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D. Clem Deaver, General Agt.. Landseekers Information Bureau 1004 FARNAM ST., OMAHA, NEB.

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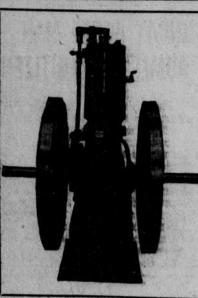
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YOU GAN GET OF THE FRONTIER

## The Seventh Gate

A Story of the Chinese Forbidden City.

By CLARISSA MACKIE Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.

Owen Ryder left the train at the ter-

minus several miles outside the walls of l'eking and covered the remaining distance toward the city gate on the back of a donkey.

As he approached the seventh gate he paused for an instant. He had come on a journey of thousands of miles to accomplish a mission, and now that the object of his search was almost within his grasp he hesitated.

Fear had no part in his hesitation. He was comparatively safe in the disguise afforded by his Chinese dressas safe as any native Chinese who wished to gain admission to the For-

Then, with quick indrawn breath, he moved into the deeper shadow of the gate. As his hands touched the bronze doors they swung softly inward and engulfed him.

A dark shadow loomed at his side and, without a sound, guided him close against the inner wall in a curving line. They came to an abrupt stop in a grove of trees whose tops rustled high over their heads. Before them were the dim outline and bulky mass of some huge building.

At last a door closed softly behind them, the hands were removed from Ryder's lips and arm, and presently a light twinkled out of the gloom.

The American turned to look at his companion, who had withdrawn the cover from a small bronze lantern and stood revealed in its dim light.

Ryder stared and stared again at the tall, spare figure that confronted him. This was no Chinese-this man with deep sunken blue eyes and wisps of fair hair sticking out from under the cue bound about his forehead. Owen Ryder's wondering gaze traveled over the yellowed skin drawn tightly over the protruding cheek bones, down to the handsome nose and bitter, curling lips, down to the common blue cotton Chinese dress and then up again with puzzled eyes to study the face with something lacking—something—what?
The man laughed silently as he lift-

ed his bony hands to each side of his head. "You miss these appendages, my friend. I have been cropped, you His voice was low and vibrant

with some suppressed emotion. Ryder gasped. "Your ears—my God!" He felt within his blouse for the comfortable reassurance of his revolver, and his fingers curled about the butt lovingly.

"Your ears next, my friend, and the ears of all who pass through the seventh gate inward," said the stranger, with assumed lightness. He turned and pointed to the wall behind him, and Ryder gasped again to see a line of dark figures stretched along the

"Earless freaks," said the tall st ger, with sudden dreariness in his mocking tone, "Sitidown on the floor, man, and tell your story-nay, let me preface it for you and for me and the rest of us-white men!"

"Go ahead," said Ryder. "You are an artist of some sort. You have learned that these people have recovered their lost art of producing Kiastin porcelain, that rare painting of invisible flowers, fishes or other symbols on the outside of porcelain vessels, paintings that are only revealed when the vessel is filled with liquor of some sort. The discoverer of this lost and precious art is confined to his workshop in the palace here. The re-tention of the secret means the addition of large sums of money to this country; hence they guard it carefully. You were put on to the secret, you have come to spy it out, you have reached as far as"—

"I had a model"— began Ryder eagerly, when the other man's low laugh cut him short. "What is your name?"

"I am Edward Stone, an Englishman had a model, too, and so did each of these five other poor earless devils. It was the same model. One by one she sent us here as she sent you. It could have been no one else but Lena Shultz."

"It was Lena Shultz," returned Ryder dully.

"I knew it. The man who discovered the lost art is not a native. To what country he belongs I do not know. I do know that he made the liscovery and was captured with his elongings and is confined within three eet of where we now are. All day he works in the underground cell perfecting his discovery, for in spite of the most violent threats he will not impart the secret to another soul or work in another man's presence."

"But why did that woman send us ere—on a wild goose chase?" muttered Ryder after a silence.

"Yonder poor devil is her husband. She hopes with the aid of other white men to help him escape from here. I was the first to come. I arrived at 9 in the evening. Now it is my duty to of my life. I'll take my foreign cravel open the gate at 9 every evening in the hope of catching other would be thieves. 'Set a thief to catch a thief,' you know!" He uttered a hard little

"I suppose that's what we are," agreed Ryder.

