# BLIND MAN'S EYES

WILLIAM MACHARG - EDWIN BALMER Illustrations by R.H.Livingstone

CEPTHENT BY LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY

### SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER I.—Gabriel Warden, Seattle capitalist, tells his butler he is expecting a caller, to be admitted without question. He informs his wife of danger that threatens him if he pursues a course he considers the only honorable one. Warden leaves the house in his car and meets a man whom he takes into the machine. Then the car returns home, Warden is found dead, murdered, and alone. The caller, a young man, has been at Warden's house, but leaves unobserved.

CHAPTER II.—Bob Connery, conductor, receives orders to hold train for a party. Five men and a girl board the train. The father of the girl, Mr. Dorne, is the person for whom the train was held. Philip D. Eaton, a young man, also boarded the train. Dorne tells his daughter and his secretary, Don Avery, to find out what they can concerning him.

CHAPTER III.—The two make Eaton's acquaintance. The train is stopped by

CHAPTER IV.—Eaton receives a tele-gram addressed to Lawrence Hillward, which he claims. It warns him he is being followed.

CHAPTER V.—Passing through the car, Connery notices Dorne's hand, hanging outside the berth. He ascertains Dorne's bell has recently rung. Perturbed, he investigates and finds Dorne with his skull crushed. He calls a surgeon Dr. Sinclair, on the train.

CHAPTER VI.—Sinclair recognizes the injured man as Basil Santoine, who, although blind, is a peculiar power in the financial world as adviser to "big interesta". His recovery is a matter of doubt. CHAPTER VII. - Circumstances point to Eaton as Santoine's as-

CHAPTER VIII .- Eaton . practically Glaced under arrest. He refuses to make explanations as to his previous

movements before boarding the train, but admits he was the man who called on Warden th night the financier was murdered. CHAPTER IX.—Eaton pleads with Harriet Santoine to withhold judg-ment, telling her he is in serious danger, though innocent of the crime against her father. He feels the girl

CHAPTER X.—Santoine recovers suffi-ciently to question Eaton, who refuses to reveal his identity. The financier re-quires Eaton to accompany him to the Bantoine home, where he is in the posi-tion of a semi-prisoner.

CHAPTER XI.—Eaton meets a resident of the house, Wallace Blatchford, and a young girl, Mildred Davis, with whom apparently he is acquainted, though they conceal the fact. Eaton's mission is to secure certain documents which are vital to his interests, and his being admitted to the house is a remarkable stroke of luck. The girl agrees to aid him. He becomes deeply interested in Harriet Santoine, and she in him.

CHAPTER XII.—Harriet tells Eaton she and Donald Avery act as "eyes" to Santoine, reading to him the documents on which he bases his judgments. While walking with her, two men in an automobile deliberately attempt to run Eaton down. He escapes with slight injuries. The girl recognizes one of the men as having been on the train on which they came from Seattle.

came from Seattle. CHAPTER XIII.—Santoine questions Eaton closely, but the latter is reticent. The blind man tells him he is convinced the stiack made on him on the train was the result of an error, the attacker having planned to kill Eaton. Santoine tells Harriet sile is to take charge of certain papers connected with the "Latron properties," which had bitherto been in Avery's charge.

CHAPTER XV.-At the country club Eaton reveals a remarkable proficiency at polo, seemingly to Avery's gratification. Eaton induces Harriet to allow him to leave the grounds for a few minutes that night.

CHAPTER XVI.—That night Eaton invades Santoine's library, seeking the papers he is determined to possess. There he finds two men, one of whom he recognizes with bewildered surprise, on the same errand. The three men engage in a pistol duel.

CHAPTER XVII.—Aroused by the shooting, Santoine descends to the library. The combatants are there, but silent. Wallace Blatchford arrives and is on the point of informing Santoine of the identity of one of the intruders when he is shot and instantly killed. The fighters escape. The safe has been rifled and important papers taken.

