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CHAPTER XV.

The New Plot. the problems before them. The papers so necessary for the con summation of the deal that Everett had proposed were again lost. Where they were gone, whether they had indeed fallen into Wilkerson's bands, none could tell. But more immediate yet was the need of extricating John. Two plain clothes men already sat near by, ready to take him to prison on a charge of killing Henry Pell.

"It's really only a formality," said the manager of the hotel. "The man was a robber and Mr. Dort tried to capture bim, as he bad every right to do, and the man was killed."

This failed to comfort Ruth. To ber mind the presence of the burly officers. the fact that John Dorr was under arrest in a strange city, made her feel that ber burdens were too great to bear. She sat bolding the old cook's hand till Everett should come. He had already telephoned, and she tried to be brave till be should come.

Everett arrived, and the moment she saw him she beaved a sigh of relief. He was so capable looking, so coot, so genuinely cordial to John that even Tom Kane softened his grim visage a

"I'm under arrest," John told him. "The officers were good enough to let me stay here till you came. Now I must be off. Let me introduce you all

This done, John Dorr went ou, "They can tell you all about things, and when you've learned the worst come down and get me out, if you can."

Everett agreed, and Dorr rose, and with a smile said goodby to his companions. As he left the botel with an officer on either side of him Ruth broke down and cried. I'om Kane comforted ber as best be could till Everett suggested that they had best go to some more private place and discuss matters.

plained affairs briefly. Everett following their narrative carefully up to the jucidents of the night before. When Ruth had thrished and the cook was silent Everett thought a moment, then be laughed.

"I don't mean to make fup of all this," he apologized, "but I've known John Dorr for years and this is pre cisely the kind of trouble he revels in." "But be's in jall!" Roth protested

tearfully. "True enough," was the reply. "That is the first thing I must do, get him out. I'll be off now and see the dis trict attorney and ball him out"

"Please burry!" Ruth pleaded. "Don't worry," was the cheerful response. A moment later be was gone, promising to bring John back with

"What do you think of Mr. Everett?" Ruth demanded of Tom Kape.

The old man lit his pipe and scrutinized the ceiling. "Well," he said judicially, "considering the looks of them on Wilkerson's side and them on John's side, I should think that this Everett was on the right side."

content. But she insisted that be tell her all about the conditions at the "Master Key" mine. "I know you have still has them," Airs. Darnell said bit not told me all the truth," she said.

"Well," he answered her, "there's not much to tell one way and a heap in another. The mine's practically shut down. You know first you went "Dorr is to be neld for killing him." Pretty much all was left was me and til his friends get him out. And mean Bill Tubbe. Bill, he kind of represented Wilkerson, and I stuck up for John.



Please hurry!" Ruth pleaded.

The result was that things went to the bad, and the boys they come to me and want to know bow long they've

""I suppose ye mean bow long before thimself saw nothing dangerous in t a pay day,' I says to 'em. 'So far as so long as Witherson was to meet bim I know nobody has laid you off.'

couldn't feed their folks without mon as a chanffeur and went whistling ey, and if they got no money for it away to ascarage after receiving exway work?"

"They baven't been paid, then?" "No. And Wilkerson cut off all cred | meet Wilkerson. if at the store. I guess I got in bad or flour and spods that was in the tel and delivered his note. It found ust told myself that I would come to San Francisco and explain things-bow Wilkerson deserted the comp and the mine was closed down and com people

were starring "Oh?" mearned thath aghast at the blunt story. "And t seem to have been

THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE

unfortunate all around; but I know that John will his things"

HE morning prought John Tom Kane fixed us nonest old eyes Dorr, Ruth Gallon and Thom on the girl and shook his head. "I as Kane together to discuss don't want to discourage you, Ruthie," be said quietly, "but until that man Wilkerson is out of the mine for good con can't do more than patch matters up temporarity."

> Meanwhile Wilkerson and Jean Darnell were anxiously awaiting news from Henry Pell. If was getting along to the forenoon, and the woman in sisted that if be had succeeded in getting the papers he should have been on the ground long before Her compan



want to discourage you, Ruthie."

ion was worried, but laid the delay to Pell's habits and the necessity possibly of stolding the police.

