

fact, she was saved; but at that

time I did not know that no one

within the room could open the

door she had shut.) And Rush was

dead, and Pharaoh and Dewdrop

knew nothing of what had occurred.

In the twinkling of an eye my posi-

tion had been reversed. If I could

not make an end of the two, I de-

I stepped to the cut through

which Pharaoh and Dewdrop had

As I had supposed, this gave to

a winding stair-no doubt of a con-

siderable depth, for though I

strained my ears, I could hear noth-

Determined to leave nothing to

chance, I proceeded to lay my am-

Pharaoh must find nothing wrong

-until too late. To all appearance

the room must be as he had left it.

from the head of the winding stair.

I must therefore suggest to Pharaoh

that his captive had merely moved.

This was easy enough. Next to

the bench stood the fireplace, which

jutted into the room. On the other

side of this was a chair with its

back to the wall. If my torch were

trained upon this, Pharaoh would

receive the impression that his cap-

tive had changed her seat, for the chair was masked by the fireplace

and could not be seen from the cut.

The only question was how to sup-

For a moment I stood thinking. Then I perceived that, unless I

were to flout reason, this office

Anyone leaving the stair with a

sure to Illumine the opposite side

In two or three minutes the gris-

was seated upright in a high-backed

The effect was hideous, for the

Here I should say that, before I

his pistol and Helena's master key.

-and heard no sound.

knife, too.

ing stair.

either hand. . .

Once again I took care to listen

To pick my own position was easy

enough. I had only to take my stand

behind the panel-door that belonged

I decided to use a pistol, for the

bullet was swift and sure and at

quarters so close I could not pos-

sibly miss. For all that, I took the

And then at last I was ready, with

I had to wait full five minutes

The sigh grew to a murmur, and

before I heard a sigh on the wind-

the murmur into that unmistakable

sound-the regular scuffling of feet

that are mounting a flight of stone

steps. The footfalls were hasty.

Why this was I could not imag-

ine. Why should they run? The

stars were fighting against them.

But for their haste, I should not

The rapid, regular shuffle began

Unless they were moving as one the shoes of one of the two were

rubber-soled, for only one set of

And then I saw the glow of a

Two steps more, and I heard

The stars against them? All the

company of heaven had ranged it-

self on my side. The two would be

Dewdrop began to speak before

"Bugle an' Ruth to go down. Pha

As he stepped through the cut

Dewdrop would lisp no more, but

I could have done myself violence.

Pharaoh was more than warned.

the deafening roar of my pistol

of footfalls came to my ears.

The two were mounting apace.

have heard them so soon.

to grow clear. . . .

In that case-

their heavy breathing.

spent and breathless. . .

he had entered the room.

and I fired, I saw my mistake.

raoh thayth-'

torch.

the knife at my hip and a pistol in

must devolve upon Rush,

port the torch.

The bench, however, could be seen

bush with infinite care.

served to be shot.

passed

CHAPTER VI.—John, who, by this time, is very much in love with Helena, declares that he must go to Salzburg to find Geoffrey, being nervous because of the failure of Freda to return. He starts out, and arriving at Plumage finds that Bugle and Rush are there. Later Pharaoh and Dewdrop arrive. From concealment in a room above John overhears something of the gang's plans

chapter vil.—John is transfixed with horror at the revelations and determines to get away before the gang discovers his presence. Arriving at the forester's cottage he hears Freda insisting to Pharaoh that Helena is not there. John's presence is discovered and he and Pharach exchange shots. Later John finds Helena hiding nearby. She decides they must return to the castle before Pharaoh gets there. They find Valentine in a drunken stupor in company with a girl from the streets of the village. Helena decides te abduct her brother, While Helena and John are talking in the library at the castle, Pharaoh appears armed

CHAPTER VIII.—Dewdrop steps out from behind a curtain. Pharaoh accuses Helena of abducting her broth. cuses Helena of abducting her brother. Pharaoh exacts a promise that they will do nothing before midday. They retire. Half an hour later Helena appears in John's room by way of a secret passage. She persuades him to carry a message to Geoffrey. She tells him that the message is a request to Geoffrey to keep Valentine with him at any cost. John delivers the message and insists that he musi return to the castle, Geoffrey knocks him out.

