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peace."

night."

drew near.

his friends?"

only a boy."

concerned."

of the game."

body."

ow, but his presence was most palpa-

ble and appealing.

"Peace between whom?"

door in the clear, yellow dusk.

"He is better, thank you."

"He was ready to talk."

your door in my face?"

"What do you mean?"

"How is the boy?" he asked as she

worried about him on my own account.

You see he was brought to me by one

"I hope you didn't ask him to betray

"You shouldn't have listened. He is

"It is no more than fair, lady, that

one member of your household should

be loyal to labor." His eyes burned

into hers as he bent toward her. "What

has changed you toward me?" he ask-

ed, with stern abruptness. "You give

me nothing but 'marble brows' these

days. What have I done that you shut

"What you do is of no consequence

advantage. "No woman can play with

amused with 'the wild man' for a time.

You played me against Rob for the fun

of it, and then pulled out with Pea-

agery in his voice, and, with her hand

on the latch of the door, answered

very slowly: "You interested me, I ad-

mit. You're very amusing at this mo-

ment, but you have no reason, no right.

"Is it you, Ann?" He stepped aside.

a word with you. The blood of this

the crazy ones, to come up against my

men on this hill with a lot of old soaks,

one lungers and ex-policemen dead on

their hoofs. But don't worry, there'll

be no battle—the clatter of a tin can

will scare 'em into bug house fits.

Now, Matt, let me finish what I came

to say. We've been good friends, and

I want to keep friends. You're a fair

man, but, let me tell you, the boys are

getting bitter against you independents

in this fight. You have no business to

Kelly lifted his big fist in a gesture

of menace. "Listen to me, Jack Mun-

ro. I've been a working miner all me

life, whilst you were at school; whilst

you were playin' hooky and stealin'

plums, and all the years you've been

runnin' a roulette wheel I was pickin'

at the rocks. If any man is fitted to

advise 'tis Matt Kelly and not a play

actor and celluloid bunko steerer like

y'rself. Go yer ways, Jack Munro, but

lave me and mine alone. This ends it,

Ye'll have no welcome from the Kel-

foot across me path I'll kill you for the

ing to me for help inside of twenty-

CHAPTER XXIV.

fering it was good to feel his familiar

self reaching out to her from his house

"How did you get here?" he asked.

"I'm pretty sick. I'm glad you came,

"He's sleeping. You must be quiet

"Sh, dearest," she pleaded. "Don't

"I don't want to sleep. I've slept

In the end the boy ceased to groan

and twist and at last slept, but Ann re-

fused to go to bed. Her anxiety and

enough. It makes my head ache

sis," and he put his hand feebly into

"I drove with Dr. Braide."

hers. "Where's Rob?"

now or you'll wake him."

talk now. Go to sleep."

"He's been good to me."

of pain.

OUIS came to himself just before

midnight and recognized Ann,

and though his breath was labor-

ed and his face lined with suf-

reckless, murderin' devil that ye are!"

stand out against the union."

Ann recoiled before a certain sav-

"Munro and Matt."

"Is Munro there?"

ation on her brow.

With that half superstitious confidence which even the most intelligent feel when the doctor is present, Raymond soon followed. He was tiredtired! His long ride to the valley and



"Louis, speak to me! Speak to sister!"

back, his lack of sleep, but especially his anxiety, had worn upon him so that now, when he could shift some part of his responsibility, his steel woven frame began to quiver and his brain to thicken. He sank into a chair and laxly looked at Ann.

"It is sweet to see you," he uttered slowly - "doubly sweet because of Louis. We've done our best, Nora and I. I was in agony for fear you would not come tonight. I didn't want to shirk responsibility or labor-but-I-I wanted you. It's been a long day for me."

