

The WOMAN with TWO SMILES

or Maurice Leblanc CREATOR OF Arsene Lupin



He leaned towards Clara and went on.

CHAPTER 25

VALTHEX was striving to regain his self-possession. He clenched his fists and knit his brows. Raoul's banter annoyed him almost beyond endurance, seeing which, Raoul continued:

"Come on, old chap, brace up! I've told you you're safe for the moment anyway. The guillotine must wait a bit—time enough for you to get used to the idea. Today we'll only have a little ceremony consisting of binding your arms and legs, very gently. Then I'll telephone to the police and nice kind Gorgeret will come and fetch the luggage. All quite simple, eh?"

Valthex's rage knew no bounds. The obvious understanding between Raoul and Clara roused him to fury. Clara no longer looked frightened; she even dared to join Raoul in smiling mockingly at Big Paul.

The double taunting galvanized Valthex. It was his turn to attack, and to attack with the coolness and precision of a man who knows he has dangerous weapons at his command and is bent on making use of them.

He sat down in the armchair and punctuated his words with stamping on the floor:

"So that's your little game? You mean to hand me over to the law? You tried on me once before in a bar in Montmartre, and then at the Blue Casino. And now you want to make the most of our chance meeting today. Good. But somehow I don't think you'll succeed. And she must know, too."

He turned to Clara, who sat motionless on the divan, looking more composed but still tense and ill at ease.

"Go ahead, big boy," Raoul told him. "Tell us the bedtime story."

"A bedtime story for you, perhaps," rejoined Valthex, "but a regular good-night for her I'm thinking. Just look at her now, see how she's staring at me!"

She knows I never joke, I don't waste time speechifying. Short and to the point that's me."

He leaned towards Clara and staring her in the face, went on:

"You know what relation the marquis is to you?"

"The marquis?" she faltered.

"Yes, you told me once that he'd known your mother."

"Yes, he knew her."

"I guessed that you had an idea of the truth, but not actual proof."

"Proof of what?"

"Don't hedge! It was just that proof you were looking for the night you came to his flat here. In that secret drawer in his desk, which I had already searched you found a photo of your mother with an inscription that showed you must be his daughter!"

Clara did not protest. She was waiting to hear what he would say. He continued:

"But that's only of secondary interest. I've only mentioned it to establish that Jean d'Erlemon is your father. I don't know how you feel towards him, but it's a fact you'll have to reckon with. Now . . ."

Valthex became graver still in voice and manner.

"Now do you know the exact part played by your father in the tragedy at Volnic chateau? You've heard about the tragedy, of course, if only through Raoul here (Valthex's voice was full of hatred) and you know that a singer called Elisabeth Hornain who was my aunt was murdered and robbed of her jewels. . . . Now, can you guess what hand your father had in that tragedy?"

Raoul shrugged his shoulders contemptuously.

"What a ridiculous question! The only part the marquis had in it was that of an invited guest. He happen-

ed to be at the chateau at the time, that's all."

"That's the police version, but it's not the truth."

"And the truth according to you is—"

"That Elisabeth Hornain was murdered and robbed by the marquis."

Valthex thumped with his fist on the arms of the chair, and rose to his feet. Raoul laughed derisively.

"You're too, too amusing, my good Valthex! Quite a humorist, I declare!"

But Clara protested indignantly:

"It's a lie, I tell you, a lie!"

Valthex repeated his accusation with even greater violence. Then, once again, with great self-restraint, he sat down and went on.

"I was 20 at the time, and knew nothing of the association between my aunt and the marquis. It was not until 10 years later that I discovered it through reading some family letters. I could not help wondering why the marquis had never mentioned it at the inquest. So I started investigating on my own account, and climbed the chateau walls, and who do you think I found one morning walking with the caretaker and searching the ruins, but the Marquis Jean d'Erlemon! Jean d'Erlemon, the secret owner of the chateau! From that time I went on searching everywhere. I read all the papers of the time of the tragedy, local and Paris papers. I came back again to Volnic, ferreting everywhere, questioning the villagers, spying on the marquis, getting into the place where he was away, searching his drawers, opening his letters, and always dominated by the conviction that the marquis must have had some very serious reason for concealing so all-important a clue."

"And did you discover anything fresh Paul Pry? You're such a bright lad, you know!"