But when Drake armed with the morning papers and said nothing artic-In Ruth's room she and the cook ex- ulate and only pointed to the headlines on the first page both Wilkerson and Mrs. Darpell knew that something had bappened again to spoil their plans. It was Wilkerson who snatched up the paper and read the news: HOTEL THIEF HURLED TO DEATH

Guests of the Manx Hotel Have Flerce

Struggle With Hotel Robber Shortly before midnight last night Miss Ruth Gallon, a guest at the Hotel Manx. looting her desk. Her cry for help frightened the thiet, and he made for the fire escape, followed by Mr. John Dorr, another guest, who heard Miss Gallon's call. Mr. Dorr pursued the man to the in the ensuing struggle the desperado was either flung or fell to the street below. He was instantly killed Shortly afterward the body was identihad by the police as that of Samuel Price. alias Henry Felt, an ex-convict and drug

Wilkerson read no further. He turn ed his ghastly face on Mrs. Darnell and said buskily, "He's dead!"

"Well, be won't "il any tales," was the cold response. "The question to. did he get the papers?"

To this question there was no satisfactory answer until Wilkerson read With this judgment she had to be down further and warned that nothing of value and been found on l'ell's body "So he didn't get the deeds, and Ruth

terly. "That is the way all your plaus succeed." Wilkerson fushed "There is one comfort," be said in an ugly tone "For now long?" sneered Jean. "Un-

while you do nothing!" She continued in this strain for some time. Drake and Wilkerson moodily listening. They knew that if she once threw the affair up they would be helpless and all their time and work and money would have gone for naught Wilkerson was thinking quickly. Suddenly be interrupted Jean to ask for pen and ink. She got them, and he sat down at the table to write. Drake and Mrs. Darnell kept up a desultory conversation until he had finished.

There will a queer look in Jean's eyes as she took the sheet be handed her and glanced at the writing. "I see you still can do it," she marmared. "Rend it!" he growled.

Mrs. Darnell read it through silently

Dear Ruth-i hate to ask you to c omething very important to tell you fring the papers too. JOHN DORR.

"Are you sure be is in init?" demanded the woman when she had bnished. And what is the idea of getting the apers into his hands?"

"He'll just turn them over to Everett," muttered Drake.

Wilkerson smiled sigly. "The idea is that Drake here will disguise him self as a chanffeur, take this note to the hotel, see that it reaches Ruth and then drive her supposedly to the jail. but really to where I'll meet him?"

They discussed the plan and at last agreed that it was feasible. Drake and take Ruth off his hands. He "They agreed with me, but said they promptly provented to dress bimself he was to take and where he was to

It was up hour inter that Drake with Tubbs when I divided up a let drove his rented car up before the ho There was some ugly talk, and before | Tom Kane and set anxious for the re-I could kind of settle the boys' minds turn to Dorr and Everett. On the they treated Bill pretty roughly. So I presentation of the note which Wilker. son had forged she instantly took

> "John' must be in trouble and Mr. Everett can't get him out" she said. He's written for me to come down to the jall and see him and bring the pa-

"flumph!" said Kane. "That sounds fuhny to me."

Ruth nodded, looking at the note then she said, more cheerfully: "I'll dress anyway. Maybe he heeds me Now, you old dear, leave me awhite" Kane departed and Ruth duickly changed into street dress. While she

was doing this the bellboy returned to

say that a machine was waiting for "The one that brought the note." he said. "He says he was told to wait." "Ob!" she exclaimed. "Tell bim Ull

be right down." When the boy had gone she called fom Kane on the telephone and told

him that she was going "John sent a car for me." she udded. "All right," came back the answer "I'll just travel along. Maybe I might

help John myself." So it was agreed, and they met in the lobby, where Ruth showed the note to the clerk in her impulsive way Something in that official's expression made the old cook unobtrusively take out his revolver and see that it was in good condition. He followed Ruth to the street and into the waiting ma-

This move disconcerted Drake. He nad not intended to have two passengers, but he saw no belp for it and merely nodded when Ruth ordered him to take ber to the city prison. started his engine and they sped off

