

The Million Dollar Mystery

By HAROLD MAC GRATH

Illustrated from Scenes in the Photo Drama of the Same Name by the Thanhouser Film Company

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CHAPTER XX.

Brains Tries Another Weapon. "What I want now," said Brains, as he paced the living room of the apartment of the country, "is revenge. I've been checked enough, Olga; they're playing with us."

"That is nothing new," she replied, shrugging. "At the beginning I warned you. I never liked this affair after the first two or three failures. But you would have your way. You wanted revenge at that early date; but I cannot see that you've gone forward. Has it ever occurred to you that the organization may be getting tired, too? They depend solely upon your invention, and each time your invention has resulted in nothing but zero."

"Thanks!"

"O, I'm not chiding you. I've failed, too."

"Are you turning against me?" he demanded bitterly.

"Do my actions point that way?" she countered. "No. But the more I view what has passed, the more disheartened I grow. It has been a series of blind alleys, and all we have succeeded in doing is knocking our heads. I can see now that all our failures are due to one mistake."

"And that the devil is that?" he asked, irritably.

"We were in too much of a hurry at the beginning. Hargrave prepared himself for quick action on your part."

"And if I had not acted quickly he would have started successfully on one of his world tours again, and that would have been the last of him, and we should never have learned of the girl's existence. So there's your argument."

"Perhaps you are right. But for all that we have not played the game with any degree of finesse."

"Bah!" Brains lit a cigarette and smoked nervously. "I can't even get rid of that meddling reporter. He has been as much to blame for our failures as either Jones or Hargrave. I admit that in his case I judged hastily. I believed him to be just an ordinary newspaper man, and he was clever enough to lull my suspicions. But I'm going to get him, Olga, even if I have to resort to ordinary gun-man tricks. If there's any final reckoning by the Lord Harry, he shall get a chance in the witness stand."

"And I begin to think that that little chit of a girl has been hoodwinking me all along. By the way, did you find out what that letter said?" she asked after a pause.

"Letter? What letter?"

"She sprang from her chair. 'Do you mean to say that they have not told you about that?' Olga became greatly excited.

"'Explains,' he said.

"'Why, I was at the garden day before yesterday, and a man approached and asked if I was Miss Hargrave. Becoming at once suspicious that something very important was about to happen, I signified that I was Miss Hargrave. The man slipped a paper into my hand and hurried off. I took a quick glance at it and was dumfounded to find it utterly blank of writing. At first I thought some joke had been played on me, then I chanced to remember the invisible ink letters you always wrote me. Understanding that you were to visit the cave in the morning, I had one man at the garden take the note. And you never got it!'"

washed all the writing away. The fire does not seem to do any good. We'll turn it over to Jones. Jones'll find a way to solve it. Trust him."

"What are you two chattering about?" asked Susan, who was arranging some flowers on the table.

"Secrets," said Jim, smiling.

"Humph!"

Susan pattered about for a few minutes longer, then crossed to the recep-



He Went to the Telephone.

tion room, intending to go upstairs. At that moment the maid was admitting a messenger with a basket of fruit.

"For Miss Hargrave," said he. He gave the basket to the maid, touched his cap awkwardly, and swung on his heel, closing the door behind him. He was in a hurry to deliver another message.

"O, what lovely fruit!" cried Susan, pausing. "I'm going to steal one, she laughed. She selected a peach and began eating it on the way up to her room.

The maid passed on into the library. "What's this?" inquired Florence, as the maid held out the basket. She selected a peach and was about to set her white teeth into it when Jim interposed.

"Wait a moment, dear," Florence lowered the peach. Jim turned to the maid. "Who sent it?"

"I don't know, sir. A messenger brought it, saying it was for Miss Hargrave."

"Let me see if there is a card," said Jim. He searched in vain for the card of the donor. At all his suspicious arose. "Don't touch them. Better let the maid throw them out. That's revenge. The Persian peach method."

"Poison? You shall not! You shall not kill her!" vehemently.

"Tender hearted?"

"No. If I must in the end go to prison, so be it; but I refuse to die in the chair."

"Very well, then. We shan't kill her, but we make her wish she was dead. I was only trying to see how far you would go. The basket of peaches is in the hallway. Every peach is poisoned. No man in the

The ink is waterproof. I'll show you." Jones got a candle from the mantle, lit it, and held the sheet of paper very close to the flame. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, letters began to form on the blank sheet. At length the message was complete.

