

Nothing to be afraid of."

He too had seen her terror then It must have been plain, for then

this, she realized suddenly that she was no longer afraid, and wondered

why. And then, without speaking to Bart, she came quickly back into

Will's sleeve, and peace filled her;

Saladine shook his head. "I don'

see into it at all." he confessed.

sounded mighty loud to me."

Will shook his head. "The noise

I stopped him, made him stay be-

"I didn't," Saladine said.

There was silence for a moment

"By the time I figured you'd be

one," he explained, "I left Zeke

and went into the house; but when

it come on to rain. I wondered

them. I started to go down the

cided there wa'n't any use in that."

slipped. . . ."

had boots on, didn't he?"

mind, now. He did."

"What good's my eyes going to

you wa'n't blind," she told him;

and she looked briefly at Jenny

"Jenny." she called sharply. "You

were almighty scared a while ago

this morning. Did you see any

cold you I heard someone talking,

Marm Pierce came closer to the

girl. "Jenny, I can see more than most; but I can't see everything.

I think you know something me

thing, hear anything at all?"

tones were insistent.

do me here?" he urged.

trail."

here!"

then Will spoke again, gropingly.

enment and cer-

and a deep enlightenment tainty, like a revelation.

to she was allent; and later, and they came back through the woods together, she decided this was a matter none should know. And thus resolving, she as the strength for the task before and was at page and Hill. , and was at peace again. Hul-was dead. Let it be by acci-The world would presently et that Huldy had ever lived.

When with Will she came back to the little house in the Valley, she had somehow attlied her fears. Till she saw the sheriff there. When they came in, she felt her atrength drain away. But then, and by Will himself, her foreboding was winned into fearful contains. irned into fearful certainty; for ill said to this man:

Why, Sheriff, what fetched you

The sheriff hesitated. "I kind of oped you'd bring this Zeke Dace ick with you," he said, evasively. shook his head. "I dunn where Zeke's got to," he admitted in troubled tones. "He wa'n't to home." And he persisted: "But Sheriff, what fetched you?"

Jenny was breathless, waiting for he answer. Then Saladine said gravely: "I sent for him, Will." Will stared at-Saladine. "What for?" he protested, bewildered.

d then the sheriff said: "Why Will, the thing is, it looks to every-body as if maybe Mis' Ferrin didn't fall off of that ledge. They some one maybe throwed her

Jenny's throat constricted stranigly. The hounds were on the

though from far away she ard Will stammer; "Killed her, ou mean?" Something like that."

Will stood with his head bowed. "I guess not," he said firmly at last.
"Who'd do that?" "I was thinking maybe this Zeke

" Sohler suggested. But Will shook his head. "No iff," he insisted. "Whatever did pen, it wa'n't Zeke. He wouldn't to hurt her." And he continued, ilf to himself; "There might have some to hurt Huldy; but not ceke! Why, I'd as soon think I did

it myself." he said. Jenny felt the shock of a great

Then Bart chuckled. "That's a ke, Will. I mean, to think you'd hurt Huldy," he explained, and he added hotly: "Not that any-body d blame you! She needed it." He spoke to the sheriff. "Anyone around here will say the same!"

Will moved a little toward him. I don't take that kindly, Bart," said. "I don't want that kind f talk from you or anybody. Not

about Huldy. Not now."

There was, briefly, silence; but er a moment the sheriff said, anif to himself, in almost querulous

"It's a pity she didn't come g enough to tell what happened

And it seemed to Jenny sudden ly that this familiar kitchen was small, and crowded, and ng hot. She felt strangled, and her hand flew to her lips, and stark terror choked her. Then she saw Marm Pierce watching her with eyes uddenly keen and shrewd; and he felt smothered, and shrank After the sheriff spoke, there was illence for a moment; then Jenny and a respite, for Joe Matthews, undertaker, came out of the ng room. He spoke to Will. There, Will," he said, "Tve

all that needs doing tonight; if you want, I'll carry her He hesitated, added: "But take my advice, let her lay tonight. I can 'tend to everya sight better in the morn-

rm Pierce said: "She's welto stay, Will!" ed. "Well, likely that's

What was it scared you, a while ago, when the sheriff said that about wishing Huldy had come to, ie," he agreed. Jenny?" she demanded.