They rode for some time and as nei ther of them was acquainted with the city it did not occur to them that they were being rapidly conveyed into a part of town only partly built up-and now veiled in dense clouds of swirling

"It's a long way." Ruth remarked several times, but Kane merely grunt ed. He was busily pondering over some method of extricating John Dorr. Suddenly the car swerved around a corner, dived down a steep hill and came to a stop before a big gray building-the boarded up residence of an absentee, Reaching back, Drake open ed the door, and Ruth sprang out A figure darted across the sidewalk, and she felt berself clutched by the

She looked into the gleaming, cruel eyes of Wilkerson. "I've got you now?" be said trium

"Oh!" mouned Ruth, shrinking back

"Yes, indeed." Wilkerson taunted But at that moment be beard another voice, stern, commanding and familiar He looked around into the muzzle of

f'om Rane's revolver. For the moment they faced each other, while Ruth shrapk back still far ther. The old man's eyes gleamed and his trigger finger seemed to rest on the trigger with a precise and dell

"You berel" said Wilkerson with an

Suddenly the old man's temper flared up. The other saw death in his eyes. turned on his beel and ran as fast as be could up the street. Without a second's besitation Kane

swung his weapon round till it cover ed Drake, cowering at his wheel, "Now you drive us back to the ho tel." he thundered. "And if you make n false move I'll drill ye as sure as

God gave me good shooting eyes." Drake saw that he was belpless and sulkily waited till they were in and then turned his car back toward the enter of the city. Tom Kane sat grimly just behind him with his gun ready. And his mind was piecing hings together. Suddenly be saw a oliceman on his beat and realized thatick was playing his cards for him He ordered Drake to halt and halled the officer. To that somewhat astonis ed individual the cook explained brief ly that be had just foiled an abduction lot and that the chauffeur was in bough Drake strenuously denied the harge the policeman decided that it was a case for the captain.

"I'll just ride in front here, and we'll to headquarters," he- remarked. "You can put up that gun, old fellow. for I'll see that young fellow doesn't cut up any monkey shines."

In the meantime Everett had suc- came along, which, the conductor inessfully managed Dorr's business, and be had been released on nominal ball sought. for a hearing. "And I guess you won't find us very anxious to make it hard for you," said the prosecuting attor-

Free again, John insisted on taking the quickest route back to the hotel Everett, sympathetic in this, agreed. and in a few minutes they were at the otel inquiring for Ruth.

"Why, she left only a little while go to see you in the prison," said the rk. "She had a note from you." "I wrote no note," said John.

"Here it is," was the response. "E eft it on the desk in her hurry." Eagerly John anatched the sheet of per, but the instant his eyes lit be turned a furious face to Everett. "It's a forgery, a trick," he said. "]

CHAPTER XVI.

Too Late! OGETHER John and Everet starter they learned that car had driven up, that the feur had delivered a note and that

John beaved a sigh of relief. "At my rate. Tom will see that she doesn't ome to barm," he said. After a few more questions, which

lowed them the futility of trying to sess. They were interrupt

'm return of Ruth and the cook, who enunted their adventures.

I ii get Wilkerson," John Dorr sata know how much it would be. metis when they had finished. Meanthise we must get ahead with our fix- impressed on her that baste was up of the affairs of the 'Master

Wilkerson's last failure had driven ash man and his wife think the im furious He did not know what in possession of papers of estido, and he especially dreaded returning to Jean Darnell with the news. He walked the streets for a long time, unched in a cheap house and then

doggedly started downtown. On the way be bought an evening paper and rend of Drake's arrest. With scowling brows be perused this minutely until he was sure that his tool had not betrayed bim so far. But be knew that minutes were precious. He must get into communication with the young man and assure his silence. He could not do this without Mrs. Darnell's

As he expected, she flew into a towering rage, but her keen mind saw that Drake must be pacified, and she managed to control berself at last. She read the account carefully and then looked through the rest of the paper for some Item about John Dorr. Her eye lit upon an advertisement, which she read twice before speaking; He, too, read it:

erty. On proof of ownership same will be returned. Reward expected. S. J.

"They must be the papers," he ac knowledged. "Pell probably threwthem away for fear of their being and as evidence against him, and some one picked them up."