"That's so." "How long have you been here?"

"Four years."

"My God! How do you live?" "Don't live-exist."

"Any hope of escape?"

interrupted.

'None whatever.' "The imperial government"- began Ryder suddenly, when the Englishman

"The imperial government knows nothing about the matter. The whole rascally affair is in the hands of a clique of highborn scoundrels. Resolve to make yourself as comfortable as possible under the circumstancesresign yourself to losing your ears (if you ever should escape one can buy lovely pink rubber ones, I fancy) and hope for a change of rulers. Nothing else will cause excitement enough to have our existence forgotten. Good

Stone calmly stretched himself on the floor and went to sleep. Ryder sat and brooded at the bronze lantern flickering in the distance. His hand still caressed the butt of his revolver. but with less confidence.

New York seemed many thousands of miles away tonight-New York and alluring Lena Shultz. He cursed her

were awake and on the alert. The Latins gabbled French to one another, while Stone and Ryder drew near to an iron grating in the stone roof.

The American could make nothing of the strange sounds, but the Englishman's face lighted with sudden ex-

"By Jove," he whispered exultantly, "you've brought good luck after all, Ryder! Something extraordinary has happened, from what I can heara change of government indeed! Two deaths and chaos everywhere. Time for us to make a move, and disguises are in order."

He swooped to a dark corner and pried up a portion of the stone flagging. He brought into view a mass of silk and satin. He threw rich garments to each of his fellow prisoners, and without a word they slipped into the voluminous folds.

"Doubly a thief," muttered Stone as he surveyed his companions. Then he caught up one remaining robe and thrust it under his arm. "See if we can release Lena's husband, poor devil! We owe her a grudge, sure enough, but white men must stand by one another!"

With the air of one who had studied his ground and was well versed in his undertaking, he unfastened the oaken door and by the guiding sound of his slipping, padding feet the six followed him into the outer darkness of corridors. They twisted and turned and doubled, and at last Stone paused before another door.

"I don't know just how to get inside," he admitted in a low tone. But the pressure of his hand on the planks pushed the door inward and revealed to their shocked senses a scene of carnage indeed. With the details omitted, they realized that Lena's husband was dead, with his precious secret still

"The syndicate has done well indeed," said Stone, turning away. Silently they filed through the passages until they reached the foot of the grass grown steps where Ryder had left the outside world behind. "It is here where the guard is set. Look for danger, friends," whispered the Eng-

lishman. The shadows were uninhabited. They slipped up into the grove of whispering trees and followed the curve of the shining wall around to the seventh gate.

"Once outside!" muttered Stone fe

verishly. "Once outside!" each man repeated

in his own tongue. In the distance were muffled cries and excited murmurings. Around the

seventh gate all was still-ominously The seven were pressed against the

bronze gate, and Stone was fumbling

bronze gate, and Stone was fumbling with the complicated lock. There was a rushing sound behind them, and they turned their heads.

A file of soldiers was running toward then, and their short swords were raised in deadly menace. Stone pulled the door open and dashed forth with his companions into pitchy blackness. They crashed into a sedan chair just entering the gateway. A woman's scream pierced the darkness, and just entering the gateway. A wom-

chair and carried the shricking woman away from the seventh gate—away from the Forbidden City beyond the outer darkness to the lighted consulate buildings—to safety for all.

The section twenty-entity of Town, 31) north of Range sixteen (R. 16) west of the 6 P. M., Holt county, Nebraska.

52-5 GEO. H. THUMMEL, Special Master in Chancery.

R. Dickson, Attorney for Comfrom the Forbidden City beyond the

The next day Ryder and Stone left for the nearest treaty port. "A fifth story studio and paint pots for the rest book fashion hereafter." said Ryder

wig which hung well down over the lapel of his coat.

"Pink rubber ears," emnly. And seither laughed.

(First publication May 26.)