Mrs. Kelly explained: "Rob is dyin' for lack o' sleep. That's the truth. He wouldn't leave the boy, and after rid- to say that I gave you the slightest ening all the day and the night before. couragement to-to take this attitude But come now, have some tea-both. toward me. It is the baldest presump-My mind is easier since the doctor tion on your part." came. Sure I know he will check the At this moment Kelly opened the door. fever, never fear that."

Raymond soon put down his cup and "Go in, girl, ye're supper's waitin'." rose. "Your drink has done me good. Ann slipped in, glad to escape under Nora. I will go back to the doctor and the great arm which barred Munro's see if he needs help. You stay here," passage. "You stay outside," Kelly mate and tender. "I will report at voice was dangerously calm. "I want the bedside.

confident of heading off pneumonia."

Ann's face lit with joy. "Oh, did he say that?" She reached both her hands to him. "Now you can go to sleep. I will watch tonight."

Together they returned to the bungalow, and Raymond, after a moment's conversation with Braide, threw himself on his couch. "Ah, this seems good!" he exclaimed to Ann and fell asleep almost instantly.

She drew the robe over him with careful hands and turned to Braide. "I'm so grateful to you, Dr. Braide. You are to eat supper with the Kellys. I think you would better go over to the house now. I will stay with Louis."

He protested against this, but she had her will. "In case he grows restless," he said at the door, "call me. However, I will return in half an hour probably."

A suffocating throb of tenderness rose in Ann's throat as she bent above Louis' flushed face and listened to his troubled breathing. Raymond lay in profoundest slumber, his face in shad-

Heart Strength, or Heart Weakness, means Nerve Strength, or Nerve Weakness-nothing more. Posftively, not one weak heart in a hundred is, in it- sake of Nora and the kids. Good self, actually diseased. It is almost always a hidden tiny little nerve that really is all at fault. This obscure nerve-the Cardiac, or Heart Nerve -simply needs, and must have, more power, more stability, more controlling, more governing strength. Without that the Heart must continue to fail, and the stomach and kidneys also have

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them as needed, with

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night Braide, in despair of inducing her to sleep, stretched himself in a low chair and fell into a doze. It was exactly 2 o'clock when a

single gunshot rang out sharply, like the voice of a sentinel questioning the silent night. As the girl listened tensely, three others, deeper throated, answered in quick succession. Then silence again intervened for a moment, only to be torn by a fusillade, a rattat-tat of assault which brought Braide to his feet.

the many questions pressing to be an-

swered engaged her so deeply that she felt no need of sleep. Toward mid-

Ann hurried to Raymond, calling sharply, "Rob, they are shooting! Don't you hear them? Quick! Quick!"

Raymond rose to his feet dizzily and looked at her blankly, the mist of sleep thick in his brain. Other shots and Nora came softly in. "Ann, dear, the cries followed, and though faint and supper is on the table. Go you along far they cleared his vision. Catching and eat. You're needed to keep the a belt of cartridges from the wall and turning to Braide he sternly asked, "Can you shoot?"

Before Braide could answer another shrill chorus of yells, fierce as the out-"He's waiting to see you. Keep him cry of wolves, arose, a vivid light from Matt; he's in a bad temper tofilled the room, and a second later a dull concussion shook the earth be-Ann went out with a wrinkle of vexneath their feet. Ann shrank and cowered, but Raymond, menacingly Munro was waiting just outside the quiet, remarked: "Well, our turn has come. They've blown up our shaft house."

> "Oh, no!" cried Ann. "They wouldn't fired the fuse, but to all of these Raydo that. They daren't do that."

"I'm mighty glad to hear it. I was "That's what they've done," he bitterly assured her. Then a thought entered his mind which staggered him. of my vedettes, and as he had a great deal of information I kept him with "The men—the men were ... the mine!" he shouted and rushed into the dark-

Ann heard his blows upon the door of the other cabin as he called: "Boys, roll out! The power house is blown up! with you! Buckle your guns!"

great voice. He was calling as he ran, was on. "Rob, are ye there?"

