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The Vital Flame A Stirring Serial of Primitive Passions by May Christie

CHAPTER LXXX.

"What is it, Miles?" Marcella breathed. So much had happened lately... was it bad news about the Egyptian vase? Had the purchaser discovered...?

"Prison hospital? Is Deirdre ill? What's the matter? I must go and see her—" "No, sweetheart. This telegram is from the matron. You know Deirdre had the drug habit—very strongly—they thought they'd taken away all the stuff from her, but she was too clever for them. Drug victims are very, very cunning about hiding it, and getting it, you know."

"Yes, Yes. Go on," impatiently. "It seems she wasn't well, and they took her into the prison hospital. She must have brought some of the stuff with her, unknown to them—or got it, somehow. For she took an overdose, poor soul—and passed away early this morning, in her sleep."

"What?" Marcella sprang to her feet, white and shaken. "Deirdre—do you mean she's—dead?" "Yes, darling. Miles put his arms about her. 'There! Don't cry. The poor soul's at rest at last. It's for the best, Marcella. What would her future have been? An outcast!'"

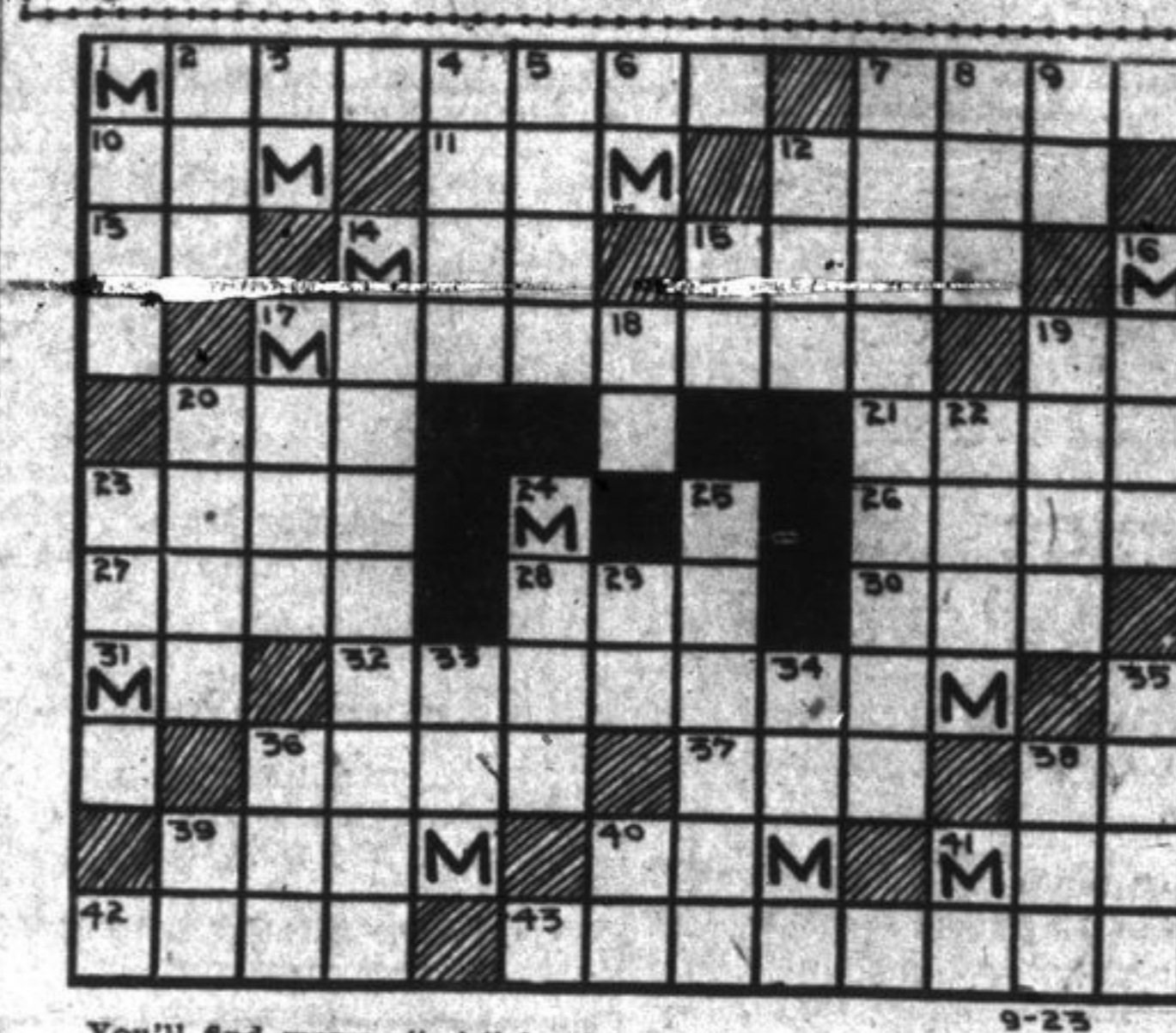
"I—I can't bear it," sobbed Marcella brokenly. "Hush, sweetheart." "To take her own life like that—" "No, no, she didn't. Here, read the telegram." He thrust the sheet of paper in her hand. "It was an overdose. An accident. It often happens so, when people have been taking drugs for years. She simply passed out in her sleep, Marcella. Can't you see, darling, that everything works out for the best?"