Jenny looked at Will's bowed
head, and her smile suddenly was nead, and her smile suddenly was radiant as the sun. "It don't mean a thing to me now," she protested

nny, while their attention was turned away from her, opened door and stepped out on the h. grateful for the taste of moist air. In the kitchen she d the sheriff say doubtfully: tuess, Joe, you'll want to go g home now. I don't know as whit to leave yet, though. I'd to see this Zeke Dace, first. I wish't you'd bring Doe Harn the morning. I want him to her over."

hen presently the undertaker out to depart, Jenny drew out of his way. Sohler and dine crossed with him to where truck stood, spoke with him. Then Bart came out, and to Jenny casually:

"Jenny, she never did!"
And Bart exclaimed: "She couldn't, Jenny! Why, she was as good as dead before I ever got her

stowed away. Bart was by the door into the shed. Marm Plerce was between Jenny and the stove; and Sheriff Sohler sat in front of the oven with his greatcost loose about him.

the other door, impassive, waiting.
Saladine, watching Jenny, thought
she seemed in this moment to wear
a mantle of grace. She looked at
Will and her eyes held his, and her
tone was gently mirthful.
"She told me von did it. "She told me you did it, Will," said Jenay, with a smile on her lips, and her glance screne. Bart uttered a low ejaculation:

her gently.
"The more fool you!" said Marm

Pierce briskly, her patience near the breaking point. "What happened?" she demanded.

The sheriff spoke heavily. "Mis" Pierce, you let her tell it her own way," he urged. So Marm Pierce the kitchen where were Marm Pierce and Will. Her hand touched was slienced; and Jenny's eyes numb for a while; but then after turned again to Will. The blg man I'd been with Will for a spell, I shook and swayed where he stood, tainty, like a revelation.

Then the truck departed, and say had struck him nerveless.

Then Jenny faced the sheriff Bart and Sohler and Saladine re-turned indoors. After a moment steadily and she said: "Mis Ferrin looked at me, and her mouth the sheriff appealed to Saladine. "Jim," he said. "Looks like you twisted into a kind of laugh, and could figure something out of this she said something. First off, I business. I guess you was the last couldn't hear her. She was awful weak, and I leaned down and I said to her. 'It's all right, Mis' Ferrin! And she laughed at me. I mean her mouth twisted as if she Bart turned to Will. "How about was trying to! And this time I declared. you, Will?" he urged. "Didn't you hear her screech when she fell? I'd have said everybody in heard what she said."

Marm Pierce exploded in a fierce a mile could have heard that. It impatience: "Get on with it, Jennyt What did she say?" And Jenny answered: "She said wouldn't carry up to the farm, with I could have him now!

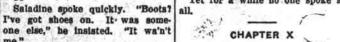
the hill between, and the trees." He looked at Saladine. "I mind," "I guess I kind of moved back. at that, away from her! It was he said, "when you went off with like she'd slapped me!" Her cheek Huldy, Zeke he come out of the was pale, and she spoke almost shed like he'd go along after you. humbly. "I didn't know what to do," she confessed. "So I just tried And he continued after a tell her it was all right, and I moment: "Seems like I kep' him told her Will was coming."

there a sight longer'n it'd take Her tones shook, then steadled. you to get down to the brook. Sup-"And then she said it," she conposing you didn't stop any time on cluded. "She said, kind of slow and weak: 'Will knocked me off-And she had to wait a minute, and then she said: 'He hit me!'"

The girl was silent for an instant efore she could go on,

"Her mouth was still kind of laughing," she finished. "And she sort of coughed. I guess that was when she died." A deep tremor shook where Huldy was. I come out on the porch and yelled for Zeke, but her, but her voice was firm. he didn't answer, so I went hunting laid there, looking at me, and her mouth grinning at me; but I guess path to the brook. But then deshe was dead by then. Anyway, she didn't say any more."

He added with a glance at Sala-She finished and was still, waitdine: "I see tracks where you'd ing. And suddenly she was very gone down, where your boots had tired, dreading what was to come. Yet for a while no one spoke at Saladine spoke quickly. "Boots? all.



