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SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER 1.-Wealthy and highly baced in the Chicago business world, enjamin Corvet is something of a re-ture and a mystery to his associates. Ifter a stormy interview with his part-ar, Henry Spearman, Corvet seeks Con-taince Sherrill, daughter of his other usiness partner, Lawrence Sherrill, and ourse from her a promise not to marry pearman. He then disappears, Sherrill arms Corvet has written to a certain than Coursed, in Blue Rapida, Kansas, ad exhibited strange agitation over the store.

CHAPTER IL-Corvet's letter summon Conrad, a youth of unknown parentage

CHAPTER III.-From a statement Inerrill it seems probable Conrad is Co ot's illegitimate son. Corvet has deed is house and its contents to Alan.

CHAPTER IV .- Alan takes possess

CHAPTER V.-That night Alan discov-ers a man ransacking the desks and bu-reau drawers in Corvet's apartments. The appearance of Alan tremendously agitates the intruder, who appears to think him a thost and raves of "the Miwaka." After a struggle the man escapes.

(Continued from last week.)

Alan turned back his bed. it had been for him a tremendous day. Bare-Is twelve hours before he had come t hat house, Alan Conrad from Blue Bapids, Kan., now ... phrases from what Lawrence Sherrill had told him of his father were running through his mind as he opened the door of the room to be able to hear any noise in Benjamin Corvet's house, of which he was sole protector. The emotion roused by his first sight of the lake went through him again as he opened the window to the east.

Now-he was in bed-he seemed to be standing, a specter before a man biaspheming Behjamin Corvet and the couls of men dead. "And the fisle bove the eye! . . . The bullet got . . . So It's you that got Ben ! Tou! I'll get you! . . . You can't save the Miwaka !"

The Miwaka ! The stir of that name was stronger now even than before ; it had been running through his consciousness almost constantly since he had beard it. He jumped up and turned on the light and found a pencil. He did not know how to spell the name and it was not necessary to write it down; the name had taken on that definiteness and ineffaceableness of a thing which, once heard, can never again be forgotten. But, in panic that he might forget, he wrote it, guessing at the spelling-"Miwaka."

It was a name, of course; but the name of what? It repeated and repeated itself, to him. after he got back into hed, until its very iteration made

-Sherrill had been awaiting Mr. Con rad, opened an inner door and led Alan into a large, many-windowed

room, where Sherrill was sitting alone before a table-desk. He pulled the "visitor's chair" rather close to his desk and to his own big leather chair before asking Alan to seat himself. "You wanted to tell me, or ask me, something last night, my daughter has told me," Sherrill said cordially. "I'm sorry I wasn't home when you came

"I wanted to ask you, Mr. Sherrill," Alan said, "about those facts in re-gard to Mr. Corvet which you mentioned to me yesterday but did not explain. You said it would not aid me to know them; but I found certain things in Mr. Corvet's house last night which made me want to know, if I could,

everything you could tell me." Sherrill opened a drawer and took out a large, plain envelope.

"On the day after your father disappeared," he said, "but before I knew he was gone-or before any one except my daughter feit any alarm about him



one to the right was a list of losses and expenditures. Beginning at an in-definite day or month in the year 1895, there was set down in a lump sum what was indicated as the total of Ben-Jamin Corvet's holdings at that time. To this, in sometimes undated items, the increase had been added. In the opposite column, beginning apparently from the same date in 1805, were the

missing man's expenditures. Alan having ascertained that the papers contained only this account, looked up questioningly to Sherrill; but Sherrill, without speaking, merely handed him the second of the papers. Alan unfolded it and saw that it was a letter written in the same hand which had written the summons he had received in Blue Rapids and had made the entries in the little memo randum book of the remittances that had been sent to John Welton.

