

# The Abandoned Room

By Wadsworth Camp

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### The Love Spark Burns

The silence and the delay increased their weight upon the little group. Silas Blackburn, huddled in his chair, was grayer, more haggard than he had been at first. He appeared attentive to an expected summons. He seemed fighting the idea of going back.

The proximity of Graham to Katherine quieted the turmoil of Bobby's thoughts. If he could only have foreseen this return he would have listened to the whispered encouragement of the forest.

Robinson reappeared. Anxiety had replaced the anger in the round face which, one felt, should always have been no more than good-natured.

"Jenkins will have to help," he said.

Silas Blackburn arose unsteadily. "I'm coming with you. You're not going to leave me here. I won't stay here alone."

"He should come by all means," Paredes said, "in case anything should happen."

The old man put his hands to his ears.

"You keep quiet. I'm not going back. I tell you."

Bobby didn't want to hear any more. He went to the kitchen and called Jenkins. He let the butler go to the hall ahead of him in order that he might not have to witness this new greeting. But Jenkins' cry came back to him, and when he reached the hall he saw that the man's terror had not diminished.

They went through the court and around the house to the stable where they found spades and shovels. Their grim purpose holding them silent, they crossed the clearing and entered the pathway that had been freshly blazed that day for the passage of the men in black.

The snow was quite deep. It still drifted down. It filled the woods with a wan, unnatural radiance. Without really illuminating the sooty masses of the trees it made the night white.

Silas Blackburn stumbled in the van with Paredes and Robinson. The doctor and Rawlins followed. Graham was with Katherine behind them. Bobby walked fast, fighting an instinct to linger, to avoid whatever they might find beneath the white blanket of the little, intimate burial ground.

Groom turned and spoke to Graham. Katherine waited for Bobby, and the white night closed swiftly about them, whispering until the shuffling of the others became inaudible.

Was she glad of this solitude? Had she sought it? Her extraordinary request in that earlier solitude came to him, and he spoke of it while he tried to control his emotions, while he sought to mold the next few minutes reasonably and justly.

"Why did you tell me to make no attempt to find the guilty person?"

"Because," she answered, "you were too sure it was yourself. Why, Bobby, did you think I was—the woman in black? That has hurt me."

"I didn't mean to hurt you," he said, "but there is something I must tell you now that may hurt you a little."

And he explained how Graham had awakened him at the head of the stairs.

"You're right," he said. "I was sure then it was myself, in spite of Howells' movement. It followed so neatly on the handkerchief and the footmarks. But now he has come back, and it changes everything. So I can tell you."

He couldn't be sure whether it was the cold, white loneliness through which they paced, or what he had just said that made her tremble.

"Perhaps I shouldn't have told you that."

"I am glad," she answered. "You must never close your confidence to me again. Why have you done it these last few months? I want to know."

Calculation died.

"Then you shall know."

Through the white night his hands reached for her forehead, drew her close. The moment was too masterful for him to mold. He became, instead, plastic in his white and stealthy grasp.

"I couldn't stay," he said, "and

see you give yourself to Hartley." She raised her hands to his shoulders. He barely caught her whisper because of the sly communicativeness of the snow.

"I am glad, but why didn't you say so then?"

The intoxication faded. The enterprise ahead gave to their joy a fugitive quality. Moreover, with her very surrender came to him a great misgiving.

"But you and Hartley? I've watched. It's been forced on me."

"Then you have misunderstood," she answered. "You put me too completely out of your life after our quarrel. That was about Hartley. You were too jealous, but it was my fault."

"Hartley," he asked, "spoke to you about that time?"

"Yes, and I told him he was a very dear friend, and he was kind enough to accept that and not to go away."

His measure of the widening of the rift between them made her more precious because of its affectionate human quality. She had been kinder to Graham, more mysterious about him, to draw Bobby back. Yet ever since his arrival at the Cedars Graham had assumed toward Katherine an attitude scarcely to be limited by friendship. He had done what he had in Bobby's service clearly enough for her sake. For a long time past, indeed, in speaking of her Graham always seemed to discuss the woman he expected to marry.