"Dear Hargrave—The Russian minister of police is at the Blank hotel under the name of Henri Servan. He is investigating the work of the Black Hundred in this country and can free you from their vengeance if you supply the evidence needed."

"Now what evidence can he want?" asked Jim.

"Such as will prove Brains an undesirable citizen."

"And then?"

"Quietly pack him off to Russia, where he is badly wanted."

"Who sent this message?"

"One of our mysterious friends. We have a few, as you already know. But I'll go and make this man Servan a visit. I have seen the real minister, and if this man is the same one, something of importance may turn up. I shall want you somewhere about here. I'll let you have this letter. Remember, heat brings it out and cold air makes it vanish. Now I'll go for a moment to see how that poor girl is getting along. We are lucky; there's no galsaying that."

"You're a clever man, Jones," said Jim.

Jones turned upon him, his face grave. The two men looked steadily into each other's eyes. Jones was first to turn aside his glance, as he had something to conceal and Jim had nothing.

When the ambulance took the tortured Susan away, Jones addressed Florence gravely. "I am going out and so is Mr. Norton. Do not leave the house; not even if you have a telephone call from me or Norton. Both of us will return; so don't let anything bother or confuse you."

"I promise," said Florence, struggling with a sob.

Jones went downstairs again, paused by a window as if cogitating, and suddenly threw it up and looked abroad. A rustle among the lilacs caused a smile to flit across his face. So they sent some one to learn the effect of the poison? Or to follow him should he leave the house? He returned to the kitchen and gave some explicit orders to the chef, orders which did not in any way refer to cooking. Then Jones and the reporter left the house, each quite aware that they were being followed. Near the Blank hotel they separated in order to confuse the stalker. He might do as he pleased, but he was to follow Jim, and it was evident that this time he had been directed to follow Jones; for he entered the hotel a minute after Jones.

Meantime a second spy, whom Jones had not seen, had observed the transfer of the invisible writing and had immediately informed Brains, who was not far away. That his poisoned fruit had stricken down an outsider troubled him none at all. But that mysterious message he meant to have; it might be a clue to the treasure, or the whereabouts of Hargrave.

Thus, while only one man followed Jones, several kept a far eye on Jim. Jones scribbled his name on a blank card and had it taken to the Russian's room. The page eyed that card curiously. It was different from anything he had ever seen before. In one corner were written three or four words which resembled a cross between Hebrew and Greek.

"Humph!" muttered the boy. "Whadda y' know about that? Chickens scratches; but I guess the bell rings Russian. On your way, I've seen a look at the card. 'Up' it' room, sir. He'll see you.' The boy kept the silver salver extended expectantly, but Jones went past without apparently noticing the hint.

The Russian was standing by a window when Jones knocked and was hidden to enter.

"You are not Hargrave."

"Neither are you the Russian minister of police," urbanely.

"Who are you?"

"I am Hargrave's confidential man, sir."

The two men eyed each other cautiously.

"You speak Russian?"

"No. I am able to scribble a few words; that is all."

The Russian lit a cigarette and smoked leisurely. He was in no hurry.

"No, I am not the minister; but I am his accredited agent. I am empowered to bring back to Russia a man who is known here by the name of Brains another by the name of Vroon, and a woman who calls herself a countess and unfortunately is one. All I desire is some damaging proof against them that they are outlaws in this country. The rest will be simple."

"They have all three taken out naturalization papers."

The Russian waved his hand airily. "Once they are in Russia those documents will never come to light. This man Brains, it has been learned, has long been in the pay of Prussia, and has given the general staff of that country many plans of our frontier



Letters Began to Form on the Blank Sheet.

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Jones Paused by a Window.

fortifications. I do not know what any one of the three looks like. That is why I sought Hargrave."

"I will gladly point them out to you," said Jones, rubbing his hands together, a sign that he was greatly pleased.

"That will be very good of you, I'm sure," in a rumbling but perfectly intelligible English.

"And suddenly they all three will disappear?"

"Suddenly; and you may believe me that from that time on they'll be heard of never more."

"All this sounds extremely agreeable to me. Mr. Hargrave will be happy to hear that his long enforced hiding will soon come to an end."

"All you have to do, sir, is to point them out to me."

"It may take a week or ten days."

"My government has waited for ten years to gather in this delectable trio. A month, if you like."

