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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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"The carabinieri—for me!" he cried. Both men turned quickly to the window, and Pike thrust Ivanoff behind him as he drew aside the heavy curtain.

"Don't show yourself!" he commanded. But there was a smothered exclamation from the fugitive, and he pointed over Pike's shoulder.

"Look! Near the lamp yonder—there by the gates—the carabinieri!" His arm trembled as it rested for an instant on the American's shoulder, and Pike returned quietly.

"Pouf! They've been there since we hid you beneath the machine." He stopped and shaded his eyes with his hand from the glare of the lamps inside the room, then started. "Why—who on earth—who's that they've got with 'em? Why, good Lord, it's do!"

Ivanoff strained over his shoulder to look and then replied bitterly: "It is Herr von Groellerhagen! Did I not tell you he was a Russian? He has betrayed me himself! He was not satisfied that others should. Ah, I knew I was in the wolf's throat here!"

Pike swore emphatically and exhaustively. "Don't you believe it!" he snarled.



IVANOFF SAW NONE BUT HER.

"They've arrested poor old doc! Got him as he went out!"

"No!" cried Ivanoff. "They speak respectfully to him! They bow to him!"

"They'll be bowing to us in a minute. That's probably the way these colonels run you in!" snarled Daniel.

As he spoke there was a sharp knock on the outer door, and he seized Ivanoff by the arm.

"Back into the room with you! Wait until I call, and remember it's my fight!"

He was about to add more when the door opened and Mariano appeared. Instantly the American changed his tone to one of severe command.

"And don't you forget what I've been telling you. You get the sand out of that gear box first thing tomorrow morning, or I'll see that you draw your last pay Saturday night!"

Ivanoff caught the idea and bowed silently and then turned and entered the door to the inner chamber. Mariano came forward and bowed.

"Mees Granger-Seemson," said he and went out, standing to one side to make room for Ethel as she entered with a look of complete astonishment on her face. Pike approached her.

"I'm much obliged to you for taking my note the right way," he said. "I've got some pretty good reasons for not leaving this room."

She inclined her head lolly and fid-

eted with the note she held.

"Your note seemed so extraordinarily urgent," she began, but he interrupted.

"It had to be," he said. "Some folks who want to see me are coming here, and I want you to see them—here. They'd stopped you from coming if they could."

She flashed a look of disbelief at him.

"There was no effort to prevent me," she said coldly.

"I didn't give 'em time," he smiled.

"May I ask to whom you refer?" she inquired.

"Certainly. The whole kit and boodle of 'em," he replied. "Excuse me. I haven't time to be elegant, even if I knew how."

"Do you mean my chaperon would disapprove?" she asked, hastily rising.

"I shouldn't be surprised. I reckon the whole fine flower of Europe would disapprove. 'Disapprove!' They'd sand-bag you to keep you away!"

"Then I can't stay," she cried and started for the door. He stepped between her and the exit and raised his hand with a gesture of command.

"Yes, you can, and you will, 'and you've got to," he said. "I'm your guardian, and you'll do as I say. You'll obey me this once if you never do again. You'll stay here while I talk to these people, and you'll stay in spite of everything they say or do to make you go!" She looked startled and stepped back from him, and he went on:

"God knows I hate to talk rough to you. I wouldn't hurt your feelings for the world, but it's come to a point where I've got to use the authority I have over you."

In an instant she flared up.

"Authority! Do you think—"

"You'll stay here for the next twenty minutes if I have to make Crecy and Agincourt look like a peace conference," he snapped. And she sank back into a chair with a gesture of alarm.

Pike went close to her and spoke

more softly.

"You and your brother have soaked up a society column notion of life over here," he said. "You're like old Pete Delaney of Terre Hut. He got so he'd drink cold tea if there was a label on the bottle that spelled whisky."

"You're going too far!" the girl cried.

"They've got you fuddled with labels here," went on the American. "It's my business to see that you know what kind of people you're dealing with."

(To be continued.)

MEDFORD, Or., Aug. 5, 1909

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