

The Thornton Secret

Or, a Prophecy Fulfilled

By CLARISSA MACKIE

"It will never be discovered," sighed Mrs. Thornton as she laid aside her sewing and looked at her daughter.

"Your father looked for it during his lifetime and so did his father before him. I am beginning to believe that your great-grandfather Thornton's hidden fortune was a hoax, although it was known that he had a great fortune."

"Perhaps he speculated and lost the money," suggested Alma with a disappointed sigh. "I wish he had never left that queer letter saying that when an heir was found worthy to receive his money it would be discovered to him. I'm afraid great-grandfather must have been joking, for just think what a good man father was and what did he ever find in return for his years of digging and delving around this old place hoping to discover the money?"

Alma threw down her sewing with sudden impatience of the subject. "I'm tired of talking about that old fortune, mother. Grandfather spent all his life looking for it and so neglected his work that he died a poor man, and it was the same way with father. Now, we're the last two of the family, and I for one am not going to spend my life looking for buried money."

"What are you going to do, Alma?" asked her mother anxiously. "I'm going to work and earn some money for myself."

"Alma Thornton!" cried her mother in dismay. "Your father brought you up as a lady and as the heiress to the Thornton fortune should be trained, and now you are going to spoil it all by going to work."

"Fortune, mother," sniffed Alma skeptically. "Why, mother, dear, what would you have me do? Sit with folded hands and wait for the fortune to jump out at me from some hidden cranny of the house or to fall out of the walnut tree?"

"I thought we might take a few summer boarders and wait awhile. Who knows when the secret will be revealed?" argued her mother fretfully.

"You would be tired to death taking summer boarders," said Alma decidedly. "It's my place to work for you."



FOUND THE BIG BRASS BOX.

and I've been trying to make some use of the education you have given me, and now I've got something to do at last. Her voice ended in a triumphant laugh.

"What is it, Alma?" "I'm going to teach music and languages in a boarding school for girls. It's in Wentwood, nearly sixty miles from here, and I can come home every week. Won't that be lovely? We'll be rich, mother."

Several weeks passed before Mrs. Thornton became fully reconciled to her daughter's plan. Once consenting, however, she spared no effort to assist Alma in her modest preparations and sent her away with a smiling countenance, even though she did cry as soon as the stage rolled away from the door. For that matter, Alma cried too.

A year passed, bringing once more the summer vacation season, and with it Alma Thornton came home to her mother.

"It's glorious to be home once more," cried Alma happily as she danced from one familiar spot to another of the old home, which, weather beaten to a silvery gray, still seemed to take root as the huge walnut tree which shaded it.

"I don't know what your poor father would say to see you working, Alma," sighed her mother as they ate their dinner. "He was always expecting to find the money and then we'd build a new house."

"I am so busy working, mother."

"Come, dear, let us go in and count the money," urged her mother. And you will agree that this is what most anybody would have done at that moment.

"They found that there was quite enough to keep them comfortably for the rest of their days; but Alma, having departed from the hive, found it difficult to go back to it. At any rate, she couldn't be a drone; she had acquired the work habit."

"The Good One. There is but one good wife in this town," said a clergyman in the course of his sermon—the congregation looked expectant, and every married man thinks he's got her," added the minister.

dear. Think how independent we are, and I am sure six hundred a year is no more practical use to us than great-grandfather's imaginary thousand."

"Don't despise the thousands, dear," said her mother. "They may come after all. Who knows?" she questioned dreamily. "What was the queer verse he added to his letter?"

"When the bee wings away from the hive Then shall the south wind blow free, So fortune shall come in Thornton alive, But doomed is the giant-doomed the roof-tree."

A little silence fell between them after the recital. Alma was thinking how strange had been the belief of her parents in the tradition of her ancestors' hidden fortune and how the long search had almost resulted in financial ruin and his failure had hastened her father's death. Mrs. Thornton was repeating the lines of the daggery verse over and over again until all at once there came a queer, frightened look in her eyes, and she turned a colorless face toward her daughter. "Alma!" she cried suddenly.

"What is it, mother? You are ill?" The girl sprang to her feet and hastened toward the table to her mother's side.

"No, it is nothing, only, Alma, I believe I have discovered the secret hidden in the verse." Mrs. Thornton's voice was excited, and her hands trembled in her daughter's warm clasp.

