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The Man From Home

A Novelization of the Play of the Same Name

By BOOTH TARKINGTON and HARRY LEON WILSON

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"If this fellow countryman of yours were assured that the law would be permitted to take its course if a favorable answer to a certain question were not received in an hour within that hotel, what, in your opinion, would the answer be?"

Pike looked up from the letter he was twisting in his hands, and his thin shoulders took on a squarer attitude. He looked his antagonist squarely in the eye, but he did not raise the tone of his voice.

"It would depend a good deal on which of my countrymen you caught. If it depended on the one I know best he'd tell you he'd see you in hades first."

For an instant the earl looked fixedly at Daniel, and his face went red and white by turns. There was a dangerous flash in his eyes, and he stepped a trifle closer and half raised his walking stick. Then, with a muttered oath, he dropped it, picked up his hat from the bench where he had thrown it and walked to the hotel steps.

"You have an hour," he said, menacingly turning. "At the end of that time—we will know what to do."

Daniel must have stood those ten minutes after Hawcastle had gone, and the twilight came down and enveloped him with its softness. As the lights came out here and there he turned and looked over at the windows of Von Grollheragen's suit and noted the shadow still on the window blind.

"Looks to me like doc's in this thing and ought to be told," he murmured.

He found his way slowly across the grass and up the steps and in another moment tapped upon the door of the German's rooms. The door was opened by Ribiere, who informed him that Von Grollheragen was dressing. He found his friend adjusting his white cravat before a mirror.

Within five minutes he had acquainted the other with all that had passed and had received a smile in return. Von Grollheragen refused to take the matter seriously.

"Pouf!" he said. "Surely you can trust this Lord Hawcastle not to mention it. He must know that the consequences for you as well as for me would be, to say the least, disastrous. Surely you made that clear to him."

Daniel smiled gently.

"No," he answered grimly. "He made it clear to me. Two years in jail, and if I don't make up my mind in fifty minutes from now to do what he wants me to do—"

"What is it that he wants you to do?" asked the German.

"The young lady's father trusted me to look after her, and if I won't promise to let her pay £150,000 for that—well, you've seen it around here, haven't you?"

"I have observed it, if you refer to the son of Lord Hawcastle," answered Von Grollheragen gravely.

"Well, if I don't agree to that Ivanoff goes to Siberia and you and I to jail," Von Grollheragen looked at him quickly.

"He threatens that! What do you intend to do?"

"I can't agree. There wouldn't be any trouble to it if it was only me. They could land me for two years or twenty. But I can't do what they want, even to let you and Ivanoff out. It ain't my money. All I can do is to hint that you get out right away. Ivanoff can't go. They've got a ring around this place."

"You could get away, too, my friend," said the German, watching him softly. "You had not thought of that?"

"No, sir, and I'm not going to think of it. But you—"

"As for me, I shall go," said Von Grollheragen, standing up.

"Well, that's part of the load off my mind. I haven't had the nerve to tell that poor fellow in there, though."

Von Grollheragen motioned to Ribiere.

biere.

"Appellez le monsieur la!" he commanded and pointed to the other door of the chamber. The man opened it at once and beckoned to Ivanoff.

"Ivanoff, some unexpected difficulties have arisen," said the German. "The police have discovered your presence here, and persons who wish evil to my friend have threatened to make trouble. He can do nothing further to save you unless he betrays a sacred trust."

"It's the truth, old man," said Daniel feelingly. "I can't do it."

For a moment the Russian refugee staggered and supported himself with his hand on the table. Then he looked up.

"I thank you for what you have tried to do."

Von Grollheragen went on:

"In the meantime my friend believes Naples a safe place for me. And so auf wiedersehen."

Pike extended his hand, which the German took.

"Goodby, doc, and God bless you!" he said. And Von Grollheragen squeezed Pike's fingers.

"To our next meeting," he said and in a moment was gone.

CHAPTER XV.

"HE'S A RUSSIAN NOBLE!"

THE instant he had disappeared Ivanoff crossed rapidly to the small table near the bedroom and picked up a cigarette from a box that lay there with a bottle.

"I thought so, Russian!" he said, and in answer to Pike's look of inquiry went on. "That man, your friend, who calls himself Von Grollheragen, is not a German—he is a Russian noble, not only that—he is a Russian noble. I see it in a hundred ways that you cannot."

"He helped us this afternoon," said Daniel, but Ivanoff did not seem to hear him.

"I have felt it inevitable that I should go back to Siberia ever since I came here—"

"Perhaps"—began Daniel, but the other interrupted.

"There is no 'perhaps' for me. There has never been a 'perhaps' since I met Helene, my wife—she who sent me to the mines, she and my dear English friend."

For a moment Daniel was thoughtful; then he looked up quickly.

"What was his name?" he asked.

"Glenwood—I shall never forget it," the Russian replied. "He had contracts with the ministry of finance. He supplied hydraulic machinery to the government. The name Glenwood means nothing to you, and there are a million Helenes in France. I prayed God to let me meet them before I was taken, but"—he paused as a knock came upon the door. "It is the carabinieri!" he said hoarsely and shrank back.

"Not yet," answered Pike quietly. "Go back to your room. We won't throw our hands into the discard until we're called, and I guess we'll keep on raising." He waited a moment until Ivanoff had retired and then opened the door. Mariano stood without bowing.

"Miladi Creech—she ask you would speak with her a few minutes," he said.

"Where is she?" asked Pike.

"Here, sir," replied the man.

"Tell her to come right in. Ah, come in, ma'am," he went on as Lady Creech appeared in the doorway. When he had closed the door behind her she said coldly:

"My brother-in-law feels that some one well acquainted with Miss Granger-Simpson's ambitions and her inner nature should put the case finally to you before we proceed to extremities," she said.

"Yes, ma'am," answered Daniel.

"My brother-in-law has made us aware of the state of affairs, and we are all quite in sympathy as to what should be done to you, but in the kindness of our hearts we condone your offense—if you accede to our reasonable demands."

Daniel looked at his watch.

"In twenty minutes?" he asked.

"In twenty minutes," she replied frigidly.

"You say he told all of you. Did he tell Miss Ethel?" Daniel asked.

"It has not been thought proper. Young girls should be shielded from everything disagreeable," she answered pompously, and Daniel cried out:

"Yes, ma'am," he said. "That was the idea that got me into this trap. You see, I know your type. I have handled all but—"

(To be continued.)

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