"I discovered many things," retaliated Valthex calmly, "and, better still, I was able to link them up with other details all tending to show the real motive of Jean d'Erlemon's strange conduct."

"Tell us!"

"It was Jean d'Erlemon who got Madame de Juvelle to invite Elisabeth Hornain. It was he who persuaded my aunt to sing in the ruins, who pointed out where she could sing with the best effect. And again who led her to the spot through the garden and up the steps."

"In full view of all the other guests?"

"No, not all the time. Between the moment when he turned the corner of the first platform and that of Elisabeth's appearance alone at the end of the alley of shrubs concealing them both, there elapsed an interval of a minute, much longer than is necessary to traverse the little alley. What happened in that space of time? It is quite easy to guess if one admits the theory based, moreover, on the evidence of many of the servants who were questioned, that when Elisabeth Hornain appeared alone in the ruins, she was not wearing her jewels."

Raoul again shrugged his shoulders incredulously.

"So he'd robbed her without her even protesting?"

"No, she entrusted the jewels to him feeling they were not in keeping with the song she intended singing, which was perfectly in keeping with Elisabeth Hornain's feeling for her art."

"And then, having returned to the chateau, the marquis murdered her so as not to have to give back her jewels! He murdered her from a distance of a supernatural arts!" scoffed Raoul.

"No, he had her murdered."

Raoul could no longer hide his impatience.

"But no one in his senses would kill

the woman he loved to steal perfectly worthless jewels, false rubies and emeralds."

"True enough. But if those jewels were real and worth millions, it might alter the case!"

"What do you mean? Elisabeth herself used to tell everyone they were false!"

"She had to."

"Why?"

"She was married . . . and the jewels had been given her by a certain wealthy American. To keep it from my uncle and also to avoid causing jealousy among her colleagues on the stage, Elisabeth kept the secret. I've found written proofs of the whole thing, and proofs of the value and marvellous beauty of those precious stones."

(TO BE CONTINUED)



Boy Scouts in Timmins

A beginning has been made during the week to give Timmins six troops of Scouts instead of the originally planned five. Mattagami school boys who are interested in all the varied activities that Scouting covers are to have the opportunity of getting together themselves. A dozen lads have already decided to join and have begun work. Meetings are to be held in the school each Friday evening.

Membership of the First Timmins troop is still increasing, and another three boys are nearly ready for investiture. Before becoming a Tenderfoot Scout, a boy must give his leader proof that he knows the Scout law, a few simple knots, the Scout salute and signs used in the bush to indicate trail. When these are learned, the boy is invested as a Scout in a simple but impressive ceremony.

Scouts Jack Webb and Earl Abraham were invested at the Second Timmins troop meeting last week. The troop leader and the troop scribe took charge of part of the meeting and when a considerable amount of work was done in second class test first aid. This test requires that a Scout know how to render first aid in the case of minor cuts, how to counteract poisons inadvertently taken, and how to apply proper bandages.

Eight boys of the Third Timmins troop passed parts of their Tenderfoot tests on Friday evening and should soon be ready to be full fledged Scouts. During the Lenten season, Third troop meetings are being held in the Holy Family school on Vimy road instead of in the basement of the Church of the Nativity.

Leaders' training classes ended last week with a model Scout meeting. The average attendance throughout the series was about 19, so that there are now a good number of young men in the district who have had their knowledge of Scout work greatly refreshed and brought up to date. Organization of the Fourth and Fifth Timmins troops should go ahead quickly now. A review of any of the lectures missed by those attending the classes may be promptly arranged by dropping a card to the instructor, Box 1056, Timmins.

Scouting is an international boy's organization that has grown rapidly in recent years. The news of the world periodically records some outstanding action on the part of Scouts as individuals or bodies. Recently the Sea Scouts of Lyminster, England, became volunteer firemen. They keep the crowds back, do salvage work and help run hose. In Regina a troop stages an annual oratory contest. In Glasgow, Scotland, they help to supervise public skating rinks, giving the smaller children a specified time of their own on the ice. On and on the last of Scout activities goes, every day bringing some new idea for the public benefit that has been conceived by or has received the hearty support of Boy Scouts.

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(TO BE CONTINUED)

Important New Ore in Deep Levels at Dome

Annual Report Shows Very Satisfactory Year for 1934. Company Earns \$3.94 per Share. Net Liquid Assets Show Good Increase.