It began simply: "Lawrence-"This will come to you in the event that I am not able to carry out the plan upon which I am now, at last, de-termined. You will find with this a list of my possessions. Deeds for all real estate executed and complete except for recording of the transfer at the county office; bonds, certificates, and other documents representing my ownership of properties, together with signed forms for their legal transfer to you, are in this box. These proper-ties, in their entirety, I give to you in trust to hold for the young man now known as Alan Conrad of Blue Rapids, Kan., to deliver any part or all over to him or to continue to hold it all in trust for him as you shall consider to be to his greatest advantage.

"This for the reasons which I shall have told to you or him-I cannot know which one of you now, nor do I know how I shall tell it. But when you learn, Lawrence, think as well of me as you can and help him to be charitable to me.

"With the greatest affection, "RENIAMIN CORVER" Alan, as he finished reading, looked

up to Sherrill, bewildered and dazed. "What does it mean, Mr. Sherrill ?-Does it mean that he has gone away and left everything he had-everything to me?

"If Mr. Corvet does not return, and do not receive any other instructions, shall take over his estate, as he has nstructed, for your advantage."

"And, Mr. Sherrill, he didn't tell you why? This is all you know?"

"Yes; you have everything now. All we can do, Alan, is to search for him in every way we can. There will be others searching for him too now ; for information of his disappearance has got out. There have been reporters at the office this morning making inquiries, and his disappearance will be in the afternoon papers."

Sherrill put the papers back in their envelope, and the envelope back into the drawer, which he relocked. "I went over all this with Mr. Spearnan this morning," he said. "He is as

nuch at a loss to explain it as I am." He was silent for a few moments.

"The transfer of Mr. Corvet's properties to me for you," he said suddenly, "includes, as you have seen, Corvet's interest in the firm of 'Corvet, Sherrill & Spearman.' I went very carefully through the deeds and transfers in the deposit box, and it was plain that, while he had taken great care with the forms of transfer for all

the properties, he had taken particular

pains with whatever related to his

CHAPTER VII

Mr. Corvet's Partner.

The instant of meeting, when Alan recognized in Sherrill's partner, the man with whom he had fought in Corvet's house, was one of swift readjustment of all his thought-adjustmen to a situation of which he could even have dreamed, and which left breathless, But for Spearman, obviously, it was not that. Following his noncommittal nod of acknowledg ment of Sherrill's introduction and his first steady scrutiny of Alan, the big. handsome man swung himself off from

Steady, Bold, Watchful Eyes Seemed Measuring Alan Attentively

the desk on which he sat and leaned against it, facing them more directly. "Oh, yes-Conrad," he said. His tone was hearty; in it Alan could rec. ognize only so much of reserve as might be expected from Sherrill's partner who had taken an attitude of opposition. The shipmasters, looking on, could see, no doubt, not even that; except for the excitement which Alan himself could not conceal, it must appear to them only an ordinary introduction.

Alan fought sharply down the swift rush of his blood and the tightening of his muscles.

"I can say truly that I'm glad to meet you, Mr. Spearman," he managed. There was no recognition of any

thing beyond the mere surface mean ing of the words in Spearman's slow smile of acknowledgment, as he turned from Alan to Sherrill.

"I'm afraid you've taken rather a bad time, Lawrence. Can't we get together later-this afternoon? You'll e about here this afternoon?"

"I think I can be here this after noon," Alan said.

"Let's say two-thirty, then." Spear man turned and noted the hour almost solicitously among the scrawled appointments on his desk pad; straightening, after this act of dismissal, he walked with them to the door, his hand on Sherrill's shoulder

"Circumstances have put us--Mr Sherrill and myself-in a very diff-cult position, Conrad," he remarked We want much to be fair to all concerned-

He did not finish the sentence, but

kill rather than to be caught there. trivialities of their being together were Alan thought so instant; he would make sure he still "had" that some thing on Spearman and would learn how far it went. He took up the receiver and asked for Spearman.

A voice answered-"Yes." ian said, evenly: "I think you and I had better have a talk before we meet with Mr. Sherrill this afterno I am here in Mr. Corvet's office now and will be here for half an hour. then I'm going out."

