

THE SPY NET

by ARED WHITE

CHAPTER 26
It was Mademoiselle Le Rivet. "A most charming visitor to Geneva is my guest," said Mademoiselle. "Will you not join us at luncheon on the terrace of the Beau Rivage at one o'clock?"

"Thank you, mademoiselle," replied Elton brusquely, "but I am hardly in a humor to meet even the most charming of women. You will excuse me?"

There was a moment's silence. Elton fancied he could see Mademoiselle Le Rivet swallowing her pride.

"But monsieur," she pleaded, "there is no reason that you should be so disagreeable. The Countess is even more charming than Carlotta."

"Hang Carlotta!" said Elton. "I suspected she would get dreadfully upon your nerves." She laughed. "Carlotta usually does—with gentlemen. But the Countess must have an escort for tomorrow to the chateau of Count von Kilm."

"Since you insist, mademoiselle," Elton responded more agreeably, "I am helpless to deny anything. I will join you at luncheon—though I am not sure I will be in any mood for the reception at the chateau."

Za's informal invitation to another affair at von Kilm's, Mademoiselle Le Rivet's insistence that he meet and escort the Countess de Courree, of whom Elton had never heard, first quickened him with curiosity, then attracted him with a mild uneasiness. Such a maneuver followed no logical sequence, so far as he was able to discern.

He went promptly to the terrace. Mademoiselle Le Rivet met him with her usual reserved cordiality. Outwardly she gave no indication of knowing his sorry predicament; rather a reassuring fact, Elton thought, since it must mean she was not suspicious that he had seen through her musings.

The Countess de Courree was a woman of the most striking beauty, with nothing of the boldness of Senora Quarezza. In her large, limpid brown eyes, eyes that were set far apart under finely arched brows, he caught a touch of boldness, the very hint of the adventuress. But this was offset by the repose of her fine features, the seriousness of her mouth, and the poise of her bearing.

The name Countess de Courree was French, and the woman was something of the French type of the High Pyrenees, although Elton thought she might be Rumanian or Greek. There was no knowing what nationalities served the German secret service in Geneva, though logically they took French names in an environment where custom, language, populace and sympathy were mostly French, as in the country around Geneva.

"The Countess is my guest," Mademoiselle Le Rivet repeated as Elton seated himself with the two women on the luncheon terrace. "From Constantinople and Athens—and since you are the only unattached gentleman who has been honored by the Count von Kilm."

"Deeply as I appreciate the honor, mademoiselle," Elton replied, "I had decided not to go to the reception tomorrow night."

"Then I shall change your mind, monsieur," Mademoiselle Le Rivet said impudently, following her words with an elegant smile. "And now that is settled, our host will pick you up sharp at nine at the Quai du Mont Blanc."

"Orders are orders, mademoiselle," Elton smiled. "It is a pleasure to obey your commands."

The conversation was shifted immediately by mademoiselle to small chatter. At two o'clock the women left for a drive. Elton returning to his room, where he lay until four puzzling upon the possible meaning of the day's developments. What new maneuver were the Germans up to? Why the interest of Mademoiselle Le Rivet

and her olive-skinned guest? Why the invitation to a von Kilm reception? Did they not already have him securely trapped, a victim who must sign their letters, which Elton knew was the greatest possible service that any one could give—the protection of the official courier mails.

Za came promptly at four with the letters typewritten and addressed for signature and mailing. As he signed them, Elton tested his memory of names and addresses. Not once did he fail. The German agent remained only until the letters were signed, saying very little and following close behind when Elton left for the consulate.

At the consulate the letters were passed without reading. Elton sealed them in their proper envelopes and dropped them into the official mail. Then he set out as he had done the day before, for a round of Geneva, ending his jaunt at dinner time at the Kursaal.

Until a few minutes before nine o'clock, he sat in the Kursaal, dining, listening to the music, watching the gay dinner dancers. Half a minute before nine, he was on his way to the door. It was a few seconds short of nine when he passed into the open air. Twenty feet away, as dependable as a clock, Sergeant Walters, Elton fumbled in his pockets for a match with which to light the cigar in his mouth.

"Pardon, monsieur," he interjected Walters as the veteran non-com, incognito in rather lurid civilian clothes, turned to enter the Kursaal. "But may I trouble you for a light?"

Walters, puffing silently at a long black cigar which he had just lighted, fumbled in his vest pocket. "A light from your cigar will do well enough, monsieur," prompted Elton.