CHAPTER IX.—When he recovers consciousness he finds himself bound and gagged in a car with Barley keeping watch. He falls asleep and is awakened some time later by the sound of a brook, near which he had been left. Geoffrey explains that Helena had fooled John about the message. It was John who was to be kept, not Valentine. Helena's hear for John's life is what prompted that action. Helena arrives and is very much disturbed over John's attitude. The three of them discuss the situation. Barley arrives and tells them that Valentine is in a private ward where only patients who have been bitten by mad dogs are admitted. Helena declares she will not sleep in the castle unless they return with her. John slips away.

It was awful to hear such naivete ssue from Helena's lips.

"I am not concerned with your right. To insure Mr. Spencer's life will cost you ten thousand down of the room. The corpse must there and ten thousand a year."

Her palms clapped fast to her if I could gird it into the semblance eyes, Helena threw back her head. of life, . . "All right," she said, "I'll pay it." The words seemed torn from her ly business was done, and Rush

"One thing more," said Pharaoh. chair, with an arm along one of the "It will not be convenient to meet chairs and the torch in his hand. If I possibly could I must kill my you tomorrow night. I take the His belt and mine and some cord man before he had entered the you do, for I guess you can open it blesome, but I took a stick from naked as well as clothed."

fore Helena moved.

Then very slowly she rose and corpse was poking its head. But turned to the right. Then her hand that was beside the point. At the went up to a sconce, laid hold of first blush, not even the man's own the bracket and pulled it down. | mother would even have known he I heard no sound, but a panel be- was dead.

low the sconce moved, and, when she turned, I saw the shape of a had set Rush up, I had taken away door which was standing ajar.

So Helena severed one of the threads by which her life was hang- at the head of the winding steps

Slowly she returned to be bench. As she took her sent, Pharaoh rapped out an order.

"Put a light on the lady, Bugle," to the cut. This was wide enough I think my heart stood still; but to conceal me. I had a torch and the wit to do as

he said. "Rush and Bugle stand fast: Dewdrop with me."

He crossed to the gaping panel, with Dewdrop directly behind him,

lighting his steps. As he pulled open the door, I

saw the stonework beyond.

I stood waiting for their footfalls to fade. My moment had come.

Rush was speaking and wagging his dreadful head. "Sheba's the goods," he murmured.

"Look at that mouth. Here, I'm goin' to 'ave a close-up. Gimme that-torch." Between us we bungled the busi-

ness, and the torch fell down and went out. I let him grope and find it. As he stood up, grunting, I took him fast by the throat and drove my knife into his heart.

He gave one frightful convulsion. And then I knew he was dead.

I got to my knees and sought for the torch. When I had found it, I switched it on to the bench. This was empty.

I turned the beam on to myself. "Helena." I said, "It's all right. T've done the swine in."

She did not answer, so I got to my feet and threw the beam round the room. She must be there some-

And then all at once I knew

where Helena was. She had fled for the staircaseturret when Rush and I, between

us, had dropped the torch. Rush had locked the door of the hall, not the door of the secret room. I took a step toward this-and

had carried a message to Pharaoh stopped in my tracks. which not even a child could mis-The doorway by which I had entered had disappeared.

Helena was safe-for the moment.

My shot, being fired when it was, had reported the ugly news that Dewdrop was dead. The 'act that no one came down would confirm this report. And no one could have killed Dewdrop, unless he had first made an end of Bugle and Rush.

hands. He knew as well as did I that someone was in the chamber, waiting to take his life.

As I say, I could have done myself violence. I was here to play the

cannot defend my annoyance at keeping in good poultry flocks. finding that I must fight Pharaoh instead of playing the butcher as I that at that time I had no fear for that the man was as swift and as and running up expenses. cunning as I was slow, I was full as late molters, he continued, and my brow. Live-after what he had plentiful and prices are low. room and do it again?

I pulled myself together, slid my about hoisting Dewdrop out of my styne warned.

CHAPTER XI

Helena.

Now by firing, as I had, upon keeping quality than fertile eggs. Dewdrop, I had cast away the element of surprise: but that

When I had fired in the forest, for breeding. so savage was the report that four or five minutes went by before my of the violent explosion had appalled the drums of my ears.

To listen for Pharaoh's coming was, therefore, but waste of time, and, since he might arrive at any moment, I made my preparations as swiftly as ever I could.