Spearman made no reply, but hung up the receiver. Alan sat waiting, his watch upon the desk before him tense, expectant, with flushes of hot and cold passing over him. Ten minutes passed; then twenty. The telephone under Corvet's desk buzzed.

"Mr. Spearman says he will give you five minutes now," the switchboard girl said.

Alan breathed deep with relief; Spearman had wanted to refuse to see him-but he had not refused; he had sent for him within the time Alan had appointed and after waiting until just before it expired.

Alan put his watch back into his pocket and, crossing to the other office, found Spearman alone. There was no pretense of courtesy now in Spearman's manner; he sat motionless at his desk, his bold eyes fixed on Alan intently. Alan closed the door behind him and advanced toward the desk.

"I thought we'd better have some explanation," he said, "about our meeting last night."

"Our meeting?" Spearman repeated; his eyes had narrowed watchfully. "You told Mr. Sherrill that you were

in Duluth and that you arrived home in Chicago only this morning. Of course you don't mean to stick to that story with me?"

"What are you talking about?" Spearman demanded.

"Of course, I know exactly where you were a part of last evening; and you know that I know. I only want to know what explanation you have to offer."

Spearman leaned forward. "Talk sense and talk it quick, if you have anything to say to me !"

"I haven't told Mr. Sherrill that I found you at Corvet's house last night; but I don't want you to doubt for a minute that I know you-and about your d-g of Benjamin Corvet and your cry about saving the Miwaka !"

A flash of blood came to Spearman's face; Alan, in his excitement, was sure of it; but there was just that flash, no more. He turned, while Spearman sat chewing his cigar and staring at him, and went out and partly closed the door. Then, suddenly, he reopened it, looked in, reclosed it sharply, and went on his way, shaking a little. For, as he looked back this second time at the dominant, determined, able man seated at his desk, what he had seen in Spearman's face was fear; fear of himself, of Alan Conrad of Blue Rapids-yet it was not fear of that sort which weakens or dismays; it was of that sort which, merely warning of danger close at hand, determines one to use every means within his power to save himself.

Alan, still trembling excitedly, to Corvet's office to await crossed Sherrill. It was not, he felt sure now, Alan Conrad that Spearman was opposing; it was not even the apparent successor to the controlling stock of Corvet, Sherrill and Spearman. That Alan resembled some one-some one whose ghost had seemed to come to Spearman and might, perhaps, have come to Corvet-was only incidental



-Mr. Corvet. But I do like him." "So do I," Spearman said with a seeming heartiness that pleased her. "At least I should like him, Connie, if Dressmaking of all kinds also I had the sort of privilege you have to think whether I liked or disliked him. I've had to consider him from another point of view-whether I could trust Mildred V. Short him or must distrust him."

"Distrust?" Constance bent toward him impulsively in her surprise. "Distrust him? In relation to what?

Why?" "In relation to Corvet, Sherrill and Spearman, Connie-the company that involves your interests and your fa-

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you would."

Yes."

remarked.



many other people-small stockholders who have no influence in its management, and whose interests I have to look after for them."

"I don't understand, Henry." "Twe had to think of Conrad this orning in the same way as I've had

to think of Ben Corvet of recent years —as a threat against the interests of those people." Her color rose, and her pulse quick-

Henry except in the merest co about his relations with Uncle Benny; It was a matter in which, she had rec-ognized, they had been opposed; and since the quarrels between the old friend whom she had loved from childhood and he, who wished to be now more than a mere friend to her, had grown more violent, she had purposely avoided mentioning Uncle Benny to Henry, and he, quite as consciously, had avoided mentioning Mr. Corvet to her. (Continued Next Week.)

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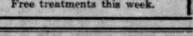
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him drowsy.

