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PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

WHAT HAPPENED AT

the Montalban family nearly ninety pounds," said Severn quetly.

smash (unmarried).

RALPH: (married) CHARLES, 21 (unmarried).

companion to the veteran Sir John.

CHAPTER XVI ROBERT LIFTS THE VEIL

Robert slipped a hand under his pil-

better than I've written it."

I remember my eyes weren't working thoughts. Few people have ever un- "The rest," said Severn, "even very well. I don't remember any sort derstood each other as she and I did. of sight at first. ghastly fashion though I couldn't see and smiled. her. There was no one just looking "With my own eyes," said Severn they? I was taken for granted. As I

after the girl, or she wouldn't have "I saw you come out of the trees on said, a dangerous practice. But at any been allowed to come close and take a the far side of the lake, perhaps five rate Mailia is dead. And gone. Nolong look at me, as she was doing. I minutes after she screamed." can't imagine I looked very nice. But "All the same-I am not mad, my comparison with that." He lay relaxed close above mine, staring at me. "I wish I could tell you about that her.

look. And about the face, too. Lawterrible synthetic innocence of hers them blankly. which made you wonder sometimes if she wasn't a saint after all. She had since yesterday. But please go on." the same beauty, but the way she looked was different. She wasn't sorry for room on the second floor. The time tected.' me-not in the least. She was deeply was round about one o'clock in the interested and in a pleasurable way morning. I had been reading, and I fascinated, but that was all. As if she didn't-I don't now-know the exact sorbed in studying the reactions of tive moment, after all, the moment that have made myself a better case." ordinary people when she stuck knives mattered. There was a knock on my into them.

ber it when I forgot so much that was | "Do you begin to see?" up at Molly. He smiled, more bitterly there that she fell." than she had ever seen him. "Do you |

she came again it was not with any interest in me. She came as Charles' fiancee. I never tried to see her in the morning.. So much can be taken for When they entered the ground of place where my father had sent her. I never felt any desire to see her. She was just something that happened to me once-not good to remember or think about."

but he continued to smile; and after a minute he took up the tale again.

"When she came here with Charles I knew he at once. I knew why she had Nor are you, Lawrence. Nor is my Molly was silent, but her hand come. I knew what she had come for I always knew she was rotten. . That was one thing I found out just by gazing into her eyes. But there aren't many perceptive moments like that in the world. I knew she had come to have her revenge on us. On Charles. There never was a moment when she loved Charles, or even cared for him in the careless way a woman like that might be expected to care. There never was a moment when she relaxed her purpose to marry him, to hold him at Montalban, to come to Montalban herself-so that she could enjoy every day the spectacle of our frustration and

humiliation. "She was clever. It took her no time at all to see that Charles was the embodied hope of every one of us. She was very clever. At first I think she meant only to tease money out of us keep us on tenterhooks, and finally humiliate Charles by leaving him flat. could not permit her to have Charles. But on her first visit here she changed Not for Ralph's sake not even for my her mind. She saw how much better

it would be if she married him. "On that first occasion my father | "She began to talk about us. I don't offered her money, and she indignantly know what fancy took her to remem-

of a price for him.

there. Charles is innocent. And the troubled her then; I believe she would second time she came she took money, have like to draw me after her, all the tery still." Severn's eyes dwelt specu-Story without pretence at all, shamelessly, more because she knew most certainly latively upon the detective. "What do From Schumacher MOLLY BALSON: A young London From my father, as I knew. From my that the time was past. I got up from you propose to do now?" nurse, specializing in the care of child- grandfather, as I thought--- He my chair and went to her. She was "Between you and me, Mr. Severn, turned his head and looked at Severn not afraid of me or of anyone. But there's nothing left to be done. Theory SIR JOHN MONTALBAN: Head of "Yes, Sir John paid her five hundred you must know that.

for twenty years. He has three sons: her. Each of them, of course, believed the window, and told her to look how pened at Montalban." things in their time but they cannot I lifted her in one arm, and covered will. conceive of breaking their word-nor her mouth with my free hand, and and two unmarried daughters ELSIE that the word pledged to them can be threw her down." LAWRENCE SEVERN: Secretary- feline, to trouble both. But I, though head. Montalban as any of them, had the Severn.