These were simple-there was not much I could do.

seated I slewed to the left, so that pocket and lay down behind the soon as they start, great table of which I have spoken

torch in his hand would be almost This was a pedestal table of Fly Control Is pedestals there was a knee-hole or archway three feet wide by some fore be moved in any event. And twenty-six inches high. Looking through this, I directly commanded

I ventured to settle myself with the greatest care, for I knew that held would be utterly lost, for, fall. the grate, buttoned this into his though we should, in a sense, be

Since the cut was so narrow, as soon as possible.

Flies are not only carriers of lay very still from force of habit tinually harrassed by flies. straining my useless ears with my

After a little, I found myself

ed, but the first intimation I had den roar of his pistol as he fired around for many days at a time. at and shattered the torch,

of them all. I have no excuse to flies. offer. I think a child would have With the best of care, however, Be that as it may, the horrid fighting this pest. shock and the darkness took me A good poison can be made by

And then-silence. We were both of us deafened, of at least had the sense to move.

behind Rush's chair. And then for the first time that Good fly traps can be purchas-

I knew to be fear. my ears were stopped: four walls contains directions hemmed me in, and somewhere traps at home. within their compass was moving-

Death. Pharaoh was trying to find me in bed, a startled look on her tealing this way and that. He had face. "Jim," she whispered, stealing this way and that. He had face. only to brush against me, touch me "there's a robber in the house." with the tips of his fingers, and I "Impossible," was her husshould be-caught. His deadly band's sleepy reply. "In the Senswiftness of action would see to ate, yes, but in the House, that. Any moment this might hap never." pen. Any moment the roar of his pistol might make the last sound I should hear. He might be but woman all dressed in black?" three feet off-now. In another in Mother: "Hush, Bobby, she's stant I might feel his breath on sister of charity.

my cheek. (Continued Next Week) **Early Molting Cuts Production**

The truth was in Pharaoh's Hens In Flock That Molt During June Are Hardly Another Season

Early molting hens, which beknave, and instead I was playing the gin to drop their feathers in the returned home Tuesday from a ved. month of June, are not worth trip to the mountains. A nice

These birds, said Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at State College, stop had already done. I can only say laying when they begin to molt, but they go right on eating feed

They do not lay as many eggs of apprehension lest he should est the eggs they do lay are procape. The bare thought of such an duced at a time when eggs are

Since early molting is an indone? Live-to walk out of that heritable characteristic, they will pass their trait on to their offspring if left in the flock and pistols into my pockets and set used for breeding purposes, Dear-

In hot weather, he added, it is especially important that only infertile eggs be produced for home consumption or marketing, as they have a much greater

Except in the breeding season, roosters should be kept away was not all the mischlef that I from the hens. And only the had done, for the roar of the heavy best roosters, those with the abilpistol had made me completely ity to transmit good qualities to their offspring, should be kept

If eggs are collected several times a day during the summer, full hearing came back: but here, and stored immediately in a cool within such four walls, the shock place, they will keep much better. Wire baskets which permit joyed by the crowd. Mrs. Lewis air to circulate freely among the was invited out to visit several eggs are ideal for the storage room, Dearstyne stated.

But even under ideal conditions eggs should not be kept in stor- attending were, the bride, Mrs. age any longer than necessary. A poultryman who gets a reputation of marketing only fresh The chair on which Rush was eggs can command good prices. Lice and mits propagate rapidthe beam of his torch fell full on ly in hot weather. Infested birds the cut in the wall. I then took soon lose their vigor and fall off Dewdrop's torch and studied the in egg production. Dearstyne room, marking the furniture well urged poultrymen to examine in case I must move in the dark. their birds every few days, so Then I slid the torch into my they can check infestations as

Best In Spring

the cut, while the pedestal offered Destroying One Female Fly good cover on either hand.

In The Spring Will Cut Off Life Of Millions Of Fall Insects

One female fly in the spring, first premium now. Show me that I found in his pocket had done the room; if Pharaoh could contrive to allowed to live and breed, may cellar, or strip. I don't care which trick. His head had proved trou-

Don't give them a chance to I think a full minute went by be- waistcoat and propped it like that. fighting on even terms, Pharaoh breed, cautions John A. Arey, exwas an expert at murder, but I tension dairy specialist at State was no more than a resolute ama- College. Start control measures

the gauntlet he had to run was ex-filth and disease, but they are a tremely strict and, unless my pistol constant source of annoyance to misfired, I did not see how he cattle and livestock. Cows will could do it and save his life. So I not give as much milk if con-

The first step in getting rid of pistol-hand on the plinth of the this nuisance is to eliminate pedestal-table and my eyes on the breeding places, Arey continued. cut that was waiting to frame my Manure from stables should be removed daily, if possible.

