secured my letter.

I now saw that I must sever the last link that bound me to the past the link between myself and my father, 1 had by this time learned a little Engturned the Antoine into Anthony. thereafter as the business of the court Leaving my quarters at dead of night. was never again seen there, but in a few days appeared in the city of Deu-

life. The money my father had given make their defense. me having been exhausted, I bired myself out wherever I could find work to do. Sometimes it was cierical sometimes menial. At one time I drove a cab. I would stay in a place till 1 met some one whom I had known in Russia or, pretending to be a secret agent of the nihilists, get in with Ruz sians who were real agents and discover that they had my real name and the west, I begged and worked my way there and became a prospector,

How I happened to become the posdo with this story. I sold it and, putting my fortune into thousand dollar

to change my ontward appearance before the world and live in accordance with my means. This, of course laid me more liable to detection by my enemies, but I preferred to take the risk rather than be continually trying to at a fashionable hotel.

was waiting for me in a private par lor. The name on the card was Sophia with dear ones at home was too great vided for by an ordinance passed herefor me to withstand. I fought it for tofore on the 3rd day of March, A. a few minutes, then yielded. Gidne D., 1914, and the lawful expenses of to the appointed place, a young lady such proceeding, the ordinance for met me, addressed me by my real said supplemental special assessment name and said that before deaving being on file in the office of the City Russia she had been informed by mr Clerk of said City, and having apsister that she had a brother who had disappeared, and she suspected he was in America. She had given the lady a photograph of me, with the request that if she met me to beg me to come back to my family.

having never been informed by my father as to the cause of my disappear the court will perm ance, had innovently given me away. Had she done so, or had the nihilists ment is payable in one installment got it out of ber?

Sophia won my considence. I was hungry for the society of some one who knew me for my real identity. did not let her know that I was a fugitive under a ban of death. I told ber that I had left Russin with a view to make myself independent of my father and pledged her to write northing to Russia concerning me. She believ ed, or pretended to believe, my story and made the promise.

With Sophia Paizoff for a constant companion. I drifted gradually back into the condition of a living man and being with her continually; came to love her. One evening I drove her out in my car, and when we were passing through a wood I told her of the ban that rested upon me and begged her to belp me bear it as my wife. I could see that she was moved by some powerful emotion.

"If I do," she said, "there will be two of us under sentence of death in stead of one.

"What do you mean?" I gasped. "I was sent to America by the nihit ists to kill cou."

That was many years ago, Sophis and I have been living together since years we succeeded in losing ourselves the revolution took the place of ultill ism the latter in its earlier form pass ed away. During the last few years we have not scrupled to show our selves in our true identity to the But we are now old. The best part of our lives was passed in biding.

County of Lake, and State of Illinois the ordinance for said supplemental assessment being on file in the office of the City Clerk of said City, and having applied to the Coun-Court of Lake County for an asment, according to benefits, and lish and changed my name to one that thereof having been made and rewould not betray my Russian origin. turned to said court, the final hear-Since I spoke French quite well. I ing thereon will be had on the 11th chose Antoine du Bois, though I soon day of July, A. D., 1914, or as soon

ment is payable in one installment. All persons desiring may file objections in said court before said day, For several years I lived a nomadic and may appear on the hearing and

> James C. Boylan Officer appointed to Dated at Highland Park, Illinois, June 25th, A. D., 1914.

Supplemental Special Assessment No-

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the City Council of the were ordered to inform upon me if City of Highland Park, County of found. Under such circumstances I Lake and State of Illinois, having orfound it difficult to get employment. dered that a supplemental special as-Hearing of new discoveries of gold in sessment be levied to pay the deficiency of the cost of the work and interest for grading, draining, paving with macadam, and otherwise improving a system of streets, in the City of sessor of a gold mine has nothing to Highland Park, consisting of Wainut Avenue, from the easterly line of the Green Bay Road, otherwise known as banknotes, placed them in pockets in Green Street, easterly to its intersecside my clothing, which I arranged tion with the westerly line of First Chicago Hat Mfg. & Rebleaching Co. Five years had now passed since I course across said Walnut Avenue, left Russia. The nibilist movement Second Street, from its junction with was still in progress, having not yet the paved roadway in this ordinance led up to the revolution. I was tired provided on said Walnut Avenue, of remaining in hiding and, having the north to the junction of said Second wherewithal to enjoy life, determined Street with the easterly line of Green Bay Road, otherwise known as Green from its intersection with the westerly line of First Street, westerly to its intersection with the easterly line of avoid some one. I lived in New York McGovern Street, and Elm Place, from I had resided there about a year said Green Bay Road, easterly to its when one evening a servant approach- junction with the westerly line of St. ed me with a card, saying that a lady Johns Avenue (except that part o Elm Place covered by the tracks of the Chicago & North Western Ry, Co. Palzoff, and in pencil was written "a in said city) which improvement was triend of your sister's." The tempta-tion to speak with a connecting link D., 1904, which improvement was pro-

plied to the County Court of Lake County for an assessment of the to benefits, and a supplemental spe made and returned to said court, the final hearing thereon will be had of It seemed from this that my sister, the 11th day of July, A. D., 1914, or as soon thereafter as the business of

> All persons desiring may file object tions in said court before said day and may appear on the hearing and

Dated at Highland Park, Illinois June 25th, A. D., 1914.

Spec al Assessment Notice No. 58 Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that the city council of the City of Highwood, County of Lake and State of Illinois, have ordered that a cast iron lateral main water supply pipe, four (4) inches internal diameter be constructed and laid in, under and along portions of Central Ave. from and connecting with the present water main now laid in High a ood Ave. and from thence southerly on the westerly side of Central Ave. for a total distance of three hundred and twenty-five (325) feat together with one fire hydrant, all in the City of Highwood, County of Lake and State of Illinois, The ordinance for the same being on file in the office of the city clerk of said city and having applied to the county court of Lake County for an assessment for the cost of said improvement according to benefits and an assessment roll having the final hearing thereon will be had on the 6th day of July, A. D. 1914 or as soon then as man and wife. For many thereafter as the business of the court

in the heart of South America. When . Said assessment is payable in three installments with interest at the rate of five (5%) per centum on all installments from and after date of issue of first voucher. All persons desiring may file objections in said court before said day and may appear on the hearing and ma'se their defense

FARNHAM A. HUDSON Percon appointed to make said assess ment. Dated at Highwood, Illinois, June 18, A. D., 1914.

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