"The sooner the better. I shall call this evening after dinner. We shall begin with Mr. Brains; and generally where he is the woman. Vroon will be the most difficult."

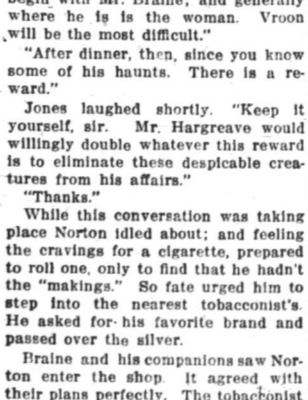
"After dinner, then, since you know some of his haunts. There is a reward."

Jones laughed shortly. "Keep it yourself, sir. Mr. Hargrave would willingly double whatever this reward is to eliminate these despicable creatures from his affairs."

"Thanks."

While this conversation was taking place Norton idled about, and feeling the cravings for a cigarette, prepared to roll one, only to find that he hadn't the "makings." So fate urged him to step into the nearest tobacconist's. He asked for his favorite brand and passed over the silver.

Brains and his companions saw Norton enter the shop, and feeling the cravings for a cigarette, prepared to roll one, only to find that he hadn't the "makings." So fate urged him to step into the nearest tobacconist's. He asked for his favorite brand and passed over the silver.



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NELSON W. ALDRICH



Nelson W. Aldrich, great Republican leader, was senator from Rhode Island for 30 years and has just died at his home at New York of heart disease. He was 74 years old.

MAXWELL IS PRESIDENT

NEW LEADER NAMED BY COTTON MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AT MEMPHIS.

Protectors Against Operation of Bill—Favors Merchant Marine—Wants "Open Door."

Memphis, Tenn.—Endorsement was given proposals to establish an American merchant marine by Government subsidy and protest made against the operation of the Palmer child labor law and legislation pending in Congress to require the branding of goods, in a resolution adopted by the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association, which concluded its annual convention here. Other resolutions adopted asked that the United States Government require a new statement of the "right of equal opportunity" to trade in the markets of the world, particularly in China and that the principle of the "open door" be reasserted.

Scott Maxwell of Cordova, Ala., was elected president of the association, John A. Law, Spartanburg, S. C., vice president and Caesar C. Green, Greensboro, N. C., chairman of the board of governors. Other members of the board of governors elected were J. J. Bradley, Huntsville, Ala.; Eugene Helt, Burlington, N. C.; George E. Spofford, Augusta, Ga.; Paul J. Merris, Henderson, Ky., and Craig S. Mitchell, Philadelphia.

FIFTEEN KILLED IN COLLISION

Street Car and Freight Train Collide in Detroit.

Detroit, Mich.—Fifteen persons were killed and about 20 injured in a collision between a Detroit city street car and a string of freight cars pushed by a switch engine on the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad.

Most of the dead lived in Detroit's foreign quarter. Four are women.

The street car, crowded with passengers, stopped as it approached the railroad crossing and the conductor ran ahead to see if the track was clear. He signalled the locomotive to wait, but apparently the latter misunderstood his meaning. He applied the power and the car ran rapidly down an incline and onto the railroad tracks.

The freight cars pushed by the engine struck the street car fairly in the middle. The wreckage was piled about 100 feet, several of the dead and injured dropping along the street before the train was stopped. Others were crushed in the splintered mass of steel and wood and it was several hours before they could be extricated.

Kaiser Visits in Italy.

Geneva, via Paris.—Information reaching Geneva tends to confirm the reports that Emperor William visited Emperor Francis Joseph last month. According to this information Emperor William determined to see Emperor Francis Joseph after receiving from Prince von Buelow, German ambassador to Italy, a message that negotiations concerning territorial concessions by Austria as the price of Italy's neutrality had failed.

May Soon Get Dye stuff.

Washington.—State department officials were prepared to take up with the German government the last step necessary to supply American textile mills with two cargoes of German dye stuffs bought before March 1. The way was cleared by the announcement that Great Britain had agreed to permit these cargoes under certain conditions to come through from Rotterdam. The position previously taken by the German government has been that it would permit dye shipments in exchange for cotton or copper.

Gen. Funston at Brownsville.

Brownsville, Texas.—Major General Frederick Funston, who has just arrived here from San Antonio to take charge of the border situation created by the siege of Matamoros, said his coming was due to reports that the Villa artillery was advancing and that the fighting might be expected to reach a climax soon. The day passed, however, with no bombardment of Matamoros, the only fighting reported being heard from the Brazos, played by about eight miles down the Rio Grande from Matamoros.