"It's too terrible." With her head on her lover's shoulder, Marcella wept some very genuine tears. Miles continued, firmly: "It's very sad, and yet it would have been far sadder for her, had she lived. Think of her without her sweetheart, Jose—she loved him, but she thought he was—think of her without health, or love, or reputation, or friends—think of her being tried for murder, darling. She's free of all that, now."

"I was her friend," wept Marcella. "I'd have stuck to her, if she'd have let me—" "But your friendship couldn't have cured her sorrows, darling. Come, be sensible. She was too far gone in drugs ever to have given up the habit. Her life must have been hell for years and years. This was bound to have happened one day—don't you see?"

"I suppose so," Marcella sobbed her grief out in her lover's arms, that sure haven in a universe that had gone topsy-turvy. Next morning, Miles Holden took a trip to Greenwich Village. He sought the pottery-maker who had copied the Egyptian vase. From Marcella, Miles had received a fragment of the smashed curio. "This matter must be gone into, right away," he had said. He had had a long talk with Mr. Field, now convalescent—a talk which eased the latter's troubled mind, to some extent.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE



You'll find many "m's" in this puzzle. Their inclusion in the drawing makes the puzzle easy to solve.

- Horizontal. 1. Took the dimensions of. 7. To greet. 10. Upper human limb. 11. Total. 12. Snake-like fish (pl.). 13. Minor note. 14. Males. 15. Broadly elliptical. 17. Put to death for adhering to some special faith. 19. Negative. 20. To stroke lightly. 21. Notion or thought. 23. Food. 26. Midday. 27. To affirm. 28. Sea eagle. 30. Age. 31. Myself. 32. Opposite of realism. 36. To serve at a meal. 37. Almost a donkey. 38. Therefore. 39. Concave part of human hand. 40. Edge. 42. Fashions. 41. A witty saying. 43. Insect which is injurious to orange trees.

- Vertical. 1. Man. 2. Part. 3. Eon. 4. Part of verb to be. 5. Employer. 6. Person of stunted growth. 7. Standard type measure. 8. Quality of being intoxicating. 9. Every. 10. Exist. 12. Night. 14. Substance. 15. Correlative of either. 16. To lament. 17. Female horse. 18. You. 19. An inert gaseous element. 20. To lay a street. 22. Destiny. 23. Renown. 24. To join. 25. To set into the surface of another material. 29. Sun god. 33. Not bright. 34. Distinctive theories. 35. That learned by memorization. 36. Soft small mass. 38. Sun. 39. Dead. 40. Second note in scale. 41. Mother.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BAND

To Be Heard in Kingston on the 1st October.



Arthur P. Stender, deputy-bandmaster and principal solo cornetist. Was solo cornetist Australian Band, under Albert H. Balle, which won British Empire Championship in 1924. Has been touring the world since that time. Four times champion of Australia, and New Zealand. Only Australian who ever won the latter distinction. Arthur Stender stands at the head of his profession today, and is recognized as one of the most brilliant cornet-players of the present era.

