

Hidden Ways

By FREDERIC F. VAN DE WATER

CHAPTER XVI—Continued.

"You're not," Miss Agatha asked slowly, "a very generous young man, are you?"

"I have too little," I told her, still tingling, "to be generous. That, I suppose, is why I fight to keep it. I'm so far beneath the Pagets—"

"Don't talk nonsense," she bade. I shrugged, deliberately provoking my hurt.

"So much that is—uncomfortable to me, is nonsense to a Paget," I answered.

She grinned mockingly.

"How proletarian! You care less about lifting yourself than pulling others down?"

"Let's drop it," I said and flipped my cigarette into the wastebasket with needless force.

"Willingly," she agreed and laid hold of the rim of her chair's wheels. "Will you stay to lunch, David?"

"No," I said ungraciously, "I have an engagement. With Cochrane of the Press," I added to rub it in.

"I see," said Miss Agatha calmly. "When you come back this afternoon, we'll get the typewriter from the basement. And before you go out, you might see that whatever is kindling in the wastebasket is extinguished. We've enough on our hands without adding arson."

I smelled scorching paper and bent over the basket.

"Annie," said Miss Agatha, moving toward the door, "should have emptied it, but when the police come in the door reason flies out—"

"Wait a minute," I begged. There was a single balled sheet of paper in the wastebasket and the tip of my castaway cigarette lay on it. I picked up the crumpled wad and an odd feeling, half inspiration, half theory, excited me. My fingers trembled as I undid the ball. It was a half-completed letter, broken off in mid-sentence. As I read it I could see Grove, blindly in love as twenty-odd can be, hammering out reproach and devotion to the woman who had not kept their tryst. I could see him look up, where the typing ended, and mark that a window in the Ferriter flat was bright. Ione had returned. She had not failed him. He had torn the paper from the typewriter, cast it into the basket and rushed, headlong, into disaster. I handed the crumpled sheet to Miss Agatha without a word and she, too, read it through before she spoke.

"Poor boy," she said at last, and there was tenderness in her usually brisk voice. "Poor, passionate, foolish Grove."

I had expected something more from her than this, though even to me the missive was more pitiful and less ridiculous than most letters of its sort.

"But don't you see," I asked, "what this means?" She turned toward me and replied with equal tartness.

"See? Of course I see? This is what put my nephew's fingerprints on those typewriter keys. This is the letter he said he had been writing. That note the police found on him was written by Everett bent on suicide, earlier. This merely proves that Grove has told the truth. David, that it does to me."

She read it over again with a crooked little smile and folded it with gentle hands.

I suggested:

"Shan't we turn it over to Shannon. It proves—"

"Shannon?" she repeated with odd indecision. "I don't know. It seems to me a rather sacred thing. You see, no one ever wrote such a letter to me. Let me think it over. David. We'll talk of it later."

She rolled herself away without another word. I looked at the clock. It was almost time for my appointment with Cochrane.

"I get you." He grinned. "With a sad renunciatory gesture that will live forever in her memory."

I checked what I started to say.

"Go ahead," I answered. "Rub it in. I rate it."

He still played with the shaker. He asked at last:

"So the old lady didn't have Wintertbottom show you the door?"

"No. All I have to do is help her get her nephew out of the coop and substitute the murderer."

"Which should keep you busy," Jerry said, "at least until day after tomorrow. Would you like any help?"

I did not understand him.

"I mean," he went on, "is this just a personal or a professional conference? Do I forget all you've told me, or do we work it out together?"

His generosity threw me off balance.

"If you still want me to play ball with you," I began, "after—"

"I don't quite see how I'm to finish it off solo."

He seemed relieved and went on more briskly.

"Since we're still accomplices, I've got something to show you."

He pulled from his pocket a creased and glazed placard, bearing the picture of four men in tights and spangles, posed beneath a good deal of dangling cordage. Below the half-tone was the legend "The Four

assiduous Fairbanks correspondent of the Press, there you are."

"Where?" I asked.

Cochrane chuckled.

"It all adds up," he admitted, "to whatever you choose to make it. It's background on the guy you and the old gal have elected murderer, anyway."

I said, "It's also a problem in relationship. Everett used to be a Horstman. Then he wasn't brother to Lyon and Ione. He may have been—"

I bogged down.