through an through. low, and drew out a thin folded sheaf course. Now we come to the real crux own mind thought out this murder son which has very little to do with of papers. He smoothed it between his of the matter. Some very unhappy long before. At least I knew what to fingers thoughtfully, and held it out to things happened during that visit. do.. She was no sooner gone from dear, no one but you and I and one "That's it. The whole story. I want was Ralph, for he loved his wife and on to the window sill and dived after happen at Montalban." you to keep it by you. If I live, it won't was yet fascinated by Mailia. So was her. It was a thing I had never atbe necessary. When I come out of here Charles, for he began to see things tempted before; but the air was my you can burn the thing, and welcome. he had refused to see before. And yet friend, and the water, too, and I had You won't need it then. I can tell it I am quite sure she could have held confidence in myself in those two elehim. You may well wonder about ments. Besides, I had nothing to lose Fill Out Department Forms Severn accepted the papers dubious- Charles unless you knew Mailia. Dead but half a life. I dived after and over she could be very soon forgotten, but her, and into the lake. I swam across "I'll tell you all about it," said Ro- alive she was a force which could ex- the width of the lake under water, and land Lake council that there were 1,000 bert simply. "It cost me awful pains clude everything else from your mind. out among the trees by the outlet. to write it, but it will be quite easy to | "Little things happened in her train. | When I emerged there were already tell you. It begins the day my father Charles fell out with Lawrence here several other people round her on the and I drove into Sacchetti's car on a and with Ralph.. Nothing ever went terrace. You were there, Lawrence. The C.I.O. representatives claimed that right where she set her feet. And I You saw me come out of the trees by He dropped his head back upon the was set apart. It was odd that, She the path. But no one thought to look

pillow, and his eyes went to the pale never tried to draw me. I think she for a head in the lake, no one noticed shining space of sky outside the open knew it was useless .. With Lawrence— a slight splash—I flatter myself it was window. His voice sank and slowed a be easy, my dear-she failed utterly. very slight-on the heels of the scream. little, as if a part of his mind had left With me, it was different. She had It was not so difficult. The terrace, them and gone back through the years drawn me once, and the time was past; as you know is narrow and the height to the summer day of which he spoke. I that was a thing which could not be of my window not nearly so high as the "Never saw the car at all until after- repeated. She knew I knew her. She trick dives at well equipped swimming wards.. It simply leaped out at us. liked to see how I hated her. She loved pools. It was not so terrible a feat, at But I didn't entirely lose consciousness to see me reacting to every subtlety of least for me. I trust air and water, I heard things as they dragged me out. her speech, of her bearing, even of her only the land is my enemy."

"On the night of her death, at the "When I did begin to see again I saw time of her death, I was in my room lake to reach you by the quickest way Mailia. My father was busy with the on the second floor." He looked up, and account for my wetness. No one woman, who was screaming in a and met Severn's startled glance full, ever thought to wonder how long my

there was her face, just a moment, dear Lawrence. Miss Balcon, I thinks in his pillows and smiled at them in a understands a great deal-before I tell slightly dazed, slightly weary fashion.

Severn looked at Molly. She was really happened at Montalban!"

door and Mailia's voice asked softly if | Severn. "But I don't know what else there she could come in." He caught the

was close and curious, and in a strange floor at all-but the window imme- you wouldn't mindway intimate.. And I think perhaps diately above it on the second floor- "We were just going," said Molly.

window-because the window was open very few days." "It was only for that moment. When __so was mine, so was every window in the house on that glorious night!- Goodbye Molly. and because the hour was one in the granted-and so fatally-"

said Molly suddenly and fiercely. "I'm gether. Instinctively they linked arms. thinking of Ralph.'

He paused, and for a moment was on, perhaps, when you're not so near the gardens. Severn said suddenly and silent. His eyes were distant and sad, to the case. Believe me I held Rolph peacefully: clear every moment. . I could have "I know now. All this way I've been saved him whenever it became neces- wondering but how I-know. He was sary. Ralph was never in any danger. justified.'

father." Molly put her hand upon his, and at her sombre face. found it cold. "I do believe you. Don't you agree?" Please! I shouldn't have spoken."

"You are always justified. I've found Thank God! I'm not his judge-only a filmy creature like a wraith, but her have a way of putting things. Still I

face was a hunting's cat's face. She know where I stand. If I had been in was laughing, very softly. She came his place, I should have killed her. in and closed the door, and passed me Montalban is a dying thing, but at closely and went to the window. "She told me that Ralph had begged

her for his sake, for Barbara's sake, for every decent thing left in our tired old house, to go away and leave Montalban in peace. He was abject, she said: I believe her. Nothing less could was not in their thoughts, nor any poshave made her so happy.

"She told me that she was going to stay in spite of everything, to marry been the most unexpected person they Charles and damn him. It was then that I killed. Not simply because I alban. own. I think it was just that she was too bad to live.

refused it. She swore that she loved ber that moment seven years ago; but | "There's news at last. I think you Charles, and was insulted by the offer it came into her mind then, and she may take it, sir, that you'll hear no A Frenchman is reported to have told spoke of it. She said that until she more about the French end of this an Italian statesman colleague: "Well he had some hope that Charles was sent to the Seward Institute be- business; and between you and me that 'France is more fortunate than Italy,' would grow out of her on his own ac- cause of what had happened to me, she rather knocks the bottom out of any- "Why?" inquired the Italian. count. But there was no time. And had cherished a feeling that she loved thing that could be built up against "Well, because we have an unoccu-Charles is gullible. No, the wrong word or could have loved me. The thought you here. You've been straight with pied zone,"-Blairmore Enterprise,

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advantage—I knew Mailia, knew her "For me there is." He closed his age.