"This time I shall see to the matter." Jean said sharply. "Whether they are the papers or not, we must be sure." "Other people will see that ad.," be

"All the more reason for hurry," she snapped. Then she called her maid. "Estelle," she said, "I want you to dress for the street and go on an errand for me. It is very important, and you must hurry." "Yes, madame."

"And if you show good judgment you shan't be sorry. You know how



A Glance Told Her That They Belonged to Ruth.

Miss Gallon dresses and acts. I want to impersonate her for a little

"But, madame"-"There is no danger at all," Mrs. Darnell went on. "All you have to do is to go to this address and get those pa-

The maid looked at the advertisement and finally consented to go to the Hill street address and see if they were really Ruth's deeds and if so recover them. In a few moments she had departed on her errand, and Wilkerson and Jean once more resigned themselves to waiting.

Estelle tripped along the street to a car line and took the first car that formed her, crossed the street she

Arriving at her street, she got off and found berself in a neighborhood inhabited by very poor people. She looked with disgust at the sumbledown shanties and dirty shacks that littered the rubbish heaped sards. Two blocks up from the car line she found her number, a house slightly better kept than most. But she noticed in the ard an uptlited ash man's cart. In the rear was a rickety stable. She entered the gate and rang the bell.

A very large, ill dressed Italian woman opened the door, letting out a tremendous odor of garlie and cheese. she surveyed her caller with suspicion and then beamed.

"Ob, you come looka de papes?" she

Estelle merely showed a copy of the "Yes, my bushand be put that in de pape," the woman said, losing her

some moments Estelle tried to et a glimpse of the documents. The sitan himself came up tife scene and emanded a full description. When stelle said that they had been lost rom the Many notet he nodded and explained that he and been removing the ashes therefrom when his eye had been caught by the folded papers, but be still insisted on an accurate description, which the unid could not give. At last she said quietly, "The do it quickly. Her perves won't stand find Ruth, they re-entered the botel papers are of no value to you, and I and settled down to a discussion of am authorized to pay a good reward

At the word reward there was & change, and the woman demanded to

Estelle thought rapidly. It had been essary. She decided on offering a gily sum, yet not enough to mak. nary value. She pulled out her , and held out \$5. The man was take

it. His wife intervened. "Twenty dolla," she said cunningly Estelle bargained for some moments and then said in a tone that was decisive, "If you show me the papers and they are the ones I want I'll give you \$15 and no more."

The deeds were produced, and a glance told her that they belonged to Ruth. She paid the money and burried away.

Everett and Dorr bad gone over the situation thoroughly together, and the broker agreed that he would help out in putting the "Master Key" mine on its feet again.

"I think I can do it tomorrow," he said. "Just let me have all the papers, and I'll go over them tonight." "Ruth has there John replied.

"We'd best go up an get them now." Ruth received them dheerfully and promptly went to her trunk for the then she pointed it out to Wilkerson. deeds. Her first search was not rewarded, and she lifted a nuzzled face FOUND .- Deeds to certain mining prop- to John. Then she once more went through all her belongings. It was fruitless. She then remembered the desk and searched it with the same

"They're gone!" she stammered. "Impossible!" said Dorr. "They must be somewhere here." "No," she mourned, "I've looked

Everett was the first to suggest that no time should be lost in locating the missing property. He sent for the evening papers and delved into the "Lost and Found" columns, with the result that he very soon handed a pa-

per to Dorr and pointed out the adver-

tisement which had attracted Wilkerson's attention. Half an hour later John Dorr turned away from the ash man's door and said to Everett: "I'll bet that was one of Wilkerson's crowd. We must notify the police before he can get

away." They had soon told their difficulties guised." to the sympathetic ear at beadquarters and started back for the hotel. John was in the dumps.

wrong when I try to do something for | your leisure," Jean told him. that little woman," he growled. "I begin to think myself that you ne demanded.

are playing in bard luck," was the re- Mrs. Darnell's eyes gleamed multply. "But I always did like a good tight, and this promises to be one. I'll she told him-"my father, you see." stick, John." They shook hands.

They found Ruth and Tom Kane maid had transformed nim into a very anxiously awaiting them. John simply stated the case and then turned to comfort Ruth. He was startled to see how white she was. "Ruth, Ruth," be cried in alarm.

