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ıme CHAPTER IX.

A Disappearance.

If Miss Carew had planned to overwhelm Capt. Tom Phinney with amazement at her disclosure, she must have been eminently well pleased with the result; in point of fact, she made no effort to conceal her amusement; but in a moment a change came over him that at first startled and next dismayed her, for something had happened that she had not foreseen and could not comprehend now.

First of all it occurred to him, that If this was Paige Carew, then nothing whatever had happened to her, because there was no mistaking the fact that she was a free agent; there could be, therefore, no clash of inter



"God! How ! Do Love You!"

true-she was allied with Max Willard glibly.

nitely removed, and the mystery be- to be on this yacht, anyhow?" dreamed of. It was not for him to told you?" he asked. meddle with.

It was an unspeakably bitter moment ruffled. for him; but by degrees he assumed a "Why, it was this way," he said to say that they staggered with it, so merry humor.

claimed. "What is it? What have I wanting a job, and he put me wise to tion with which it was being handled done?"

He smiled a bit wistfully.

"You? Nothing. All that has hap- strike a bargain." pened is that I've made a natural born do where women are concerned."

prehendingly.

knowing that you know it."

Gently she told him: "You are hurting me, Tom."

dropped her hand.

side myself. A fellow can't get used what was going on. fairy dream-from the second I first pockets, coolly surveyed the other.

been blindfolded all along until this much," replied Tom-"little more than moment; but I don't want to forget a i can myself. I am not in Willard's single detail of my dream. Now, I am confidence, but I have the best of rea-

She surprised him with an abrupt he's up to, it is strictly on the level." ery of impatience, emphasized with a "H'm-m-m," Cornelius mused, "that stamp of one foot. Her eyes were makes my position a bit difficult, snapping.

talk. You make me tired!"

have nothing more to say."

voice broke. "You are the stupidest, couldn't expect me to m ke an excepmost exasperating man I ever knew! tion of you, Flint or anybody else. On And I-I-don't know whether to my side, I shall say nothing to Willaugh or-or ery!" And doing both, ard about you." she darted suddenly from the room.

the doorway.

tain?" said the man. Tom was impatient of any interrup- dea what was in that box they tion just at this juncture. He favored prought aboard last night?" the intruder with a scowl and bluntly

asked him what he wanted. The man stepped inside and closed

one is allowed to go ashorer I don't particularly mind about that; but I came away rather hurriedly, and I would like to send a message to mymy people. Would there be any objection to that?"

The fellow's manner was furtive and clandestine, and Tom was a bit you've noticed?" puzzled. Before he could reply, the other drew a sealed envelope from his pocket and laid it on the table, and upon this he laid a ten-dollar bill.

"Whoever takes that letter ashore," said the man, "and finds a trustworthy messenger who will deliver it right away, can split the ten-spot with him; a flivver's not picked up for an hour's easy work every day, but it's worth something to keep one's folks from worrying."

Sweeping aside the bill, Tom mechanically picked up the envelope and glanced at it.

He did not start or betray by any sign that the address gave him a distinct shock of surprise; his susceptibilities were become calloused to any fresh sensations of this nature; but nevertheless he was amazed to see that the name upon the envelope was none other than Mr. Phineas Flint's. The street number-which Tom could not identify-was police headquarters. ests, or else-if the alternative were "My uncle," explained the man,

and against her cousin and-her be velope and upon top of it the bill; trothed! This was the flash of mem- then he leaned back and fixed the man with a look.

But in any event, doubt of the regu- "See here," he demanded with ab- of Cornelius and one of the other larity of Willard's enterprise was defi- rupt authority, "just how do you come

came fraught with a deeper and a The man's countenance expressed stevedores. weightier significance than he had astonishment. "Hasn't Mr. Willard

"It makes no difference what Mr. peared. But, Ruddy-how narrowly Tom had Willard has told me-I'm asking you." escaped treachery to their friendship! This abrupt manner left the man un- of Willard's retainers were carrying it.

certain dignity that was new to the sasily. "My uncle learned Thursday heavy had it grown, and so marked girl, and it promptly dampened her that Mr. Willard was in town, looking was the contrast between the ease and for a young man to take the place of indifference with which it had been "Captain Phinney-Tom!" she ex- somebody that had been hurt; I was brought aboard, and the extreme cault. Mr. Willard was in something of a now. hurry, and it didn't take us long to Willard's patent explosive flashed in-

damned fool of myself-as I usually it required but a second's reflection to trate some appalling disaster, and array the whole thing clear in Tom's that Paige and Jessie had been won She stared at him blankly, uncom- mind and at the same time definitely over to whatever extreme mistaken fix the man's status.

clared, "I do not understand. I cannot trail; the latter's urgent need to find right and high-minded? With an imsee why you should be so affected." a man to take Callis' place had in minent sense of the man's powerful in-He reached forward with a quick, some manner come to the detective's dividuality strong upon him, the idea, impulsive motion and caught one of pars, and he had been quick to take ad- hideous as it was, was not altogether vantage of it. Flint knew in a gen- impossible. and that I must give you up. I sup- post him; he was expected to com- tensified a hundredfold. pose it means nothing to you that I municate with Flint as soon as the With no clearly defined purpose in

body. God! How I do love you! I antagonize this man might mean the commodation-steps. have the satisfaction, anyhow, of upsetting of Willard's plans at the "You need more help there, don't very moment of their fulfillment; to you?" he demanded. ly locked with his throughout this im- resentative of the adverse interests on guddenly extended arm. passioned tirade, nor did it waver now. the premises, who could frustrate Wil- "No, no," he returned quickly, In a swift revulsion of feeling, he ive's role to wait and watch, and as and how to do it." John Callis' substitute he would be "Forgive me!" he begged. "I am be- given excellent opportunities to learn ing feeling of apprehension that he

