

"BLACK ORCHIDS" by F. V. W. MASON

CHAPTER XIV

"You adorable child," he murmured, drawing close her warm softness. She pressed her face against his and made as though to kiss the hair above his ear. Tiny as the rustle of a mouse in a corn crib came her whisper.

"God bless you! Bobkine will make a copy inside the next hour, then he will come to send the telegram. I will have him do it here."

"I'll go for him then," whispered Ian. "Try to lock the servants in some room or closet—go out when I mention the word 'Paris'."

She treated him to a taunt smile, and nodded, then, infinitely graceful, seated herself on the broad settee and beckoned, carelessly.

In her role of temptress she wore a daring, filmy tea gown so thin it betrayed the outline of garters, but that cleverly hinted at, rather than exposed, the charms of her figure. But for all her easy pose there were anxious lights in her eyes and she was watching him narrowly, he realized.

"You did bring the right treaty?" she whispered anxiously.

"Yes," he assured her and bent to shower her ringless hands with kisses. "Your safety, darling, is the only thing in life that really matters. I've come to realize."

Side by side on the broad settee they talked with that sublime disregard for time that makes life an unreal paradise for lovers. It seemed she could not tear her eyes from the darkly tender face beside her and when her small finger tips touched that half moon scar on his chin, he laughed and, for the first time, told a woman how he got it in battle.

All at once there sounded a little knock at the door. Ian had just time to turn aside and straighten his necktie when in strode that curious, pink little man he had met as the Baron von Bradensee. Beaming and looking jolly as a beard-

less Father Christmas, Bobkine hurried forward to shake hands, his pink bald head gleaming like that of a freshly washed baby.

"Such a pleasure to meet you again, Monsieur Gray," he declared. "I saw entirely too little of you at the dinner party last night."

"A great pleasure," replied Ian, conscious that Lolita von Waldeck was watching him very intently. He got to his feet with the deliberation of a lazy mastiff. He was thinking: "And this pink-faced, hairless little man has murdered countless hundreds of people!" It seemed somehow utterly impossible.

"You have been working, Cousin Ernst?" demanded Lolita in a low voice that quivered just a little.

"Yes, my dear, I am glad to say the work is done. By the way, I just remembered. Don't you want me to telegraph those friends of yours at Poldolsk?"

Lolita nodded quickly. "Yes, would it be too much trouble to send it at once?"

Bowing affably, the round little man bustled across the room to a telephone and, after consulting the directory, called the telegraph office. Speaking in German, he said: "The telegram is addressed to T. Gregrod, Poldolsk, U. S. S. R. Request Kyriloffs take ten o'clock train for Kolomyja tonight. All is well. Signed Bazanoff. You will send that telegram," he instructed the operator, "at once."

Ian crossed his arms and the fingers of his right hand delved inside the edge of his coat—perhaps four inches from the butt of the .32.

"It is such a beautiful spring evening I think I shall take a little drive," announced Bobkine through the smoke of a long cigarette. "I am sure you would rather discuss whatever you are discussing alone." His eyes paused in passing on the young American's standing so straight beside the

settee. "But it would be improper to leave my fair cousin without chaperones, n'est ce pas?"

Ian started. Something was wrong—better act. His hand started towards the pistol holstered under his left arm, but the voice of Comrade Bobkine cut in, silkily dangerous.

"If you are reaching for anything but your cigarette case," he remarked with a depreciating smile, "I advise you to wait, for you see, my dear young American, I don't trust you. If you move your hand another inch to the left, why, I shall be forced to shoot you very unwillingly, of course."

There was no doubt that Bobkine's hand which lay in the pocket of his gray traveling suit gripped a pistol. Ian, wise enough not to force matters under such unfavorable conditions, mere smiled affably.

"Dear me, you are very suspicious."

"I am fifty-six years old," Bobkine stated, his pink face the picture of good nature, "because of that fact. You seem to enjoy it so much here, my good friend, I'm going to leave you and my dear little cousin Lolita to enjoy this delightful apartment for half an hour, which will give me time for a drive I have been planning to take." He drew a long puff on his cigarette but did not remove his suddenly menacing pale blue eyes from Ian.

"In the brief case outside my dear First Secretary you will find the original copies of a certain document. You perceive you are now able to return them to the safe with no one the wiser. It will be a great mystery how the news got out, no? You, if you are clever, will blame the leakage on the Hungarian negotiator and he, most emphatically, will blame it on your minister."

The round little man raised his voice. "Michal! Come here! You will learn," he continued with a mock apologetic air, "that Michal and Leon are excellent company. They will be delighted to entertain you sir, for exactly half an hour."

Inwardly raging, Ian made a little bow. No use to fight. Of course, Lolita had given the show away—he felt disgusted, he couldn't hate her for it—she wasn't looking at all happy.

"Very well, he said. "I could think of far less pleasant things than talking to the beautiful Countess von Waldeck—I'm thinking—I need a guardian."

Bobkine laughed so heartily that his pink face flushed. "A graceful admission, Monsieur. Lolita is irresistible, eh? She has done her part most successfully. Ah, here is our friend, Michael!"

In the door appeared the footman, but this time minus his livery and clad in a rough dark gray suit. With him and also in mufti was the giant butler who had first admitted Ian to Number 73 Kerpepsi Ut. They regarded the American with beady, watchful eyes.

"Much as I regret the necessity," remarked the Soviet agent, "I fear we are forced to become melodramatic. Michael, please draw your pistol and keep Monsieur Gray covered while our efficient Leon extracts the pistol he carries a l'americain in a shoulder holster."

