

# The DARK BLOND

CARLTON KENDRICK  
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CHAPTER XLVII  
HARDLY daring to breathe, she waited, wondering what would happen next.

She had not long to wait. There was the sound of a key being turned in the lock.

The key rattled in the lock on the other side of the door. Millicent waited, expecting momentarily that the door would open; that Bob Caise would enter the room and a deadly contest would ensue between him and Norman Happ. But the door didn't open. The key continued to make noise as the lock as the person on the outside of the door strove to turn the lock.

After a few moments the key was withdrawn, and then, after an interval, another key inserted. Once more a key rattled about in the lock and Norman Happ turned to Millicent and whispered, "It's someone who's trying to pick the lock with a skeleton key."

"But who could it be?" she whispered. "Don't," he answered. "He'll hear."

They stood perfectly still, listening to the noises made by successive keys as they were fitted, one by one, into the lock and the man on the other side of the door tried to open it.

Norman Happ, leaning close to Millicent so that his lips were almost against her hair, whispered, "We've almost got to find out who that is. Stand perfectly still and don't make a sound when I open the door."

"You're not going to open the door?" she protested.

He placed his fingers against his lips in a mute command for silence, then leaned forward so that his ear was against the panel of the door.

A few moments later the noise made by the key in the lock ceased. The lock of the door turned again as though the person standing in the hallway might be making one last attempt to push the door open. Then there was silence.

Norman reached for the door knob. Millicent flung her weight against his arm, pulling his hand away from the knob.

"Don't be foolish," he told her. "We've simple got to know who's at the door."

"If you open the door he'll see you," she said.

"No, he won't. He's going to the elevator."

"I won't let you do it. He'll shoot."

"No, he won't. It isn't Bob. Bob has a key. I've got to find out who it is."

"I'll tell you," she said, "what you do. Wait until he gets in the elevator and then run down the stairs. You can get to the lobby almost as quickly as he does. Then he won't be suspicious. Wait until you hear the elevator door clang and then you can start."

## LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

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WELL, YOU'RE MAKING PROGRESS - IT WON'T BE SO VERY LONG AT THIS RATE, TILL YOU'LL HAVE THE PLANT FINISHED AND BE READY TO START PRODUCTION -

YES, IF NOTHING HAPPENS -

COME, COME, OLIVER - I NEVER KNEW YOU EVER TO ADMIT ANYONE OR ANYTHING COULD STOP YOU, OR EVEN SLOW YOU UP -

NO - AND DON'T ADMIT ANY SUCH THING NOW - BUT IT'S WORTH A LOT OF THOUGHT, JUST THE SAME -

YOU MEAN YOU THINK WHOEVER WAS AFTER ELI EON AND HIS SECRET WILL KEEP TRYING TO MAKE YOU TROUBLE?

EXACTLY - THE THING IS TOO BIG, HENRY - TOO VALUABLE - THERE'S TROUBLE COMING - IF I ONLY KNEW WHEN AND FROM WHENCE -

WELL, I'LL GUARANTEE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ANY TROUBLE, WHEN IT DOES COME -

I HOPE SO - BUT IT'S MIGHTY HARD TO FORTIFY AGAINST AN ATTACK, WHEN YOU'RE IN COMPLETE DARKNESS - IF OLD ELI WOULD ONLY TALK -

## TIM TYLER'S FLYING LUCK

I'VE JUST REFUSED QUEEN ANTONIA'S PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE AND IT'S GOING TO COST ME MY LIFE!

SHE'S JEALOUS, BECAUSE YOU LOVE HER DAUGHTER, ARETA

GOSH

WE MUST MAINTAIN GREAT SECRECY OR OUR PLOT WILL FAIL AND WE, TOO, SHALL LOSE OUR HEADS ON THE BLOCK, COMRADES!

WE SHALL OBEY YOUR EVERY COMMAND, MARCEL

WHILE MANY MILES AWAY, AT FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, FT. BELGOR, THE COMMANDANT RECEIVES DISCOURAGING REPORTS FROM HIS AVIATORS

LIEUT. SPEED MARTIN'S PLANE WAS NO DOUBT LOST AND DESTROYED IN THE RECENT SAND STORM, MAJOR LATOUR - MY SQUADRON HAS SEARCHED A WIDE AREA BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS

WE SHALL CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR MARTIN, CAPTAIN LEBRUN! FLY YOUR PLANE BEYOND THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE - THE STORM BLEW IN THAT DIRECTION -

## BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

OMON, RATTLE-HEAD! TH' AIRPORT - QUICK - STOMP ON IT

HOWZAT?