Will said stubbornly: "It was ENNY's disclosure for a moment boot tracks that I see. Somebody hushed them all. Marm Pierce with boots on had gone down the was the first to speak.

"Whew!" she exclaimed. "I de-And Bart spoke, "Guess Zeke clare, "It's hot as love in hay time, here!"

Will considered, and he nodded Bart opened the door into the "Likely," he agreed. "Yes, he did. shed, to admit some air.

The sheriff crossed his feet and The sheriff stirred. "The way sat in a deep embarrassment. His no matter how she behaved. Mayshoes scraped on the the one to find; and we ain't likely Marm Pierce said: to find him, long as we're setting

"I smell a lamp smoking." The lamps here were all in or-"Nor you can't find him outside," der: but when she opened the door into the dining-room where Huldy Marm Pierce cried sharply. "Show some sense, Sheriff! You couldn't lay, a reek of soot and smoke see Zeke ten feet away, a night like this, if he was a mind to hide. emerged. The old woman bustled in there, complaining, scolding the Set down. Use your head, 'stead absent Joe Matthews. of your feet! Use your eyes!"

"Takes a man to make a mess of things," she protested. She brought out the lamp, its chimney black. "There's been enough to see, if "He left it turned up too high, she declared; and replaced it with another lamp, and they heard ber raise the windows a little from the bottom, "I'll air out a mite," she explained, talking to herself in the you've told. You was down brook other room.

Then she returned, shut the dining room door again.

"Well!" she ejaculated. "I de-clare, I've had about enough of Jenny, though her heart was pounding, spoke after a moment steadily enough. The way was the goings on this day. Jenny, why didn't you tell me this here beclear before her now, all doubts fore?"

Jenny looked at Will, and she esolved. But she only said: "I said: "Because first off I was afraid it was true." She smiled steadily. "Only I knowed that even if it was, I didn't care!"

"How do you mean, you didn't care?" the sheriff asked, in a dull perplexity.

But before Jenny replied, Marm Pierce spoke, in a sort of defiance, "I'll tell you that, Sheriff," she said. "The thing is, Will and Jenny had got to like each other mighty well, before Huldy come back after that time she went away. Will he's fine; "Because I can see it and so's Jenny. No harm in it. I "What was it, Jenny?" the old it looked to me that Will'd be bet-ter off if he was rid of her for good "Buldy did come to, for a min-ute, before she died," said Jenny then.

"But when she did come. Jenny, she didn't see him after that, till today."

She concluded: "But Jenny and

Will's defence. "She needed it, bad! But he never meant to knock her off the ledge!"

Jenny cried, swift, indignant: "Will never touched her, Bart!"

"I know he didn't," Bart loyally agreed, "But I'm just saying, if

"He didn't!" Jenny repeated

The sheriff looked up at her.

The sheriff looked up at her.

"How come you to be so sure, Jenny?" he saked in sober tones.

"If I wa'n't sure," Jenny challenged, "d'you think I'd ever have told you, or anybody, what she said?"

"You wouldn't want to marry a

"She told me you did it, Will," said?"

"You wouldn't want to marry a man that'd kill his wife, would you?" Solier urged; and Jenny's eyes met his fairly, and hers were mistaunce.

"How come you didn't call me?"
"I didn't want you," Jenny told fastly. "But I'd want to marry way it come, and no mat-

Will any way it come, and no mat-ter what he done!" "Well, that ain't telling me how

you know he didn't do it?" the sher-iff repeated doggedly. "What made you sure, all of a sudden, now?" "Just—coming to my senses," Jenny decided. "I was kind of numb for a while; but then after

The sheriff, surprisingly, chuckled. "I'd admire to hear you testify like to see what the judge would say." He became grave again, and looked at last at Will. "How about It, Will?" he suggested soberly. "Anything you've got to say?" Will, with all their eyes upon

him, stood fumbling for words. "If it was anyone but Jenny told me, I wouldn't believe Huldy said it." he "Tain't true, I guess you'll say."

