

# THE WOMAN WITH TWO SMILES

by Maurice Leblanc CREATOR OF ARSENE LUPIN

### CHAPTER 42

"THERE'S ONE missing," he muttered. "There were six of them . . . and added after a moment's reflection: 'Yes, in certain one is missing: the pearl necklace. That's strange, isn't it? Surely it can't have been stolen before she hid these in the urn?'"

He did not seem to attach much importance to the question, so impossible of solution did the problem appear to him. But Raoul and Gorgere exchanged looks. The inspector was thinking.

"He took the pearls. . . . He's playing the conjurer for our benefit while really he's searched that urn previously and took his share of the spoils."

And Raoul nodded back with a weaning look, as who should say: "Right in one! That's just what I did. But what can you expect? One must live!"

Guileless Antoinette supposed nothing. She was helping the marquis to clean the jewels and wrap them up in a couple of silk handkerchiefs. This done, the marquis led Raoul to the ruins.

"Go on," he said. "Tell me—what happened? How was she killed? Who killed her? I've never got over her horrible death. . . . never got over my grief. I'd give anything to know the truth! Tell me all!"

He flung questions at Raoul as though he alone possessed the truth about all things, as though Raoul at a word could change night into day. They had reached the upper terrace, and the spot where Elisabeth Hornain had met her death. From here they could see the whole of the chateau, the park and the entrance tower.

Antoinette, close beside Raoul, whispered: "I'm so glad for godfather's sake. Thank you so much. But I'm afraid . . ."

"You! Afraid?"

"Yes . . . of Gorgere. . . . You ought to get away quickly!"

He answered gently: "I never get away from you. You can't think how happy you make me! But there's nothing to fear so long as I've still something to reveal, something that Gorgere's dying to hear. You surely don't want me to leave before I've finished?"

He saw she was calmer, and as the marquis pled him with questions, Raoul continued:

"How did the tragedy happen? Now to discover that, monsieur, I took exactly the opposite direction from that which I made you follow. Since I had concluded that there had been no theft committed, I likewise imagined from the very first that there might also have been no murder.

And my reason for supposing that was that the circumstances were such that it would have been impossible for the murderer to have gone unseen. It would be impossible to kill someone in front of 40 people in broad daylight, without these 40 people seeing one commit the murder. A revolver shot would have been heard. A blow would have been seen. They would have noticed if a stone had been thrown. Therefore it was my business to look outside the realm of purely human causes of death—that is, death brought about by the will of man."

"Then her death was accidental?" interrupted the marquis.

"Exactly, and therefore it was a chance occurrence. Such occurrences are unlimited and can happen in the most extraordinary and exceptional manner. I was once concerned in a case where the life and honor of a man depended on his finding a certain document hidden on the summit of a very high tower without a staircase. One morning he discovered the two ends of a very long rope hanging down on each side of the tower. I was able to prove that this rope came from a balloon whose passengers had thrown it overboard the preceding night, and fate had so decreed that the rope had fallen exactly in the position necessary to enable the man to climb up his tower in safety. A miracle, certainly, but there are millions of such miracles happening on the earth hourly."

"Then you mean to say that—"

"Elisabeth Hornain's death was caused by a natural phenomenon which is extremely frequent, but which rarely has fatal consequences. This explanation occurred to me when Vaitox accused the shepherd of having shot a stone from his sling. It seemed to me impossible for the shepherd to have been there without being detected, but quite possible that Elisabeth Hornain might have been struck by a stone, and that it was, in fact, the only plausible explanation of her death."

"A stone from heaven?" exclaimed the marquis ironically.

"Why not?"

"What nonsense! Who could possibly have sent it?"

"I've already told you, monsieur—Perseus!"

"Please don't joke," implored the marquis.

"But I'm not joking," affirmed Raoul seriously. "I'm speaking with proper knowledge of my subject, basing my conclusions on facts, not theories. Every day sees millions of these stones—fireballs, aerolites, meteorites, fragments of dispersed planets—traverse space at a tremendous rate, ignite on their course

and fall to earth. They've been picked up by the million in every shape and size. Every day there are tons and tons of them flying about. If one of them should, through a terrible misfortune, but perfectly possible, strike down a human being, it causes death, painless and often incomprehensible."

Raoul paused, and then continued: "Now, these projectiles fall all through the year, but more frequently at certain definite periods, and the most frequent is in August, between the ninth and the fourteenth exact, and which seems to have originated from the constellation Perseus. Hence my little joke when I say Perseus was the criminal."

"Without giving the marquis time to express either doubt or objection, Raoul continued:

"For the last four days, a trusty man of mine has been coming over this wall at night, and searching the ruins until dawn, all round here. I myself searched here today, and yesterday in the early hours."

"And did you find anything?"

"Yes."