CHAPTER XVIII.—Harriet finds Eaton, badly wounded. She helps him and accompanies him in an auto in pursuit of the invaders of the house. He satisfies het of his innocence, which she has never doubted. Avery and a hastily summoned posse pursue Eaton. Satisfied he has wounded the man he recognized in Santoine's study, Eaton leaves Harriet and takes up the trail through the woods.

## (Continued from last week.)

"Hugh-" She waited for the rest; but he told no more. "Hugh!" she whispered to herself again his name now. "Hugh!"

Her eyes, which had watched the road for the guiding of the car, had followed his gesture from time to time pointing out the tracks made by the machine they were pursuing. These tracks still ran on ahead; as she gazed down the road, a red glow beyond the bare trees was lighting the sky. A glance at Hugh told that he also had seen it.

"A fire?" she referred to him.

"Looks like it." They said no more as they rushed on; but the red glow was spreading. and yellow flames soon were in sight shooting higher and higher; these were clouded off for an instant only to appear flaring higher again, and the breeze brought the smell of seasoned wood burning.

"It's right across the road!" Hugh announced as they neared it.

"It's the bridge over the next ravine," Harriet said. Her foot already was bearing upon the brake, and the power was shut off; the car coasted on slowly. For both could see now that the wooden span was blazing

from end to end: It was old wood swift to burn and going like tinder. There was no possible chance for the ear to cross it. The girl brought the machine to a stop fifty feet from the edge of the ravine; the fire was so

be safe nearer. She gazed down at the tire-marks on the road. "They crossed with their machine." she said to Hugh.

hot that the gasoline tank would not

"And fired the bridge behind. They must have poured gasoline over it and lighted it at both ends." She sat with one hand still strain-

ing at the driving wheel, the other playing with the gear lever. "There's no other way across that ravine, I suppose," Hugh questioned

"The other road's back more than mile, and two miles about." threw in the reverse and started to turn. Hugh shook his head. "That's

"No," she agreed, and stopped the car again. Hugh stepped down or

the ground. The double glare from the headlights of a motor shone through the tree-trunks as the car topped and came swiftly down a rise three quarters of a mile away and around the last turn back on the road; another pair of blinding lights followed. There was no doubt that this must be the pursuit from Santoine's house. Eaton stood beside Harriet, who had stayed in the driving-sent of the car.

"I'm going just beside the road here," he said to her, quietly. "I'm armed, of course. If those are your people, you'd better go back with them. I'm sure they are; but I'll wait

She caught his hand. "No; no!" she cried. "You must get as far away as you can before they come! I'm going back to meet and hold them." She threw the car into the reverse backed and turned it and brought it again onto the road. He came beside her again, putting out his hand; she seized it. Her hands for an instant clung to it, his to hers.

"You must go-quick!" she urged; "but how am I to know what becomes of you-where you are? Shall I hear from you-shall I ever see you?" "No news will be good news," he

sald, "until-" "Until what?"

"Until-" And again that unknown something which a thousand timesit seemed to her-had checked his word and action toward her made him



"Until I Come to You As-As You Have Never Known Me Yet!"

pause; but nothing could completely bar them from one another now. "Until they catch and destroy me, oruntil I come to you as-as you have never known me yet!"

An instant more she clung to him. The double headlights flared into sight again upon the road, much nearer now and coming fast. She released him; he plunged into the bushes beside the road, and the damp, bare twigs lashed against one another at his passage; then she shot her car forward. But she had made only a few hundred yards when the first of the two cars met her. It turned to its right to pass, she turned the same way; the approaching car twisted to the left, she swung hers to oppose It. The two cars did not strike; they stopped, radiator to radiator, with rear wheels locked. The second car drew up behind the first. The glare of her headlights showed her both were full of armed men. Their headlights, revealing her to them, hushed suddenly their angry ejaculations.

She recognized Avery in the first car; he eaped out and ran up to her. "Harriet! In God's name, what are

She sat unmoved in her seat, gazing at him. Men leaping from the cars ran past her down the road toward the ravine and the burning bridge.