"No. No, it ain't true." The sheriff frowned. "How come Mis' Ferrin to say a thing like that, then?" he protested. "Don't seem as if a woman would tell a straight-out lie, the minute before

she died!" "She was out of her head, I reckon," Will offered.

But Jenny said: "No, Will, she was same as always. She knowed me, knowed every word she said." The man insisted almost plead-"Jenny, she wouldn't tell a ingly: thing like that only if she was crazy, or out of her head, or some

thing."

Marm Pierce had been silent long; but now she spoke, in sharp angry tones.

"Will Ferrin, you're a fool!" she exclaimed. "I guess most men are, where a woman's concerned; but yo're a bigger fool than most. know as well as anyone that Huldy was no good !"

His head lifted as though he would speak, but her voice rose. "Now don't try to shut me up, Will Ferrin!" she cried. "For I'm going to have my say! Land knows why Huldy married you; but everybody knows she was a bad wife to you. She was bad from her toes up. Dead as she is, I'll say so, if it's the last word I do say. She'd have drove any man that wa'n't a saint or a fool to kill her long ago; but you didn't kill her. You always would speak soft to Huldy, and stand anything from her, and come down hard on anyone that tried to tell you the truth about her!"

She turned as though on a sudden thought to the sheriff. "Will didn't hit her," she insisted. "He wouldn't have the spunk to! He always did treat Huldy like a lady, be if he'd took a hoop-pole

long ago . . ."
But she checked the word, swung to Will again.

"Will, you listen to me," she ommanded him. "Huldy knowed what she was saying, all right; and she knowed she was dving, too. But if she could make Jenny believe you killed her, there couldn't ever be any happiness between the two of you; and that's what Huldy wanted. That's why she said what she dld. So's to make it hard for you. and bitter hard for my Jenny !"

And she said with a sudden passion in her tones: "Just for that, I'd put her out of my house this minute, dead though she be, if it wa'n't for you, Will. As it is, she can stay; but you better get some sense into your head! She was a man-chasing, lying, trouble-making woman, and that's the truth of it. and I'm glad she's dead, if you ask

She finished and stood panting with her own pent rage, and looked at Will as though in challenge; as though she dared him to deny her words. And Jenny crossed to Will's side, not touching him, but ready there, and loyal,

Then Will spoke slowly. "Ma'am," he told old Marm Pierce, "I guess if it come to that, I knowed Huldy better than most. But I don't want folks to talk about her so!" There was pleading in his tones.

"Then don't you play the dumb fool to me," sald Old Marm Pierce angrily. "Denying what's as plain as day! She always would make trouble when she could. She set Zeke on Bart two years ago; and she'd set Jenny against you now, if she could .

(TO BE CONTINUED)

that, till today."

She concluded: "But Jenny and Will would have married before this, if Huidy hadn't been married to Will. Jenny loves him and he may i Why, she was as loves her, and I'm glad of it, if it comes to that. Jenny's fine, and Will's a man!"

"And nobody'd blame him for hit ing Huidy." Bart insisted, quick to the individual case.

## More Velvet in the Fall Mode

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



WE ARE going to be more elegant in dress this fall and winter than ever. All the pre-showings of advance fashions declare for greater luxury in jewels, in furs, in fabrics, in costume design. Where there is luxury and elegance to apparel there is velvet. Which leads to the message we would convey-the outstanding importance of velvet in the mode.

There is simply no limit to the enthusiasm which style creators are expressing for velvet this fall. It's velvet everywhere this season,

Apropos of the craze for velvet which is sweeping throughout the world of fashion Paris cables the news of tailored cloth suits which are styled with velvet collars and revers. Several suits shown in early contour showings have velvet skirts with cloth jackets often of rough surfaced, bright colored novelty

The girl planning her going-awayto school wardrobe will adore the new velvet-plus-woolen outfits, Consider, for instance, the cunning ensemble shown to the right in the picture. It is a style-elect when it comes to assembling the college girl's wardrobe. The dress is of stiff deep red (red of the Italian master paintings) velvet. The bodice is designfully stitched in squares. The cloth cape in matching red has velvet buttons and velvet flowers at the throat.

