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"I have. Only you better warn your she said, holding out her hand cover the instrument was here she

maculate in dress, punctilious in de

betrayed his unnatural exhibitation.

haps they are for sale?"

The assistant stage manager thrust oscillated the hook with nervons finhis head through the curtains, shout- ger, staring doubtfully at the cause of Ing: "Your cue, Miss Knight. What her delay. Wharton, as on the evening to be usen in public with one of Berg-With a gasp, Lorelel leaped to her nir. He was steady on his feet, im-

feet and fled from the room. CHAPTER VI.

Lorelel did not secure another word He chuckled; he cilcked his loose front alone with the dresser until the mdddle teeth like castanets. Bob turned at of the second act, by which time Mrs. the sound and regarded him with beworn self once more. "I don't know no more than I told you," she informed Lorelei, "Mr. Mel- wheezed,

her has been coming here for a long time, and he always talks about Mr. antly. "Wonderful! Age has its com-



swift run up the stairs.

"I'm giad you did. I left him asleep utside my dressing room last night. and I almost hoped he'd caught pneu-

Beside the curb a heavy touring car

was purring, and into this Merkle helped his companion. "I'm not up on the etiquette of this sort of thing." he explained, "but I presume the proper procedure is supper. Where shall it -Sherry's?"

Lorelei laughed. "You are inexperienced. The Johns never eat on Fifth avenue, the lights are too dim. But why supper? You can't eat."

"A Welsh rabbit would be the death of me; lobsters are polson," he confessed; "but I've read that chorus girls are omnivorous animals and seek their prey at midnight."

"Most of them would prefer bread and milk; anyhow, I would. But I'm not hungry, so let's ride-we can talk man's show-girls."

The banker acquiesced with alacrity. To his driver he said, "Take the Long meanor; only his roving, reckless eye Island road. The machine glided into noiseless The Judge had enjoyed the scene.

motion "Why do you choose the Long Island road?" asked Lorelel.

"It's pleasant," responded Merkle. "I ride nearly every night, and I like upon the old man's dental intirmity. the country. You see, I can't sleep unless I'm in motion. I get most of "You're quite a comedian," Regan my rest in a car; there's something "Click 'our again," said Bob, pleasabout the movement that soothes me. "How funny?"

pensations, Play 'Home, Sweet Home' "Peculiar, parhans, but searcely huwhen you get 'em tuned up. Or permorous. I'd he dead or insane without an automobile. I keep four Franch cars in my garage, all specially built as to spring suspension and up-holstery, and I spend nearly every night in one or the other of them. So long as I'm moving fast I manage to snatch a miserable sort of repose, but the instant we go slow I wake up. used to sleep at twenty miles an hour now I can't relax under thirty Forty is fine-sixty means dreamless peace "It does, indeed, if one happens to

have a blowout," laughed the girl. The car was now darting through unfrequented side streets, where the asphalt lay in the shadows like dark pools. Up the approach to the Queens borough bridge it swept, and took the long Incline like a soaring bird. Black well's island slipped under them, an inky, bottomless pit of despair. The "Splendid! I thank you; my father breath of the overheated city changed thanks you; my family thanks you. as by magic, and the thin-faced suf-Now where would you like to dine?" ferer at Lorelei's side drank it in ea "How can a person get rid of you?" gerly. Even in the dim flash of the passing illuminations she noted how "I'm sure I don't know-it isn't betired and worn he was, and a sudden

ing done. But I'll try to think. Wear pity smote her. your prettiest gown, won't you? for "Won't you pretend I'm not here, and drive just as you always do? I won't mind," she said.

She turned with a shrug of mingled "My dear, it's late. You'll need to annoyance and amusement, and he go home." "No: no?

"Really?" His eagerness was genu-Ine. "Won't your people worry?" Her answer was a short, mirthless performance, was still in an evil tem- laugh that made him glance at her cu per; but she thanked her roommate for roomly. "They know I'm perfectly aiding her; then, as if some explanasafe. It's the other way round: a man tion were due, she added, "That note of your standing takes chances by be ing alone with a woman of-mine." "You puzzle me, Lilas," Lorelei told

accept my offer?" "No. 1 can't be a bired spy." "You said over the 'phone that you

gagement and he broke it. Men are had learned something." all selfish; the bigger they are the more selfish they become. They never on foot to get some of Mr. Hammon's money dishonestly. I have a reason for wishing to provent It.