Avery, gaining no satisfaction from her, let go her arm; his hand dropped to the back of the sent and he drew it up quickly.

"Harriet, there's blood here!" She did not reply. He stared at her

and seemed to comprehend. He jumped from the car and ran to the assembled men. They called in answer to his shout, and she could see a man pointing out to them the way Eaton had gone. The men, scattering themselves at intervals along the edge of the wood and, under Avery's direction, posting others in each direction to watch the road, began to beat through the bushes after Eaton. She sat wotching; she put her cold hands to her face; then, recalling how just now Eaton's hand had clung to hers, she pressed them to her lips Avery came running back to her. "You drove him out here, Harriet!"

he charged. "Him? Who?" she asked coolly. "Eaton. He was hurt!" The triumph in the ejaculation made her re-"He was burt and could no

drive, and you drove him out." He left her, running after the men into the woods. She sat in the car, listening to the sounds of the hunt. She had no immediate fear that they would find Eaton; her present anxlety was over his condition from his hurts and what might happen if he encoun tered those he had been pursuing. In that neighborhood, with its woods and bushes and ravines to furnish cover. the darkness made discovery of him by Avery and his men impossible if Enton wished to hide himself, "Avery appeared to have realized this; for now the voices in the woods ceased and the men began to struggle back toward the cars. A party was sent on foot across the ravine, evidently to guard the road beyond. The rest be gan to clamber into the cars. She backed her car away from the one in front of it and started home.

She had gone only a short distance when the cars agair, passed her, traveling at a high speed. She began then to pass individual men left by those in the cars to watch the road. At the first large house she saw one of the cars again, standing empty. She passed it without stopping. A mile further, a little group of men carrying guns stopped her, recognized her and let her pass. They had been called out, they told her, by Mr. Avery over the telephone to watch the roads for Eaton; they had Eaton's description; members of the local police were to take charge of them and direct them. She comprehended that Avery was surrounding the vacant acreage where Eaton had taken refuge to be certain that Eaton did not get away until daylight came and a search

for him was possible. Lights gleamed at her across the broad lawns of the houses near her father's great house as she approached it; at the sound of her car, people ne running to the windows and looked out. She understood that news of the murder at Basil Santoine's had aroused the neighbors and brought them from their beds.

As she left her motor on the drive beside the house-for tonight no one came from the garages to take itthe little clock upon its dash marked half past two.

## CHAPTER XIX

Waiting.

Harriet went into the house and toward her own rooms; a mald met and stopped her on the stairs, "Mr. Santoine sent word that he

wishes to see you as soon as you came in. Miss Santoine." room, without stopping at her ownwet with the drive through the damp night and shivering now with its chill. Her father's voice answered her knock

with a summons to come in. "Where have you been, Daughter?" he asked.

"I have been driving with Mr. Eaton in a motor," she said. "Helping him to escape?" A spasm crossed the blind man's face.

"He said not; he-he was following the men who shot Cousin Wallace." The blind man lay for an instant still. "Tell me," he commanded finally. She told him, beginning with her dis-

covery of Eaton in the garage and ending with his leaving her and with Donald Avery's finding her in the motor; and now she held back one word only-his name which he had told her, Hugh. Her father listened intently. "You and Mr. Eaton appear to have

become rather well acquainted, Harriet," he said. "Has he told you nothing about himself which you have not told me? You have seen nothing concerning him, which you have not told?" Her mind went quickly back to the

polo game; she felt a flush, which his blind eyes could not see, dyeing her cheeks and forehead.

The blind man waited for a moment; he put out his hand and pressed bell which called the steward. Neither spoke until the steward came. "Fairley," Santoine said then, qui-

etly, "Miss Santoine and I have just agreed that for the present all reports regarding the pursuit of the men who entered the study last night are to be made direct to me, not through Miss Santoine or Mr. Avery." "Very well, sir."

She still sat silent after the steward had gone; she thought for an instant her father had forgotten her presence; then he moved slightly,
"That is all, dear," he said quietly.