"Yes; I'm rousing the boys." "It's the shaft house." "It looks that way."

"And the men, lad; the men!"

"I don't know, Matt. I've just got on my feet."

So much Ann heard before the sound to me except so far as my brother is of their feet died away down the path. The sleepers in the bunk house began He was too keen not to perceive his to rumble and clatter about on the bare floors. One by one they emerged, me and not get cinched at some part slamming the door behind them.

Once outside the door the women could see the flames growing each moment in power, licking with avid "You know what I mean. You were tongues at the confused mass of splintered beams, and on the curtain of red light the forms of Kelly and Raymond played in silhouette as they strove furiously against the destroyer. Their workmen soon joined them, and each moment some hastening rescuer hurtled past the open door and as he ran cursed in bitter frenzy.

"Ann!" called Louis from the bed. Faint as it was, the girl heard his cry and hurried to his side.

"Yes, I'm here, laddie. What do you want? How do you feel?"

"My head aches so. I can't breathe good. He moaned. "Oh, dear, I'm so hot." The voice of his anguish stung Ann to the soul. With a sign to Nora, commanding silence, she closed the door in the hope that no sound from he said to Ann, and his voice was inti- said to the young desperado, and his the burning mine would penetrate to erate intent to kill."

When he re-entered a few moments night's work will be on your head, me Braide dropped some helpful drug upon later his tone was cheerful. "The doc- lad. You can't excuse yourself by the boy's tongue. When his patient had tor has made his examination and is sayin' the committee demands it. You grown quiet the young physician said: are the committee. Man, you're crazy!" "If you are not afraid, I will go down. The young leader laughed. "They're Some one may be hurt and my help required."

"Go. I am not afraid," she commanded. "Only remember your first

duty is here." "I do not forget that," he answered. But even as he was collecting his outer clothing and his medicines Raymond flung the door open and entered. His hands were blackened and bleeding, his head was bare, and on his face was a look that thrilled the girl. "Doctor, three wounded men are coming up the hill. They must be made comfortable. Ann, you would better go back to Kelly's. These victims must be sheltered here, and they are not pleasant to see."

Ann felt herself diminishing in power and importance as he spoke. His voice came from the man's worldharsh, inflexible-but she uttered a protest-"Louis!"

His face softened and his hand went to his brow. "I forgot; you are right; we must not endanger him. I will have the men taken to the other cabin."

"Are the men in the mine all dead?" lys' door after this night's work, and "We can't tell. The engineer and Coldo, if ye put so much as the toe of ye're some of the men on the dump were Pur monia, warned and escaped. The rest are be- Erc anditis, low and out of our reach. We are talar-h, Munro reeled under this gusty blast, working desperately to subdue the but recovered himself. "You'll be comflames, but we are almost helpiess for Sienviessness, lack of water." four hours, and you'll get it for the

"It is horrible!" His voice was very quiet as he said, "Munro shall answer for this!" "Did he do it?"

"He did not prevent it!" He lifted his eyes to the sky. "It will soon be light, and then we can see to work." He turned to leave without further explanation, but Ann called to him,

you?" "As soon as we know the men are alive I will come and tell you," he promised.

As she watched and waited the day came leisurely, laggardly, over the me Albert Townsend, Hazel Hipson and John hills and swarms of excited men and McKay, all of Shelburne County, were proslattern women poured from their shacks and tents and holes in the rocks to acquire in detail the news of this midnight assault on the leaders of the independents. To do them justice, even the most virulent unionists were for the moment moved to sympathetic denunciation. The destruction of property was one thing, the murder of workmen quite another. As for the crews of the nonpartisans, they were ready at

**ბტტტტტტტტტტტტტტტტტტტ** the word of a leader to search out and

On the heels of this tumult, as if to pile Pelion on Ossa, messengers came shouting through the sunrise: "The deputies have come! The sheriff's army is camped on the park;"

