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## The Man From Home

A Novelization of the Play of the Same Name

By BOOTH TARRINGTON and HARRY LEON WILSON

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They both stopped to listen. Then the servants came running, with Mariano at their head. They rushed to the wall and leaned over, all excitement. Mariano turned to call to them over his shoulder:

"The bandit of Russia! The soldiers think he is hidden in a grotto under these cliffs!"

As he spoke Almeric ran down the steps with a shotgun in his hand and made for the steps leading down the face of the cliff. Pike turned to Ethel.

"I saw that fellow on the road here. What's he meant for?"

Ethel turned angrily from the lawyer and called sharply to her fiancé:

"Almeric!"

St. Aubyn turned and stopped.

"Hello!" he said.

"I wish to present my guardian to you," and turned to Pike as Almeric approached. "This is Mr. St. Aubyn," she said steadily.

Almeric stared at Pike through his monocle and laughed.

"Why, it's the donkey man, isn't it? How very odd! You'll have to see the governor and our solicitor about that settlement, though. I've some important business here. The police are chasing a badly convicted chap under the cliff yonder, so you'll have to excuse me. You know there's nothing like a little convict shooting to break the blooming monotony—what?"

He turned and rushed off down the

direction, and the dazed look on his face remained there until Mariano came to tell him that his rooms were ready and that Herr von Grollenhagen was awaiting him. Then for the first time he awoke, and, with a sigh of resignation as he realized the battle he had before him, he gave a curt order that the automobile, which had broken down on the road to the hotel, should be placed in the entrance garden, for he proposed to do some tinkering upon it.

"If that don't beat"—he muttered to himself and then allowed the remark to remain unfinished, for he could not imagine one thing that the incident could be supposed to have meant. It stood alone in a little hollow square by itself and positively refused to surrender to any comparison whatsoever.

"And that—that—nine cent imitation of a man," he growled at last—"that vilification upon the—the—genus homo!" he finished, with a flash of pride. Then he went off to his rooms and tried to adjust himself to the matter as he saw it and incidentally to bring some of that astute legal training gleaned from contact with farmers, promoters and other citizens to bear upon the case.

Horace in the meanwhile had walked along the cliff, wrestling with the situation as it appeared to him. There was not the faintest doubt in his mind that the noble earl would break off the match because of the humiliation his equally noble family had been subjected to by the incursion of this vulgar guardian.

Hot and tired, he returned to the hotel with some of his anguish worked off and sought his sister. She, however, was locked up in her own room and would only insist that he go away. So it was from Lady Creech at last that he gleaned some inkling of what had occurred.

It was nearly 6 o'clock when he made up his mind to search out Pike and "have it out with the beggar," as he put it, and he found the obstacle in the entrance garden. As Horace came upon the scene Pike was pounding cheerfully with a hammer upon a bolt-head of the motor car.



"THE CARABINIERI BEG THAT YOU WILL ORDER THE CHAUFFEUR TO STEP FORTH FROM THE MACHINE."

stairway. Pike turned to look after him in mute astonishment and then turned to Ethel. She refused to meet his glance, and the hot blood rose to her face as she felt his scrutiny.

She tapped nervously with her foot, and the astonishment grew in Daniel's face. He looked from her to where Almeric had disappeared and back to her again. Then he took a step forward as if to speak and stopped. Finally the dawning horror in his face took concrete form, and he spoke.

"That!" he growled. "Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for that! Say, how much do they charge for a real man over here anyway?"

But she was unable to meet his eye. Turning quickly, with her cheeks flaming with shame and anger, she rushed into the hotel and left him standing speechless on the spot.

CHAPTER XI  
A CLASH OF WILLS.

IT required some minutes for Daniel Voorhees Pike to get over the amazement that possessed him when Ethel fled from him in such evident confusion.

His usually alert mind seemed incapable of concerted effort in the proper

He was in his shirt sleeves and wore a long workman's smock close buttoned at the neck. From between his teeth came the unfamiliar strains of "The Blue and the Gray." With a revulsion of feeling Horace approached him.

"Mr. Pike!" he said politely.

"One lies down at Appomattox," went on the song, and Horace stamped impatiently upon the turf.

"Mr. Pike! Mr. Pike! I wish a word with you!" Horace went on, quite angrily. Pike looked up mildly and regarded Horace with interest.

"Eh?" he said and moved to the other side of the machine, rubbing his lean chin with the handle of a monkey wrench.

"I wished to say that the surprise of this morning so upset me that I went for a long walk. I have just returned," said Horace.

He waited expectantly, but Mr. Pike went on abstractedly, "One wore clothes of gray," and seemed to be absorbed in his work, so that Horace was forced to go on.

"I have been even more upset by what I have just learned."

(To be continued.)

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