



RELUCE

By DAVID GRAHAM PHILLIPS, Author of "THE CASTLE" and "THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES"

CHAPTER XII—Continued.
Ellery sat opposite me, and I was irritated, and thrown into confusion, too, every time I lifted my eyes, by the crushed, criminal expression of his face. He sat and drank heavily—and extremely bad manners it would have been regarded in me had I made as much noise as he, or lifted such quantities at a time into my mouth. But through this noisy glutinous he managed somehow to maintain that hard dog air—like a thief who has gone through the house and, on his way out, has passed at the pantry, with the sack of plunder beside him, to gorge himself.

I looked at Anita several times, each time with a carefully-framed remark ready, each time I found her gaze on me—and I could say nothing, could only look away in a sort of panic. Her eyes were strongly variable. I have seen them of a gray, so pale that it was almost silver—like the steady light of the snow-line at the edge of the horizon; again, and they were so, that evening, they shone with the deepest, softest blue, and made one think, as one looked at her, of a fresh violet frozen in a block of clear ice.

I sat behind her in the box at the theater. During the first and second intermissions several men dropped in to speak to her mother and her—fellows who didn't even know her name, but I could tell they knew who I was by the way they ignored me. If I happened to be in a pitch of fury, that coldly insolent air of theirs—a jerky nod at me without so much as a glance, and no notice of me when they were leaving my box beyond a faint, supercilious smile as they passed with eyes straight ahead. I knew what it meant, what they were thinking—that the "Duckshot King," as the newspapers had dubbed me, was trying to use old Ellery's necessities as a "Jimmy" and "break into society."

When the curtain went down for the last intermission, two young men appeared; I did not get up as I had before, but stuck to my seat—I had reached that point at which courtesy has become cowardice in me. They craned and strained at her round me and over me, presently gave up and retired, disregarding their anger as contempt for the man who was a boaster. But that disturbed me not a ripple, the more as I was delighting in a consoling discovery. Listening and watching as she talked with these young men, without the faintest knowledge, I noted that she was distant and only politely friendly in manner habitually, that while the ice might thicken for me, it was there always. I knew enough about her to know that the woman who can thaw only for one man is the most difficult, she is also the most constant. "Once she thaws toward me!" I said to myself.

When the young men had gone, I leaned forward until my head was close to hers, to her hair—fine, soft, abundant, electric hair. Like the infantile fool that I was, I tore out all the pluck-holes of my brain in search of something to say to her, something that would start her to thinking well of me. She must have felt my breath upon her nose, for she moved away slightly, and it seemed to me a shiver visibly passed over that wonderful white skin of hers.

ness, and brooding. "Mamma will be down in a few minutes," she said. "I didn't come to see your mother," replied I. "I came to see you."

She flushed, then froze—and I thought I had once more "got upon her nerves with my rude directness. How eagerly sensitive our nerves are to bad impressions of one we don't like, and how cowardly insensible to bad impressions of one we do like!" "I see I've offended again, as usual," said I. "You attacked me on such importance to petty little dancing-master tricks and aprinnings. You live—always have lived—in an artificial atmosphere. Real things act on you like fresh air on a hothouse flower."

"You are—fresh air!" she inquired, with laughing sarcasm. "I am that," retorted I. "And good for you—as you'll find when you get used to me."

"I heard voices in the next room—her mother's and some man's." We waited until it was evident we were not to be disturbed. As I realized that fact and surmised its meaning, I looked triumphantly at her. "I see you are hearing yourself," said I with a laugh. "You are perfectly certain I am going to propose to you."

"Your mother—in the next room—expects it, too," I went on, laughing even more disagreeably. "Young parrots need money—they have decided to sell you, their only large income-producing asset. And I am willing to buy. What do you say?" I was looking her way out of the room. She was standing, her breath coming fast, her eyes blazing. "You are—frightful!" she exclaimed in a low voice.

"Because I am frank, because I am honest? Because I want to put things on a sound basis? I suppose, if I came lying and pretending and let you and Sam lie and pretend, you would find me—almost tolerable. Well, I'm not that kind. When there's no special reason one way or the other, I'm willing to smile and grimace and dicker and drive, like the rest of your

friends, those ladies and gentlemen. But when there's business to be transacted, I am business-like. Let's not begin with your thinking you are deceiving me, and so hating me and despising me and trying to keep up the deception. Let's begin right."

