

Louisburg, North Carolina

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE
A beautiful young woman finds herself on the sidewalk in a strange city. She cannot remember her name or where she came from. She has nothing in her purse to tell herself who she is. A young man who has seen her in the hotel where she is stopping notices her and takes her to the hotel in a cab. There they find that she registered, in French, as "Miss Eve Nobody of Nowhere." The clerk has been calling her "Miss Parsons." The young man tells her she is in New York. His name is Eric Hamilton, of Chicago. She is terrified at her loss of memory. He asks his friend, Dr. Carrick, a nerve specialist, to call at the hotel. Dr. Carrick talks encouragingly, but says he will send a nurse to gtay with the mysterious "Miss Parsons" that night.

**ententedly sat down. She was only a few feet away, on the other side of the door, and there was something to the was something to the room at the sound of his voice.

**Gon the sidewalk in a strange city. It looked like all twasn't strange that he was immensed in her, he mused. Any one would be interested in a girl in that tragic plight. For a few minutes that tragic plight. For a few minutes and that tragic plight. For a few minutes written on it very faintly, with a bard pencil. I didn't notice it till swritten on it very faintly, with a bard pencil. I didn't notice it till swritten on it very faintly, with a hear open her in the hotel in her, he mused. Any one would be interested in a girl in that tragic plight. For a few minutes in the other envelopes, for the name is written on it very faintly, with a hear open her in the hotel in a girl in that tragic plight. For a few minutes and that the hotel. Dr. Carrick talks en-couragingly, but says he will send a nurse to atay with the mysterious "Miss Parsons" that night.

(Now go on with the Story)

"Will you tell me exactly what the doctor said, and all he said" she asked

beside her. "He thinks that you have beside her. "He thinks that you have had some sort of shock, which made you decide to get away from the scene of it, whatever it was. He thinks you came to the decision very hastily, for you started with no luggage. Yet when you got here you clearly expected to stay some time, for you went out the next day and for you went out the next day and bought some things which you had delivered here at the hotel."

"When I came up here to my rooms before dinner I went through everything," she confirmed, "but there was nothing to help me, except some money. It's not much, but I hope it will see me through. Anyway, it's probably all I have in the world, for my clothes show I'm not rich. They're good but not gorgeous'," she grimly

His heart leaped over the small jest, but before he could speak her face darkened and she went on.

"The money won't carry me very far in a New York hotel if I have a long slege—with a trained nurse at night and a psychiatrist coming every morning," she pointed out. "Suppose this attack lasts longer than my

"It won't." He spoke with such conviction that she brightened again. "The Garland's summer rates are still in effect, and they're very reason-eble." he went on. "Carrick is too good a chap to send you a big bill."

He was talking against time to keep her panic at bay till the nurse came,

"Oh, what a devilish situation this is!" She turned back to the window, bringing her hands together with

an effect of desperation that alarmed

"Come now," he urged, "keep steady! A whole lot depends on that. The more quietly you take this, the sooner you will get over it. He agrees that the thing to do is to sit tight, just as you're doing, and let inquires come from the other.

come from the other end. If your family and friends don't know where

you are, they'll have started an investigation by this time, but they're

broke through their seriousness like

to the room with a little laugh that breke through their seriousness like a gush of a fountain.

"We may discover that I have run away from a husband and six children," she said slightly, but giving a definite effect of breathleasness and tension. My innocent babes may be crying for me this minute."

"What a shastly idea!" he began, and stopped abraptly. As if she had caught his thought she looked at him with sudden intentness; but he was on his guard again and his disarming smile banished any suspicion she might have had. However, the little episode seemed to harden some halfformed purpose, for she went toward the inner door with an air of resolution he recalled later.

"If you will excuse me," she said, "Til make some preparations for the nurse. I suppose since she is coming she must be made comfortable. No, please don't go," she added as he turned to take up his hat. "I'd father you were here when she comes. There's some light literature on that table that may interest you."

She made a hospitable gesture toward the light literature, and disappeared through the door leading into her bedroom.

He selected a magazine, drew an easy-chair to the reading-lamp, and murse.

probably doing it very carefully." She stood still and stared into the darkness. Suddenly she turned back to the room with a little laugh that

He found his voice. "You're perfectly sure she isn't in these rooms?" he asked. Quite sure," Miss Adams smiled austerely.

scalp prick.

"Is his Miss Parson's room?" she inquired. "I'm Miss Adams, the nurse. Hamilton rested an elbow on the Doctor Carrick sent me."

pacting you."
"Doctor Carrick told me all about the case and gave me full instructions," the nurse went on. "It took some time. Otherwise I could have

soft but decided tap, and when she received no reply she repeated it without emphasis, calling clearly: "The nurse, Miss Parsons. May I come in?" But when there was no response to this, she turned and cast "Nice girl."

