"I Have Not Forgotten—Anything."

The MAN in LOWER TEN

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SYNOPSIS.

Lawrence Blakeley, lawyer, goes to Pittsburg with the forged notes in the Bronson case to get the deposition of John Gilmore, millionaire. In the latter's home he is attracted by a picture of a young girl, whom the millionaire explains is his granddaughter. A lady requests Blakeley to buy her a Pullman ticket. He gives her lower eleven and retains lower ten. He finds a drunken man in lower ten and retires in lower nine. He awakens in lower seven and finds his clothes and bag missing. The man in lower ten is found murdered. Circumstantial evidence points to both Blakeley and the unknown man who had exchanged clothes with him. Blakeley becomes interested in a girl in blue. The truth is wrecked. Blakeley is rescued from the burning car by the girl in blue. His arm is broken. They go to the Carter place for breakfast. The girl proves to be Alison West, his partner's sweetheart. Her peculiar actions mystify the lawyer. She drops her gold bag and Blakeley puts it in his pocket. Blakeley returns home. He finds that he is under surveillance. Moving pictures of the train taken just before the wreck reveal to Blakeley a man leaping from the train with his stolen grip.

CHAPTER XVI.

The Shadow of a Girl.

Certain things about the dinner at the Dallas house will always be obscure to me. Dallas was something in the fish commission, and I remember his reeling off fish eggs in billions while we ate our caviar. He had some particular stunt he had been urging the government to for years—something about forbidding the establishment of mills and factories on riverbanks—it seems they kill the fish, either the smoke, or the noise, or something they pour into the water.

Mrs. Dallas was there, I think. Of course, I suppose she must have been; and there was a woman in yellow; I took her in to dinner, and I remember she loosened my clamp for me so I could get them. But the only real person at the table was a girl across in white, a sublimated young woman who was as brilliant as I was stupid, who never by any chance looked directly at me, and who appeared and disappeared across the candles and orchids in a sort of halo of radiance.

When the dinner had progressed from salmon to roast, and the conversation had done the same thing—from fish to scandal—the yellow gown turned to me.

"We have been awfully good, haven't we, Mr. Blakeley?" she asked. "Although I am crazy to hear, I have not said 'wreck' once. I'm sure you must feel like the survivor of Waterloo, or something of the sort."

"If you want me to tell you about the wreck," I said, glancing across the table, "I'm sorry to be disappointing, but I don't remember anything."

"You are fortunate to be able to forget it." It was the first word Miss West had spoken directly to me, and it went to my head.

"There are some things I have not forgotten," I said, over the candles. I recall coming to myself some time after, and that a girl, a beautiful girl—"

"Ah!" said the lady in yellow, leaning forward breathlessly. Miss West was staring at me coldly, but, once started, I had to stumble on.

"That a girl was trying to rouse me, and that she told me I had been out fire twice already." A shudder went around the table.

"But surely that isn't the end of the story," Mrs. Dallas put in aggrievedly. "Why, that's the most tantalizing thing I ever heard."

"I'm afraid that's all," I said. "She went her way and I went mine. If she recalls me at all, she probably thinks of me as a weak-kneed individual who faints like a woman when everything is over."

"What did I tell you?" Mrs. Dallas asserted triumphantly. "He fainted, did you hear? when everything was over! He hasn't begun to tell it."

I would have given a lot by that time if I had not mentioned the girl. But McKnight took it up there and carried it on.

"Blakeley is a regular geyser," he said. "He never spouts until he reaches the boiling point. And by that same token, although he hasn't said much about the Lady of the Wreck, I think he is crazy about her. In fact, I am sure of it. He thinks he has locked his secret in the caves of his soul; but I call you to witness that he has it nailed to his face. Look at him!"

I squirmed miserably and tried to avoid the startled eyes of the girl across the table. I wanted to choke McKnight and murder the rest of the party.

"It isn't fair," I said as coolly as I could. "I have my fingers crossed; you are five against one."

"And to think that there was a murder on that very train," broke in the lady in yellow. "It was a perfect crescendo of horrors, wasn't it?" And what became of the murdered man, Mr. Blakeley?"

McKnight had the sense to jump into the conversation and save my reply.

"They say good Pittsburgers go to Atlantic City when they die," he said. "So—we are reasonably certain the gentleman did not go to the seashore."

The meal was over at last, and once in the drawing room it was clear we hung heavy on the hostess' hands. "It is so hard to get people for bridge in September," she wailed. "There is absolutely nobody in town. Six is a dreadful number."