"Brother or something to the Horstman the blizzard is alleged to have abolished," Cochrane finished for me. "It'll take a genealogist to figure it out, eh? And the authority on the subject broke his neck last night. That's too bad. We need him."

"No," I told him, "what we really need is Lyon's weakness. That's what Miss Agatha Paget wants."

I went over my recent talk with her. Cochrane ate and then forgot his food to sit listening, apparently half asleep.

"You know," he said when I ended, "that's a pretty unusual crone. I'd like to meet her."

"Why not?" I asked.

He had been too generous for me to hold back now. The question shook him out of his drowsiness.

"Do you mean it?"

"I'll phone and see," I said, rising. "But you'll have to keep her out of the papers."

"Oke," Jerry beamed. "It'll be enough of a thrill just to get inside the Morello."

At the telephone, I told Miss Agatha I was bringing Cochrane up to see her. If I had asked permission, I think she might have forbidden it, but I followed up with persuasion and reassurance until she consented and promised at my suggestion to clear our way through the hostile lobby. She was in the workroom when we entered. She seemed relieved that Jerry had neither horns nor tail and welcomed him serenely. I had grown accustomed to the spirit that dwelt intact in that crippled body, but Cochrane was a little dazed.

The tea-wagon, glass and bottle laden, stood beside the old lady's wheel chair.

"One of the few perquisites of age," Miss Agatha told us briskly, "is liquor. I hope you drink, Mr. Cochrane?"

"Only," he said solemnly, "in my social moments."

Miss Agatha's face changed and she glanced at me. She picked her words:

"I had understood that this was a social call."

"It is," Jerry told her, and she chuckled as she reached for the glasses.

We talked and sipped our high balls. I watched Cochrane's reticence melt, and saw the old lady's stiff face relax. Presently, with his doubt completely gone, Jerry was telling her in a low intimate voice all he had learned from Henkel and the Press' Fairbanks correspondent, of Lyon's past. Miss Agatha heard him through, with slowly narrowing eyes. She surveyed the placard Cochrane showed her and looked at it so long that Jerry repeated:

"Ferriter is the second man from the left."

This seemed to rouse her.

"Yes," she said with forced briskness. "Yes, I see," and threw off whatever odd abstraction had held her. "He and his neighbor look much alike. So he's the one who went with his beloved sister to the Arctic. I don't think I'm over-inhospitable in wishing they'd stayed there."

"Is she," Cochrane asked suddenly, "his 'beloved sister'?"

Miss Agatha looked at him hard before she spoke.

"I've seen no birth certificates," she replied tartly, "but there certainly is a family resemblance. And he is utterly devoted to her. If he were less so, my nephew mightn't be in jail at the moment."

"Because," Cochrane went on, "I gather from our Fairbanks man—I wish I'd brought along that dispatch—that they quarreled a good deal while they were living at Tanana Crossing."

"Pooh," said Miss Agatha, "brothers and sisters always quarrel. She was good-looking, in a region of few women, and he probably was jealous."

"Our correspondent's idea," Jerry answered, "is just the opposite. He writes that Lyon objected because she wasn't attentive enough to customers. After Horstman arrived, there was a blow-up. He and Lyon had a fight. That was just before the three of them went prospecting."

"And Horstman didn't come back," Miss Agatha thought aloud, and was silent for an instant.

"Well," she added, pulling herself together, "Lyon and Ione probably murdered him. There's nothing to compare with a murder as a solvent or maker of trouble."

Yet when Cochrane had gone, that part of his narrative seemed to irritate her. She spoke of it while Annie rolled away the tea-wagon.

"You've seen for yourself," she appealed to me, as though she needed endorsement, "there never was a more devoted brother than Lyon." I nodded as the bell rang.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



I picked up the crumpled wad.

Flying Ferriters." Cochrane gave it to me and said:

"Handle it gently. I got it from Henkel, old-time vaudeville agent, and I've got to return it. Recognize anyone?"

I did and started to speak. I looked more closely and at last faced Jerry's expectant grin.

"Either of the two middle ones," I said at last, "could have been Lyon Ferriter, ten years ago."

"Excellent, Watson," Cochrane crooned. "My own idea. The one on the left, Henkel tells me, was Lyon Ferriter. His neighbor was his cousin, Andrew Horstman. The other Ferriters were named Levine and Pappas. They were semi-headliners in the old two-a-day era."

"Proving what?" I asked him, folding the placard carefully and returning it.

"Not a thing in the world," Jerry answered, "except that your friend used to be the daring young man on the flying trapeze. Henkel has the memory of an elephant but even he doesn't know what happened next. He does say that Lyon and his cousin were very intelligent, for acrobats. When the movies ruined Art, and the Four Flying Ferriters flew apart, Henkel thinks that Horstman went into acting and played in stock for a while and that Lyon went to Alaska."

"Part of which," I told him, "checks."

"It does more than that," Cochrane drawled with the sleepy air that was his mask for excitement. "It practically proves that the Horstman who joined the Ferriters, Lyon and Ione, in their honky-tonk, or whatever, in Alaska was their cousin. And he, if you recall, went out looking for gold with them. They found it and lost Horstman. He never came back."

"Well?" I asked, at last, for he seemed to have run down, yet I knew the pause was for dramatic effect.

"Neither," Cochrane crooned, "did Lyon and Ione."

I said, "All right; spring it."

"They never came back to their cozy little shack," Jerry went on. "That's pure Robert Service, eh? Ione and her brother showed up the following spring in Fairbanks, which is a considerable hike from Tanana Crossing, where their place stood."

"They claimed that Horstman got lost there to say he didn't. They had samples with them that started a stampede. Lyon went in with it and sold his claim. When he came back, he and sister went down-river, took steamer for the states and vanished. They left so fast, they forgot to do anything about the dump at Tanana Crossing. This was sold last year for taxes. And, thanks to the

CHAPTER XVII

The food before us cooled while I talked and Cochrane listened. Like the Ancient Mariner's stooze, Jerry had to take it and like it. I had come to the beanery to Tell All. My mind had been partly laundered by my confession to Miss Agatha. I wanted to complete the cleansing by holding back nothing from Jerry. There was too much darkness for me to increase it by further reticence.

It was bitter, under his mild and trustful regard, to lay bare things I might have told long ago, but I went through with it. I saw his eyebrows go up, and up, as I told of Grove's earlier visit to the Ferriter apartment, of the voice I had heard in Mino's and, finally, of Duke's letter. Then I leaned back, feeling empty but easier and Cochrane looked from me to the salt shaker he fingered.

"Duke," he said, still watching it, "was sore, of course, over the skinning we've handed him. He doesn't know how much worse it might have been, if—" He stuck.

I said, "If I hadn't held out on you. Go ahead and tell me what I am. I won't argue it."

He looked at me again and gave his beaming smile.

"A guy who's That Way is never quite normal. I might have done worse myself. You have large ideas, Lochinvar."

"Listen," I told him. "I've got one idea. That is to get that noble and highbred sap out of this jam and then fade out of the picture."

The Annunciation



And the Angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.

—Luke 1:28

La Befana, Penitent Old Woman, Brings Christmas Gifts in Italy

Santa Claus doesn't visit children in Italy. It isn't because they are all naughty, but because there is no Santa Claus—in Italy.

No one runs down to a well decorated tree on Christmas morning to look for presents. Brightly colored when several men dressed like kings stopped in front of her cottage. They asked her where Bethlehem was, but she had never heard of it.

The men told her about a baby which had been born in Bethlehem, and mentioned a star which had been guiding them. The old lady wished she could accompany them when they left her in search of the infant Jesus.

But La Befana stayed home. It was getting too dark out, and besides, the baby could wait until tomorrow. Later that night she noticed the sky quivering with light. The clouds seemed to take the form of angels. All thought of sleep left her. Rising, she carefully wrapped two gifts for the Holy Baby, then ran out into the night in the direction the kings had gone.

Fast as she hurried, she had not reached Bethlehem when the star disappeared and dawn filled the sky. She frantically asked the way to Bethlehem, but no one could tell her.

And so La Befana has constantly traveled since that day, searching for the Christ Child. On the Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas, she goes from house to house, looking into the faces of babies. With each she leaves a gift, hoping that at last she will give her presents to the right child.

Christmas Card Was Invented By a Man With Many Friends



This is believed to be the first Christmas card. It was made in London in 1846.

CHRISTMAS cards are almost as much a part of Christmas as Santa Claus himself, yet they have been in use less than a century.

According to most records, the first Christmas card was designed in 1846 by Mr. J. C. Horsley, a prominent member of the Royal Academy of London. It was produced at the request of Sir Henry Cole, a man with many friends.

Sir Cole wondered how he could express his personal Christmas greeting to a thousand friends spread throughout England. After dismissing the thought of visiting each personally, or giving presents, he decided to send them each a card by mail.

One thousand hand colored cards were prepared with a picture showing a jolly family seated at a huge

Put Proper Postage On Christmas Mail

Unsealed Christmas cards will carry for one and one-half cents postage. These cards may bear a simple inscription, which must not be in the nature of personal correspondence. Examples: "Sincerely yours," "With Best Wishes," "Merry Christmas." Be sure the weight

of the card and cover does not exceed two ounces.

Letters may not be enclosed with Christmas packages. Such enclosure would make the package first-class. In fourth class or parcel post packages, written greetings such as "Merry Christmas," with identifying names, may be enclosed. Books may bear simple non-personal dedicatory inscriptions. They are carried at a special rate of one and one-half cents per pound.

X-Ray an Aid In Treating Sinus Trouble

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON

ONE day you may read of the great success certain specialists have had in the treatment of chronic sinus ailments by use of X-rays and of how the clearing up of the sinus infection has resulted in greatly improved hearing of the patient. The specialist in this case has treated a number of cases and had cured or helped the majority of them.

Perhaps the next day you read of another specialist using X-ray treatment in the same number of cases without any success whatever.



Dr. Barton, wood, Richmond, in Archives of Otolaryngology (ear and throat) reports the study of 22 cases of chronic sinus infection (sinusitis) before and after treatment by X-ray. Four patients of the group showed complete relief of symptoms and eight were improved as far as their symptoms were concerned. Ten patients were not helped at all.

Why were some of these cases cured, some improved and others not helped at all?

Ventilation of Sinus Needed.

It depends upon the condition of the lining or mucous membrane of the sinus. When this has become very thick or hardened, the X-ray (in the dosage given anyway) was unable to penetrate or restore it to normal. If this lining can be restored to normal, the sinus can be properly ventilated. A well-ventilated sinus gives no trouble, as the air destroys harmful organisms and, if lining is not swollen and thickened, the sinus can drain properly into the nose and throat.

Another point about the success or nonsuccess of X-ray treatment of sinus infection is that X-ray specialists are not agreed as to the "dose" of X-rays that should be given or how often.

Sufferers with chronic sinus disease who have tried without success all the usual methods of treatment—sprays of adrenalin up the nose, washing out with salt and water, injections of ovary extracts—can finally try X-ray treatment.

How to Relax And Go to Sleep

A PHYSICIAN is often asked by adult patients as to the length of time they should sleep, and his answer in most cases is that eight hours is about right.

Two cases often cited are Thomas Edison, who slept about four hours at night, and Woodrow Wilson, who required nine or ten. Most people forget that Edison was hard of hearing, and so when he slept he was not disturbed by noises low or loud, strange or familiar.

It is being able to keep body and mind relaxed that prevents us from becoming tired too soon. A completely relaxed body and mind is getting 80 per cent as much rest as if it were asleep; that is, from the standpoint of heart rate, breathing, temperature and blood pressure.

When the physician wants the patient to relax completely so that an examination of the abdomen can be made he asks him to hold his mouth open and breathe slowly through the mouth. This relaxes the body and, to a considerable extent, the mind also.

Relaxation is the exact opposite of tenseness. To relax requires no effort. It means to "let loose," to stop doing. In learning to relax a person learns to recognize tenseness wherever it occurs in the body. By letting each part of the body go limp or loose—legs, arms, trunk—one after the other or all together, tenseness of body disappears and with it often tenseness or alertness of mind.

Sometimes when there is no noise, no light, no draft, no heat or cold keeping you awake, try lying on either side with arms and legs bent and your mouth loose and open. You may snore, but you should get off to sleep.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Would prostate gland trouble have any unfavorable congenital effect on a child? Is it possible to cure prostate gland trouble?

A.—If prostate trouble is simply an enlargement of the gland this could not affect a baby born to you. If infection is present treatment by a specialist is usually necessary. Sometimes it is necessary to remove prostate gland. Don't hesitate to speak to your family physician about it.

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