She got up and left him, and went to her own rooms; she did not pretend to herself that she could rest. She bathed and dressed and went downstairs. The library had windows facing to the west; she went in there

and stood looking out. Her mind was upon only one thing-even of that she could not think connectedly. Some years ago, somethin -she did not know what-had happened to Hugh; tonight, in som strange way unknown to her, it had than let Santoine hear the name. culminated in her father's study. He

had fought someone; he had rushed away to follow someone. Whom' Had he heard that someone in the imperfectly as yet. study and gone down? Had be been Santoine knew that he lacked the fighting their battle-her father's and hers? She knew that was not so.

did it mean that he had said to her that these events would either destroy him or would send him back to her as-as something different? Her thought supplied no answer. But whatever he had done, whatever he might be, she knew his fate was hers now; for she had given herself to him utterly. She had told that to herself as she fled and pursued with him that night; she had told it to him : she later had told it-though she had pointed this man to Santoine. not meant to yet-to her father. She

events of this night might not come a grief to her too great for her to She went to the rooms that had been Eaton's. The police, in stripping them of his possessions, had overlooked his cap; she found the bit of gray cloth and hugged it to her. She whispered his name to herself-Hugh-that secret of his name which she had kept; she gloried that she had that secret with him which she could keep from them all. What wouldn't they give just to share that with her-

his name, Hugh! She started suddenly, looking through the window. The east, above the lake, was beginning to grow gray. The dawn was coming! It was be ginning to be day!

Hugh had been fully dressed. What

could only pray now that out of the

She hurried to the other side of the house, looking toward the west. How could she have left him, hurt and bleeding and alone in the night! She could not have done that but that his asking her to go had told that it was for his safety as well as hers; she could not help him any more then; she would only have been in the way. But now-she started to rush out, but controlled herself; she had to stay in the house; that was where the first word would come if they caught him; and then he would need her, how much more! The reporters on the lawn below her, seeing her at the window, called up to her to know further particulars of what had happened and what the murder meant; she could see them plainly in the increasing light. She could see the lawn and the road before the house.

Day had come. And with the coming of day, the uncertainty and disorder within and about the house seemed to increase. But in the south wing, with its sound-proof doors and its windows closed against the noises from the lawn, there was silence; and in this silence, an exact, compelling, methodic machine was working; the mind of Basil Santoine was striving, vainly as yet, but with growing chances of success, to fit together into the order in which they belonged and make clear the events of the night and all that had gone before-arranging, ordering,

testing, discarding, picking up again

since that other murder, of Gabriel

and reordering all that had happen

CHAPTER XX

What One Can Do Without Eyes. Three men-at least three menhad fought in the study in Santoine's presence. Eaton, it was certain, had been the only one from the house present when the first shots were fired. Harriet went on toward her father's | Had Eaton been alone against the other two? Had Eaton been with one of the other two against the third? It appeared probable to Santoine that Eaton had been alone, or had come alone, to the study and had met his

enemies there. Santoine felt that the probabilities were that Eaton's enemies had opened the safe and had been surprised by Eaton. But if they had opened the safe, they were not only Eaton's enemies; they were also Santoine's; they were the men who threatened San-

tolne's trust. Those whom Eaton had fought in the room had had perfect opportunity for killing Santoine, if they wished. But Santoine felt certain no one had made any attack upon him at any moment in the room; he had had no feeling, at any instant, that any of the shots fired had been directed at him. Blatchford, too, had been unattacked until he had made it plain that he had recognized one of the intru-ders; then, before Blatchford could call the name, he had been shot down.

It was clear, then, that what had protected Santoine was his blindness; he had no doubt that, if he had been able to see and recognize the men in the room after the lights were turned on, he would have been shot down also. But Santoine recognized that this did not fully account for his immunity. Two weeks before, an at-tack which had been meant for Eaton had struck down Santoine instead; and no further attempt against Eaton had been made until it had become publicly known that Santoine was not going to die. If Santoine's death would have served for Enton's death two weeks before, why was Santoine immune now? Did possession of the contents of Santoine's safe accomplish the same thing as Santoine's death? Or more than his death for these men? For what men?