"It's a good poker number," her husband suggested.

The matter settled itself, however. I was hopeless, save as a dummy; Miss West said it was too hot for cards, and went out on a balcony that overlooked the Mall. With obvious relief Mrs. Dallas had the card table brought, and—I was face to face with the minute I had dreaded and hoped for for a week.

Now it had come, it was more difficult than I had anticipated. I do not know if there was a moon, but there was the urban substitute for it—the arc light. It threw the shadow of the balcony railing in long black bars against her white gown, and as it swung sometimes the face was in the light. I drew a chair close, so that I could watch her.

"Do you know," I said, when she made no effort at speech, "that you are a much more formidable person to-night, in that gown, than you were the last time I saw you?"

The light swung on her face; she was smiling faintly.

"The hat with the green ribbons!" she said. "I must take it back; I had almost forgotten."

"I have not forgotten—anything." I pulled myself up short. This was hardly loyalty to Richey. His voice came through the window just then, and perhaps I was wrong, but I thought she raised her head to listen.

"Look at this hand," he was saying. "Regular pianola; you could play it with your feet."

"He's a dear, isn't he?" Alison said unexpectedly. "No matter how depressed and downhearted I am, I always cheer up when I see Richey."

"He's more than that," I returned warily. "He is the most honorable fellow I know. If he wasn't so much that way, he would have a career before him. He wanted to put on the doors of our office, Blakeley and McKnight, P. B. H., which is Poor But Honest."

From my comparative poverty to the wealth of the girl beside me was a single mental leap. From that wealth to the grandfather who was responsible for it was another.

I wonder if you know that I had been to Pittsburg to see your grandfather when I met you?" I said.

"You!" She was surprised.

"Yes. And you remember the alligator bag that I told you was exchanged for the one you cut off my arm?" She nodded expectantly. "Well, in that valise were the forged Andy Bronson notes, and Mr. Gilmore's deposition that they were forged."

She was on her feet in an instant.

"In that bag!" she cried. "Oh, why didn't you tell me that before? Oh, it's so ridiculous, so—so hopeless. Why, I could—"

She stopped suddenly and sat down again. "I do not know that I am sorry, after all," she said after a pause. "Mr. Bronson was a friend of my father's. I—I suppose it was a bad thing for you, losing the papers?"

"Well, it was not a good thing," I conceded. "While we are on the subject of losing things, do you remember—do you know that I still have your gold purse?"

She did not reply at once. The shadow of a column was over her face, but I guessed that she was staring at me.

"You have it!" She almost whispered.

"I picked it up in the street car," I said, with a cheerfulness I did not feel. "It looks like a very opulent little purse."

Why didn't she speak about the necklace? For just a careless word to make me sane again!

"You!" she repeated, horror-stricken. And then I produced the purse and held it out on my palm.

"I should have sent it to you before, I suppose, but, as you know, I have been laid up since the wreck."

We both saw McKnight at the same moment. He had pulled the curtains aside and was standing looking out at us. The tableau of girl and take was unmistakable; the gold purse, her outstretched hand, my own attitude. It was over in a second; then he came out and lounged on the balcony railing.

"They're mad at me in there," he said airily, "so I came out. I suppose the reason they call it bridge is because so many people get cross over it."

The heat broke up the card group soon after, and they all came out for the night breeze. I had no more words alone with Alison.

I went back to the Incubator for the night. We said almost nothing on the way home; there was a constraint between us for the first time that I could remember. It was too early for bed, and so we smoked in the living room and tried to talk of trivial things. After a time even those failed, and we sat silent. It was McKnight who finally broached the subject.

"And so she wasn't at Seal Harbor at all."

"No."

"Do you know where she was, Lolite?"

"Somewhere near Cresson."

"And that was the purse—her purse with the broken necklace in it?"

"Yes, it was. You understand, don't you, Rich, that, having given her my word, I couldn't tell you?"

"I understand a lot of things," he said, without bitterness.

We sat for some time and smoked. Then Richey got up and stretched himself. "I'm off to bed, old man," he said. "Need any help with that game arm of yours?"

"No, thanks," I returned.

I heard him go into his room and lock the door. It was a bad hour for me. The first shadow between us, and the shadow of a girl at that.

CHAPTER XVII.

At the Farm House Again.

McKnight is always a sympathizer with the early worm. It was late when he appeared. Perhaps, like myself, he had not slept well. But he was apparently cheerful enough, and he made a better breakfast than I did. It was one o'clock before we got to Baltimore. After a half hour's wait we took a local for M———, the station near which the cinematograph picture had been taken.

