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THE MYSTERY OF THE INN BY THE SHORE



By Florence Warden, Author of "The House on the Marsh," etc.

CHAPTER XVI.

The cold drive home of George Clark and Miss Bostal began in silence. They were already in sight of the hill-group of buildings of which the Blue Lion was the principal, when the girl, turning suddenly to her uncle, asked: "Uncle George, what is the matter? Why are you silent, different to me?"

"There was a woman. A struggle was going on in the man's breast, a struggle pitifully born, between the love he had always borne toward his Nell and the attacks of doubt and suspicion. It was in a husky, unnatural voice that he presently replied, putting the question: "Different? How different?"

"You know, you know," Nell replied. "George, Clark looked at her. And for a minute the old trust came back into his heart, and he told himself that he was a fool, a miserable old fool, to allow a doubt of her absolute goodness and truth to enter his mind. And then again the ugly thoughts which had begun to darken his mind, subtly insinuated by the doubt and suspicion in all his mind around him, clouded over his eyes once more. He could not give her an open answer, although he felt that it would have been better if he could have done so. He heaved a big sigh and answered without looking at her: "Ah, well, my girl, it's not so easy to be lively and cheerful with such things as these, and he vaguely indicated the recent occurrence, leading his whip back in the direction of Strawn, 'dismissing' under one's very windows, almost."

"And then they both were silent, both conscious at the same moment that they were close to the spot where the body of John Stibbels had been found on the previous night. Both men and Nell looked nervously at the spot, easily discernible by the broken-down condition of the way-side inn. And then, quite suddenly, their curious glances sought each other's face, and for a moment their eyes met.

"Thank," asked Nell, in a whisper, "was the girl that fired the bullet?" "George Clark closed his head in an answer. "This, indeed, was the chief difficulty with which the local police, put on their mettle by the presence in their midst of Hemming, the London detective, had to contend.

"The bullet found in the head of John Stibbels had evidently been fired from an old-fashioned weapon. Tiding of large size and of obsolete pattern, and no weapon had been found in the neighborhood, after a diligent and exhaustive search. The theory of the detectives was that the bullet had been discharged from a pistol at a distance of at least some yards; but at present this theory had borne no fruit except in the brain of the detective, Hemming.

"That astute person had been revolving in his mind an idea, which he took care to keep to himself, and which led him, within an hour of the conclusion of the inquest, in the direction of Stibbels End.

"Where would Nell be so likely to find a weapon with which to commit the crime which freed her from her fear of John Stibbels as at the house of an old soldier? Somewhere about the house, and probably in a place with which she, an inmate of the house, would be sure to keep some memories of his soldiering days, an inspection of which Hemming felt was very likely to give him the clue he wanted.

"It was, as usual, Miss Bostal who opened the door to him. Her prima face seemed to light up on seeing who it was. "Come in, do come in," said she, throwing the door wide open, and inviting him to enter the drawing room. "I do hope you have got some more news for us. Do you know I have more from what you will find out than from all these country policemen. If they were to stir and talk all night, I don't believe they would be any nearer to finding out who did it than they are now."

AGRICULTURAL

Feeding Cows to Hoags. There is much written against the plan of feeding corn to hoags when the animals are young. The evils which result from such feeding come from using corn to the exclusion of other grains. If, then, corn is fed in proper proportions with the other grains suitable to the age of the hog, there is nothing to be feared for the animal. With the young pig of the future it is especially safe to make half of its daily ration corn, using it in the form of meal, with bean or other ground grains. If considerable variety is given in the ration, the results will be better. If the young pig is confined and has little or no green food during the summer, then corn must be used with caution, and certainly should never be fed to the extent of other grains. (Indianapolis News.)

How and When to Plant Sweet Peas. "The sweet pea is a beautiful plant," says E. H. B. Ford, in Lippincott's Magazine. It is one of the most popular of our garden flowers, and requires but little care. It is a biennial, but we usually have it as an annual. It is a hardy plant, and will grow in any soil, but it is best to plant it in a rich soil. It is a good plant for the garden, and it is a good plant for the window box. It is a good plant for the garden, and it is a good plant for the window box.

When and How to Plant Sweet Peas. The sweet pea is a beautiful plant, and it is a good plant for the garden. It is a good plant for the window box, and it is a good plant for the garden. It is a good plant for the garden, and it is a good plant for the window box.

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WOMAN'S BENEFIT

Modern Mother-in-Law. A Cleaning Creature That Has Sunk in May Well be Found Of. The early years of the twentieth century with their ultra-civilization, common sense and delight in novelty, will be known to history as the period of the rehabilitation of ancient traditions and superstitions. Through long centuries the absurdities of the mother-in-law was a firmly established article in the creed of every married man. He held it as an utter impossibility that his wife's mother could be other than an aggressive, interfering, ill-tempered creature who cumbered the earth, and most particularly his own threshold.

As late as twenty years ago the average benighted seemed under the impression that the mother-in-law was created solely to buffet and torment the husband of her daughter, and to afford a nerve-racking topic for the domestic gossip. She was the luckless exception in the ordinary run of mortals who had not her merits, her claims, her reputation.

But now a new era is dawning, and the mother-in-law is no longer regarded as a creature of evil. She is now regarded as a creature of good. She is now regarded as a creature of good. She is now regarded as a creature of good.

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Novelty in Summer Hats

A few hints have been made for the purpose of matching the various styles of hats which are made in a great variety of ways. They are very well worth the attention of those who are interested in the latest styles of hats. The most popular style is the wide-brimmed hat, and it is a good style for the summer. It is a good style for the summer, and it is a good style for the summer.

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