"You are quite sure," he asked, puzzled, "that Hartley understood?"

"Why do you ask? He has shown how good a friend he is."

"He has always made me think," Bobby said, "that he had your love. You're sure he guessed that you cared for me?"

In that place, at that moment, there was a tragic color to her coquetry.

"I think every one must have guessed it except you, Bobby."

He raised her head and touched her lips. Her lips were as cold as the caresses of the drifting snowflakes.

"We must go on," she sighed.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)



# The Last Saturday Before Christmas

FINDS the Store for Men at your Service. Those of you who want the best—and the best is the cheapest—will want the kind of merchandise we sell—and the service we render—and the assurances of satisfaction we give. You want it all—more so if the things purchased are for someone else. Please shop in the morning if you can.

## BRANDEIS STORES FOR MEN

OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL CHRISTMAS

### Feature Values in Overcoats, Ulsters and Suits—Hart Schaffner & Marx Make and Styles—At \$35.00

THE styles are fine; the fabrics are all-wool, the choicest things from the best looms; the tailoring is perfect. Ulsters, ulsterettes, double breasted and form fit overcoats; Chesterfield motor coats; suits, single or double breasted; welt-waist styles.

Men's styles, varsity models for young men, prep styles for high school boys; a great variety of choice things. We have sizes and measurements to fit all figures. Special values at **\$35**

**Luxurious Overcoats** SECOND FLOOR

NOTHING better known. Fur collared with otter, beaver, nutria, Hudson seal, Persian lamb, fur lined with various rich, serviceable furs. Deep rich chinchillas, stout friezes, meltons, Shetlands, St. George kerseys, Crombie Montagnac type weaves, Burberry fabrics. It's a wonderful collection. The values we offer at our prices are really extraordinary.

50.00, 60.00, 75.00, 85.00, 100.00, 150.00 to 350.00

**For Young Men Especially** SECOND FLOOR

STYLE headquarters here; the best models of the season, particularly designed for the tastes of young men. Suits, overcoats, ulsters which embody the newest, snappy ideas; the military type developed by the war. The men coming out of the army will have the figures—high, straight shoulders, slender waist, full chest. You want to look right to them as well as to others; now's the time and here are the clothes. Suits, overcoats, ulsters.

30.00, 35.00, 40.00

**MEN'S and Young Men's Pants**, hundreds of pairs to choose from, in assortments, extra special for Friday's selling, our special price 2.50 and 10.00

**HOUSE Coats**, in velours and silk effects, handsomely trimmed garments, splendid for gift-giving, extra special, our special price 5.00 to 25.00

**MEN'S Fur Caps** for Xmas gifts, genuine French Seal and Hudson Seal Caps, Detroit style, slide band 8.50 and 10.00 Muskrat Caps, Detroit style 6.00

## Immense Display of Gift Furnishings for Men

### Cheerful Clothes Bring Happy Smiles to a Boy

WHEN a lad is smartly clad, how can he help expressing his joyousness with a broad smile?

Parents, too, will echo his enthusiasm when shown what really good furnishings are carried in the Boys' Section.

Special displays and values in items for Christmas gift giving have been arranged for Saturday selling, typical of which are the following:

- Boys' 10.00 Mackinaws, Special at 6.85**  
A BIG TABLE FULL OF THESE WONDERFUL VALUES  
PLAIDS, in reds, grays, greens and browns. Navajo designs in grays and browns. Real boy styles—the kind they like.  
Sizes 7 to 18 years.
- Sets for Little Fellows, too, at 6.85**  
Ages 3 to 8.  
Sets consist of—  
Coat, cap and leggings to match. Smart, stylish plaids in reds, greens and grays. Best, warmest outfit for Little Fellows.
- Jersey Sweaters**  
Here's a sale of pure, all wool jerseys in college stripes:  
**3.00 values, 1.95**  
For All Age Boys.  
Colors are: Black, Maroon, Cardinal, Purple, Gold and Orange.  
Get him one of these. He will like it.
- Boyproof Suits**  
DON'T GET HIM only a Boys' Suit. GET HIM a BOYPROOF Suit. The kind with two pair of double seat and knees. Here are scores of smart, boyish styles, at no higher prices than ordinary suits.  
9.50, 12.50, 15.00, 17.50 and 20.00