We passed the scene of the wreck, McKnight with curiosity, I with sickening sense of horror. Back in the fields was the little farm house where Alison West and I had intended getting coffee, and winding away from the track, maple trees shading it on each side, was the lane where we had stopped to rest, and where I had—it seemed presumption beyond belief now—where I had tried to comfort her by patting her hand.

We got out at M———, as small place with four or five houses and a general store. The station was a one-roomed affair, with a railed-off place at the end, where a scale, a telegraph instrument and a chair constituted the entire furnishing.

The station agent was a young man with a shrewd face. He stopped hammering a piece of wood over a hole in the floor to ask where we wanted to go.

"We're not going," said McKnight, "we're coming. Have a cigar?"

The agent took it with an inquiring glance, first at it and then at us.

"We want to ask you a few questions," began McKnight, perching himself on the railing and kicking the chair forward for me. "Or, rather, this gentleman does."

"Wait a minute," said the agent, glancing through the window. "There is a hen in that crate choking herself to death."

He was back in a minute, and took up his position near a sawdust-filled box that did duty as a cuspidor.

"Now fire away," he said.

"In the first place," I began, "do you remember the day the Washington Flier was wrecked below here?"

"Do I!" he said. "Did Jonah remember the whale?"

"Were you on the platform here when the first section passed?"

"I was."

"Do you recall seeing a man hanging to the platform of the last car?"

There was no one hanging there when she passed here," he said with conviction. "I watched her out of sight."

"Did you see anything that morning of a man about my size, carrying a small grip, and wearing dark clothes and a derby hat?" I asked eagerly.

McKnight was trying to look unconcerned, but I was frankly anxious. It was clear that the man had jumped somewhere in the mile of track just beyond.

"Well, yes, I did." The agent cleared his throat. "When the smash came the operator at MX sent word along the wire, both ways. I got it here, and I was pretty near crazy, though I knew it wasn't any fault of mine.

"I was standing on the track looking down, for I couldn't leave the office, when a young fellow with light hair limped up to me and asked me what that smoke was over there.

"That's what's left of the Washington Flier,' I said, 'and I guess there's souls going up in that smoke.'

"'Do you mean the first section?' he said, getting kind of greenish-yellow.

"'That's what I mean,' I said; 'split to kindling wood because Rafferty, on the second section, didn't want to be late.'

"He put his hand out in front of him, and the satchel fell with a bang.

"'My God!' he said, and dropped right on the track in a heap.

"I got him into the station and he came around, but he kept on groaning something awful. He'd sprained his ankle, and when he got a little better I drove him over in Carter's milk wagon to the Carter place, and I reckon he stayed there a spell."

"That's all, is it?" I asked.

"That's all—or, no, there's something else. About noon that day one of the Carter twins came down with a note from him asking me to send a long-distance message to some one in Washington."

"To whom?" I asked eagerly.

"I reckon I've forgot the name, but the message was that this fellow—Sullivan was his name—was at M——, and if the man had escaped from the wreck would he come to see him."

"He wouldn't have sent that mes-

"Do You Recall Seeing a Man Hanging to the Platform of the Last Car?"

sage to me," I said to McKnight, rather crestfallen. "He'd have every object in keeping out of my way."

"There might be reasons," McKnight observed judicially. "He might not have found the papers then."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Russian Wheat Production.

An enormous crop of wheat has been grown in Russia this year, placing that land for the first time at the head of wheat-growing countries. Its harvest of 783,000,000 bushels exceeds that of the United States by 26,000,000 bushels, and is greater than its own previous record by about 100,000,000 bushels. The development of wheat growing has been most rapid along the line of the Trans-Siberian railway. As the home consumption is small in proportion to population, this has made Russia one of the great sources of supply for the rest of the world. France consumes much of the wheat that it grows. The present price of wheat in the United States, when placed against the surplus product of Russia, makes it more difficult for this country to hold its place as an exporter of that cereal.

Helps Poor Girls.

Mrs. James J. Storrow, wife of the Boston banker, is interested in a number of charities, among them being the girl's bowl shop. In the spare time which the girls have, they make pottery articles, which they sell, the money to be used for purposes of education. Mrs. Storrow has a girls' library club, and every summer she sends a number of girls to the country, 14 at a time.

Taxes in the Olden Time

In the Reign of George the Third One Could Not Even Escape Them by Dying.