"what is the matter?" There was no answer. She had fainted away. All else was forgotten for the time being. A maid and a doctor were

quickly summoned, and presently Ruth revived. Old Tom Kane was seated beside her patting her hand. "The papers!" she mouned. "Don't you worry about the papers. ne said promptly. "We'll look after

"But the folks at the mine-who will look after them?" she pleaded. The old cook swore that be won! do so himself with John's belp.



is point the doctor interfered with

sultation. The physician fistened to their explanation of what the girl he been through and then said gravely She must have an absolute change scene for a time. Get her away fro

But where?" Dorr demanded. "Why not take her to the southern part of the state for a little while?" be suggested. "But whatever you do

"I know just the place," Kane said, "Take her to Los Angeles and then out into the bills to some quiet botel. You can catch the night trum."

"Nonsense!" Everett said quickly. All of you go with her. I'll hope aftmatters here for a week if need the go down to the mine prysent".

in the papers safety in her possesit last Jean Darnell became onco the guiding spirit and told Witson that there was only one thing them to do-get out of town imme-

"Drake is in jail, and we'll have to nail him out through some third party. We duren't trust ourselves in the hands



"We must save ourselves first."

of the police. You can trust Dort to be looking for those papers right this

"I promised Drake by a messenger that we would have him out before night," he responded. "We must save ourselves first, ' she

said angrily. "And we must be dis After some argument Wikerson agreed, and they decided to go south, "It will give us time to plan things

"It seems as if everything goes out and you can work things out at "But now shall I disguise myself?"

> clously. "You must go as an old man," He rebelled, but finally acquiesced, and within a short time Jean and the

ordered. "Estelle and I will pack up while you are gone." "Inckets to where?"

"Now, go and buy our tickets," she

"Tickets to los Angeles," she anap-So be departed, to ceturn in an none with the tickets and an expressman. When the trunks were gone Mrs. Darnell sat down with Witkerson, and they went over the shunther again, with the result that she took his ad vice and disguised herself and made

Estelle also do the same. After a pasty supper they then called taxt and went to the station. Mrn. Darpell and tier maid unmediately entered the drawing room reserved for them, and Wilkerson leed the porter to make up his berth to the pody of

the car immediately. "Safe!" be muttered to himself as the wheels began to turn and he saw the faces of several plans ciothes men on the platform.

Neither he oor Mrs. Darnell was aware that in another car Ruth and her maid and John Horr and Tom Mane were also beading for the south.

Queer Cases of Jift. A well known povelist was once filted by a girl who took exception to the inadequate punishment meted out to one of his fictitious villains She de clared that as he regarded vice with so lenient an eye be must himself be at heart a reprodute and unworthy of true love and that she must request that their acquaintance cease.

An emipent inwyer in his counger days met with a similar aushap. The indy to whom be was engaged chancing to hear that he had delivered a most skillful though futile speech to defense of an arrant rogue, wrotesaying that she must decline to know one who could thus strive speciously to excuse crime. in return he pleaded the exigencies of the profession, but in vain. The lady was obdurate and soon afterward, by the strange irony of fate, married a man who was altimately convicted of gross fraud, mainly through the forensic eloquence of her former lover.

Paper Lifeboats

Rear Admiral Yokoyama of the Japanese navy has invented a collapsi febont, or, rather, raft, made of paper. Having found a very tough paper nown as oushiktrazu, made from moiperry tree liber, he sought for and discovered a chemical treatment to make waterproof. After experiment be rine and niways be ready for uni

Not Much Room For Argument "You owe everything to your wife," aid the severe maternal relative.

"Maybe I do." replied Mr. Meekton. "Anyhow, she gets around regularly every pay day and collects."- wast agton Star.

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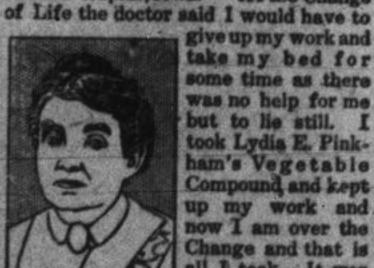
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