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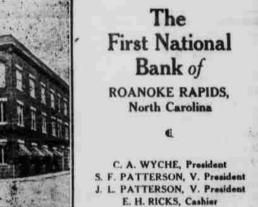
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mirrative suddenly, and Miss Lynn herself burst into the room, panting from

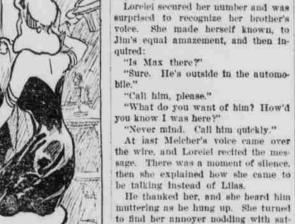
Lorelei looked up from her sewing at a little cry of rage from Lilas. Miss do anything you don't make them." Lynn had torn the message into bits "He can't sacrifice his business for nd flung it from her; her eyes were you bloging. 'Sacrifice! It's women who sacri-"The idiot!" she cried, furiously, ris fice themselves. D'you suppose any of ing so abruptly as almost to upset Mrs. the se men we met last aleht would Croft. "What is it?" body? Not much. They are the "I-must telephone-quick! I must strong and the mighty. They got rich or-Lorel-i, dear, will you do me a through robbery, and they're in the favor? Run down to the door and tele haldt of taking whatever they want. shone for me? I won't be off again They made their money out of the till the curtain, and that will be too blood and suffering of thousands of late." Lorelel rose obediently. "That's poor people. That's what it is-blood a dear. Call Tony the Barber's placemoney I-I've forgotten the number-any-"Is that why you're planning to ow, you can find it, and ask for Max. blackmail it out of him?" Tell him it's off: he can't come." Lilas paused in her dressing and "Who can't come? Max?" turned slowly, brows lifted. Her "No. Just say, 'Lilas sends word dark eyes met the blue ones unwaverthat It's off; he can't come.' He'll un- ingly, derstand. There's my cue now. I'll "Hack do as much for you." Lilas was off about ?" "Blackmail? What are you talking Mrs. Croft went pale, and with a rush, and Lorelei hastened retired swiftly but noiselessly into the after her, speculating vaguely as to lavatory, closing the door behind her. the cause of all this anxiety. As Lo- "What did Max tell you over the relet hurried down the passageway a 'phone?" asked Lilas, sharply, man in evening dress turned, and she "Nothing." recognized Robert Wharton. "Then where did you get-that? "You are sent from heaven!" he From Jim?" cried, at sight of her. "I enter out of "Jim's pretty bad, I imagine, but the night and unburden my heart to he keeps his badness to himself. No. this argus-eyed watchman, and, lo! I've overheard you and Max talking." you come flying in answer to my wish. | "Nonsense. We've never mentioned Onlek service, Judge. In appreciation such a thing. The idea is absurd. I of your telepathy I present you with get mad at Jarvis-he's enough to some lumbago cure." He tossed a madden anybody-perhaps I'm jealous. hank note to Regan, who snatched it but blackmail! Why, you're out of eagerly on the fly. eagerly on the fly. Lorelei forestalled further words. "Please—I must telephone. I go on and finally dismissed Croft. When h a minute. quiet had finally descended she opened "Fairy Princess, last night I was a her door cautiously and peered out goldrish; tonight I am an enchanted Robert Wharton sat on the top step lover-" of the stairway near at hand, but his "Walt; I'm in a hurry." She head rested against the wall, and he thumbed the telephone book swiftly in slept. Beside him were his high hat. search of her number, but young his gloves and his stick. As Lorelet, Wharton was not to be silenced. with skirts carefully gathered, tiptoed "Tell him it's all off," he commandpast him she saw suspended upon his ed. "You can't go: I won't let you, gleaning white shirt bosom what at Promise." He laid a hand upon the first glance resembled a foreign decogleaming white shirt bosom what at dephone and eyed her gravely." ration of some sort, but proved to be "Dan't he dilly. I'm telephoning for Mr. Regan's false teeth. They were

'Tonight I am an Enchanted Lover-

Hammon. I've heard enough to know that him and her is after his moneymillions of it. Mister Jim can tell you everything-"Mrs. Croft broke off her

"Quick, Croff! Don't be all thumbs was from Jarvis." She tossed a sealed letter upon her, slowly. "I don't think you care and Mr. Hammon. You've decided to her table, rapidly unhooked her dress, stepped out of it, and then seated herextending her feet for a change that? I adore him, but we had an enof slippers. She took the moment to

open and read her note.



