

The Man From Home

A Novelization of the Play of the Same Name

By **BOOTH TARKINGTON** and **HARRY LEON WILSON**

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CHAPTER XIX. IN SUSPENSE.

HORACE turned on Pike. His voice trembled with suppressed rage.

"A fine guardian, you are!" he said witheringly. "You came here to protect her from something you thought was rotten. Now we all know it's rotten you hand her over!"

The lad paused, and then he laughed bitterly.

"By Jove," he exclaimed of a sudden, "I shouldn't be surprised if you consent to the settlement too!"

The lawyer looked at him gravely.

"My son, I shouldn't be surprised if I did."

"By the Lord, but you play a queer game, Mr. Pike."

"Oh, I'm just crossing the Rubicon. Your father used to say: 'If you're going to cross the Rubicon, cross it. Don't wade out to the middle and stand there. You only get h—ll from both banks!'"

"I beg your pardon," said a voice behind them, and they turned to find Lady Creech. She went on, addressing Horace:

"Mr. Granger-Stimpson, have you seen my nephew?"

"No. I've rather avoided that, if you don't mind my saying so," Horace replied.

"I'm sorry, Lady Creech," he went on, "but I've had a most awful shaking up, and I'm thinking of going back home with Mr. Pike. I think he's about right in his ideas. You know we abused him, not only for himself, but for his vulgar friend, yet his vulgar friend turned out to be a grand duke, and look at what our friends turned out to be!"

He stepped quickly to the entrance and disappeared into the hotel. Almeric's voice was heard as Lady Creech turned to go, and Pike smiled.

"Here he comes now, bending under the blow," he said.

Almeric appeared with a white bull pup, which he handed over to Mariano with the remark:

"Wash him a bit, old chap; tepid water, you know, and a drop of milk afterward—nothing but milk, you know. Be deuced careful, I say!"

As Mariano disappeared with the dog at arm's length Lady Creech said solemnly:

"Almeric, really there are more important things, you know."

"Rot!" replied the young man. "I almost missed him. But I think I'm to be congratulated, you know. Eh?"

"I think you are, my son," said Pike quietly. "I have given my consent."

"Hippin!" declared Almeric. And Lady Creech started forward.

"And the settlement?" she asked. Pike nodded.

"The settlement also—everything!"

Ethel came from the side of the terrace, followed by Horace, who seemed to be arguing with her.

"Of course I never worried, you know," said Almeric. "But I fancy it will be a weight off the poor governor's mind. I'll wire him at Naples, for he'll be glad to know about that bally convict chap—the arrangement you made with him, you know."

"Almeric, I think it's noble to be brave in trouble, but"—Ethel began, and Pike smiled behind his hand. Almeric looked at her in astonishment.

"I say, you know, you've really got me!"

"I mean that I admire you for your pluck, for your seeming unconcern under disgrace, but!"

"Disgraced! Why, who's disgraced? Not even the governor, as I see it! You got that chap called off, didn't you?"

"Whom do you mean?" she asked, wondering in her voice.

"Why, that convict chap. Didn't you send him away? You bought him off so he wouldn't talk, didn't you—gave him money not to bother us?"

She whirled on him like a storm.

"Why, heaven pity you! Do you think that?" she cried.

Almeric was taken aback.

"Oh—what! He wouldn't agree? Oh, I say, that will be a pill for the governor—he'll be worried, you know!"

Ethel went close to him.

"Don't you see that you've got to worry a little about yourself; that you've got to begin to do something worthy that will obliterate this shame? To work—to work!"

"What possible need will there be for that? Why, there's the settlement!"

"Settlement!" cried Ethel, aghast. "You talk of settlement now?"

"Don't you see? The only objection was the settlement, and Mr. Pike's given his consent to that!"

"He's consented to that?" she asked.

"With his own lips. Didn't you?" Almeric asked Pike.

"I did," said the lawyer quietly.

She recoiled from the group.

"Yesterday, when I wanted something I thought of value, he refused to let me buy it. Today, when I know that name is less than nothing, he bids me give my fortune for it. What manner of man is this?"

Almeric slapped his leg.

"I don't see that the situation is changed. I don't stick out for the precise amount the governor said. If it ought to be less because of last night—why, we won't haggle over a few thousands."

With a cry of rage and despair Ethel turned on him.

"This is the final word of my humiliation! I felt that you were in shame, and because of that I was ready to keep my word—to stand by you and



She was playing "Sweet Genevieve!" help you make yourself into a man. Now you ask me to pay you for the privilege. I am released! I am free! I am not that man's property to give away!"

Lady Creech turned to Almeric. "This is beyond everything! Give me your arm, Almeric. We will go."

"Most extraordinary girl. Beyond everything, isn't she?"

Together they went into the hotel, and Pike watched them with somber eyes. Horace quietly slipped off through the arbor. Ethel turned to Pike violently.

"What have you to say to me?" she demanded. "What explanations have you to make?"

"None," he answered.

"Because you don't care what I think of you. You were willing to give me up to these people, to let me romanticize about honor and duty, about my efforts to make that creature a man, and you knew all the time it was only the money they were after!"

"I shouldn't wonder," he replied.

"Didn't you know that would horrify me? Didn't you see that your consenting, leaving me free to give it to them, would release me?"

"I shouldn't be surprised."

"You mean you've been saving me again from myself? You let me make a fool of myself and then show it to me, and after that you'll deny it! It's like you. Do you think any girl could love a man like that? Go back to your dream girl, your lady of the picture!"

"She won't be there," said Daniel disconsolately.

"She might be," Ethel answered in a different tone.

"There ain't any chance of that. The house will be empty still," he said.

"You might be wrong—for once," she replied, and there were tears in her voice—"just for once!"

With a quick look at him she ran from the terrace and into the hotel. A moment later, while he was staring moodily at the pavement, a piano began to tinkle, and a moment later Ethel's voice came to him. His face lit up, and he stepped closer to the window. Then his arms went out.

She was playing "Sweet Genevieve!"

THE END.

Capital Punishment in Germany.

Although little is heard outside Prussia of capital punishment within the kingdom, the law is by no means a dead letter. In seven years there have been ninety-eight executions, ten of the condemned being women. Silesia heads the list, with twenty-one executions, followed by Brandenburg, Posen and Rhineland.

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The examination will be held at the headquarters of each national forest in the district at the following places: Ketchikan, Alaska; Eugene, Grants Pass, Heppner, John Day, Lakeview, Medford, Prineville, Portland, Roseburg, Sumpter and Willowa, Or., and Bellingham, Chelan, Leavenworth, Newport, Olympia, Orting, Republic, Seattle and Walla Walla, Wash.

While the examination is entirely along practical lines and the knowledge of field conditions rather than book learning is considered essential, the opportunities for those applicants with educational advantages are considerably increased. The rapid development of the national forests is making continually increasing demands upon those engaged in their management, and men with ability to assume responsibility and serve in supervisory capacities are in demand. These more responsible positions on national forests are filled by promotion from lower grades, so that anyone entering as a ranger is eligible for promotion to any of the more responsible and higher paid places, including that of forest supervisor.

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