"Oh, mother, dear, don't bother your head about that foolish prophecy! You will be really ill if you permit yourself to brood over it," urged Alma. "Come out and look at my monthly rose bush. It is covered with buds."

"No, listen, Alma. I am in earnest," protested Mrs. Thornton. "Don't you remember your father always called you his 'busy bee'?"

"Yes," said Alma patiently. "And you remember the walnut tree at the back door has always been called the giant because of its size?"

"Yes," "Well, then, see if the verse your great-grandfather wrote does not seem a prophecy."

"When the bee wings away from the hive Then shall the south wind blow free, So fortune shall come in Thornton alive, But doomed is the giant-doomed the roof-tree."

"You, Alma, are the bee, and you have left home to seek for work, and the other lines predict that in a strong south wind the walnut tree will fall, and it will fall upon the house. Then fortune will come to the Thorntons."

"Pink spots burned in Mrs. Thornton's cheeks as she looked at her pretty daughter.

Alma bent and kissed her with sudden impatience. It all seemed rather queer and creepy to her the mystical verse translated in that manner. It could not be that her mother's mind was affected by long brooding over the Thornton secret, for Mrs. Thornton laughed these fears by arising and proceeding with her household tasks in her customarily efficient manner, and Alma tried to banish her own uneasiness by helping her mother, and the subject was dropped.

It was a hot day, with an irritating wind blowing from the south. As the afternoon advanced the sun disappeared and the wind howled unmercifully in the walnut tree. Alma found herself thinking that the wind was sounding a requiem among the green branches.

It grew cooler, and after sunset they wandered down into the garden, their thin gowns blowing in the gale that swept upon them. The pale clouds reflected the afterglow and seemed menacing in their rapid approach. The dust whirled down the road in a white sheet, and as it flew the gale broke over the Thornton place. The two women did not go into the house. As if by unspoken but mutual consent, they clung to the garden fence and watched the attack of the south wind.

It came and threw itself upon the walnut tree with violence. The giant writhed and beat in the struggle. Then all at once, with an ominous crackle, it fell, crashing, thundering down upon the kitchen end of the house, crushing the roof to earth like an eggshell. The fall of the giant walnut tree shook the earth. It brought wondering faces to neighboring windows, and its last echo found Mrs. Thornton and Alma clinging to each other and crying.

"If all this has come true as he prophesied, then it will be true about the fortune," sobbed the elder woman, and Alma, awed into silence, had nothing to say.

Neighbors were gathering about the fallen tree and ruined house. It was Abel Blossom who, delving among the roots upturned by the toppling giant, found the big brass box which contained the Thornton fortune so long hidden from the heirs.

"Your great-grandfather must have planted that tree when he buried the box," commented Abel after he had congratulated mother and daughter.

"I'll digger with you for the tree, Mrs. Thornton. Of course the trunk is hollow or it wouldn't have fallen, but the big limbs are all right and—"

"No, thank you, Mr. Blossom," said Alma quickly. "We're going to build a new house, and the walnut tree is to be made into furniture, isn't it, mother?"

"Anything you say, my dear," cried her happy mother. "I am so glad you haven't got to go to that horrid school again!"

"If the busy bee hadn't gone and winged her flight, away, you know, where would the Thornton prophecy come in or of the solution of the secret? It all goes to show Great-grandfather Thornton was a more wonderful man than you have depicted him," laughed Alma.

"Come, dear, let us go in and count the money," urged her mother. And you will agree that this is what most anybody would have done at that moment.

"They found that there was quite enough to keep them comfortably for the rest of their days; but Alma, having departed from the hive, found it difficult to go back to it. At any rate, she couldn't be a drone; she had acquired the work habit."

A Glass Clock. A Bavarian glass polisher constructed a clock which goes in perfect order and keeps accurate time. The construction of this time recorder took him six years. The glass plates and pillars which form the framework are bolted together with glass screws. The dial plate, hands, shafts and workwheels are of glass, and glass wheels and pins are used for fastening together the various parts of the running gear. Even the key by which it is wound is of glass. The construction of the remarkable timepiece was a matter of infinite pains. Some of the parts had to be made as many as forty times before a practicable clock could be produced.