Isfaction

lows."

she inquired stiffly

called after her:

for him at all."

I intend to enrage all the other fel-

"The Judge's teeth will entertain

Miss Lynn, as she dressed after the

Lilas laughed. "Why do you think

.

Lorelei telephoned to Merkle on the

moment later Robert Wharton's fol-

time the current tales of Bob's drunken

somewhat seriously, and she feared an

unpleasant encounter. More than on-y-

tiferous youths of Wharton's caliber

were frequent visitors.

me till you come. I'll be walting."

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suspended by a ribbon that had once one else." "That's exactly what we can't perdone duty in the costume of a cory-The 'someone else' is here-I'm phee; they rose and fell to the young mit. man's gentle breathing.

"I slapped you last night; I promise to do it again," Lorelei told him, sharply mething whispered that you did, and all day long I have been angry; brought up to her dressing room. A

but tonight I come with another purpose. Out-ide is a charlot with ninety lowed, together with a tremendous box horses-French rating-champing at of long-stemmed roses. She went down the throttle. We are going away from a triffe apprehensively, for by this freaks had given her cause to think

"You're drunk again, Mr. Wharton?" He glanced at the clock over Regan's head and shook his head in negain's head and show ten-twenty. In two hours from now..."

"Give me that 'phone." "Promise to tell him it's all off." She smilled. "All right. I'll use those very words. Wharton hesitated. "I trust you"

"I knew I wasn't mistaken in you," smilled Merkle.

"Oh, don't attribute my actions to any high moral motives! I'm getting sacrifice himself for anything or any a fittle rusty on right and wrong. Personally, I have no sympathy with Mr. Hammon, and I don't imagine he acquired all of his tremendous fortune in a perfectly honorable way. Besides, he's a married man.'

> "It isn't alone Jarvis or his family or their money that 1s concerned," Merkle said, gravely. "Great financial institutions sometimes rest on foundations as slight as one man's person allty-one man's reputation for mora integrity. A breath of suspleion of any sort at the wrong time may bring on a crash involving innocent people "Hammon at this moment carries t tremendous top-heavy burden of responsibilities; his death would be no more disastrous than a scandal that would tend to destroy public confidence in him as a man."

"Doesn't he know that himself?" "Perhaps. But his infatuation over took him at an age when a man is a fool. Young men are always objects of suspicion in the financial world, for their emotions are unruly; but when old men fall in love they are superbly heedless of the consequences. I prom ised to tell you something about Jarvis, and I will, since you spoke of his married life. From the time he could walk he never knew anything, never heard anything except steel. He be came a rolling-mill superintendent almost before he was of age. They say he never did less than two men's work and often more; but he could make others work, too, and there lay the se cret of his success. His mill held the tonnage record for years.

"When the corporation was formed he played a big part in the deal and got a big allow of the profits. He went into other things than steel, and he prospered. He never failed at anything Jarvis had no vices and but one hobby-at least his vices were neutzal, for he had never taken time to acquire the positive kind. His hobby was Napoleon Bonaparte. He read evcrything there was to read about Napoleon; he studied his life and patterned his own on similar lines. Do following day, and about the close of 1 bore you, Miss Knight?" the show that night his card was

"No; go on. I'm tremendously terested. "Well, naturally, Hammon began to

consider filmself another Napoleon, and his accomplishments were in a way quite as wonderful. He even con-

Continued Next Wook

The hour which gives us life begins to take it away.-Seneca.

But Mr. Merkle relieved her mind by A wise man loses nothing if saying, "I sent Bob away on a pretext, although he swore you had an he but save himself. - Montaigne E. H. RICKS, Cashier

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