Black velorganza, which is a thin velvet pile on an organdle base, fashions the handsome costume to the left in the group. Note that the flaring jacket is lined with the same gay printed organdle as makes the blouse. Linings which correlate the

ensemble into an harmonious unit is a pet theme with fashion this season.

There is a boldly picturesque note about the so-named "pirate" dress centered in the trio. The unique bodice is of green mat velvet. The skirt is of non-crushable heavy white linen strikingly printed in green.

Velvet has become almost inseparable with black when it comes to talking from the viewpoint of daytime fashions, However, it is a little newer this year to introduce color-any of the dark warm colors that are booming for fall, particularly the wine purple and rich green range reflecting the Italian rennalssance influence.

The favorite velvet suit for allround wear during the daytime activities is linked with fitted lines. The very short jacket is apt to have almost a basque trimness, with its neatly buttoned-up-the-front closing. and intricate seaming and gores for the skirt.

The shirtwaist in velvet, begun by Mainbocher, is contributing a subject of exciting interest to the new style program. Speaking of color in velvet this trend is particularly noticeable in many of the early fall hats which are of velvet in delectable warm autumn hues. The little chapeau in the inset here shown is an ultra smart plaid velvet toque with a green feather curled to the left. The new berets of deep wine green or purple velvet are decidedly picturesque, some of them big floppy affairs dipping down over one eye, others with the new triangular and squared contour, which are decidedly smart and effective.

Western Newspaper Union.

### READY FOR SCHOOL



Coat fashlons for the junior miss should be considered as "first aid" to preparedness in the matter of school girl wardrobe needs for fall. The model pictured is highly significant as to certain style trends that are sutstanding in the new autumn and winter modes. Note a slight flare from the hipline. Doublebreasted in somewhat of a coachman style this coat takes on a new note of chic. The fur-bordered collar carries a capelike air. The material for this attractive coat is a checked velour woolen. The hat is included in the ensemble, being of the same amart wool weave.

#### DRAPE BRIDAL VEIL IN MANY NEW WAYS

New ways of draping the bridal veil are offered the girl who is planning an early fall wedding. While in general these may be said to derive from the Russian tiara effects, they should more properly be credited to the Renaissance period. This includes the Italian, the Russian, and the Hungarian periods of corresponding dates.

One of the most charming of these diadem effects was recently constructed by Worth. Of tulle and old lace, over a stiffened wire foundation, it gains in width clear to the ears and is softened by incrusted draperies at the top in crenellated

Chanel has made a bridal headdress which starts with a cap of tulle, embroidered in crosslines of dull silver. This silver note is recalled in the torsade which divides the upturning and downturning sections of the slightly circular-cut oureole, diminishing to nothing at the back of the head and giving full sweep to the simple tulle vell.

#### Great Shawl Affairs Will Appear on Coats for Fall

Bruyere shows new collar treatments on fall coats-great shawl affairs, high at the back, tapering down to the walst in front. These come in bi-color effects. One beige coat has a double shawl collar, half black and half beige, used crosswise, A black lainage repeats this

has large white fur coin dots on a black caracul collar. Chanel, in her advance fall coats features tippet collars with fur edg-

effect in black and white. Another

Wooden-Bead Collars New cowl collars are made of colored wooden beads.

#### Housewife's Idea Box



A Paint Hint

Do you find it difficult properly to mix paint which has just been opened? The next time you are going to use a can of paint, turn the closed can upside down a couple of days before you intend to use it. You will find that you have no difficulty in mixing the paint.

THE HOUSEWIFE.

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Happiness is the silver in the gray hair of Suffering -V. D. Ventris

#### Laxative combination folks know is trustworthy

The confidence thousands of parents have in good, old reliable, powdered Thedford's Black-Draught has prompted them to get the new Syrup of Black-Draught for their children. The grown folks stick to the powdered Black-Draught; the youngsters probably will prefer it when they outgrow their childish love of sweets. Mrs. C. W. Adams, of Murray, Ky., writes: "I have used Thedford's Black-Draught (powder) about thirteen years, taking is for billousness. Black-Draught acts well and I am always pleased with the results. I wanted a good, reliable laxative for my shildren. I have found Syrup of Black-Draught to be just that."

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