To A. L. Thomas, real name unknown, and wife, Mary Thomas, real name unknown, Lizzie Green, and husband, John Green, real name unknown, lot one (1), block twenty-four (24), of the original town of O, Neill, Nebraska, and A. L. Thomas, real name unknown as Thomas, real name unknown, trustee, and in trust for Lizzie Green, non-resident defendants.

block number twenty-four (24), of the original town of O'Neill, Nebraska, now the city of O'Neill, Nebraska, on account of the sale of said real estate for taxes to the county of Holt on the 17th day of November, 1905, for the delinquent taxes for the years 1890 to

alluring Lena Shuitz. He cursed her under his breath and wondered how many more men she would throw as bait into that hidden city in the hope that one or all of them might aid in the escape of her husband.

There was an audible murmur of sound without the thick walls, pierced by sharp staccato cries. The thud of many pounding feet sounded in the courtyards above their heads, and in an instant the six sleeping prisoners were awake and on the alert. The \$200.00 with the further sum of \$20.00

as attorney fees
Plaintiff prays in said petition that
the amount due him be determined and a decree be entered therefor in his behalf and that the same be decreed to be a first lien on said premises and that the defendants be required to pay the same or that said real estate be sold as by law provided and the proceeds thereof applied in payment of the amount due the plain-tiff with interest, costs and attorney fees. That the defendants and each and all of them be foreclosed of all equity of redemption or other interest in said premises and that their interest therein be decreed to be subject to plaintiff's lien and for such other and further relief as may be just and equitable.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 4th day of July, 1910. 49-4 R. R. DICKSON, Attorney for Plaintiff.

(First publication June 9.)

Estimate of Expenses. On motion the City Council made the following estimate of the probable amount of all moneys necessary for all purposes to be expended by the city government during the present fiscal year, commencing May 3, 1910, and ending on the first Tuesday in May, 1911.

Salaries of city officers ......\$1800 pairs on sewer.....

Total.....\$11300 The entire revenue for the previous fiscal year was as follows: Received of county treasurer. . \$3327.49 Saloon occupation tax..... 900.00 Police Judge..... 94.50

(First publication June 16) Special Master's Sale.

Docket A., No. 22.
In the Circuit Court of the United States, For the District of Nebraska. Norselk Division.
D. C. Markham, complainant

James A. McAllister, et al., defend-ants in Chancery. FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE.

Public notice is hereby given that in pursuance and by virture of a decree entered in the above cause on the 29th day of May, 1909, I, GEO. H. I HUMMEL, Special master in Chancery of the District of Nebraska will, on the 18th day of July, 1910, at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon of said day at the front door of the

just entering the gateway. A woman's scream pierced the darkness, and from the tower overhead the watchman thrust his lantern.

A white face appeared for a brief instant between the parted curtains of the chair.

"Lena Shultz!" bellowed Ryder excitedly.

With one accord the seven victims of Lena Shultz ignored the oncoming soldiers, and, shouldering the bearers aside, they grasped the poles of the shalt and agreed the shrinking woman in the series and agreed the shrinking woman in the south half (S. \frac{1}{2}) and the south ha

plainant. (First publication June 16.)

Order of Hearing on Original Probate of Will.

sheepishly to his companion as they whirled along the railway. "What's your first wish. Stone?"

The Englishman touched a matted wig which hung well down over the

In the matter of the estate of John Kennel, deceased On reading and filing the petition of Christian S. Kennel praying that

the instrument, filed on the 13th day of June 1910, and purporting to be the last will and testament of the said deceased, may be proved, approved, probated, allowed and recorded as the last will and testament of the said John Kennel, deceased, and that the execution of said instrument may be committed and the administration of said estate may be ranted to Chris-

tian S. Kennel as Executor.
Ordered, That Wednesday the 6th day of July A. D. 1910, at 10 o'clock The above named defendants will a.m., is assigned for hearing said take notice that James B. Ryan as plaintiff, has commenced an action in said matter may appear at a County plaintiff, has commenced an action in the district court of Holt county, Nebraska, against you and each of you and the before described real estate, made defendant in said action, the prayer of petitioner should not be prayer of petitioner should not be prayer of petitioner should not be pendicated. object and prayer of his said petition being to foreclose a tax lien owned and held by him upon the following described real estate situated in the city of O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, to:wit: Lot number one (1),

County Judge.

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