JURY GUARDS PEORIA BOOKS.

Remarkable Precaution Taken to Prevent Changes.
Peoria.—The books of the city clerk, in the office of the city clerk, are now in possession of the grand jury.

BROOMCORN MEN TO UNITE.

Brokers and Dealers Have Grievances Against Manufacturers.
Mattoon.—Local brokers are in receipt of the advice that the broomcorn brokers' organization is being considered by a large number of the dealers of the country. The cause is that many shipments of brush have been refused by the manufacturers and the promoters of the new organization believe that some system should be devised by which it may be ascertained whether the action of refusing the goods and thus placing the shipper at a disadvantage and frequent loss is justifiable. It is said that western stock has been rejected so often this season that the western brokers have met with severe financial losses.

JURY ONE TOO BIG; WORK LOST.

Peoria Body Suddenly Discovers It Has Twenty-Four Men.
Peoria.—The three weeks' work of investigating graft charges by the grand jury will have to be gone over again. The discovery was made that 24 men were serving on the jury, when the law provides for only 23.

Two men of the same name, James McCullough, were subpoenaed and served by the sheriff. The extra man was not noticed, owing to the fact that all roll calls have been *intra voce*. Judge Green dismissed the extra juror. About a score of indictments will have to be drawn.

Kankakee—For the First Time in the History of the Kankakee County Circuit Court, as far as is known, prayer was resorted to in the jury-room to guide the jurors in determining their action. The case was that of Henry Oolt, who twice before had faced the jury on the charge of murder.

The jurors decided in favor of clemency to the prisoner and brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Waukegan.—Government secret service men investigated the grain elevating plant of John Kammer, a scientific farmer at Half Day, the impression having been obtained that it was really an illicit still. They discovered Kammer had considerable apparatus for his experimenting, but nothing was wrong. Kammer has a new scheme for fattening sheep and cattle on sprouted grain.

Medora.—An enthusiastic movement toward establishing a cannery factory in Medora has been started. At a meeting, attended by citizens, farmers and factory promoters, \$1,000 was subscribed by citizens. Eight hundred dollars will be necessary to start the enterprise, and it is thought this amount will be raised.

Child's Bite May Cause Death.
Chicago.—A result of being bitten by her five-year-old son, whom she was attending at a sick bed, Mrs. F. R. Green, Oak Park, has lost one finger of her right hand and the amputation of her hand will be necessary. The child was suffering from scarlet fever and died January 25.

Don White Approves and Loot.
Sterling.—Robbers, after entering the saloon of John Prestin, donned the white coats and the aprons of the proprietor and his bartender and then made the place. The police saw the white garbed men at work, and, believing that they were the proprietor and his assistant, went away.

Eleven-Year-Old Skater Drowned.
Peoria.—Frank Koelner, 11 years old, was drowned while skating in the Illinois river.

Accused Judge Gets New Trial.
Urbana.—Judge Philbrick granted a new trial in the assault and battery case against Prof. Cass. The case, of the Toledo school, Prof. Cass was convicted of whipping a pupil, Michael Burke.

Issue Bonds for School House.
Medora.—The village of Brighton, south of this city, voted favorably at a school election on the proposition of issuing bonds to the amount of \$4,500 for the erection of a new school building.

Urges Game Law Modification.
Quincy.—Quincy hunters are organizing under the mayor and city clerk, for the purpose of securing the repeal of the nonresident hunters' license law of the same laws of Missouri and Illinois, or of having the matter tested in the courts, as recently suggested by Gov. Polk.

Hears Kin Died in Quake.
Bloomington.—After being kept in doubt for several weeks Dr. L. B. Lockett, of this city, finally received word that his sister, Miss E. E. Lockett, had been killed and his brother perhaps fatally injured in the earthquake at Jamaica.

Centralia—Charles C. Meyer, a well-known business man, died, aged 49 years.

Tax Books Are Ready.
Hillsboro.—The tax books for the various townships of Montgomery county and their amounts have been completed and the county clerk delivered the same to the collectors February 2.

J. W. Harney Gets Appointment.
Jacksonville.—Postmaster J. J. Reeve appointed J. W. Harney assistant postmaster to take the place of H. T. Richards. Mr. Harney was street commissioner here for a number of years.

COL. MERRIAM IN TROUBLE.

