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THE MAN FROM BRODNEY'S

Continued from page 3.

zor. He's supposed to tell us when to go home and all that sort of thing, you know."

Deppingham, phlegmatic soul, was forever disturbing Saunders with calls to duty, although Saunders was British enough in his British way to maintain—in confidence, of course—that he was in the employ of Lady Deppingham or no one at all.

First he confided in Britt soberly, sagely and in perfect good faith. Britt was bowled over. He stared at Saunders and gasped. Nearly two minutes elapsed before he could find words to reply, which proves conclusively that it must have been something of a shock to him.

The Englishman was stubborn. They had it back and forth, from legal and other points of view, and finally Britt gave in to his colleague, reserving the right to laugh when it was all over.

"Now, what's it all about, Saunders?" demanded Deppingham, with a wide yawn. Saunders looked hurt. "It is high time we were discussing some way out of our difficulties," he said.

"Get married?" murmured first one, then another.

"Are you crazy?" demanded Brownie. Britt was grinning broadly. "Certainly not!" snapped Saunders.

"I don't mean anything of the sort, my lord," said Saunders, getting very red in the face.

"Good Lord!" gasped Bobby Brownie. "You are crazy, after all."

"Open the window and give some air," said Britt coolly.

"See here, Saunders, what the devil is the matter with you?" roared Deppingham.

"My lord, I am here to act as your legal adviser," said Saunders, with dignity. "May I be permitted to proceed?"

"Rather queer legal advice, 'pon my word."

"Please let him explain," put in Mrs. Brownie, whose sense of humor was strongly attracted by this time.

"Yes, Mr. Saunders, you may proceed," said Lady Agnes, passing a hand over her bewildered eyes.

"Thank you, my lady. Well, here it is in a nutshell: I have not spoken of it before, but you and Mr. Brownie can very easily comply with the provisions of the will. You can be married at any time. Now, I—"

"And where do I come in?" demanded Deppingham sarcastically.

"Yes, and I?" added Mrs. Brownie. "For forget us, Mr. Saunders."

"I include Mrs. Brownie," amended Deppingham. "Are we to be assassinated? By Jove, clever idea of yours, Saunders! Simplifies matters tremendously."

"I hear no objection from the heirs," remarked Saunders meaningly, whereupon Lady Agnes and Bobby came out of their stupor and protested vigorously.

"Miss Pelham," said Britt, breaking in sharply, "I trust you are getting all of this down. I wish to warn you, ladies and gentlemen, that I expect to overthrow the will on the ground that there is insanity on both sides. You'll oblige me by uttering just what you feel."

"My plan is very simple," began Saunders helplessly. "Demmed simple," growled Deppingham.

"We are living on an island where polygamy is practiced and tolerated. Why can't we take advantage of the custom and beat the natives at their own game? That's the ticket!"

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more, after a few weeks, I'll say, and the case is won."

"I pay Lady Deppingham the compliment by saying that it would be most difficult for me to become a Christian again," said Brownie smoothly, bowing to the flushed Englishwoman.

"How very sweet of you!" she said, with a grimace which made Drusilla shiver with annoyance.

"You don't need to live together, of course," floundered Saunders, getting rather beyond his depth.

"Well, that's a concession on your part," said Mrs. Brownie, a flash in her eye.

"I never heard of such an asinine proposition," sputtered Deppingham. Saunders went completely under at that.

"On the other hand," he hastened to remark, "I'm sure it would be quite legal if you did live to—"

"Of course if you are going to be nasty about it!" began Saunders in a huff. "I can't see anything nasty about it," said Brownie.

"But, my lord," said Saunders, "doesn't the plan give Lady Deppingham two husbands? It's quite a fair division."

"It would make Lord Deppingham my husband-in-law, I imagine," said Drusilla quaintly. "I've always had a horror of husbands-in-law."

"And you would be my wife-in-law," supplemented Lady Agnes. "How interesting!"

"Saunders," said Deppingham soberly. "I must oppose your plan. It's quite unfair to two innocent and uninvolved parties. What have we done that we should be exempt from polygamy?"

"You are not exempt!" exclaimed the harassed solicitor. "You are merely not obliged to; that's all. You can do as you choose about it, I'm sure. I'm sorry my plan causes so much levity. It is meant for the good of our cause. The will doesn't say how many wives Mr. Brownie shall have. It simply says that Agnes Ruthven shall be his wife. He isn't restricted, you know. He can be a polygamist if he likes."

"You're right," said Britt. "The will doesn't specify. But, my dear Saunders, you are overlooking your own client in this plan."

"I don't quite understand, Mr. Britt."

"As I understand the laws on this island—the church laws, at least—a man can have as many wives as he likes. Well, that's all very well for Mr. Brownie. But isn't it also a fact that a woman can have no more than one husband? Lady Deppingham has one husband. She can't take another without first getting rid of this one."

"Saunders," said Deppingham, arising and lighting a fresh cigarette, "you have gone clean out. You're loony with love. You've got marriage on the brain. I'd advise you to take some one for it!"

"Do you mean that for me, Lord Deppingham?" demanded Miss Pelham sharply. She glared at him and then slammed her notebook on the table. "You can josh Mr. Saunders, but you can't josh me. I'm sick of this job. Get somebody else to do your work after this, I'm through."

"Oh!" exclaimed every one, in a panic. It took nearly ten minutes to pacify the ruffled stenographer.

"Perhaps we could arrange for a divorce all round," cried Saunders, suddenly inspired.

plan? It's only a subterfuge"— "Heartily!" she exclaimed, with one of her rarest laughs. "The only objection that I can see to it is that it leaves out my husband and Mrs. Brownie. They are very nice people, Saunders, and you should be more considerate of them. Come, Mr. Brownie." She took the American's arm and gayly danced from the room. Lord Deppingham's eyes glowed with pride in his charming wife as he followed with the heartsick Drusilla.

"I would have won them over if Britt had not interfered," almost



Genevra gently waved her handkerchief.

walled little Mr. Saunders, his eyes glazed with mortification. "I'm getting to hate that man," said Miss Pelham loyally. "And the others! They give me a pain! Don't mind them, Tommy, dear."

Lady Deppingham and Brownie came upon the princess quite unexpectedly. She was in the upper gallery, leaning against the stone rail and gazing steadily through the fieldglasses in the direction of the bungalow. They held back and watched her, unseen. The soft light of early evening fell upon her figure as she stood erect, lithe and sinuous, in the open space between the ivy clad posts.

Genevra smiled secretly in her supposed aloofness from the world. Then, suddenly moved by a strange impulse, she gently waved her handkerchief as if in greeting to some one far off in the gloaming. The action was a mischievous one, no doubt, and it had its consequences—rather sudden and startling, if the observers were to judge by her subsequent movements.

She lowered the glass instantly. There was a quick catch in her breath, as if a laugh had been checked; confusion swept over her, and she drew back into the shadows as a guilty child might have done. They distinctly heard her murmur as she crossed the flags and disappeared through the French window without seeing them:

"Oh, dear, what a crazy thing to do!" Genevra, peering through the glasses, had discovered the figure of Chase on the bungalow porch. She was amused to find that he, from his distant post, was also regarding the chateau through a pair of glasses. A spirit of adventure, risk, mischief, as uncontrolled as breath itself, impelled her to flaunt her handkerchief. That treacherous spirit deserted her most shamelessly when her startled eyes saw that he was waving a response. She lay awake for a long time that night wondering what he would think of her for that wretched bit of frivolity. Then at last a new thought came to her relief, but it did not give her the peace of mind that she desired.

He may have mistaken her for Lady Deppingham.

(To be continued)

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