THE GREATEST LIFE. The greatest life is never the life that stretches itself upon cushioned couches, but the one that chooses the place of battle and reeks under the blows and gathers itself amid pain and dizziness and gives back more blows than it takes till it stands weary and panting, perhaps, but justified to itself and to the world by a clean and courageous victory.—Richard Wightman.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 31, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said Road District No. 31 that there will be a meeting of the tax payers of said District in the Prog Pond school house at Prog Pond, on the 28th day of December, 1912, at 2 o'clock p. m. to vote an additional tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 34, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said District in Willamette school house at Willamette, on the 28th day of December, 1912, at 2 o'clock p. m., to vote an additional tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 52, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said Road District No. 52 that there will be a meeting of the tax payers of said District in East Mount Scott school house on the 27th day of December, 1912, at 8 o'clock p. m. to vote an additional tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 44, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said District in Greenwood school house at Greenwood, Oregon, on the 21st day of December, 1912, at 2 o'clock p. m., to vote an additional tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 41, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said District in Dover 21st day of December, 1912, at one o'clock p. m., to vote an additional tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 35, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said Road District No. 35 that there will be a meeting of the tax payers of said District in Cottrell schoolhouse at Cottrell, Ore., on the twenty-first day of December, 1912, at one o'clock p. m., to vote an additional

tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given that we, the undersigned tax payers representing ten per cent of the tax payers in Road District No. 3, Clackamas County, Oregon, hereby give notice to the tax payers of said Road District No. 3 that there will be a meeting of the tax payers of said District in Mellon's hall at Damascus, Ore., on the 25th day of December, 1912, at one o'clock p. m. to vote an additional tax for road purposes, as provided by an act of the legislature in 1909.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given to the tax payers of Road District No. 5, Clackamas County, Oregon, that there will be a meeting held at Ritter's hall, on the 28th day of December, 1912, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., for the purposes of levying a special road tax in said district to continue gravelling on the roads specified to be graveled at our last meeting and the transacting of any other business that may come up.

Notice for Levy of Special Road Tax. Notice is hereby given to the tax payers of Road District No. 5, Clackamas County, Oregon, that there will be a meeting held at Ritter's hall, on the 28th day of December, 1912, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., for the purposes of levying a special road tax in said district to continue gravelling on the roads specified to be graveled at our last meeting and the transacting of any other business that may come up.

Wants, For Sale etc. SCHOOL FUND MONEY TO LOAN. Only 6 per cent interest on long time loans. Nothing but good farm security will be accepted.

GOOD MOVING PICTURE BUSINESS for sale, well established and netting from \$40 to \$50 per week. Owners must sell on account of other business.

First Notice to Creditors. In the County Court of Clackamas County, State of Oregon. In the matter of the estate of Thomas K. Kelly, deceased.

THOMAS W. KELLY, Administrator. SCHNADEL & LAROCHE, Attorneys for Administrator.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Robert Greer, Plaintiff, vs. Sarah Greer, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna Gelette, Plaintiff, vs. Michael Gelette, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Maud Brennan, Plaintiff, vs. William J. Brennan, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Maud Brennan, Plaintiff, vs. William J. Brennan, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Arthur P. Olson, Plaintiff, vs. Matilda H. Olson, Defendant.

shall be necessary to pay the claims against said estate and the expenses of administration. And that on and after Monday, the 20th day of January, 1913, I will proceed to sell at private sale all of the said real estate or so much thereof as shall be necessary for the purposes named.

Notice to Creditors. Notice is hereby given that by an order of the County Court of Clackamas County, Oregon, duly made and entered of record on the 6th day of November, 1912, in the matter of the estate of Alpha A. Walter, deceased, the undersigned was duly appointed administrator of the estate of said Alpha A. Walter.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Lewis E. Attebery, Plaintiff, vs. Freda Attebery, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY. Harvey E. Cross. William Hamman. CROSS & HAMMOND ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

JOSEPH E. HEDGES Lawyer. WEINHARD BUILDING. MONEY TO LOAN.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

Summons. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Clackamas County. Anna L. Miller, Plaintiff, vs. J. I. Miller, Defendant.

BEAVER ENGRAVING COMPANY. QUALITY CUTS DESIGNING ILLUSTRATING PORTLAND ORE.

OLD I.W. HARPER WHISKEY. Scientifically Distilled from choicest grain—aged until every drop is a pearl of liquid perfection. Always the best. SOLD BY LEADING DEALERS.