The annual report of the Dome Mines, current assets of \$7,391,785, made up of cash, \$2,115,736; bullion settlements outstanding, \$282,710; accounts receivable, \$6,256; interest receivable \$94,105; Government, railway and other bonds at market value, \$4,462,554; shares in East Geduld Mines at cost \$430,423 (current market value \$1,481,681). Current liabilities include accounts payable \$73,125; salaries and wages payable \$60,039; income and other taxes accrued, \$373,641.

Fish and Game Club To Restock Waters

Nearly 200,000 Trout and Pickerel Fry to be placed in District Waters This Year.

Nearly 200,000 speckled trout and pickerel fry will be placed in Porcupine district waters this year by the Porcupine Fish and Game Protective Association, J. D. Brady, secretary-treasurer announced late this week.

Application made to the Biological and Culture bureau of the Department of Game and Fisheries was approved by John Rowlandson, M.L.A., and orders granted for the placing of speckled trout in McIntyre Lake, Down Creek, Crafts Creek, Grassy River, Water Hen Creek, Shaw's Creek, Reamsbottom Creek, Mattagami River, Fulham Creek and Red Sucker Creek. Pickerel will be placed in Barber's Bay and Big Water.

Requisitions are now in the hands of various Ontario fish hatchery superintendents to reserve a definite number of fry for the Porcupine. The date of shipment cannot be set yet, as the temperature of the water in which the eggs are hatched is an important factor and sometimes delaying hatching for weeks. When of a proper size the fish are placed in large cans and shipped from Southern Ontario to the various parts of the province that require them.

The stocking of Porcupine district waters has been one of the objectives of the Porcupine Fish and Game Protective Association for many years and the success with which the fry have been placed indicates that great deal has been accomplished in the way of increasing the sportsman's attractions of the District of Trade in 1933.

The tonnage milled, the stopes yielded 498,000 tons averaging 7.8 dwt. per ton, and development work yielded 49,600 tons averaging 5.6 dwt. per ton; a total of 547,600 tons averaging 7.55 dwt. per ton.

Operating costs for the year were \$3,877 per ton milled, as against \$3,729 in the year 1933. The increase is due to increase in broken ore reserves and underground conditions.

"Approximately 19,500 feet of drifting, crosscutting, raising, winzing, and boxholing and 34,000 feet of diamond drilling has been done in the course of searching for and opening up the various ore bodies," states H. P. DePencier general manager.

"Above the 6th level approximately

1,900 feet of development was done mostly in connection with ore mined in the open pit area. This area yielded about 100,000 tons. From the 6th to the 18th level about 7,600 feet of development was done, mostly in connection with known ore bodies or extensions of same.

"In further development of the ore zone on and below the 23rd level, 2,968 feet of drifting, cross-cutting, raising and sinking has been done, also 9,829 feet of diamond drilling. The winze has been sunk 386 feet and 1,384 feet of drifting and crosscutting done on the 26th level and 1,388 feet on the 27th level, in partial development of these areas.

"While no large mass of ore similar to that found on the 24th level has been disclosed by this work, the downward continuation of the vein structure in drift 2504 described in last year's report has been located and drilled on for 560 feet on the 26th level and 60 feet on the 27th level. The 26th and 27th levels have been connected by raising showing the ore to be continuous between these levels. From the appearance of the vein and its geological location it can safely be assumed that the vein is continuous to some point above the 25th level.

"The presence of much visible gold in this vein makes it impossible to state definitely the grade of ore to be won but it will undoubtedly be high—possibly about 15 dwt.

"The work done to date indicates the possibility of securing upwards of 350,000 tons of good grade ore from the zone from the 23rd to 27th levels.

"Development of a second entry to these levels is now under way. The work started will give needed ventilation to these lower levels and will permit of actual mining being done should further development not indicate the presence of ore bodies which would necessitate larger scale operations.

"Early in the year an option was taken on 21 claims in Bourlameau Township, Quebec, now held by Sigma Mines. A small shaft has been sunk to 264 feet and levels established at 100 and 225 feet. The shaft was put down on the vein to the first level and disclosed an average grade of 9.51 dwt. over width of 7.4 feet for the incline depth of 124 feet. Underground work done has only opened a portion of the zones indicated by diamond drilling.