TOO GOOD! THERE'S AT LEAST SIX SPEED COPS RIGHT 'HIND US

NICE GOIN', SISTER -

I FOUND OUT, THAT DOCTOR'S FRAU IS ON TH' SHIP THAT SAILED ABOUT AN HOUR AGO

WE CAN CATCH IT BEFORE IT'S OUT VERY FAR

YIPPEE

## BRINGING UP FATHER

PERCY QUARTS, A BOY I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH IS GOING TO CALL. I TELEPHONED HIM TO COME TO DINNER. HE STRUCK IT RICH IN THE GOLD-FIELDS AND IS BRINGING HIS PARTNERS

THERE'S THE BELL!

BEGINNING OF THE FIRST ROUND

O-U-

MAGGIE-MEET KLONDIKE MIKE, GRUBSTAKE PETE, LOWER-LEVEL JAKE

## THIMBLE THEATRE

YOU MADE MY DOCTOR MAD AND HE QUIT - NOW HOW'LL WE GET THESE MEN EXAMINED?

I'LL DO THE EXAMINATIONS, MESELF, THEN I'LL KNOW IT'S DONE RIGHT - I'LL VACCINATE 'EM, TOO

I GOT ME OWN PERSONAL IDEAR ABOUT HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE HEALTHY

HEAT' IS THE MOST IMPORTINK THING ABOUT ME NEW COUNTRY

STEP UP, YA SWABS, AN' GET A HYPODERMIS

## OUT OUR WAY

HM-M-THERE ARE FOUR EGGS SHY! - I'LL COUNT THEM AGAIN, TO MAKE SURE - TWELVE AND EIGHT IS TWENTY - I'M RIGHT - FOUR MISSING! - WHY, I JUST GOT THE TWO DOZEN THIS MORNING! - HMF-WAIT UNTIL I SEE THAT EGG MAN - GETS GABBING ON 'POLITICS, SO HE CAN GYP ME OUT OF FOUR EGGS!

SAY, M'DEAR - DID YOU SEE MY -

EGAD, SHE'S CHECKING UP ON THE EGGS! I'LL HAVE TO HUSTLE OUT AND FETCH BACK THE FOUR I PUT IN MY HENS NESTS!

OH-AH - I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG, OVER AT THE HINKYS - JUST SAW A POLICEMAN GO INTO THEIR HOUSE!

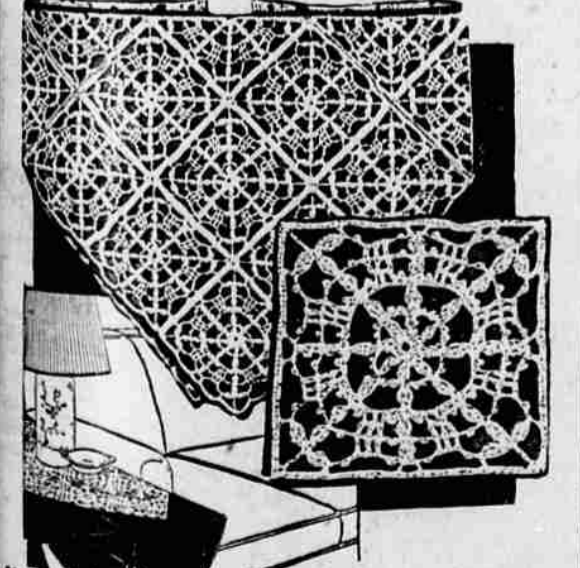
NO - IT DIDN'T BREAK TH' SKIN, IT JUST BRUISED IT A LITTLE.

I SEEN TH' CLAMP BREAK LOOSE, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD FLY LIKE THAT.

WHEN I WAS A KID, MY OL' MAN WAS MY GREATEST HERO, TILL TH' NIGHT OF TH' FIRE, WHEN HE JUMPED OUT OF A WINDOW AN' TH' TAIL OF HIS NIGHT-SHIRT CAUGHT ON A NAIL. EVERY TIME I SEEN HIM, AFTER THAT, I'D THINK OF HIM TRYIN' TO GIT OUT OF THAT NIGHT-SHIRT.

IT DOES TAKE SOMETHIN' AWAY FROM A KING, TO LET PEOPLE SEE THAT UNDER TH' ROBE OF DIGNITY IS TH' SHAPE OF A SAND HILL CRANE.

## CROCHET THESE SQUARES IN STRING SUGGESTS LAURA WHEELER



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