"She came back. You know that, of | "I don't know if I'd somehow in my

"Yes -- that plunge through the clothes had been wet. Why should thing seems to matter very much by "So that." said Severn, "is what

rence, you've seen her, of course ... but sitting with her hands tightly clenched "As it is written in that account you she was younger then. She hadn't that in her lap, and her eyes fixed upon have in your hand. If I should come to claim it again from you, Lawrence, "Yes," she said. "I know-I've known I promise I'll do for you what the statement would have done. "If not-"I was in my room then-my bed- at least you and anyone else are pro-

"You can trust me," said Severn. "I do absolutely. For everything else -for Molly's anxieties of mind on your wanted to analyse every shade of the time, but at most this was from five to account most of all-I'm sorry." He emotions of pain. Maybe she did. She 10 minutes before she screamed. Let's sighed. "I think I hear the nurse comwas always almost scientifically ab- time it from that. That was the mo- ing to turn you out, I wish I could "You don't need one any better," said

The nurse was in the room, her face was in that look to make me remem- sharp gasp of Severn's indrawn breath. still disapproving, her voice still stern. "I'm sorry, but I can't allow any better worth keeping. She was very "Yes," said Severn "Yes I begin to more talking. Mr. Montalban has to beautiful and sixteen, and her face see. Not her own window on the first prepare for his operation at once. If

I almost loved her a little." He looked the window of your room.. It was from | She rose, hesitated for a moment, and then advanced to the bedside, and took "It was from there that she was Roberts hand for an instant in her thrown. Let's be strictly truthful. Yet own. It was light and cool and limp. "Yes, I think I do see how you could __it was so obvious, wasn't it, to be- "Goodbye Robert. I hope we shall be -rest your mind on her-just for that lieve that she had fallen from her own able to come and see you again in a "I hope so. More now than ever.

Montalban by the narrow gate in the "So very nearly fatally in this case," wall, Severn and Molly drew closer to-At the first sight of the house, distant "Can you forgive me for that? Later still beyond trees and the spread of

trembled on his arm. He looked down "I don't know. It doesn't matter.

his friend," said Molly. "Mailia came in. She was in white, "Only his friend! Thank you. You

> least its end will be decent now." They were drawing near the bridge which led across the oulet of the lake, only a single grove of trees separating them from it, when they walked almost into the arms of Sergeant Walden. He sible news he might bring and they started at the sight of him, as if he had could have met in the grounds of Mont-

> "Sorry if I startled you, Miss," said Sergeant Walden. "You too, Mr. Severn. I've just been up to the house to enquire after you.

"Have you some news for me?"

"Not exactly sir. But Raoul Cour- ing 75, or 67 per cent were Canadianvoisier was arrested in Nancy for an- born, and 37, or 33 per cent were other similar swindle with a different European in origin. Ninety-four were partner. Last week it happened. He's sible mistake.

laughed. "Obliging of him. I should like to tell him that I think his timing superb. Do you mean to tell me that I've had all this heart-burning for nothing, after all?"

"I'm sorry, sir," said Sergeant Walden, still contriving to register no profound degree of sorrow. "We have our duty to do."

"So the Montalban mystery is a mys-

yes, and suspicion in plenty, but it's "I went to her, not saying a word, my belief there'll never be anything "I was sure of it, but I asked no ques- and I took her by the arms, and looked | more heard of this case. It's too much ROBERT MONTALBAN: His son, tions. Neither of them, I think, knew at her. She smiled at me, and herself of a private affair. I don't think anywho has been master of the family seat of the deal the other had made with leaned into my arm. I turned her to body ever will know just what hap-

broken. It's one of our blind spots. He stopped breathing long and and departed silently by another path, but anyone totalling the items would BARBARA MONTALBAN: Wife of They couldn't understand a creature painfully between his teeth, the mem- Molly and Severn went on slowly to- not get any such number. At least one like Mailia, who promised to leave ory of that night more distressful to wards the house, their arms warmly reader did total the items and phoned MAILIA DAUNT: Met her death at house and family alone, and in month him now than ever she really had been. linked, the sun brilliant over them and The Advance to say there were only 167 Montalban in mysterious circumstances was back again, smiling and sleek and A faint sweat broke out on his fore- over the lake and the white stately articles in the list. Through an inadhouse. They walked with their eyes vertance some of the tems were omit-I'm probably as blindly and pig-headly "There's no need to go on," said fixed upon the high facade of it, so ted from the list in the paper. Here gracious and so remote from the new

reason, I'm sure of that. No one, my 427. Barbara was desperately unhappy. So between my hands than I stepped out other-will ever know what really did (The End)

