# ACK ORCHIDS" by F.V. W.

CHAPTER IX

man who hears things in kening, so Ian heard the he light switch and, heavp sigh, he sank into his he loathed the thought ert half hour. It seemed salize that this was pergreatest crisis in two lives Leonard's. Leonard in room was moving around ready for bed.

d was taking quite a bit of realized. Moreover, he ed moving around. Ian

Leonard." He started tothe bedroom door, then frozen in mid-motion; the open door had come a report. In a single bound ned the door to remain the door frame and stare debonair figure of Leonwhich rested half over the desk. On the light gray rug Leonard's patent leather shoes lay an ugly, bluntomatic and from its muzan uncertain feather of oke that rather resembled n mark

nute dragged by while Ian mained in that frozen posihe doorway, then he darted picked up the inert form d it swiftly across to the ith fingers made expert by rience, he stripped back shirt front with that ugly le in its gleaming expanse. ers were red as he ripped andershirt.

k God it's high-there's

worked his mind whirred engine of a storm tossed ner. What could be done? nding a compress as tightly ight about that crater-like onard's side, he dashed to phone and sent a message rane, doctor to the Amerinister, that brought that in a rush. Lucky he lived ew doors away.

t's happened?" snapped the his gray eyes very sharp. ccident," Ian informed him "Leonard was fooling with -it went off."

half dressed doctor's face "Um, just missed the we met accidents like that I presume you want this

not only important-it is

nulsion relieves promptly be-soes right to the seat of the to help loosen and expel den phlegm, and aid nature he and heal raw, tender, inbronchial mucous mem-Tell your druggist to sell you of Creomulsion with the un-

vital." The big figure in the black open the small black satchel he had him."

'and what else?" "His honor. I'll tell you about

handle the matter all right?" "Yes, I have a competent male

silk dressing gown was very seri- appeared with. "Now I've got to ous. He pointed to the bed with a get busy. Call this number," he reddened hand from which the cuff scratched down a message on a had been rolled to the elbow. "We've page torn from a little note book, got to work to save two things for "and tell Thompson to come running. And from now on I don't want "His life, said Dr. Crane quietly, to be bothered, I'll be very busydo you understand?"

"Yes. I'll be in the next room. If t sometime. Do you think you can you want anything you have only to call through the door."

Yet half stunned with the horror nurse-I'll get him here directly." of the thing that had befallen, Ian Ian's pale features took on andropped heavily into the chair be-



expression of gravity. his chances?"

The doctor's bent shoulders rose in a little shrug.

"The fact that he's still living proves that the bullet missed the arteries, but he has torn his left side pretty badly. I'll give him a shade more than an even chance if," he dwelt upon the word, "if there are no complications. You see firing through several layers of fabric as he did, any quantity of germs may have been carried into the wound." Doctor Crane commenced to peel off the coat he had pulled over his pajama jacket. "Later I'll need an assistant to relieve Thompson-he's the nurse. Can you get someone who can be completely trusted.

"Yes."

YOUR WIFE

mows the answer to

"If you can get someone who means a lot to him, it will help. The will to live is very important in a

borderline case, like this." ling you must like the way it "I'll get his fiancee," said Ian Blew your thousand on a ring I was going to give her. Hope this confour money back.

"What are fore the fireplace. Twice his eyes mechanically read a sheet of paper that had lain on the desk, but not one word of the scrawled message registered in his brain. He couldn't seem to think. Leonard-Leonard Holt lay nearly dead there in the next room. He could recall Leonard's dirty face grinning beneath a mud-spattered tin hat . . . at another time, his face warm with the exertion of the polo field . . . his

face-his face-"Here, this won't do," he aroused himself. "It's getting nowhere." So saying, he hunched forward, elbows on knees to concentrate on the scrawled message.

"Dear Soldat," (it read). "Don't know what happened to me-must have been insane for the last two weeks. I just came to my senses. Your look from beside the fireplace did it. I was a swine to do what I did-but you don't know how infernally beautiful and appealing Lolita is-I'd do it again probably. EOMULSION she's uncommon, level-headed."