"Sure enough," said Walters. "We must speak quickly," said Elton in a low aside. "Can you make it into Thonon tonight?"

"Sure, sir, I'll make it if I have to swim." Elton returned the cigar, daintily substituting his own weed and retaining the one Walters had lent him.

"In the butt of this cigar is a message. Get it back to Sanders and have him ride like the wind with it to headquarters."

"Yes, sir." "When you return, a table at the Cafe du Nord at eight hereafter."

"Yes, sir." Elton strode on down to the Quai du Mont Blanc and turned toward the Beau Rivage. He pulled contentedly at Walters' cigar, a contentment that drew no substance from the sergeant's pungent and unusually vile Swiss cigar. He knew that the warning of Saint-Mihel was on its way at last to headquarters. Walters would put it across the frontier if he had to shoot his way through.

Vladimir Lomonosoff. There was something both amusing and perplexing to Elton in the crude technique of the German shadow who had been trailing him since he left the legation. An amateur private detective could not have been more easily picked up as he followed at fifty paces, dodging occasionally in and out of door ways. It was distinctly a discordant note in the German secret service discipline in Switzerland.

On reaching the Beau Rivage, Elton turned in, took an elevator to the second floor, hurried to a rear entrance, and left through a rear door. The maneuver succeeded. But as he passed over the Rhone, he saw that he was trailed by a second shadow, one no more deft than the one he had so readily eluded. He found a table at the Cafe du Nord and spent the evening watching the night revels, listening to the music, with no wish to contact with the French. Aside from his need of relaxation, he felt that there was some profit in doing nothing for one evening. It would look well on the report of his movements.

As for the letters he had signed, he had mailed them without reservation. His message to Rand would be at headquarters well ahead of the Paris express. Rand could arrange to have these letters fanned the ones to distant capitals withdrawn and developed, and their invisible cipher content relayed by mail to Elton. As for receiving mail at Geneva from his superiors, there were no insuperable dangers. He had arranged with Rand that such letters as were absolutely necessary he sent in two envelopes, the outer envelope to carry the real message, the inner one some harmless comment. Thus, if the Germans had a clerk installed at the consulate at Geneva and the legation at Bern, there would be no discrepancy in the reports received and those which he intended to leave about at the Beau Rivage for inspection.

Hence outgoing letters were the one great difficulty, especially if he should be held under close leash by a German secret service thoroughness that would insist on knowing his every movement and action.

Late at night, Elton returned to the Beau Rivage, wrote half a dozen letters to friends in France, carefully selecting his words for their effect upon the German secret service and turned in for a good night's sleep. In the morning, Za called late, long after Elton had finished breakfast, bringing a single letter, addressed to a man of English name at Cairo, Egypt. The usually loquacious Za was even more reticent than on his previous visit. He made no reference to the pending reception at von Kilm's chateau, nor was he any more communicative when he called in the afternoon with the typewritten copy of the Cairo letter for Elton's signature.

The approach of night found Elton's nerves on edge, in spite of his best efforts to disregard his uneasiness. On rare occasions, when the demands of duty required it, Elton resorted to a mild sedative. Before leaving the hotel for the luncheon, shortly before nine, he fell back upon a bromide tablet. There was something unaccountable in the inscrutable mystery, the intangible tension about him, as he faced the night's adventure. It might be nothing more than a German secret service party, a night's relaxation in which Elton was to be paraded before other German operatives for their inspection. But Mademoiselle Le Rivet's insistence, the injection of the Countess de Courree into the situation, Za's conduct yesterday and today, were disquieting omens which Elton could not reconcile with any logical explanation of the event.

He was very much at ease when he boarded the boat at the quay. It was the same high-powered, richly appointed craft that had taken him to the chateau before—the house of Senora Quarezza, they had told him then. But the Spanish woman was not aboard to night. Za, in civilian evening clothes, bowed him into the cabin, where he found Mademoiselle Le Rivet and her mysterious guest from Constantinople.

(To be continued tomorrow)

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Sunday at the Churches

Flournoy Valley Union Sunday School will meet at the usual time Sunday 2:30 p. m. Rev. and Mrs. E. G. Aldridge will be with us and help. Mrs. Aldridge has something special for the children at the Sunday school hour. Mr. Aldridge will preach and together they will give us a number of musical selections. N. L. Conn, superintendent; Emma P. Woods, Secretary.