Nothing So Good for a Cough or Cold.

When you have a cough or cold you want the best medicine obtainable so as to get rid of it with the least delay possible. There are many who consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy unsurpassed. Mrs. J. Boroff, Elda, Ohio, says: "Ever since my daughter Ruth was cured of a severe cough by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy two years ago, I have felt kindly disposed toward the manufacturers of that preparation. I know of nothing so quick to relieve a cough or cold." For sale by all dealers.

Rheumatic Pains Relieved.

Why suffer from rheumatism when relief may be had at so small a cost? Writes Mrs. Elmer Hatch, Peru, Ind.: "I have been subject to attacks of rheumatism for years. Chamberlain's Liniment always relieves me, immediately, and I take pleasure in recommending it to others." For sale by all dealers.

Some of the world's most respectable nations are now running amuck.

SAYS MEXICO CAN NOT BE CONQUERED

SIXTEEN MILLION WILL HAVE TO BE KILLED BEFORE MEXICO COULD BE INVADIED.

VIEW OF GENERAL HUERTA

He Declares the Heads of Washington Administration Have Not Been Fair to Mexico.

New York.—Asserting that he had nothing to do with the death of Francisco Madero, General Victoriano Huerta, former Provisional President issued a lengthy signed statement relating to the question.

General Huerta declared he knew who was responsible for Madero's death, but that he was keeping it as "a professional secret."

General Huerta's statement reviewed the history of the Madero revolution, his own accession to the Provisional Presidency and concluded with the assertion that "my country can not be conquered."

Sixteen millions of men, women and children would have to be killed before Mexico would submit to an invader, Huerta asserted.

The heads of the Washington Administration, Huerta declared, had not been fair to Mexico, had been misled by false statements and if they had been in Mexico for thirty days "they would have changed their theoretical, erroneous ideas."

Had it not been for the embargo on the exportation of arms from this country General Huerta indicated that his army would have prevailed over those opposed to it.

The former Provisional President reiterated the assertion made when he left Mexico last year that he had resigned from his position only because he hoped to bring peace to his country. He pointed out that in the eight months elapsed since that date the situation in Mexico had become "too sad for me to analyze deeply."

"Anarchy is too soft a word to call it," he said. Mexico eventually would be saved, but by a Mexican, he said. Who that would be he did not know.

Huerta declined to give an inkling as to his future movements. He denied that he would go to San Antonio, Texas, or any other point near the Mexican border. Discussing the death of Madero, he said:

"That is a professional secret. Lawyers have secrets; doctors have secrets—I am a soldier—why should not a soldier have secrets? It is not through friendship for any one that I am withholding the information. The time will soon come when my name will be vindicated and, as General Lee said of General Jackson, the world will say of me, 'I stood like a stone wall, submitting to the ignominy and the insults heaped upon me.'"

NETHERLANDS STEAMER SUNK. Anchored Off Her Home Coasts She Is Torpedoed.

London.—The Netherlands steamer Katwyk, Baltimore to Rotterdam, was torpedoed while anchored seven miles west of the Hinder Lightship in the North Sea.

The crew of 23 was saved and taken to Flushing, according to a Reuter dispatch. The dispatch quotes the men as saying that as they rowed away they saw the periscope of a submarine, which quickly disappeared.

The Katwyk sank 15 minutes after the explosion.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent says the Katwyk had been lying at anchor for 15 minutes when torpedoed. The correspondent says a message from the Hook of Holland declares that all the ship's lights were burning at the time of the attack.

Zepplins Visit England. London.—Two Zepplin airships visited the east coast of England, dropping bombs on several towns and doing considerable damage to property. As far as has been ascertained, only one person, a woman, was injured. It is said she was only slightly hurt.

Taft Speaks to Legislature. Harrisburg.—William H. Taft told Pennsylvania legislators to conserve the people's money and not to spend it before they know how much the state has to spend. "The growing danger in this country," Mr. Taft said, "is the waste of the people's money." The former president declared the government should not go into business in competition with private enterprise. "The people's money should not be put into private business where private enterprise can do the work better," Mr. Taft said.

Britain Apologizes to Chile. London.—Great Britain has offered a "full and ample apology" to the Chilean government for the sinking March 14 in Chilean territorial waters of the German cruiser Dresden, the aftermath of which already has been ordered by the maritime governor of Cumberland Bay when the British squadron attacked and sank the German. This fact was made public in a White Paper giving the text of the Chilean note protesting against the sinking of the Dresden and the British reply.