Outside, the gale whistled and shricked. The wind, passing its last resistance after its sweep across the prairies before it leaped upon the lake, battered and clamored in its assault about the house. But as Alan became sleepler, he heard it no longer as it rattled the windows and howled under the caves and over the roof, but as out on the lake, above the roaring and icecrunching waves, it whipped and circled with its chill the ice-shrouded sides of struggling ships. So, with the roar of surf and gale in his cars, he went to sleep with the sole conscious connection in his mind between himself and these people, among whom Benjamin Corvet's summons had brought him, the one name "Miwaka."

CHAPTER VI.

The Deed in Trust.

Memory, if Alan could call it that, had given him a feeling for ships and for the lake. Bot these recollections were only what those of a three-years' child might have been. Not only did they refuse to connect themselves with anything else, but by the very finality their isolation, they warned him that they-and perhaps a few more vague memories of similar sert-were all that recollection ever would give him. He caught himself together and turned his thoughts to the approach ing visit to Sherrill-and his father's offices. He had accepted Constance Sherrill's invitation to drive him desentown to his destination.

Observing the towering buildings to his .ight, he was able to identify some of the more prominent structures, fa milia. from photographs of the city. Constance drove swiftly a few blocks down, this boulevard; then, with a sudden, "Here we are !" she shot the car to the curb and stopped. She led Alan into one of the tallest and bestlocking buildings.

On several of the doors opening upon the wide marble hall where the elevator left them. Alan saw the names "Corvet, Sherrill and Spearman.

Constance led the way on past to a loor farther down the corridor, which ore merely the name, "Lawrence Sherrill"; evidently Sherrill, who had interests aside from the shipping business, had offices connected with but not actually a part of the offices of Corvet, Sherrill and Spearman. A girl on guard at the door, saying that Mr.

commended you to my care. The remainder of it was merely an agitated, almost indecipherable farewell to me. When I opened the envelope, a key had fallen out. The note made no reference to the key, but, comparing it with one I had in my pocket. I saw that it appeared to be a key to a safety deposit box in the vaults of a company where we both had boyes "The note, taken in connection with my daughter's alarm about him, made it so plain that something serious had happened to Corvet, that my first thought was merely for him. Corvet was not a man with whom one could

-I received a short note from him

The note was agitated, almost incoher-

ent. It told me he had sent for you-

Alan Conrad, of Blue Rapids, Kansas

-but spoke of you as though you were

readily connect the thought of suicide; but Alan that was the idea I had. I hurried at once to his house, but the bell was not answered, and I could not get in. His servant, Wassaquam, has very few friends, and the few times he has been away from home of recent years have been when he visited an acquaintance of his-the head porter in a South Side hotel. I went to the telephone in the house next door and called the hotel and found Wassaquam there. I told him over the telephone

only that something was wrong, and hurried to my own home to get the key, which I had, to the Corvet house; but when I came back and let myself into the house, I found it empty and with no sign of anything having happened. "The next morning, Alan, I went to

the safe deposit vaults as soon as they were open. I presented the numbered key and was told that it belonged to a hox rented by Corvet, and that Corvet had arranged about three days before for me to have access to the box if I presented the key. I had only to sign my name in their book and open the box. In it, Alan, I found the pictures of you which I showed you yesterday and the very strange communications that I am going to show you now." Sherrill opened the long envelope, from which several thin, folded papers fell. He picked up the largest of these, which consisted of several sheets

fastened together with a clip, and handed it to Alan without comment. Alan, as he looked at it and turned the ment, but did not put out his hand pages, saw that it contained two columns of typewriting carried from page to page after the manner of an ac-