"Ah, Lolita, why look so sad? Are your dear brother and sister not on their way to the happy republic of Poland? What does it matter if you have pleasantly be-

Panama Prepares for Air Raids



While two sentries stand guard, a worker is shown piling sand bags around the sentry box to protect the men from possible flying shrapnel, at an important road junction near the strategic Panama Canal. The armed forces on guard at the Canal Zone are ready for any emergency.

Local Draft Board Instructed On Fate Of Deserters

The local draft board received communication this week from General J. Van Metts, state director of selective service, stating that 11 persons who desert the military service in time of war are deemed to have voluntarily relinquished and forfeited their rights to citizenship, as well as their rights to become citizens.

Such deserters are forever incapable of holding any office of trust or profit under the United States or exercising any rights of citizens thereof.

General Metts further stated that in view of the serious consequences of desertion in time of war, it is to be hoped that all selectees on leave from their organization will not let anything whatever interfere with their reporting back for duty on the day required.

Hazelwood Honor Roll For January

Lawrence B. Leatherwood, principal of the Hazelwood school, has announced the honor roll for the fourth month:

Sixth grade: Gloria Ann Kortbe Maxine Knight, Phyllis Wynn Bernice Smathers, Billie Stillwell Sidney Rudisal, Sammie Wiggins

Fifth grade: Mildred James Amon Lee Swanger, Jim Swanger Bobby Queen, Wayne Caldwell Bennie Joe Craig, Mildren M. Flroy, Joyce Buchanan, Bill Blaylock.

Fourth grade: Frances Hendrix Francis Hoyle, Louise Green Juanita Scruggs, Junior Synder

Third grade: Rufus Curtis, Samuel Mehaffey, Boyce Powers, James Swift, Poconna Stewart, Sney Green, Dorothy Creaman, Martha Creaman.

Second grade: Lucille Crawford Carmen Green, Terry Swanger Betty Sue Hargrove.

First grade: Nancy Bischoff Carolyn Bischoff, Patsy Blaylock Joel Burrell, Mary Ann Boy Richard Hoyle, Gene Hudson, Bobbie McKay, Kenneth Underwood Helen Jean Knight, Adelaide Lean, Wanda Rector, Betty Rogers, Susie Swanger, Max Rogers.

fectly. Being a fool, I deserved a fool's fate."

"Would you wish to become my lover even now?" So derisive were the glints in her eyes that both the Russians commenced to chuckle.

"Try me—" was his quivering reply.

"Try you? Bah! You would not amuse me one short hour."

More violent grew Lolita's merriment until the ash of her cigarette tumbled off. Deliberately, she turned her back on him and leaving behind a faint aura of Orchidees Noire swayed back to the settee. Humming a little Russian song, Lolita von Waldeck selected another cigarette, tapped it on her almond-shaped thumb nail and lit it.

Furious beyond bounds at this mockery, Ian gathered himself for a desperate effort, but that menacing gun muzzle anticipated his attack.

(To be Continued)

Start Now

Don't let dreary wash day knock you out of the fun you might be having. Send your holiday wash to us. You'll be agreeably surprised at the time and energy we can save you.

Let us prove to you that it is cheaper and more satisfactory for us to do your laundry.

WAYNESVILLE LAUNDRY

PHONE 205

Beware Coughs from common colds That Hang On

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expectorminate phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

1941 Town Taxes ARE DUE

This is to Give Notice that Penalties will be Added to all Unpaid 1941 Taxes on the First Day of February, 1942.

PAY NOW AND SAVE THE PENALTY

J. W. BOYD

Tax Collector for Town of Waynesville

Build for the years with **BRICK**

ETOWAH, N. C. TRUCK DELIVERIES TO ALL PARTS OF WESTERN N. C.

PHONE 3

In time of war we think not only of physical safety but of economic security also. There is no better economic family security against misfortune than a comfortable HOME... a permanent one built with ETOWAH BRICK.

Let us help you with your planning for a new BRICK home of beauty, permanence and comfort.

ETOWAH BRICK BUILDS BETTER HOMES

MOLAND-DRYSDALE CORPORATION

IN COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL DEFENSE

We plan to start delivering milk only four times weekly. Our trucks are on the same basis as your personal car regarding tires, gas, repairs, etc.

Effective January 15th our regular deliveries will be made on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. You will receive a double order on these days, as we have in the past to eliminate Sunday deliveries.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Pet Dairy Products Co.

Phone 10 Waynesville, N. C.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4000 REFUNDING BONDS OF THE TOWN OF HAZELWOOD.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Hazelwood, North Carolina:

Section 1. That pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act, 1921, as amended, bonds of the Town of Hazelwood of the maximum aggregate amount of \$4000 shall be issued for the purpose of refunding a like principal amount of valid existing debt of said town incurred for necessary expense and evidenced by the following outstanding bonds:

\$1000 4% Street and Bridge Bond, dated February 1, 1937, payable February 1, 1942.

\$2000 6% Street Improvement Bonds, dated March 1, 1926, payable March 1, 1942, and

\$1000 6% Street Bond, dated April 1, 1938, payable April 1, 1942.

Section 2. That a tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the bonds herein authorized shall be annually levied and collected.

Section 3. That a statement of debt of the Town has been filed with the Clerk and is open to public inspection.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and shall not be submitted to the voters.

The foregoing ordinance was passed on the 6th day of January, 1942, and was first published on the 8th day of January, 1941.

Any action or proceeding questioning the validity of said ordinance must be commenced within thirty days after its first publication.

R. B. WOODARD, Clerk.

No. 1148—Jan. 8-15.