For taxes out of the common one must turn back to the days of George III. For in the reign of that monarch one was almost forced to "die beyond one's means." The army and the navy were in urgent need of money and the chancellor was at his wits' end. He thought of the dead and gravely suggested a tax on coffins. Which proposal recalls the day when one could not be born without involving a proud parent in a tax. A graduated tax. The birth of an eldest son, for instance, cost a duke as much as £30, whereas a cottager was forced to pay only two shillings. To be born with a silver spoon in the mouth cost money in those days!

Not only was there once a tax on hair powder, but hair itself has been called upon to pay its due share to the revenue. For beards were, at various times, taxed in England. Henry VIII. graduated his levy according to the status of the wearer, the sheriff of Canterbury, for instance, having to pay three shillings four pence for his beard, and Elizabeth fixed the same sum for every beard of over a fortnight's growth.

Real Estate Exchange

OF WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank Birmingham Michigan

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

5

Elegant house, and lot 60 feet front by 80 rods deep (5 acres) on East Side, Farmington road, between Grand River and Nine Mile road. Price, $6,000. Can be bought cheaper if the purchaser wishes to buy a smaller piece. Inquire of Mrs. Sarah Hoard, on the premises, for further particulars.

77

One lot on Wyoming Avenue, four south of land owned by John Dennis, Detroit, Mich. Any one wishing to purchase will find this a bargain. Inquire of present tenants or Mollie G. Sands, or at Exchange Bank.

147

Nice little home for some one of small means at $1,700; $100 down and $15 per month. Also 10 acres in a ½ st. of s. ½ of sec. 31, Township of Troy; 7-room house; barn in good shape; well at both barn and house, never dry; 1½ mile east of Rochester electric fare to Detroit; 40 rods to school. All cash and no grumbling will buy it at $700. Hurry up!

167

Wants to trade for 10 or 40 acres on or near electric. Ninety-four acres on s. ½ of e. ¼ of sec 11, Troy township; 5 buildings valued at $2,000 will exchange for $1,700. Stump land, plowed to barley; farm well adapted for stock or dairy; 1½ miles from electric at Troy Corners, where there are good schools and churches. Fare 17c to Detroit; 400 per acre.

180

Farm in A von township; 55 acres of good clay loam, all cleared; small orchard, no buildings; small amount down. For sale, or exchange for small farm.

194

Fifty acres in Township of Troy, adjoining the Joy Stock Farm; 5 buildings, good house, basement barn, plenty of small fruit, orchard of selected fruit; 2½ miles from Flint Division D. U. & I. R. wells and fine spring. Price $4,000.

195

Fifteen acres in Township of Royal Oak; no buildings; small grove of maples in a pretty location; new land, well drained, clay bottom, black top soil; corner of the 9½-mile and Campbell roads, ¼ mile east of electric road; adjoins J. L. Hudson and Duffield tracts, which are held at $530.00 per acre; 1½ miles west of Royal Oak grounds. Price $300 an acre, will exchange for vacant property.

198

Ten acres 1 mile east of Royal Oak village; excellent land; 40 fine apple trees, no buildings. Price $1,200. The place is well fenced, and the price will suit you to build the kind of house you may require.

201

Fine 5-story residence on Maple Avenue, corner of High Street; 60 feet front, 132 feet deep; hot-water heater, hot and cold bath, toilet, city gas, city water—every convenience found in the best class of city residences. Cement walk (cost $250) and best neighborhood in town. House would cost at least $7,000 to build today; can now be built it for less and see what they say. You can pay this beautiful home for $2,800, and have your own way about payments. Ask the man at the bank.

222

Two-story tenement or terrace, on the east side of Woodward Avenue. Two distinct 2-story houses of 8 rooms each. Furnace, water-closet, bath, hot and cold water, city water and gas; each is convenient of other apartment, and rent for $15 per month each. $40 per year will pay all taxes and insurance. Good for two tenants, and the lot is 70 feet front on the best frontage on Woodward, and 180 feet deep; room for a nice garden; can live in one apartment and have a steady income from the other. This is something to ponder over. Come and get us help you ponder. Always at your service. If you can't sail, write.

229

A pleasant and sightly farm of 71 acres in West Bloomfield, 3 miles north of Northville electric; 1 acres orchard, 4 acres good timber; 8 buildings worth $3,000; will sell for only $5,000—and it is a well worth it. Soil, sandy loam and clay loam, under high state of cultivation. Better investigate.

241

Fine new house with all modern conveniences, within 200 feet of the west side of Woodward Avenue; 8 rooms, bath, etc.; lot 66x180; plenty of fruit. You could not build the house for $3,000, and I think it will was ask for the premises. Well worth looking at.