8.10 to a thing like this all in a minute. "Sit down," said Tom presently. As ly into the launch, which was immedi-9.13 11.55 Ar. Saugeen J. " 7.55 4.35 But, believe me, Miss Carew, I'll never the man obeyed, he stood up and, bother you again. It's all been like a thrusting his hands into his jacket the current into the darkness before

heard your voice as I stood blindfold- "It happens," he went on, "that I ed before you; when you came to me know 'your uncle' pretty well myself." where I lay helpless in the dark, and The man gave him a quick, sharp yet could not see your face; when you glance, but said nothing. "I would adled me out into the night and left me, vise you not to attempt to send that still blindfolded; when we came face letter ashore. It's my opinion that you to face here—well it seems that I have can serve Flint's ends better by doing should remain so ignorant of them? fust what Willard has employed you to do, and by trying not to excite Wilthousand dollars, won't you?"

> sured him. "I have known for some him. time that Flint was looking for Willard-and more especially for John

"So Willard promised." returned the

Callis-" The detective sharply interjected: "He's on this yacht right now disabled. That's why you happen to be here; you were hired to take his place. who ordered a barrel of salts for cattle I'll see to it that he doesn't get away had, it seems, a barrel of salt-peter from you. Strikes me you have oppor- shipped to him instead, and not dis-

ate." The man no longer tried to dissem-

"I see that you have me spotted all right. Cornelius is my name. What's the game? Phineas had no time to

"He couldn't have told you se was affair.

sons for knowing that whatever it is

loesn't it?"

"Tom Phinney! Stop that sort of "Not particularly so. All you have to do is play fair. If anything crook-"Pardon me." He bowed politely. "I ad shows up you can count on my asristance. But the craers are strict "Well, I have." All at once her bout going and comt and you

Cornelius picked up both bill and Miss Carew had not been gone a letter, returning the first to his pocket minute before the stranger he had so and tearing the second into tiny bits. posted the previous day appeared in "Flint will be all up in the air over

not hearing from me," he remarked; "Can I have a word with you, cap- but if I can't, I can't. You have the lead-wood on me now. Have you any "Not the slightest," returned Tom.

"It looked a whole lot like a coffin." Tom filled and lighted his pipe, while Mr. Cornelius sat and watched "I have learned," said he, "that no sim intently. As the same idea had occurred to the first-named, he could not disparage it now. Cornelius broke the silence:

"Coffins, you know, are only used when there are dead people to put in them. Any cadavers around here that

"You're a nice cheerful chap, believe me," retorted Tom. "No, there are none. It can't be Callis, because he's getting well-saw him less than an hour ago."

"Just suppose," Cornelius went on meditatively, "that Willard is expecting somebody to die-at a given time,

"Hang it all!" Tom cut in. "You don't think the man is plotting deliberate murder, do you?" Cornelius did not say what he

thought. He sat considering. "Well," he said at last, rising, "I guess I'll have to take your word for it that everything is all right until I see different. But a coffin"-he shook his head dubiously-"it don't look good to me." Whereupon he took his depar-

Shortly after nightfall Tom saw Willard and the man Cornelius board the launch and go ashore, and he watched them with a quickened sense of antici-

"If that sleuth is worth a darn," he reflected, "now is his chance to get word to Flint."

He did not witness their return, but about an hour later he had a glimpse young men, garbed in soiled and worn overalls and jumpers, like a pair of

Somewhere around half-past nine, the coffin-shaped box once more ap-

But now, instead of two men, all four Indeed, it would scarcely be too much

to Tom's mind. After all, was it not This explanation was illuminating. possible that he was about to perpeprinciples he justified his conduct by,

"I suppose it means nothing to you eral way what Willard wanted, and Willard was himself superintending that I have learned to love you. I had hastily picked a Central office the box's conveyance with such anxsuppose it means nothing to you that man that would fill the requirements. ious regard and solicitude that Tom's you are the flances of my best friend. Manifestly there had been no time to misgivings swept over him again, in-

will keep right on loving you because quarry was located-hence the letter. mind, he involuntarily stepped up to I can't help myself, but must put on a Tom was guided to a speedy det he gangway, as they began to negogrin to hide it from him-from every- sision by several considerations. To tiate the difficult descent of the ac-

Her regard had remained steadfast- retain his good will would leave a rep- Willard barred his progress with a

lard if the latter's schemes really were These men have been carefully into interfere. It would be the detect- structed; they know just what to do

Nevertheless it was with a disquietwatched the long box lowered carefulately cast off and allowed to drift with the motor was started. None of the crew accompanied it on this trip, and as once before, it went down-stream instead of across to the landing.

What was the meaning of it all, anyhow? What strange operations were going on in his very presence that he He walked aft to the taffrail, upon which he leaned and stared into the lard's suspicions. You will earn a night at the point where the launch

had vanished, until roused by a touch upon his arm and the voice of Jessie Willard. She spoke with an agitation "You may depend on it," Tom as that had an electrifying effect upon

Continued next week.

A COSTLY MISTAKE

A Greenock township merchant tunities that old Flint would appreci- covering the mistake the merchant retailed it to his farmer patrons for the harmless salts, with the result that there is considerable destruction among the cattle in that section, no less than six head being reported killed to date. A quantity of the stuff has been sent away to be analyzed and an investigation is being made into the

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