Bethel Mission, (Pentecostal Assembly), one mile north of Melrose on the Hill highway to Cleveland Sunday school at 10 o'clock, morning worship at 11 a. m. Sunday 7:30 evening service. Wednesday 7:30 prayer meeting. Mrs. B. Ferguson, pastor.

Glendale Presbyterian Church, J. K. Howard, pastor. "Christian Hospitality" will be the subject of the sermon next Sunday morning. A timely sermon in view of the meeting of Presbytery with us next week. At night the subject will be "Doubt, How Induced?" The evening services will be at 7 and 8 o'clock hereafter. The Sunday school is taking on the new life characteristic of the spring. All are cordially welcomed to the services.

Rev. D. E. Baker, missionary pastor Uniqua Baptist association will preach next Sunday, April 12 at the Kellogg school house. 20 miles west of Oakland at 11 o'clock and 2:30 o'clock. Morning theme, "The Home of the Redeemed Soul." Afternoon topic, "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ." These are timely topics and addresses and in keeping with the season of the year and will interest all believers. All are invited to be present, bring filled baskets and an old picnic dinner will be enjoyed.

Methodist Episcopal Church South, corner Main and East Lane. Bible school at 9:45, C. E. Thomas and W. L. Cobb superintendents. Morning worship at 11:00. Subject, "God's Divine Purpose." Epworth League at 6:30 p. m. All young people are invited. Evening worship at 7:30. Subject, "Light, Life, Love and Liberty." Saturday afternoon at 2:30 Junior Epworth League. Boy Scouts meet Friday evenings at 7:30. You are cordially invited to attend all these services. John B. Penhall, pastor.

The Methodist Church, Dillard Circuit, Ira F. Rankin, pastor. The revival meetings at Tennille Sunday morning at 11:00 and Sunday afternoon at 2:30 and Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock. There will be a pot luck dinner at noon, and the people are urged to come prepared to spend the day. The meetings may continue another week if conditions warrant it, but definite announcement will be made Sunday. Prayer meeting at Dillard Wednesday evening and at Looklinglass Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock. Sunday school at each of the four churches every Sunday morning at 10:00 o'clock. The boys and girls' Bible study class at Looklinglass will meet again this coming week on Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock at the church. The pastor will preach at Camas Valley Sunday evening.

Methodist Episcopal Church, Church school 9:45. L. E. Good, pastor, superintendent. Morning service at 11 a. m. subject, "Easter Whirl." Special music. Epworth League 6:30. Subject "Youth and the Church." Irene Taylor, leader. Evening service 7:30 p. m. Subject, "How I Think of Immortality." by Edwin Markham. Charles A. Edwards, minister.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 212 E. Douglas St. Regular service Sunday at 11:00 a. m. Subject of lesson, "Ave Sin, Disease, and Death Be!" Sunday school convenes at 9:45 a. m. Wednesday evening meetings are held at 8:00 o'clock and testimonies of healing through Christian Science are given. The reading room in the front of the church edifice is open daily.

except Sundays and holidays, from 2 to 4 p. m. where the Bible and all authorized Christian literature may be read, borrowed or purchased. The public is cordially invited to attend the church services and use the reading room.

Free Methodist Church, West Roseburg. Sunday school at 9:45. Preaching at 11. Young people's hour 6:30. Evening preaching service at 7:30. Bible study and prayer service on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Midweek prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 7:30. Come and worship with us. You are welcome. V. M. Abbott, pastor.

C. & M. A., Cleveland. Sunday school every Sunday at 10 o'clock, with Mrs. C. A. Chamberlin as superintendent. Classes for all ages. Young peoples meeting at 11 o'clock. Prayer meetings every Wednesday and Thursday evenings. A cordial welcome is extended to all these services.

Upper Room Mission, Cor. Washington and Jackson Sts. Sunday services. Prayer 10 a. m. Morning worship 11. Mrs. V. D. Fuson will bring the message. Afternoon worship at 2 p. m. Midweek prayer and praise service Thursday 7:30 p. m.

First Presbyterian Church, corner of Jackson and Lane streets. Alexander Muirhead, minister. The church Bible school at 9:45 a. m. 11 a. m. sacrament of the Lord's supper will be administered at 6:30 p. m. senior and intermediate C. E. societies, 7:30 p. m. the great pageant, "A Dream That Came True," will give a repeat presentation at the request of a large number of friends. Monday at 7:30 p. m. study class, "The Great Doctrines of the Bible." almost any pulling job.—Adv.

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