Raoul held up a small round object the size of a walnut, with a jagged surface pitted with holes which had been made by the combustion that had covered the surface with what looked like brilliant black enamel. Raoul went on:

"I'm not the slightest doubt that the piece saw this projectile when they first searched the place, but that none of them noticed it, because they were all looking for a bullet or some other human contrivance. For me, the presence of this projectile is absolute proof of the truth. But I have other proofs as well. First, the date of the tragedy: August the thirteenth, which is one of the days when earth passes under the shower of shooting stars from Perseus. I may mention that the date was one of the first rays of light on the problem for me!"

"Then I have another irrefutable proof, which is not merely the outcome of logic and reasoning, but is also a scientific fact. I took this stone yesterday to a research laboratory. . . . They discovered fragments of carbonized human skin adhering to the outer glaze. . . . yes, minute fragments of skin and flesh, torn from a living human being, in contact with the burning projectile, and stuck to it so closely that they have been there ever since. Those fragments are at the laboratory, and will form part of a more or less official report which will be handed to you, Monsieur d'Erlemont, as well as to friend Gorgere, if it interests him."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## BAPTISTS FAIL TO CALL A PREACHER

### Choir Given Right To Decide Matter of Wearing of Vestments

The congregation of the First Baptist church, at a congregational meeting held after the morning preaching service Sunday, failed to extend a call to a preacher, but did authorize the choir to use its own discretion in the matter of adopting the custom of wearing vestments.

Dr. W. R. Cullom of Wake Forest College preached at the church both morning and evening Sunday and presided at the congregational meeting following the morning sermon.

The pulpit committee which has been serving during the nearly five months the church has been without a pastor presented its resignation without making a recommendation. No new committee was appointed at the time but a committee has been designated to arrange for preaching services next Sunday. By a small margin the congregation voted to accept the resignation of the committee, after expressing its thanks and appreciation for the services rendered in filling the pulpit at an inviting number of ministers here for services during the past several months.

## BOY SCOUT TROOP IN WEEKLY MEETING

The weekly meeting of Troop 30 of the Henderson Boy Scouts, on January 19th, was very important to the members of that organization. In accordance with a plan originated by William H. Bryan, the scoutmaster, the troop was divided into two sections. Into one of these divisions, all boys over sixteen years of age were assigned, in the other the boys under sixteen were placed. Although the section or patrol of older boys will remain under the supervision of Troop 30, its meetings will be held on a different night from those of the troop proper. Little can be prophesied as to the outcome of this plan, but the troop officers hope that it will increase the interest and attendance of the boys. The older boys will have a meeting Tuesday night, January 23, to elect officers. The officers of the troop proper were appointed Friday night by the scoutmaster. They are: Ellard Yow, Senior Patrol Leader; Clyde Hight, Billy Powell, and Jimmy Cooper, Patrol Leaders; Herbert Crawford, Scribe. These boys were requested to have a meeting later in the week to divide the members among the three patrols and to draw up a set of rules for the troop to follow. After this the boys were dismissed by Ellard Yow, with the "Great Scoutmaster's Benediction. Herbert Crawford, Scribe, Troop 30.

## TWO INJURED WHEN CAR IS OVERTURNED

Miss Sal White in Hospital For Treatment; Car Driven by J. Robert Wood, Jr.

Miss Sal White, is in Maria Parham hospital recovering from a bad cut as the result of an automobile in which she was riding overturning on the national highway several miles south of the city, near the Oak Grove service station, last night. Miss Aileen Bowling, who received minor injuries was discharged from the hospital after being treated.

J. Robert Wood, Jr., of Oxford, was driving the car, and he and John S. Vickers, also of Oxford, and Miss White and Miss Mary Meadows Duke were on the front seat, while Taylor Burwell, Dudley Williams and Miss Bowling and Miss Rachael Church were on the rear seat.

The car, a Buick, was said to have been badly damaged. It was stated that the car was run off the pavement by another car which drove out of the service station, and which was said not to have stopped.

## V. F. W. POST TO MEET TUESDAY EVENING

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will meet Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the American Legion hall, it was said today, for the installation of its new post commander.

Past Department Commander Clarence Ross, Vance S. Garrett and Department Quartermaster J. H. Eastwood, all of Graham, will be present, and address the local post.

All members are urged to be on hand, especially those who are to be inducted into office. Refreshments will be served, it was stated.

## "KING FOR A NIGHT" AT MOON THEATRE

One of 1933 big hit pictures, "King for a Night," is the feature attraction for the Moon Theatre today and tomorrow, playing at popular prices.

The picture was leased in the latter part of the past year and has played the leading movie houses in the country amid high praise, it was stated.

The cast in this excellent story is headed by Chester Morris, Helen Twilvetrees and Alice White.

## NEW CENSUS BEGUN ON CWA AUSPICES

A new sort of census was started under Civil Works Administration auspices today, with A. J. Cheek in charge. On blanks furnished by the government, merchants are asked to state the prices they charge to farmers on the various commodities they sell to the growers. When the data is compiled, it will be turned over to government authorities for a statistical purpose, it was said.