"Get her here around noon," she's Colds, Bronchitis snapped the doctor as he threw

### Fines Creek News Mrs. D. N. Rathbone

The ceiling has been partly put up at Laurel Hill church, among the giving of their time, were, Roy Green, Charles McCrary, Raymond McCracken, Bob Greene and Dave Rathbone. We hope that the work will soon get under way again.

The Young Women's League has recently been organized, and in these meeting the girls meet every two weeks in their homes for ser vices, and will continue to hold home meetings through the winter

Several of the farmers of this section have their tobacco all classed, and some have already taken it to market, while there are quite a number have the bigger part of the crop yet to class.

Yates Bailey, supervisor for the Farm Security Administration, and Katherine Winston, H. M. supervisor, were down on Fines Creek last week on business. Mr. Bailey urges farmers to grow more farm crops. He thinks there will be good prices for all surplus farm produce.

Herman Duckett, who holds a position at Newport News, has been visiting his children and other relatives on Fines Creek.

let her cousin make a copy of Treaty X-2. Found your keys in the conservatory; she saw me pick them up. You surprised me at the office, so I only got the first part-thank God!-I'm an utter bounder, Soldat, and I'm afraid I've ruined your career as well as mine. I am taking the only way out. Please try to understand and forgive-whatever you do-Avoid Lolita! She's irresistible—unfathomable.

"Leonard." Having deliberately forced his nerves into obedience, Ian put the letter away and prepared his campaign with the all-forseeing deliberation of a retreating general who plans one final battle in which he risks everything-a battle which will end in triumph or in an utter annihilation.

Ian spent a sleepless night of pondering and listening to the low murmur of voices in the bedroom -Leonard was very low, Doctor Crane said towards dawn.

Ian, with convincing carelessness, informed the man who usually cared for the apartment that Mr. Holt was sleeping. Also that he could have the next two days off as he and Mr. Holt would both away. Then Ian stalked out and ate a substantial breakfast at a nearby restaurant; then outwardly normal he set off for the Ministry. Once there he briefly explained that Leonard Holt had been taken sick and would be out that day. Luckily it was Saturday.

His whole delicately adjusted plan of campaign hinged on one unescapable element. Would Mr. King ask to see the treaty? If he did, there was nothing for it but to come out with the whole sordid story.

(To be Continued)

### ift shopping problems She's a wise, thrifty shopper every day so, of course she knows all the angles. That's the reason she planned far ahead of this Christmas to make her

trical things on her personal "want" list, too.

Unfortunately, because of the National Defense program, plans made several months ago may have to be changed — Electrical Dealers may not have enough electrical appliances to go around. So, here's a suggestion—instead of that Electrical Gift

gifts electrical, and, confidentially, you'll find elec-

you wanted to give but couldn't get, invest the funds in United States Savings Bonds and Stamps and when you put them in the Christmas stockings add a little note saying that this investment is intended for an electrical appliance when production returns to normal.





Before trimming your Christmas interest. rees described below are trimmed in amazingly new and different cils and slates for classroom touch.

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"Colonial" is early American in

colonial dolls. Green colored lights size and color.

yours will be. The six Christmas ored lights shine on gaudy trim- biscuits and vari-colored lights . . mings and erasures, crayons, pen- a real "un" tree.

The "Maritime" is nautically Government has asked manufac-trimmed with clipperships, anchors, sloops and buoys. Blue lights from cook stoves. A few more gleam through clouds of angel hair. taxes and they may as well eli-

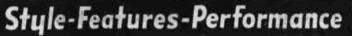
Decorate Yule Tree every detail, trimmed with minia- white lights and tinseled branches ture wooden churns, log cabins, and is decorated all over with To Fit Your Taste candle sticks, Indians, turkeys and unique ornaments of every shape, colonial dolls. Green colored lights size and color.

and silver tinsel complete the color The "Canine" is an amusing idea to please the canine member tree this December, study the folThe "Student" does everything of the family. Decorated with lowing ideas and decide which but say "Rah, rah." Various col- bones, dog toys, fire plugs, dog

"Victorian" is brilliant with minate the stoves.









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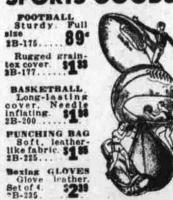
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