**A Visit to Our Boys' Department**  
Will Solve Many a Riddle As to a Boy's Christmas Gift.

Here are untold quantities of Neckwear in Christmas boxes 45c and 75c  
Metal Buckle Belts 75c  
Blouses, Waists and Shirts in madras, percales, silks, flannels. Pajamas, Bathrobes, Sweaters, Soldier Suits, in different styles.

- Boys' 2.50 Corduroy Knickers, 1.95 pair**  
Another practical gift that will save you parents money.  
Dark drab color heavy velvet corduroy. Some with double seats. Corduroy of every size, 6 to 17 years.  
On Sale Saturday Only While the Lot Lasts.

### A Wonderful Showing of Cravats for Christmas

THE holiday assortments for this Men's Store have been refreshed for Saturday's task, and you'll find the display complete, extensive, beautiful and so varied in colorings that one may take due account of the very different personalities of any of the men to be remembered.

Imported Silk Neckwear at 1.50-1.98  
Heavy silk taffeta and Italian silks in the narrow, conservative shapes for neat dressers; also wide, flowing ends in smart designs and colorings. Specially priced.

Silk Four-in-Hand Scarfs at 1.00  
In neat effects in striped and plain shades; also Persian designs in large, flowing ends.

Silk Four-in-Hands at 75c  
150 dozens fine quality all silk scarfs, in large open end and satin slip hands, in rich silks and satins, rich patterns and colors. You will find every one of these ties to be worth considerably more than this price.

Silk Four-in-Hands at 65c  
300 dozen fine scarfs, bought many months ago. Rich silk in a large, open end scarf, made of selected silk from some of the best makers.

Smart Silk Neckwear at 50c  
150 dozen. One large counter devoted to this neckwear for Saturday selling. We don't have to tell you about the quality of the neckwear at this price.

**Choose Gloves**  
WE offer exceptional values both in Men's warm lined or unlined dress gloves in silk, leather and fur, street gloves, at 2.00 to 5.00  
Wool lined gloves 2.50 to 4.50  
Fur lined gloves 7.50 to 10.00  
Fur gloves 4.50 to 15.00

**Choose One of These Fine SWEATERS**  
For "His" Gift  
You can be almost sure of a man's appreciation of a Sweater Gift, if it is selected here.  
Present stocks are particularly desirable in assortment, quality, style, with prices ranging from—  
**4.95 to 15.00**  
At these prices you will have choice of fine wool and worsted Sweater Coats in the large rope weave effects, in plain colors and trimmed in combinations.

### Why Not Buy a Nice Silk Shirt for Him

THE man inclined to distinctive dressing will appreciate above many other things such as impressive gift as a beautiful silk shirt and these priced

at 7.50 and up to 12.50

OF particular interest to those who desire something exclusive and decidedly tasteful are these shirts of sterling merit, made of the best material, just heavy enough to insure good wear.

**Smart Madras Shirts**  
WE have assembled hundreds of fine madras shirts together for Xmas selling. Shirts that were purchased many months ago enables us to offer special values at these prices, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50

**Hosiery for Gift Giving**  
THE man who receives a box of silk hosiery has a warm spot in his heart for Christmas and the giver.

Here Are Excellent Qualities  
A box of our silk hosiery is sure of welcome and they can be depended upon as to satisfaction; those in silk, in black and plain colors, prices, 75c to 1.50 per pair

**Silk Knit Mufflers**  
AND here is splendid thought for the gift shoppers to buy them at below regular value—  
at 1.50 to 4.98  
Many of these are simple and worth to 10.00—made in silk, knit, crocheted and accordion weaves—plain colors and combinations.