Relief in Six Hours. Distressing Kidney and Bladder Disease relieved in six hours by the NEW GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE. It is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in bladder, kidneys and back, in male or female. Relieves retention of water almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is the remedy. Sold by Graham Drug Co.

WILLIAM G. M'ADOO



Secretary of the Treasury M'Adoo and Comptroller Williams are leaders in the fight caused by their sensational attack on the methods of management of the Riggs National Bank of Washington.

UZSOK STOPS RUSSIANS

AUSTRIANS GREATLY CHEERED BY NUMBER OF GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS.

French Are Satisfied With Successes in West Between Meuse and Lorraine Frontier.

London.—Two garrisons into Hungary still remain barred, despite the tremendous Russian hammering and as the Beskid Pass is the less important of the two strategically, a further advance into Hungary hangs on the possession of Usok Pass, where the invaders are meeting with stubborn opposition. Several days ago the Russians captured a position which gave them command of a road leading to the rear of Uzsook Pass, but since then the Teutonic Allies have checked the movement. "The importance of the Carpathian operations is indicated by the half-hearted actions along the rest of the Lorraine frontier."

The people of the Dual Monarchy are said to be greatly cheered by the number of German reinforcements passing through Budapest on the way to the Carpathian front to take part in the operations, which are now believed to be in charge of the German General Staff.

The whole situation in the East pivots on Usok Pass where the Austro-German forces are in such great strength that the efforts of the Russians to reach the Hungarian Plains are likely to be prolonged.

In the west the French apparently are satisfied with their recent successes between the Meuse and the Lorraine frontier and claim only to have come in contact with the German entanglements in this region. Official German reports assert that determined attacks by the French reports assert that determined attacks by the French have been repulsed along this section.

Probably no session of the British Parliament since the opening of the year has been awaited with keener interest than the sitting which will begin soon.

GOVERNMENT BACKS OFFICIALS.

Department of Justice Will Aid Williams and M'Adoo.

Washington.—Developments indicated that the Government intends to do its utmost to back up Secretary M'Adoo of the Treasury, and Comptroller of the Currency Williams in the legal fight precipitated by the Riggs National Bank, complainant in equity proceedings to enjoin these officials from alleged attempts to drive that institution out of business through systematic and long-continued persecution.

Attorney General Gregory announced that the Department of Justice had employed Louis D. Brandeis of Boston, to defend Messrs. Williams and M'Adoo in the injunction proceedings. He declared his department and the treasury were cooperating in these proceedings. It became known also that Jesse C. Adams, former Assistant Attorney General also had been retained in the case.

Carranza Garrison Licks Villa. Brownsville, Texas.—In a sortie the Carranza garrison defending Matamoros inflicted a heavy blow upon the Villa army besieging the town. General Saulo Navarre, second in command of the Villa troops, was brought to Brownsville dangerously wounded and the Carranza consulate here claimed the Villa's dead numbered 300. The sortie drew from the Villa forces their long-promised shelling of Matamoros but the shelling stopped when the Carranza division returned to the trench.

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Just Power Enough to Keep Himself Afloat.

country knows more about subtle poisons than I do. Have I not written books on the subject?" ironically.

"And they will trace it back to you in a straight line," she warned. "I will not have it!"

"I can go elsewhere," he replied coldly.

"You would leave me?"

"The moment you cross my will," emphatically.

It became her turn to pace. Torn between her love of the man and the danger which stared her in the face, she was for the time being distracted. All the time he watched her with malignant curiosity, knowing that in the end she would concur with his evil plans.

"Very well," she said finally. "But listen; we shall be found out. Never doubt that. Your revenge will cost us both our lives. I feel it."

"Bah! The law will have no hand in my end. I always carry a pellet; and that ring of yours would suffice a regiment. She will not die. She will merely become a kind of paralytic; the kind that can move a little but not enough; always wheeled about in a chair. I'll bring in the peaches; rosy and downy. One bite, after a given time, will do the trick. If they suspect and throw them out we have lost nothing but the peaches. A trusted messenger will carry them to the Hargrave house. And then we'll sit down and wait."

Meantime, in the library of the Hargrave house, Florence and Jim were puzzling over the blank sheet of paper.

"Till water," said Jim. "The water