Instantly the throng of idle sight-The men are in the mine! Quick, out wishing to stand in their places. The Then the girl recognized Kelly's thing to them, now that the real battle

"Where is Jack Munro?" timorous

The sheriff had, indeed, stolen a march on Skytown and was only waiting for daylight to discover his enemy. This was his capital mistake. Had he pushed against the enemy at that moment, with Munro and his men still on a wild goose chase down the opposite canyon, he might have won the hill in a bloodless charge, but even as he dallied the vedettes came toiling up the trail from the south, weary, but full of fight, and lined out on the northern slope with the fort at their backs. And so at last the two forces of disorderof passion and prejudice—were set face to face. Battle was now inevitable.

T sunrise Raymond reported to Ann, his face a little softened. "The dynamiter Baker shot has died, but our men are going to live, the doctor says."

of those in the mine? Are they released?"

"It is horrible to think of them down Nora hurried back to her cabin, while there in the dark. Did you hear that the sheriff had arrived?"

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Will he do so?"

of his life.

"He must or be party to the blood-

iest battle ever seen in the mountains.

But I must go back," he said and turn-

ed away abruptly, leaving the girl with

a keen sense of the stress and bigness

He was indeed badly needed at the

mine, for only the men of the second

shift and a few of the crews of Reese

& Earle remained to help. Each inde-

pendent mine was held to be in equal

danger and to require the services of

its most resolute men, and, besides, the

certainty of a battle had drawn away

the more excitable even of their own

men. Kelly was working like a Titan,

and his presence, his concentration of

A messenger from Carter met Ray-

mond to assure him that the union had

no hand in the outrage, and the young

miner sternly answered, "As soon as I

effort, inspired every man to his best.

His eyes darkened. "Yes, the fool! Why didn't he attack at once? Now lynch those who laid the train and Munro is intrenched, and they are challenging each other like crowds of mond gave the same word of comschoolboys. The time has come for mand, "Save the men below." the governor to take a hand."

seers swept back toward the town, leaving not so much as a word of well ruin of the Kelly mine became a small

people asked. "Where are the vedettes?" No one seemed to know, and the officers of the union were in a

CHAPTER XXV.

"I am very glad to hear that. What

"No, but the fire is out, and we have cleared the mouth of the shaft. The first level is blocked with rocks and beams. The murderers must have lowered a bomb into the mine with delib-

They tore at the rocks and beams. have rescued my men I will demand that the officers of the union have something to do with finding the hyenas that did do it."

Munro sent a letter by Frank Brown

wherein he said, "I can't leave herethe attack may begin at any momentbut I am on the trail, and when I discover the scoundrels I will deliver them to justice." To this messenger Raymond said:

"Tell Jack I want to see him at the earliest moment. This is not a matter for long range adjustment. I want to talk with him." Brown, with true cowboy unconcern,

grinned and said: "Well, you see,

Rob. Jack's busy just now. They's a ball on and he's floor manager for our Raymond was in no mood to respond to humor. "Very well. Say to him

that when I have dug my men out I will come to him," and something in the tone of this answer stopped the grin on the messenger's face.

Reporters drifted up, made hasty notes and passed on, lured by the more important material disclosed in the opposition of ranked and ready warriors on the hill. Only Dolan stayed, eager and sympathetic, fetching coffee from the cook house and lending such other aid as he could, so deeply concerned with this tragic deed that he seemed wastefully negligent of his own affairs. Seizing an opportunity for a private word, he began, in a low voice: "Rob, I know who led this thing. The union had nothing to do with it. It was done by a lot of Curran's spittoon cleaners. The fellow that Baker killed is from the Springs. I've seen him around

Curran's."

"Do you think so?" "I know it. When you want me to tell you what I know I'll do it: only not now. Wait till the militia takes

possession." "Will the militia come? Has the

governor ordered it out?" "He's got to order 'em out now. He's

a dead duck, anyway." Raymond returned to his work be-

Continued on Page 7.