### ABUNDANT CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

and exceptional values will be found in our Small Musical Instrument and Sheet Music Department.

Violins .....\$12 to \$200  
Ukeleles .....\$ 5 to \$ 10  
Snare Drums .....\$12 to \$ 25  
Guitars .....\$ 6 to \$ 35  
Banjos .....\$18 to \$ 25  
Boy Scout Bugles .....\$ 6

J. W. York & Sons  
Band Instruments

Extra Special  
Music Rolls and Bags at great reduction.

We carry a complete stock of popular sheet music and teachers' supplies at lowest prices.

Mail orders promptly filled.

**SCHMOLLER & MUELLER**  
1311-13 PIANO CO. Omaha, Neb.

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Beautiful, modern park plan cemetery accessible to Omaha's best residence section. Family lots on partial payment at time of burial. Telephone Walnut 820 and Douglas 829. Our free automobile is at your service.

**WEST LAWN CEMETERY,**  
58th and Center. Office 15th & Harney.

**Phoenix Hosiery**  
SILK and SILK LISLE, 55c to \$2.00  
Thirty Newest Shades to Select From.  
Out Sizes in Black and White.

**WALK-OVER BOOT SHOP**  
317 South 16th

**NUXATED**  
"I believe my own great physical activity is due to my personal use of Nuxated."  
says Former Health Commissioner Wm. R. Kerr, of the City of Chicago. "From my own experience with Nuxated I feel it is a valuable blood and body building preparation that it ought to be used in every hospital and prescribed by every physician in the country. Nuxated Iron helps to make healthier women and stronger, sturdier men. Used by more than a 3,000,000 people annually in this country alone. It increases the strength and endurance of weak, run-down, nervous folks in two weeks' time, in many cases. Satisfaction guaranteed. At all good drug stores."

**ASTHMADOR**  
GUARANTEED TO INSTANTLY RELIEVE  
**ASTHMA**  
MONEY REFUNDED—ASK ANY DRUGGIST

**Nature's Remedy**  
LIVER TABLETS  
BETTER than PILLS—GET A For Liver Ills. 25c Box  
Deaton Drug Co., Omaha, Neb.

**District Freight Tariff Committee Has First Case**  
The Omaha district freight tariff committee, recently organized, has had its first cases submitted for consideration and will be taken up according to the rules that provide for hearings within 15 days after filing.

The first case for consideration has to do with class and commodity rates between Grand Island, Hastings, Columbus and Norfolk, and to Mississippi river points, Peoria, Chicago, St. Paul, Memphis, New Orleans and Texas common points.

**IN THE DIVORCE COURT.**  
Clarence E. Welby has petitioned for a decree of divorce from Maude Ellen whom he charged with extreme cruelty. They were married in South Omaha, October 28, 1911.

Anna E. charges Roy Tallman with extreme cruelty. She refers in a petition to two minor children by a former marriage and she asks for a decree and restoration of her former name, Anna E. Wilson.

In a divorce action started by Florence against Charles City Murphy, the wife alleges that her husband deserted her two years ago and was guilty of uttering false accusations against her in the presence of strangers. She asks for a decree, alimony and restoration of her former name, Florence Lavetta. The Murphys were married in Lincoln, September 15, 1917.

A decree of divorce has been issued in favor of Lillie Jackson, who was married to Albert Jackson in Council Bluffs, November 16, 1916. The wife's former name of Lillie Miller was restored by the court.

In a decree issued to John L. Van Cleave, defendant, was divorced from Charles E. Strong in Sioux City on March 4, 1918, and was married to Van Cleave on June 2, 1918, the intervening time being sufficient to legalize the Van Cleave nuptials.

William Hostetter was granted a divorce from Frances Hostetter, who allowed the case to go by default. The husband alleged extreme cruelty. In the decree which has been issued the wife has been restrained from interfering in any way with two minor children whose custody was awarded to the father.

In the divorce case of Urban against Johanna Reis the husband was awarded a decree. Mrs. Reis, charged with desertion, made no appearance.