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THE MYSTERY OF THE INN BY THE SHORE



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

CHAPTER XXII

Continued.

The other man had already looked into the kitchen, and they proceeded to search the dining room. Clifford found them as they looked about the house of the dining room being displaced. And then a man in a white shirt and trousers came up the stairs and passed Clifford as he left the dining room.

As he reached the foot of the staircase Clifford, who had just seen the man in the white shirt, heard a sharp rap at the door of the dining room. Then the man who was upstairs called quickly to the constable downstairs.

"Bill, go outside and wait under the window. This side of the house."

The constable dashed on by the front door without a second delay, while the man who had given the direction burst open the bedroom door with a couple of blows of his fist.

Clifford, in perplexity and alarm, rushed out after the constable. He arrived in the dining room as the man was following, when he found a group of men, some of whom were looking at the constable with a look of surprise.

A policeman of the name of a weak constable in a white shirt, looking upon the man as if he were the owner of the house.

And at the same moment he saw the constable who had just opened the bedroom door looking out of the window of Miss Theodora's room.

"What's she been doing down there?"

"But even as he spoke the constable burst into the kitchen, and turning the full light of the lanterns he carried in the dining room, he looked at the constable with a look of surprise.

"Oh, don't! Don't tell me!" she whispered faintly as she felt the strong light thrown on her face.

"Her right hand moved feebly up to her chest, and then her head fell back. She fainted," said Clifford. "Poor little woman! What shall we do? Shall I fetch a doctor?"

"No, she's not dead," replied the constable, "but she's very ill. Stay here while I send for help. They say she's close to going for me."

He went away quickly, leaving the lantern. Clifford looked down at the little withered face, and he found he detected a flicker of the eyelids. As he bent his head to look closer, he was surprised by the faint whisper in his ear.

"I am glad so glad," she murmured, still without opening her eyes. "That this has happened. For now they can't make any more evidence against poor Nell."

"My dear lady," said Clifford, in the same voice, "I don't trouble your head about this matter. Nell will be all right. I am sure of it."

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two men's voices, and they presently caught sight of two men, the one apparently struggling to get away from the other, and the second endeavoring to hold his companion back. In the darkness little more than this was visible to the three men in the garden, but the two men were soon seen to enter their house to be reassured.

It was a few minutes later that the constable came, striking his eyes to pierce the gloom, and of interest, full of excitement.

"What's the matter?"

"The man who was upstairs called quickly to the constable downstairs."

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With a sigh Nell sighed. She felt that on the morning she had made was founded a series of disaster she had made a careful search of the house and had found out a certain street which had escaped her notice, that a spare key of the back door, which had formerly hung on a nail in the passage, had disappeared.

"How was it that I had not found that out before?" asked Sir Neville, in a dry way.

"I had forgotten all about the key, which was never used, and I had to leave the house on account of my poor uncle. Then I went over the keys of the different doors by an old maid who had left by the man who had the key before my uncle, and I remembered that I had not seen it for a long time."

Sir Neville made a few notes before he went off.

"Before you finished the key you had not searched for it, is that right?"

"No, I had not," said the man, in a dejected way.

"You need not think," said the man, in a dejected way.

"I am telling you all I know," said Sir Neville.

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WOMAN'S BENEFIT

DOWN AS AN ART.

Five Years Ago It Was a Different Matter.

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Household Matters

To Avoid Fire.

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GOOD ROADS

Improvement of Main Street, Chatham.

The Board of Public Works has decided to improve the main street in Chatham, and it is expected that the work will be completed in a few weeks.

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RECIPES

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