Commenting upon his work in South Africa "G. M." the Musical critic for the Johannesburg "Star," writes thus: "The Portuguese have in their literature a short story called 'The Cornet Player.' This story deals with the adventures of a man, who, to escape execution, joined the band of the victorious army, which at that time needed musicians. For a fortnight, day and night, he practised the cornet. It was never off his lips. Then finally it became a part of him. It sang when he was glad and wept when he was sad. He expressed all emotions through the bell of his wonderful cornet. Just such a man is Arthur Stender. Last night he played 'Titania,' one of Rimmer's most delightful fantasies. His tone was pure and, at times, indescribably silky, and the cornet literally sang through the slow passages. Then, in the following variations on the main theme, Mr. Stender showed himself to be a master of the art of triple-tonguing. He 'frustrated' the triplets without a fault, and the fastest passages did not find his fingers wanting. His breath control was marvelous. Anyone hearing Arthur Stender is speedily aware of the fact that the art of cornet playing still lives. The mantle of the illustrious John Hartman and Alex Owen has fallen on Arthur Stender, and he bears it worthily. 'Arbucklenian' and 'Jupiter,' two cornet terrors, would have no difficulties for him. Last night, as an encore he played 'The Lost Chord' with great brilliancy and power. It was a remarkable exhibition."

Will be at Hart's Arena, Kingston, Friday, Oct. 1st. A new locomotive designed for the Paris-Orleans Railway will give a speed of more than ninety miles an hour. It is electric and operates on 1,500 volts.

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THE LATE HIRAM KEECH.

Burial at Tamworth—Owned Flour Mills There. Tamworth, Sept. 24.—The funeral of the late Hiram Keech took place here Tuesday. The body was interred at the Union cemetery. Rev. Mr. Bell, of Kingston, and Rev. Mr. Thornlee officiated. Mrs. Keech, son and daughter, and W. J. Shannon, of Napanee, attended the funeral. Mr. Keech was formerly of Tamworth; for a number of years owning the flour mills. He finally sold out, and moved to Stony Mountain, where he was accountant in the penitentiary and afterwards warden. He later retired from the service and moved to Kingston. Mrs. L. P. Wells is visiting friends at Buffalo. The school fair was held here on Wednesday, and it was very well attended by people from the surrounding country. Tamworth and Arden baseball teams played Tuesday. Tamworth winning by the score of 10-6. Miss Williams, Bernice White, Leland Redden and sister left Monday to attend Normal school at Toronto. Miss Eunalia Floyd has left for Kingston to attend Queen's University.

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MR. CITY-DWELLER, where did you spend your boyhood days? Was yours the privilege of wandering through the fields and woodland where every tree and bush had been painted by the divine artist?

Today you say 'tis but the hectic flame of a dying year. Then it contained all the mystery of an enchanted palace.

Ontario's highways lead you to the land of yesteryear—over white roads flecked with fallen leaves, patterned here and there by checkered shadows of trees. Field and hillside are gay with fiery sumach. Maple groves aflame, backed by the darker evergreen.

Through this lovely panorama, in every direction, leads Ontario's splendid system of highways. You are entitled to enjoy them, for they are yours. Keep in mind, however, that upon you will come the expense of maintaining them in proper condition.

Speeding cars away road surfaces. It "milks" your pocket-book for both motor and road upkeep. Moderate driving is far more economical and pleasurable.

By so doing you will greatly assist the traffic patrol who operate for everyone's safety—who have instructions to enforce the law rigorously.

THE HON. G. S. HENRY, Minister of Highways. S. L. SQUIRE, Deputy Minister.

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What's all the excitement? An aviator has just sky-written an advertisement for the National Hoibery Company. This mysterious message contains seven words which are in their correct order. Each word contains only the letters as shown. Now place the letters of each word in their proper position and write down the sentence they make. To give you a clue, the second word is "PAYS". Test your skill and mail your solution immediately to compete for this Wonderful New 6 Cylinder, 5 Passenger Pontiac Sedan, Value, \$1170.00, and these 25 other Valuable Prizes.



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