Only 112 at Kirkland Lake

Complaint being made to the Kirkminers out of work and in need, it was decided to get particulars with a view to doing something about the situation. the mines were discriminating against these men and asked council to bring pressure on the mines to force the latter to re-employ the 1,000 men concerned. With a view of getting the facts of the case. Kirkland council decided to have the township welfare department, with the co-operation of

the union officials, gather the necessary Death of Olive Nadine They moved at a slow stroll towards particulars. Forms were prepared for the bridge, and halted upon it. "A the men to sign, but despite the best matter of policy with me," Severn efforts of the welfare department, only assured him grimly. "What happened 112 men could be prevailed upon to in Paris, then? Did my pension staff | sign the forms, though 500 of the questionaires were sent out. Of those signmarried, 17 single with no dependents, and 1 single with dependents. Councillor Ames was sure there were many more than 112 unemployed miners, and friends. that they, perhaps, were not ready to sign the questionaire because they thought it meant they were applying for relief.

Additional Items **Red Cross Shipment**

Some of the Items Omitted from List in Last Week's Advance.

In the Advance last week there was ROBERT, Junior, crippled in a road he had saved the house from disaster. beautiful the night was, and she began "No," said Severn, slowly, fervently. a list of the articles in the February The Montalabans have done most bad to say that it was very beautiful. Then "no I really don't think they ever shipment of the Schumacher Branch of the Red Cross. The report in last Sergeant Walden tipped his hat over week's Advance said that the articles his eyes in his old, approved manner, comprised 427 items. This was correct are two additional groups of articles, the first having 151 articles and the 1 other 109. These with the 167 published last week make a grand total of

Navy Knitted Goods

11 pairs 27"Seamen's Stockings 9 pairs long Seaboot Stockings 46 pairs Seamen's Socks. 26 pairs Leather Faced Mittens

5 Turtle neck Sweaters 16 pairs of Mitts 13 Aero Caps

16 Turtle neck Tuck-ins 1 Sleeveless Sweater 1 Quebec Helmet Army & Air Force

8 Turtle neck Sweaters 30 pairs socks

7 72" Scarves

6 Body Belts 14 Turtle neck Tuck-ins

34 Steel Helmet Caps 4 46"Scarves

4 pairs Rifle Mitts 4 pairs Mitts 2 pairs Gloves.

3 Balaclava Helmets

Hamilton at Duparquet

(From Rouyn-Noranda Press) Mrs. J. E. Hamilton, Duparquet, on and Mr. and Mrs. Aello. Thursday last following a lengthy illness. She was aged seven years and eleven months. A bright and promising child of happy disposition, she will

A funeral service was held at Darby's funeral parlours here, conducted by Rev. W. B. Williston and Rev. F. R. Hughes, following which the remains was bereaved recently by the death of were taken to Burk's Falls for burial, her sister, Mrs. John Rodden, who died The service there was held at the home at her home in Ruby, Renfrew County, of her aunt, Mrs. Harry Hewitt, and at the age of seventy-seven. The late was conducted by Rev. C. Fox of that Mrs. Rodden was widely known for her

ers. They were Ellsworth Hamilton, of neighbour. Timmins; Vernon Hamilton, South

lips, Burk's Falls. Foral tributes were received from the Third Battalion, R C.E., Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Gigot, Nancy Tuttle, Mr. and Mrs. Stone and family, M.r and Mrs. Harry Phillips, Mr. Olive Nadine Hamilton passed away and Mrs. K. Little, the heistmen at at the home of her parents, Mr. and Beattie mine, Mr. and Mrs. Peacock

The little girl is survived by her parents and a little sister, Margaret.

be sadly missed by relatives and Mrs. John Rodden, Passes Away at Ruby, Ontario

Mrs. Thomas Hedican, of Timmins, devotion to her family and to her Four of her uncles acted as pallbear- church and as a kind and charitable

Porcupine; Elmer Phillips, Lloyd Phil- Try The Advance Want Advertisements

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On the RETURN journey, tickets will be valid for travel on C.N.R. Train No. 1 from Montreal 8.20 p.m., Monday, April 13th, 1942 ************

BARGAIN COACH EXCURSION THURSDAY, APRIL 9th, 1942

Points in the Maritimes via North Bay and Canadian National Railways Tickets will be valid to Leave destination points Wednesday,

April 15th, 1942. Bargain Coach Excursion tickets not valid for travel on the "NORTHLAND" Trains 49 and 50.

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