

# Desperate Desmond

Pop Goes the Villain. And just in the  
Nick of Time for Hero Claude

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By Hershfield



Claude is about to be cooked. The villain has him suspended above a stove hot enough to roast. President Taft's Thanksgiving turkey, but even now our hero keeps cool. Rosamond, too, keeps her temp, just stand by and see her face slowly change into a sinner. Only Desmond could play such an act of villainy.

Changing for a moment from this heartrending scene, we behold a wagon making its way to a camp. With true Turkish carelessness the driver is allowing his sacks of grain to fall from his wagon. If he gets his load to camp, all right; if not, well, one can't dispute the will of Allah.

And now we may return to the scene of the hot stove and the hero, the complacent villain and the mournful beauty, to my satisfaction of a few snored Turkish minor village. One of the sacks from the commissioner wagon has rolled down the hill and through the roof of the kitchen. It is about to hit the stove—blast!

Pop-op-op-op-op!! There was popcorn that sack had just lit to it pop as it strikes the hot stove. The stuff explodes in all directions and scatters the inmates of the kitchen. By such a trifling accident the cooking of Claude is momentarily arrested. From this in fact even a sack of popcorn may be a serious thing, especially if eaten too hastily.

And even greater results are coming from that sack which rolled down upon the stove. As the pop-op sounds upon the silence of the night a party of Italian soldiers hears it, and with the true soldier's love of a fight all rush toward the kitchen whence sound the explosions. Doubtless you can guess what this portends. Of course you can.

"I'm the boy!" cries Desperate Desmond, "but I feel like a Thanksgiving turkey." The arrival of the Italian soldiers has upset all his plans and he is now about to be placed upon the stove where a few minutes before he had the heroic Claude. Truly the life of a villain errant is one of changes. To-morrow may show another one.

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