It was not, Santoine was certain. Eaton's presence in the study which had so astounded Blatchford, Wallace and Eaton had passed days together, and Blatchford was accustomed to Eaton's presence in the house. Someone whom Blatchford knew and whose name Santoine also would know and whose presence in the room was so strange and astonishing that Blatch-ford had tried to prepare Santoine for

the announcement, had been there, The man whose name was on Blatchford's tongue, or the companion of that man, had shot Blatchford rather

He was beginning to find events fit themselves together; but they fitted

key. Many men could profit by possessing the contents of Santoine's safe and might have shot Blatchford rather than let Santoine know their presence there; it was impossible for Santoine to tell which among these many the man who had been in the study might be. Who Enton's enemics were was equally unknown to Santoine. But there could be but one man-or at most one small group of men-who could be at the same time Eaton's enemy and Santoine's. To have known who Eaton was would have

Gabriel Warden had had an appointment with a young man who had come from Asia and who-Warden had told his wife-he had discovered lately had been greatly wronged. Eaton, under Conductor Connery's questioning, had admitted himself to be that young man; Santoine had verifled this and had learned that Eaton was, at least, the young man who had gone to Warden's house that night. But Gabriel Warden had not been allowed to help Eaton; so far from that, he had not even been allowed to meet and talk with Eaton; he had been called out, plainly, to prevent his

meeting Eaton, and killed. Eaton disappeared and concealed himself at once after Warden's murder, apparently fearing that he would have restrained from coming forward later to tell why Warden had been killed. He had been urged to come forward and promised that others would give him help in Warden's place; still, he had concealed himself. This must mean that others than Warden could not help Eaton; Eaton evidently did not know, or else could not hope to prove, what Warden had discovered.

Santoine held this thought in abeyance; he would see later how it checked with the facts.

Eaton had remained in Seattle-or near Seattle-eleven days; apparently he had been able to conceal himself and to escape attack during that time. He had been obliged, however, to reveal himself when he took the train; and as soon as possible a desperate attempt had been made against him, which, through mistake, had struck down Santoine instead of Eaton.

Eaton had taken the train at Se attle because Santoine was on it; he had done this at great risk to himself. The possibilities were that Eaton had taken the train to inform Santoine of something or to learn something from him. But Eaton had had ample opportunity since to inform Santoine of anything he wished; and he had not only not informed him of anything, but had refused consistently and determinedly to answer any of Santoine's questions. It was to learn something from Santoine, then, that Eaten had taken the train.

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he was finding that events fitted together perfectly. He felt certain now that Eaton had gone to Gabriel Warden expecting to get from Warden some information that he needed, and that to prevent Warden's giving him this, Warden had been killed. Then Warden's death had caused Santoin to go to Seattle and take charge of many of Warden's affairs; Eaton had thought that the information which had been in Warden's possession might now be in Santoine's; Eaton. therefore, had followed Santoine onto

the train. The inference was plain that some thing which would have given San toine the information Warden had had and which Eaton now required had been brought into Santoine's house and put in Santoine's safe. It was to get possession of this "something" before it had reached Santoine that the safe had been forced.

Santoine put out his hand and pressed a bell. A servant came to the door.

"Will you find Miss Santoine," the blind man directed, "and ask her to come here?"

The servant withdrew. (Continued Next Week.)

An Old Bible

Until recently the Codex Vaticanus o-called because it is kept in the ibrary of the Vatican in Rome, was the oldest Bible manuscript. Now however, is found in Egypt an older Bible manuscript, containing the apostolic epistles, the prophecies of Jonah, and the fifth book of Moses. der, apparently fearing that is would also be attacked. But Eaton was not a man whom this personal fear would papyrus rolls. It is the oldest Bible manuscript in existence, dating from 360 B. C. It is in the library of the British Museum, for which it was bought at a high price.

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"Only Myrtle, father,"
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