Hamilton but on the hat he had ended to the changed her and am gaining weight everyday. Sargon Pills overcame my constipation completely."—Mrs. A. J. Payne, 214 N. 75th St., Birmingham, Ala.

Scoggin's Drug Store, Agents.—Adv.

"Nice girl." a questioning glance at the young

"Go in," he managed to bring out, and strengthened the order with an mperative gesture. Plainly Miss Adams was not the

Plainly Miss Adams was not the type of nurse who accepted orders from every one who chose to give them. She hesitated and rapped a third time. Still receiving no reply, she turned the knob and entered the bed-room, leaving the door ajar behind her. Hamilton remained close to the open door, but he did not look into the room beyond it. Instead he into the room beyond it. Instead he wheeled and stared hard at the opposite wall, telling himself there were a half dozen reasons why the girl in the inner room might not have heard

those three decided taps.

Miss Adams reappeared, and now she was abviously disturbed.

"We must 't assume too much," she said kindly, with an understanding glance at his agitated face. "You said the way to the said the said taget and the said taget. she was frightened, and in such con-

ditions patients do strange things. I've looked out of the window." she

edded calmly; and again he felt his scalp prick. "There's nothing wrong

in the street. Of course she may be

"You're perfectly sure she isn't in these rooms?" he asked.
"Quite sure." Miss Adams smiled susterely. "I've looked in the closet and even under the bed."
"May I look?"
"Of course if you like."

"May I look?"

"Of course, if you like."

Her manner nicely combined with its professional courtesy and intimation that he would be wasting his time, but he pushed past her even before she could move to one side.

The room had the look of having been unoccupied for days.

The words of the nurse made him swing around toward her.

"Here's the way she left." she said

emewhere else in the hotel." He found his voice,

desk. "Why?"

Hamilton put on the hat he had been carrying and descended the hetel's front steps to the street.
"Cab, sir?" asked the doorman, who knew him.

"Not yet... See here, Saunders—".

"Not yet... See here, Saunders—".

Hamilton put a dollar into the man's hand—"did you happen to hear the address Miss Parsons gave her cabman tonight when she left?"

Saunders pocketed the dollar and looked sympathetic.

She didn't take no cab here, sir," he reported. "It was funny, too, for

he reported. "It was funny, too, for she usually does. Besides, to-night she was carryin' a little hand-bag and a big bundle. But when I started to get a taxi for her she walked off, shakin her head."
"Which way did she go?"

"Which way did she go?"
"That way." Saunders indicated the side street. His voice sank to a conridential note, for his was an honest nature and he desired to earn his dellar—in part, at least.

"I got the feelin', sir," he said, "that she walked off because she

didn't want to give no address here. If that hadn't been it, why would she carry them things? She give me my quarter jest the same, and I'd bet that quarter she took a cab at the next

Hamilton- returned to the waiting purse. It was easy now to piece to-gether the bits of the puzzle. Miss Parsons had experienced another panic, had decided that she was be-coming "a case," and had fied to avoid that horror. Of course she would pick up a cab father along the would pick up a cab father along the street or take one of the scores of cabs plying up and down the next avenue, only a block away. By this time she might be in Harlem or on a train bound west or south. In any case, she was definitely gone. She was out there somewhere in the darkness. What would become of her? Anything, everything, might happen to her.

He must find her of course. That went without saying. Even if his interest had been less than it was, he couldn't let her, in her condition, vanish into the unknown. He had not been responsible at first, but

He made his report to the nurse. "She paid her bill and checked out

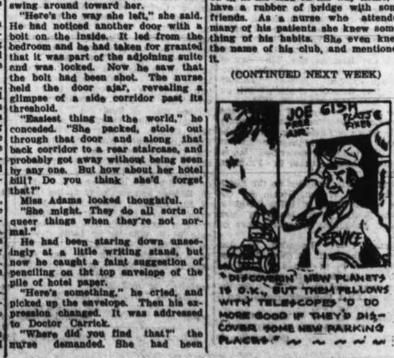
n hour ago." Miss Adams nodded. would," she confirmed.

Hamilton's strained nerves snapped.
"If it was so certain that she would why the devil didn't Carrick warn ne?" he broke out, and immediately

me?" he broke out, and immediately apologized again. "Come on, we'll go uptown and talk to Carrick. You con't suppose he has gone to bed, do you?" he asked irritably.

Miss Adams expressed her theory that doctor Carrick could not have done anything so inconsiderate. It was much more likely, she thought, that the physician might have dropped in at his club on his way home, to have a rubber of bridge with some have a rubber of bridge with some friends. As a nurse who attended many of his patients she knew some-thing of his habits. She even knew the name of his club, and mentioned

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)



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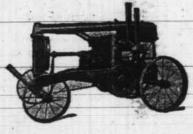
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