## NEW CLERK'S BOND PASSED BY BOARD

### Bunn Named Custodian Of Securities; Bond Purchase Is Approved

Bond of \$10,000 for Elvin O. Falkner, new clerk of Vance Superior Court, was approved today by the Vance Board of County Commissioners, at a called meeting held for that purpose. Immediately after the approval was given, on the recommendation of County Attorney A. A. Bunn, Mr. Falkner began to transact the urgent business of his office, much of which had accumulated during the week since the death of the late Colonel Henry Perfy, whom the new clerk succeeds by appointment of Judge R. Hunt Parker, resident judge of this the third judicial district.

At the same meeting, Mr. Bunn, as county attorney, was named as custodian of securities held by the county. He succeeded W. P. Parrish, member of the board.

Approval was also voted of the action of Chairman S. R. Adams and the county attorney in purchasing \$8,000 of the Townsville railroad bonds at the price of \$62 on the \$100 par value. The securities were bought in by the use of sinking funds in that fund.

## MY PRAYERS.

Each night I kneel before my bed And I thank my Father overhead For all the blessings of the day, months and years before In which He has guided me closer to His Heavenly shore.

After giving thanks, I pray for all the many poor, The heathens who know him not, sinful who love Him no more I ask that He might help them along the way And bring them closer to a new and brighter day.

I think of the leaders of our countries too And pray that they may always ask Him what to do. I request the happiness of relatives and friends; To those I do not like I ask Him happiness to send.

I whisper prayers for my dearest Daddy and Mother And the next closest ones, my Sister and my Brothers. Finally of myself I speak, after all of these are done; I ask that I might be a good girl, a truly Christian one.

For the prayers I whisper to my own Lord I have faith that I shall receive a reward. So, after I have spoken of everything, I, my prayer, end In Jesus Christ, our Saviors name—Amen.

Jan. 1, 1934, by Minelle Rankin.

## FUNERAL IN OXFORD FOR LATE W. M. PUGH

Died in Hospital Here Friday; Widow and Several Children Survive; Buried in Oxford

Funeral services were held in Oxford Saturday morning for the late W. M. Pugh, 74, who died in Maria Parham hospital here on Friday. The services were in charge of Rev. J. W. Lacy, pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Oxford, assisted by Rev. Reuben Meredith, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal church there. The deceased is survived by his widow and the following children: W. M. Pugh, Jr., Chapel Hill; Skinner Pugh, Charles Pugh and Miss Margaret Pugh, all of Oxford.

## THEATERS

Only in New York are theaters what they formerly were. Twenty years ago Chicago would have 16 or 17 stage plays at this time of year. Today four stage play theaters are trying to keep open.

## A Three Days' Cough Is Your Danger Signal

Don't let them get a strangle hold. Fight germs quickly. Creomulsion combines 7 major helps in one. Powerful but harmless. Pleasant to take. No narcotics. Your own druggist is authorized to refund your money on the spot if your cough or cold is not relieved by Creomulsion.—(Adv.)

## AGENCY FOR CRAZY WATER CRYSTALS

Parker's Drug Store The Kezall Store

## NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

In the Superior Court, North Carolina: Vance County: Irene Saunders Greene, Vs. Junius A. Greene.

The defendant, Junius A. Greene, entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Vance County, North Carolina, for a divorce absolute, on the grounds of separation and abandonment, and the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Vance County in the courthouse at Henderson, N. C., on the 15th day of February, 1934, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This 15th day of January, 1934. HELEN ROYSTER, Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court of Vance County.

Charles W. Williamson, Attorney for the Plaintiff.

## A Silence That Cried Out!



He was a poor hand with the women and had never flirted in his life. But as she stood there against the deckrail — childish and alone—something in Tiggie Turner drew him to her. She was lovely and the look she gave Tiggie arrested him as if she had cried for help although she hadn't uttered a word. Read how Tiggie became involved in this girl's life from the moment he went in search of her husband, in

## STORM DRAFT

Beginning Next Thursday, Jan. 25 in Henderson Daily Dispatch

Dispatch Advertising Pays

December SALES Average \$ 18.67

# Henderson Sells TOBACCO Higher

December SALES Average \$18.67

Thousands of tobacco growers have sold tobacco on the Henderson market this season, and all have been satisfied with prices received, knowing that they have gotten just as much and probably more than they would have gotten, had they sold on some other market.

Ask the Man Who Has Sold Here AND SELL THE REMAINDER OF YOUR CROP IN

# HENDERSON

WITH THE UNDERSIGNED WAREHOUSES SERVICE AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED ALL.

Farmers Warehouse W. J. Alston, Manager

Coopers & Planters Warehouses Young, Daniel and Moore Proprietors

High Price Warehouse Knott, Gooch and Smith Proprietors

MARKET WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY