



CONTRIAL Novelized by Charles N. Lurie From The Great Play by Elmer Reizenstein

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CHAPTER IX.

Enter Gerald Trask. BERTHA left, and in a few moments Gerald Trask, financier, wealthy man in his own right, the friend of Robert Strickland who had lifted him out of his financial difficulties and had made it possible for him to recover after he had made a disastrous failure of his recent business undertakings, entered the room.

Enemies of Trask said that he could conceal more cold bloodedness and ruthless purpose beneath a mask of cordiality than any other man in New York; even such few friends as he had found him cold. It required no keen student of physiognomy to see that this man was centered in self, that his very keynote of his character was selfishness, that he would pursue his own ends over any obstacle, whether those ends were business or personal.

Yet Gerald Trask could conceal evil purposes beneath a smiling exterior when necessary. It had been remarked of him in the "street" that he could meet with a financial opponent at a directors' table and profess friendship within a few minutes after planning that opponent's utter ruin.

Men marveled at the friendship, seemingly real, true and firm, which existed between Gerald Trask and Robert Strickland. The former was the cunning, ferocious financial wolf, avid of gain and pleasure and ruthless in his methods of pursuing his ends. The latter was frankly domestic and as open of countenance as he was direct and straightforward in his ways.

Anything hidden or treacherous was alien to his nature. He acted, frequently to his detriment, on impulse, and no man could say that Robert Strickland ever deliberately planned to harm him. His nature was that of the trustful soul who will cleave to a friend until that friend proves himself false beyond question. When occasion came he could strike, and strike hard, but it took much to rouse him to the point of anger.

Men instinctively liked Strickland just as they naturally disliked and mistrusted Trask. Often attempts had been made to warn the former against the latter, but he had bridled at the first suggestion of such a thing, saying that Trask had proved his friendship and that he, Strickland, would listen to no word against his friend.

And Trask? Until the very end it was a mystery why he maintained his cordiality toward Strickland. He had nothing to gain from him in a financial way, because Strickland's dealings in recent times had not panned out well, and he had had to call upon Trask for assistance. Socially Trask's position was as high as Strickland's, so the motive of social advancement was lacking. Perhaps Trask recognized in Strickland the possession of qualities lacking in his own character and was attracted thereby according to the law of the attraction of opposites. Perhaps there was another reason.

On the night of June 24 Trask entered the living room of the Stricklands with a cheery "Hello, Bob!" "Hello, Jerry. How are you?" And the two men clasped hands.

"Fine," said Trask. "Just get back?" "Yes, about fifteen minutes ago. Everything is arranged. Oh, by the way, you haven't met Doris, have you? Doris, shake hands with Mr. Trask."

The little ceremony of introduction over and Doris having shaken hands shyly with Mr. Trask, the latter said the big doll in the little girl's arms.

"Hello," he said, "who is this?" "This is Herman," said Doris, and Trask shook hands gravely with the doll, saying, "How do you do, Herman? How do you like America?"

Then Trask turned to Strickland with the question: "So everything's all right, Bob?" "Yes, I made very favorable terms with the Brizes people."

"When do you begin?" "In a few weeks. I bought a crack-neck house."

"You'll leave soon, then?" "Yes. You got my wire, of course. I want to take up that note."

With a smile which he intended to make as kindly as possible, Trask replied: "Can you make it? If you can't, I'll make it for you."

"Thanks all the same, but I want to pay it."

"I don't mind holding off for a few months. That \$100,000 won't put me out of business."

"No," said Strickland, the muscles of his jaws tightening for a moment, "I don't want to leave any debts behind."

"Better come down Saturday night, as we want to leave by 5 Sunday morning," said Trask. "But I've got to run along now."

As he turned to the doorway he came face to face with May Strickland, about to enter the room. For a moment he hesitated; then made as if to go on. The woman saw him and drew back, but her husband, looking past his departing friend, saw her and batted her with:

"Come in, dear."

There was no way out for May Strickland at this juncture in her life. She could not retreat without evident discourtesy to her husband's guest. Reluctantly she entered the room, and the die was cast whose throwing meant so much in the lives of all four there present, the woman, the child and the two men, with others whose fates were interwoven with theirs.

May Strickland's face was pale as she entered the room, and a close observer might have seen her hands twitching her handkerchief nervously. Her husband at that moment was not a keen watcher. His mind was too intent on the pleasure of introducing the wife who was the joy and pride of his life and the man who had proved himself so good a friend. Was it not Trask who had made possible the successful trip to Cleveland which was to result in the opening of a new life for his beloved May and Doris, as well as for himself?

Strickland's face beamed as he said: "I want you to meet Mr. Trask, May, Jerry, my wife."

Both Mrs. Strickland and Trask bowed, the former in silence and the latter with a formal "Delighted, Mrs. Strickland." Then, having recovered his poise, he said:

"I've often heard Bob speak of you." Strickland laughed. "Yes, dear, Jerry knows almost as much about you as I do."

Although the husband did not perceive it, there was strain apparent in the grouping of the three. Trask relieved it by saying, "Well, I've got to hurry away now."

Strickland answered impulsively: "Oh, wait just a few minutes! Good heavens, I want May to know you."

"Sorry," said Trask, "but I can't. Some other time. Good night, Mrs. Strickland."

In a low voice, the words scarcely audible, May Strickland replied, "Good night!"

And now Trask turned his full face upon her, laying just the faintest possible stress upon his words: "I hope to have the pleasure again, Mrs. Strickland. Good night! To Doris also there was a "Good night" before Trask left, followed by Strickland.

Mrs. Strickland followed them with her eyes until she was quite sure that they were out of earshot; then in a hurried, uncertain way she turned to her little daughter with the question:

"Doris, dear, was he—Mr. Trask—very long?" "Yes," answered the child; "they were talking an awfully long time. Daddy's going fishing at Long Branch."

"What do you mean, child?" "Mr. Trask lives at Long Branch, and daddy's going fishing with him Sunday."



"I want you to meet Mr. Trask, May," said Strickland.

the name of his wife. It caught the ear of his listener, and the face which was turned away from Strickland at the moment wore a peculiar smile. But there was nothing to betray his thoughts in his intonation or words when he replied:

"She must have guessed what was coming."

Pride in his wife was now uppermost in Strickland's mind as he answered:

"Yes; women have instincts about those things. I tell you, Jerry, she's one woman in a million. She's stuck to me like a major through all this business; never whimpered a minute; never a complaint or an angry word. Ah, she's an ace!"

"She must be," replied Trask.

"You know," Strickland went on, "it's too bad you never met May. I want you to know her. Doris, dear, run and tell mamma that Mr. Trask is here."

Trask raised his right hand in a gesture of dissent. He frowned just a trifle, and his voice sounded a bit hurried as he replied:

"Some other time, Bob. I've got to hurry away. By the bye, I'd like to have you come down to my place at Long Branch Sunday. I'm getting up a fishing party—six or eight of us. The bass are running well now."

"I'll be glad to come," said Strickland.

"I'll give you the address."

Trask took from his pocket a card and a pencil and wrote on the card, "It's on Henderson place, three blocks from the railroad station," he said; "first house on the corner."

He gave the card to Strickland, who placed it in his pocket with the word "Thanks."

Husband and Wife Were Alone Together at Last.

Wouldn't it be funny if Mr. Trask found your purse, mamma?" "Be quiet, Doris!"

Having sped his parting guest, Strickland re-entered the room. He said to his wife:

"Well, you weren't very talkative, dear."

"I was rather taken aback. I didn't expect to find a stranger here."

"Well, I'm glad you two met at last," said Strickland. "It's too bad you didn't get to know each other sooner."

"What brought him here?" "I wired him to come. I took up that note—the \$100,000 I owed him."

Had Robert Strickland's mind not been so occupied with his relief over the freedom from the debt which had harassed him he could not have failed to note the horror-stricken eyes of his wife. Her figure was flexed forward from the waist, and there was uncontrollable agitation in her manner.

"You mean you paid it?" "Yes. Why, what's the matter?"

"Nothing. But I thought—I'm glad you're able to."

His wife's agitation passed from Strickland's mind. Only the thought of financial freedom and Trask's generosity remained.

"Yes," he said, "I feel better, too, although Jerry would have given me as much time as I wanted. He's a big hearted chap."

"Yes."

"He invited me to go fishing with him to Long Branch on Sunday."

Cut This Out—It Is Worth Money

Cut out this advertisement, enclose 5 cents to Foley & Co., 2335 Sheffield Ave., Chicago, Ill., writing your name and address clearly. You will receive in return a trial package containing:

(1) Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, the standard family remedy for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough, tightness and soreness in chest, grippe and bronchial coughs.

(2) Foley Kidney Pills, for over-worked and disordered kidneys and bladder ailments, pain in sides and back due to Kidney Trouble, sore muscles, stiff joints, backache and rheumatism.

(3) Foley Cathartic Tablets, a wholesome and thoroughly cleansing cathartic. Especially comforting to stout persons, and a purgative needed by everybody with sluggish bowels and torpid liver. You can try these three family remedies for only 5c.

Sold Everywhere.

"Oh, I think Helen will expect us to dinner."

"By George! I never thought of that. All right, I won't go, then."

There was relief in May Strickland's manner as she said in a low voice:

"No, don't. Besides, I dislike the idea of your being out in a boat."

"All right, I'll telephone Jerry in the morning."

It was bedtime now for Doris. In the manner of all children, she begged hard for "just five minutes more with daddy, please," but both daddy and mother were obstinate, insisting that a "little girl should have been in bed hours ago."

After kissing them both good night Doris trotted off to bed, not, however, until Strickland had asked her to hang up his vest for him. She took her new treasure, Herman, with her, and her parting words were "Leave the door open."

Husband and wife were alone together for the first time since his homecoming.

"Oh, Robert," said May, "I've read your letter a dozen times. I feel as though I knew every nook and corner of the house. I'm so anxious to go."

"We'll be there soon," said Strickland. "As soon as we can get ready say two weeks."

"Oh, as long as that?" "Well, ten days if you like."

"Let's go next week," said May eagerly. "I have grown to detest New York."

"But we've waited so long; a few days more or less."

"That's just it. We've waited so long that it's gotten on my nerves."

(To be Continued)

Social Dance January 1.

Remember the next big social dance night in Murray will be Saturday, January 1, at the Puls & Gansemer hall. The music will be furnished by the Holly orchestra of Plattsmouth, and the usual good time is assured.

Thoroughbred Rhode Island Red Cockerels for sale. Price \$1.00 to \$2.50 each. Troy E. Wiles, Cedar Creek, Neb. Weeping Water Phone No. 2825.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—7-room house, 2 lots, barn and outbuildings; 3 blocks from Columbian school. Inquire of Homer Shrader. 11-3-tf-d&w

WANTED!



LIVE POULTRY

A carload of live poultry to be delivered at car near C. B. & Q. freight depot, Plattsmouth, Neb., on Tuesday, December 28th, one day only. We will pay cash as follows:

Hens 11c
Pullets 11c
Ducks 11c
Geese 10c
Old Roosters 6c

Remember the date. We will be on hand rain or shine and take all poultry offered for sale.

W. E. KEENEY.

COL. WM. DUNN, AUCTIONEER

WEEPING WATER, NEBRASKA
18 to 20 years experience is worth something to those who have property for sale.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

I am always after the High Dollar for Your Goods.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECURING HOLIDAY GOODS

Anything You Want for Presents for Your Family and Friends Can Be Had in Plattsmouth.

The nearness of Christmas has been noted before in the Journal in the preparation of the merchants for the event in providing their customers with the best possible bargains that might be desired in the way of Christmas goods, and they are putting out perhaps the best display that has been made in the city for some years in all lines.

The store of E. A. Wurl, one of the most progressive in the city, has been quite busy the last few days in arranging for the holiday season, and the lines of useful and sensible presents offered there is exceptionally large and arranged in a neat and attractive manner that cannot but attract the eye of the busy shopper. Here also can be found the best of the good things for the Christmas dinner and anything that the market can afford will be offered to the patrons of the store.

At the establishment of Zuckweiler & Lutz the store is arranged with a fine line of staple and fancy articles that await the inspection of the Christmas shopper, and anything in the dry goods or grocery line can be found in profusion in this store.

The big furniture store of M. Hild is also teeming with a great many of the best and most attractive gifts that could possibly be selected for the home and which would be appreciated by the housewife or anyone else. The line of up-to-date articles of furniture carried here is most extensive.

Up on North Sixth street there is a store that while it is not a gift shop has about as good a line of the dainties that goes to make up the pleasures of the inner man as can be found in the city, and this is the store of Lorenz Brothers, where their grocery and meat line is one of the largest carried in the city.

The store of W. J. Streight, the North Sixth street furniture dealer, also has a great many useful and substantial articles which would make a most acceptable Christmas gift to an individual or household.

At the store of Kroehler Brothers can be found anything in the hardware line that could possibly be desired by man or woman, and they are always willing to show the public just what they have in the Christmas stock in this line of goods.

In the shoe line there are two first-class establishments where anything in this line can be found, and many a most appropriate gift for the Christmas season is awaiting the inspection of the shopper at the stores of the Fetzer Shoe Co. and Avard & McLean.

In the line of good first-class pro-

"Nehawka's Best" BEATS ALL THE REST!

Not only our opinion but the verdict of a host of satisfied customers.

Nehawka Flour

take a sack home with you today and try it.

Every sack guaranteed to give entire satisfaction.

For sale by every merchant in Nehawka, at the leading dealers in Plattsmouth and Hiatt & Tutt, of Murray.

Nehawka Milling COMPANY, NEBRAWKA, NEBRASKA

visions for the Christmas dinner, and in fact for the entire year, they can always be found at the stores of A. G. Bach, J. S. Hall, L. B. Egenberger and Hatt & Son, and at the last named establishment can be found one of the best lines of fine meats in the city. The firm of G. W. Thomas & Co. also are headquarters for a full line of fine meats and all the necessary ingredients for a rattling good Christmas dinner in this line.

In the way of trimmings for the Christmas dinner and all manner of the best fruits, nuts and other good things to eat, the Plattsmouth Basket store and the establishment of John Schiappacasse can be found to be full to overflowing and it is only necessary to visit them to discover this fact.

Bear This in Mind.

"I consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy by far the best medicine in the market for colds and croup," says Mrs. Albert Blosser, Lima, Ohio. Many others are of the same opinion. Obtainable everywhere.

Christmas will soon be here - Buy your stationery now. You will find a complete line at the Journal office.

IN COUNTY COURT.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, County of Cass, ss. In the matter of the Estate of John Peter Keil, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested: You are hereby notified that there has been filed in this Court, petition of Elizabeth Katharina Keil, Executrix of the estate of John Peter Keil, Deceased, alleging therein that said estate has been fully administered, and praying that said estate be finally settled and the property assigned as provided in the will of said deceased, and that the said Executrix be discharged.

That a hearing will be had upon said petition before this Court in the County Court Room at Plattsmouth, in said County, on the 30th day of December, 1915, at nine o'clock a. m.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Court, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1915.

SARAH M. HARRISON, SARAH ELIZABETH MARTIN, EVA MAY HALVEY, Plaintiff.

PALMER, TAYLOR & PALMER, Attorneys.

County Court of said County this 20th day of December, 1915. (Seal) ALLEN J. BEESON, County Judge. 12-20-1915

NOTICE OF SUIT TO QUIET TITLE.

In the District Court of the County of Cass, Nebraska. Withelmuna G. Tigner, Plaintiff.

Isaac Coe, et al., Defendants. To the defendants, Isaac Coe, Mrs. Isaac Coe, first real name unknown; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Isaac Coe, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Mrs. Isaac Coe, first real name unknown, deceased; Abner C. Reed, Sarah M. Reed, the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of A. C. Reed, otherwise described as Abner C. Reed, deceased; the unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of Sarah M. Reed, deceased; the unknown owners and the unknown claimants of the north half (N 1/2) of the southeast quarter (SE 1/4) of Section thirty-five (35), Township twelve (12), North of Range ten (10), East of 6th P. M., in the County of Cass, Nebraska.

You are hereby notified that on December 16th, A. D. 1915, plaintiff filed her suit in the District Court of the County of Cass, Nebraska, to quiet her title to the following described lands, to-wit: The north half (N 1/2) of the southeast quarter (SE 1/4) of Section thirty-five (35), Township eleven (11), Range thirteen (13), East of the 6th P. M., in the County of Cass, Nebraska, because of her adverse possession by herself, her ancestors and grantors for more than ten years prior to the commencement of said suit, and to enjoy each and all of you from having or claiming any right, title, lien or interest, either legal or equitable, in or to said lands or any part thereof, to require each of you to set forth your right, title, claim, lien or interest therein, if any, either legal or equitable, and to have the same adjudged inferior to the title of plaintiff and for general equitable relief. This notice is made pursuant to an order of the Court.

You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, January 31, 1916, or your default will be duly entered thereon.

WILHELMUNA G. TIGNER, Plaintiff. W. A. ROBERTSON, Attorney. 12-20-1915

NOTICE OF SUIT TO QUIET TITLE.

In the District Court of the County of Cass, Nebraska. Sarah M. Harrison, Sarah Elizabeth Martin and Eva May Halvey, Plaintiff.

William Harrison, et al., Defendants. To William Harrison, legatees and personal representatives, and all persons interested in his estate, whose names are unknown, the heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives and all other persons interested in the estate of John Peter Keil, deceased.

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 17th day of December, A. D. 1915, the above named plaintiffs filed their petition in the District Court of the County of Cass, Nebraska, against you and each and all of you as defendants, the object and prayer of which petition is to quiet plaintiff's title in and to the following described real estate, to-wit: The southwest quarter (SW 1/4) of Section eight (8), in Township Twelve (12), North of Range ten (10), East of 6th P. M., in Cass County, Nebraska, to forever exclude and enjoy you and each of you, and all persons claiming by, through or under you from claiming any right, title, claim, lien or interest in or to the said real estate or any part thereof, and to require each of you to set forth your right, title, interest or lien therein, if any, either legal or equitable, and to have the same adjudged inferior to plaintiff's title to said land, and for equitable relief. Plaintiffs allege that they and Samuel W. Harrison, from whom they inherited said real estate, have been in the actual, continuous, open, notorious, exclusive and adverse possession and ownership of all said lands, claiming the same against all the world and especially against the defendants herein, since prior to the year 1888.

You and each of you are further notified that you are required to answer said petition on or before the 7th day of January, A. D. 1916, and if you fail so to do, your default will be entered therein, and judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of plaintiffs' petition.

Dated this 17th day of December, A. D. 1915.

SARAH M. HARRISON, SARAH ELIZABETH MARTIN, EVA MAY HALVEY, Plaintiff.

PALMER, TAYLOR & PALMER, Attorneys.

Storm Doors and Storm Sash will be the next item that you will need about your home Place Your Orders Now and be ready for the cold weather that arrive here in a short time Remember we are in a position to quote the best prices on all kinds of building material E. J. RICHEY, LUMBERMAN