The column to the left was an inventory of property and profits and in-come by months and years. and the

boldings in this company and to his shipping interests. If I make over the properties to you, Alan, I shall begin with those: for it seems to me that your father was particularly anxious that you should take a personal as well as a financial place among the men who control the traffic of the lakes. I have told Spearman' that this is my intention. He has not been able to see it my way as yet; but he may change his views, 1 think, after meeting you. Sherrill got up. Alan arose a little

unsteadily. The list of properties he had read and the letter and Sherrill's statement portended so much that its meaning could not all come to him at once. He followed Sherrill through a short private corridor, flanked with files lettered "Corvet, Sherrill, and Spearman," into the large room he had seen when he came in with Constance. They crossed this, and Sherrill, without knocking, opened the door of the office marked, "Mr. Spearman." Alan, looking on past Sherrill as the door opened, saw that there were some half dozen men in the room, smoking and talking. His gaze went swiftly on past these men to the one who, half seated on the top of the flat desk, had been talking to them; and his pulse closed upon his heart with a shock ; he startchoked with astonishment, then

swiftly forced himself under control. For this was the man whom he had met and whom he had fought in Benjamin Corvet's house the night before -the big man surprised in his blasphemy of Corvet and of souis "in h-l" who, at sight of an apparition with a bullet hole above its eye, had cried out in his fright, "You got Ben! But you won't get me-d-n you! D-n you!" Alan's shoulders drew up slightly, and the muscles of his hands tight-ened, as Sherrill led him to this man. Sherrill" put his hand on the men's

shoulder; his other hand was still on Alan's arm. "Henry," he said to the man, "this is Alan Conrad. Alan, I want you to know my partner, Mr. Spearman " Spearman nodded an acknowledg-

his eyes steady, bold, watchful eyes seemed measuring Alan attentively ; and in return Alan, with his gaze, was measuring him,

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Alan followed him; exasperation -half outrage yet half admiration-at Spearman's bearing, held Alan speech less. If every movement of Spear-man's great, handsome body had not recalled to him their struggle of the night before-if, as Spearman's rested cordially on Sherrill's shoulder, Alan had not seemed to feel again that big hand at his throat-he would almost have been ready to believe that this was not the man whom he had

fought. But he could not doubt that; he had recognized Spearman beyond question. And Spearman had record nized him-he was sure of that; he could not for an instant doubt it; Spearman had known it was Alan om he had fought in Corvet's house even before Sherrill had brought them together. Was there not further proof of that in Spearman's subsequent manner toward him? For what was all this cordiality except defiance?

Power and possession-both far exceeding Alan's most extravagant dream-were promised him by those papers which Sherrill had shown him. When he had read down the list of those properties, he had had no more feeling that such things could be his than he had had at first that Corvet's house could be his-until he had heard the intruder moving in that house. And now it was the sense that another was going to make him fight for those properties that was bringing to him the realization of his new power. He "had" something on that man on Spearman. He did not know what that thing was; no stretch of his thought, nothing that he knew about himsel or others, could tell him; but, at sight of him, in the dark of Corvet's house, Spearman had cried out in horror, he had screamed at him the name of a sunken ship, and in terror had hurled his electric torch. It was true, Spearman's terror had not been at Alan Con rad; it had been because Spearma had mistaken him for some one else for a ghost. But, after learning that Alan was not a ghost, Spearman's at-

titude had not very greatly changed he had fought, he had been willing to A. WINKLER 9015 Foster Road MACHINE SHOP Repairs to any machinery. Office Phone 615-10 Res. 618-18

to what was going on now; for in Alan's presence Spearman found a threat-an active, present threat against himself. Alan could not imagine what the nature of that threat could be. Was it because there was something still concealed in Corvet's house which Spearman feared Alan would find? Or was it connected only with that some one whom Alan resembled? Constance Sherrill's most active

thought that day was about Henry Spearman, for she had a luncheon engagement with him at one o'clock.

The tea room of a department store offers to young people opportunities for dining together without furnishing reason for even innocently connecting their names too intimately, if a girl is not seen there with the same man too often. There is something essentially casual and unpremeditated about itas though the man and the girl, both shopping and both hungry, had just happened to meet and go to lunch to-gether. As Constance recently had drawn closer to Henry Spearman in her thought, and particularly since she had been seriously considering marrying him, she had clung deliberately to this unplanned appearance

about their meetings. She glanced across at him, when she had settled herself, and the first little



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