

THE MASTER KEY CHAPTER VII

Wilkerson Business... He agreed with me that we have absolutely lost the vein and that if 'The Master Key' is to pay anything more we must find it again.



"Look here, Wilkerson, maybe both of us have made a mistake."

the present mine, painstakingly in figuring out the trend of the various veins, would lead to that particular spot of gold which had been at the end of Gallon's youthful rainbow of hopes.

Wilkerson Business... He agreed with me that we have absolutely lost the vein and that if 'The Master Key' is to pay anything more we must find it again.

He hunched; then his face grew grave. "The mine is not paying," he said briefly. "But can't we make it pay? What is the matter?"

She swung around to John and asked "How can I get \$10,000?" Dorr hesitated. His plan was risky in view of Wilkerson's attitude, but after all, the money must be raised.

To be filled with sunshine... "All right, we'll ride," he said. "While you are getting ready I'll write a letter to George Everett."

He would have added more. His inner instinct told him that Ruth should be the first to put the whole scheme before the cool-headed, rather cold-hearted George Everett.

The operator repeated the message and involuntarily adopted a little of John's savage intonation on the last four words. It woke him up to the fact that he was allowing his feelings to become public.

For years Wilkerson had built up for himself a golden image in Jean Dornell. No one realized better than himself that she was a creature of appetite, a lover of silk and velvet.

CHAPTER VIII Jean Dornell's Ruse

"This must be Miss Gallon," said a pleasant voice. Ruth looked up to see a woman of florid beauty and dressed in somewhat extravagant style.

"John never spoke of you," said Ruth simply. "I did not have the faintest notion that I was to meet any of his friends. Do you live in New York?"

It was typical of the woman to whom she was talking that she did not interrupt this naive narrative. She sat in silent silence, occasionally allowing her great eyes to rest on Ruth's fair face with an assumption of affection.

"I have never been to the opera," Ruth responded. "I should love to go but when I do go I must go all alone."

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