When practical, it is best to thinking how soft the carpet haul the manure direct to the fields where it can be spread I do not know how long I wait over the land. Where this is impractical, at least try not to of Pharaoh's approach was the sud-leave large piles of manure lying

Clean up the premises of the I fear this tale is a record of house and barnyard, he continbad mistakes, but when I was lay ued. Any filth left exposed will ing my ambush I made the worst serve as a breeding place for

seen that he must so place the it will be impossible to destroy torch that, while it illuminated the all flies in the larvae stage. cut, it could not itself be seen Therefore, it is advisable to use from the head of the winding stair, traps, poisons and sprays in

aback, and when I fired at the cut, mixing three quarts of skim milk I fired an instant too late. Pha- with one-fourth quart of formalraoh's answer came swift as a flash, dehyde and one-fourth quart of and his bullet went through my molasses. Place the mixture in knee-hole, to lodge in the wall be shallow containers where the flies are, but where animals and poul-

try cannot get at it. A good spray is very effective, course; and, remembering that, I Arey stated. A number are now on the market. Follow the direc-An instant later I was standing tions given, he said, and good results will be obtained.

night I felt the stab of something ed or made at home. Farmers' Bulletin No. 734, U. S. Depart-I was as good as blindfolded ment of Agriculture, Washington, for making

The Congressman's wife set up

Bobby: "Mother, who's that

Bobby: "But, mother, which is she, Faith or Hope?"

Bolivia News

Comist Mercer and J. D. Dan-Myrtle Beach, S. C., returned Floyd Brittian, Mrs. Lester Edhome Friday.

business.

Mrs. C. P. Willetts, of Bolivia, with her sister, of Carolina Beach trip was reported.

Frank Mintz was a business visitor in Wilmington Saturday. ed when he paused before an-C. P. Willetts and Kennith Mc-Keithan were business visitors in Wilmington Friday.

Mrs. J. I. Stone, Jr., spent last Friday in Wilmington shopping. Misses Elnora Ganey and Gertrude Mills, of Leland, visited Mrs. Foster Mintz last Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Larence Veit, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Edwards, and daughter, Anna, and Mrs. Ralph Boak, left Thursday for a

trip to Philadelphia and Chicago.

Miss Marion Smith was in Bolivia Thursday. Mrs. Eleanor Osborn and little daughter, Joann, of Greensboro, are visiting her mother, Mrs. T.

Dr. Atkins has finished his fish boat and is now ready for fishing SURPRISE SHOWER

H. Johnson

Mrs. Amanda Potter Lewis was honored with a lovely surprise shower given by her sister, Mrs. Hardy Clemmons. Mrs. Lewis recently

Edgar Lewis, both of Bolivia. After the games, the advice that was given was read by Mrs. Miles Mercer, and were endifferent places, finding hidden treasures, which was a lovely variety of presents. Those Edgar Lewis, hostess, Mrs. Har-

dy Clemmons, Mrs. Oscar Cole- young man with a smile man, Mrs. Frank Brown, Miss only trouble is that I hesital Sante Pearl Potter, Miss Geneva whether to make you 10 Potter, Mrs. Miles Mercer, Mrs. younger on account of J. C. Commeau, Mrs. Daisy Mer- looks or 10 years older on a ford, who have been working at cer, Mrs. Dorman Mercer, Mrs. count of your intelligence." wards, Mrs. Berkley Mercer, Mrs. Rev. J. D. Withrow, of Winna- Frank Mintz, Mrs. Foster Mintz, two darkies walking slowly Worth Keeping Over For bow, was in Bolivia Saturday on Mrs. Frank Johnson, Mrs. John the road, single file. Stone, Miss Doris Cox and Miss

Ceala Cox. Tea and sandwiches were ser-

That a certain young man is wise beyond his years was prov- plank," swering a widow who had asked ef we ain't gone an' forgot him to guess her age.

"You must have some idea,"

she said.

The mill foreman came "Say, you, why ain't you wa thless niggers working?"

plank."

"We's working, boss, sho' no We's carrying this plank up h "What plank? I don't

"Well, fo' de Lawd's sake

Subscribe to The State p "I have several ideas," said the Pilot \$1.50 a year.

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