244

If you could buy an acre and a quarter of land with a brick house equipped with hot and cold water, bath, water-closet, furnace, and every possible convenience, and barn, chicken house, plenty of fruit and cement walks—and the house alone cost $4,000—for $2,000 on easy terms, you'd call it cheap, wouldn't you? Well, we can do it. Come on and we'll show you.

246

One hundred and twenty-seven acres in the Township of Avon, five buildings worth $6,000, 7 acres of timber, 5 acres of orchard; well watered (Clinton River runs through Village of Avon); land is 120 feet above the river; five wells, 2 good houses, 2 barns in good repair; well fenced; 1½ miles from the Village of Avon and 1 Rochester. Will trade for a smaller farm, or will consider an offer of $3,500. It will be a well handled enough to make a decided sacrifice. A bargain.

250

Now; here is a "Beaner!" House, barn and chicken house, with two acres of land on westerly side of Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, and known as "Elmcrest." 10 rooms, bath, toilet, 3 cellars, furnace, hot water, good barn, 2 chicken houses, main house one of the best-equipped lot of buildings on the village—if not the best; fine garden and beautiful lawn; buildings insured for $4,0'); $1,850 cash will buy it, and the balance of purchase price can be had on long time and low rate of interest. Without exception, this is the finest 'ot-and and best lot of buildings on our list and the price is right.

109

Lots 52 and 53, Addison Addition, Birmingham. Price $400 for both lots. Terms, $50 cash; balance on contract.

270

House and lot, west side of Ann Street; 5-story brick building, tenant-third floor, 2 rooms and toilet; rent, $10 per month. Price $1,500; terms easy.

273

New cement house, one block from Wyoming Avenue, 2 bedrooms, bath and toilet on second floor. 4 rooms downstairs; large vestibule, hot-air furnace, cement walks, cement cellar; lot 40x120; large barn; one block from Michigan Central depot; better come quick if you want bargain cellar; $50 cash or more if you have it; $15 per month for interest for 6, and can be easy at low rate of interest.

281

Two very desirable lots in the Woodward Addition to be bought for $600 on account of the owner selling town and going to Europe to live; must be sold at once; will take $500 cash for both lots; easy terms.

282

Lot 4 in Block 7, Campbell's Subdivision, good building property for $350; fine location; price $7,500, lies one block from Woodward Avenue and will be sold to make a small first payment.

283

Lots 38 and 39, Purdy's Addition; one of the best locations in the whole plat; can be bought for $400, and you can get them by paying only $50, and the balance will be arranged to suit purchaser. Cash or terms.

294

ACREAGE—If acres, high and dry, in the village of Birmingham; 1 acres in fruit, 5 acres in timber, 2 acres in meadow, balance in pasture; 2 wells, 2 barns, 1 house and 1 chicken house; 1 mile from electric line; 1 mile from Detroit United line; 1 mile from Grand Trunk depot; will handle it. R. A. Day's Birmingham Real Estate Agency.

296

Nice 5-room house, with bath, toilet in Village of Royal Oak; one block from electric railway; location, interior; lot 40 feet front and 132 feet deep; house cost $2,500; will sell for $1,800.

On the Installment Plan.

One day Robert said, "Uncle Bill, how much do you want for those pups?" "Oh, about $2 apiece," was the reply. "But, Uncle Bill," said Robert, "what could I do with a piece of pup?"—The Delineator.

297

Wheatest corner in the finest farm for stock raising or high-class farming in the county. On Grand River road, 20 miles from the City of Detroit, 2 cowings wells, good of nearly an acre of cherry trees, 2 acres of apples, 2 acres of pears, 2 acres of grapes, 2-room house, new silo, barn for 40 head of cattle, 2 sheds for young stock, 2 sheds for horses, 2 other stable, milk house with double cement floor, 500 rods near wire fence with cedar posts, 40 acres of fall wheat, 10 acres of rye, 10 acres of timber, 5 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 2 acres of potatoes, 2 acres of corn, 2 acres of oats, 1 acre of beans, 1 acre of sugar beets, 1 acre of turnips, 1 acre of cabbage, 1 acre of onions, 1 acre of tomatoes, 1 acre of melons, 1 acre of cucumbers, 1 acre of peppers, 1 acre of pumpkins, 1 acre of squash, 1 acre of sweet corn, 1 acre of potatoes, 1 acre of parsnips, 1 acre of carrots, 1 acre of