Former Chicago Pension Agent Said to Be in Financial Straits.
Bloomington.—Col. Jonathan Merriam, former United States commissioner of pensions at Chicago, friend of Senator Shelby M. Cullom, and one of the best known politicians in central Illinois, is said to be in financial trouble. His friends are rendering him assistance. Three judgments by confession were taken against him in the Logan county circuit court, the total amount being \$3,524.41. This action created suspicion as it was generally supposed that he was a man of means.

Col. Merriam is a pioneer farmer of Logan county, and was long a power in the community. He secured his position as commissioner through Senator Cullom. Since receiving the appointment he has resided in Chicago. Recently he resigned, but it was presumed, when in difficult circumstances, General sympathy is expressed for him throughout central Illinois.

WILL HOLD POULTRY SHOW.

Petersburg Poultry Form Association to Promote Purpose.
Petersburg.—Petersburg has long been known as a town leading in the production of standard-bred poultry, but has never had a poultry association. Local farmers are realizing the necessity of a good show at this point, met in the court house and effected an organization for the purpose of holding a show some time early next winter. The organization is to be known as the Interstate Poultry association. Springfield, Jacksonville, Decatur and Bloomington are to become members and help make the show a success. The officers are elected as follows: President, H. M. Levering; vice president, J. S. Johnston; treasurer, Sheriff R. C. Rule; secretary, John L. Bryant.

New Village Elects Officers.

Fox Lake.—The newly-incorporated village of Fox Lake held its first election. The ticket was victorious. Harry Dummell was elected clerk. Six aldermen were named, as follows: John Brown, Conference Marble, Otto Muehrcke, Collin Coates, L. D. Fox, and George M. Maypole, a son of Alderman Maypole, of Chicago. The mayor will be chosen by the aldermen from their number.

Refuses Blackmail; Is Slain.

Quincy.—Mystery is attached to the burning of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Little in Burton township while the child was in Quincy. A school-teacher, Elijah Carlin, aged 65, lost his life in the flames, and it has also been announced that his life had been threatened by a man from St. Louis, who offered him \$100 in cash at a schoolhouse close to the home, which he declined to do.

To Have Artificial Lake.

Lincoln.—The lake committee of the Lincoln Chautauqua association met and decided to buy a dredge boat and to commence work on the artificial lake in the association grounds. The work is expected to cost about \$10,000. The dredge will be shipped here at once from Oakford, Ill., and work commenced as soon as possible.

Quarantine Raised.

Urbana.—The quarantine on the Sigma Chi hotel has been lifted. The students had been shut up seven days on account of the diphtheria scare. No symptoms of the disease appeared. The Sigma Nu and Aetec houses are still quarantined. The lid was also lifted from a boarding house where Miss Kennedy, a co-ed, was domiciled.

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FRESH AIR IN A GREENHOUSE.

At five the next day I rang the Ellery's bell, was taken through the drawing-room into the same library.



"I CAUGHT HER IN MY ARMS" AND "KISSED HER—NOT ONCE, BUT MANY TIMES."

The curtains over the double doorway between the two rooms were almost drawn. She presently entered from the hall. I admired the picture she made in the doorway—her big hat, her embroidered dress of white cloth, and that small, sweet, cold face of hers. And as I looked, I knew that nothing, nothing—no, not even her wish, her commands—could stop me from trying to make her my own. That resolve must have shown in my face—it or the passion that inspired it—for she paused and hesitated.

"What is it?" I asked. "Are you afraid of me?" She came forward proudly, a sneer in her eyes. "No," she said. "If you knew, you might be afraid of me."

"I must warn you," she said, and now it was I who looked directly at me. "I shall never love you."

"Never is a long time," replied I. "I'm old enough to be cynical about prophecy."

"I shall never love you," she repeated. For many reasons you wouldn't understand. For one, you will understand."

"I understand the many reasons you say are beyond me," said I. "Dear young lady, understand me better. I assure you there's hidden a rather sharp outlook on human nature—and well, nerves that respond to the faintest changes in you as to mine can't be altogether without sensitiveness. What's the other reason—the reason that you think you love some one else?"

"That you for saying it for me," she replied.

"You can't imagine how pleased I was at having earned her gratitude, and it was like a matter. 'I have thought of that,' said I. 'It is of no consequence.'"

"But you don't understand," she pleaded earnestly.

"I understand you perfectly," I assured her. "And the reason I am not disturbed by you are here, you are not with him."

"You are not with him?" she asked. "You are not with him?" she asked. "You are not with him?" she asked.