

# SERIAL STORY

## The Isolated Continent

A Romance of the  
Future

By  
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and Dean Hoard

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### SYNOPSIS.

For fifty years the continent of North America had been isolated from the rest of the world by the use of Z-rays, a wonderful invention of Hannibal Prudent. The invention had saved the country from foreign invasion, and the continent had been united under one government with Prudent as president. For half a century peace and prosperity reigned in this part of the world. The story opens with Prudent Prudent critically ill. His death is hastened by the receipt of a message from Count von Werdenstein of Germany that he has at last succeeded in penetrating the rays. Dying, he warns his daughter Astra that this means a foreign invasion. He tells her to hurry to the island of Chryse, but dies before he can tell the location of the place. Astra is nominated for the presidency by the continental party. Napoleon Edison calls on Astra, informs her that he was a pupil of her father's, and promises to help her. He gives her a ring made of a newly discovered substance which, he says, will solve the problem of flying. Chevalier de Leon appears in Europe. He calls on von Werdenstein and offers him the secret of making gold in return for absolute disarmament and peace. The chevalier is suspected of being an American spy. He is seized at night and carried off in an aeroplane. Astra is inaugurated as president. She receives a message from Edison, whose long silence has worried her, that he has been a prisoner for two months on the island of Heligoland and has just escaped. He announces that the confederated fleet of Europe has sailed for America. He promises to call on her the following night. Countess Rosita, an spy, becomes a prisoner in hope of securing Napoleon's secret. She falls in love with him. She agrees to join him in an attempt to escape. By the use of fire-walkers which resemble a monster eagle. He escapes and sends his message to Astra. Edison calls on Astra as promised. He tells her his plans for a monster eagle. He has completed, but that he will give full details at his workshop on the island of Chryse in the Pacific. The trip in three hours. His plans are based on the peculiarity of the new substance, chrysilite, which is lighter than any known metal and is practically indestructible. The Europeans succeed in passing the line of isolation, but find that the Americans have established a second one. Edison delivers a note to von Werdenstein in his flagship demanding that the fleet be withdrawn.

### CHAPTER X.—Continued.

The eagle lingered above the right wing of the first line of dreadnoughts. Napoleon could inflict any damage he chose. He could almost count the number of men aboard each vessel. Werdenstein gave hurried orders, and watched eagerly for their execution.

A few minutes later two armored monoplanes glided up from the flagship and turned toward the eagle.

Napoleon must have suspected their intention, for he circled higher and higher up. The bats followed the eagle; each monoplane carried four men, each of whom carried small caliber, mitrailleuse bombs and other ammunition of war.

Still the eagle went higher and higher, hovering above the north wing of the long line of war boats. It was so high now that it appeared only a speck to the naked eye. The planes ascended in a spiral, and they were far behind. The eagle turned and led the two planes along the line, near the flagship. It descended quickly and made a dip similar to the swoop of the eagle on its prey that caused the thousands of spectators to believe it was falling, but before it touched the water it darted forward and skimmed the waves, its great wings touching the water occasionally.

Napoleon watched the enemies who were now above him. One had dropped several bombs, but none had touched the swiftly moving aerodrome. A turn of the wheel caused the eagle to make a circle before the Brigitta, then it went higher and higher until it reached the two monoplanes. Before Napoleon knew what they were about the two planes had opened fire; he was so close to them that the bullets fell on his aerodrome like hail. The result was surprising. The deadly missiles rebounded from the sides without leaving a mark on the glittering body.

Napoleon had cleverly led them directly in front of the flagship, so that the scene was enacted before the eyes of the count and his staff. It was marvelous, the greatest play a man's eyes had ever rested upon.

Napoleon turned to face the ascending bat. The count saw him reach up to a lever that he had not used before. He hesitated for a moment, but when the first bomb was thrown at him he pulled the lever; a flash followed. Zigzag lines of lightning burst forth and the once armored monoplanes was shattered into a thousand bits. Its fate seemed to shatter the nerve of the engineer on the other plane, for he turned and raced for the flagship. It was too late. Napoleon pulled the lever again and it followed its comrade into space.

The count was pale; he had been given a terrible example of his enemy's power, still he did not turn back. Orders were flashed to the two boats nearest the eagle to open fire with their heavy guns. Napoleon read the order on his plate and was sad, but he knew that the only way to save the masses from annihilation was by a painful operation.

His right hand was on the lever,

the left on the wheel; as the guns below thundered, the bird man was far away, and their shells were wasted. But the next moment brought the avenging answer; lightning after lightning darted toward the two boats, the powder magazines exploded and the dreaded giants were wrecks, sinking. A few minutes later the boats were gone, leaving a mass of floating debris and dead men.

The Count von Werdenstein looked at the scene helplessly. For the first time in his life he realized how puny he was.

He looked for the eagle, but it had disappeared. Boats were put out at once to rescue those who had not been killed by the explosions; but the experiences of that day had spread terror over the whole fleet and the effect was demoralizing.

The Count von Werdenstein ordered all the commanders to gather at the flagship, for he felt that he had to decide on some action. He paced the bridge of the Brigitta. The navy and army under his command, that he had thought great enough to conquer the whole world, had been defeated by a single man.

When the council of war began the count stood to talk, but before he said a word a message from one of the transport boats was handed him. It read:

"We can see the other boats toward the east, but we cannot communicate with them. They are trying to reach us, but can make no progress. Please send orders."

### CHAPTER XI.

#### Astra and Rositta.

The excitement caused by Napoleon's encounter with the enemy was indescribable. The automatic electro-stylograph on board the American Eagle had recorded the action of the fleet and had made a copy of the count's answer to America's desires. The attack on the aerodrome was shown and the subsequent destruction of the monoplanes. Napoleon Edison's name was in large print on every board. The Hourly Stylograph said "God bless our deliverer!" The American's comment was "The hero of America." He was compared to Washington, to Lincoln and many other great American patriots. His name was on the lips of every citizen.

No one watched the heliograph with such interest and none prayed for Napoleon's success more sincerely than Astra as she sat in her library with the Countess Rosita.

Astra's kindness toward the countess had not soothed the pain she suffered. She would have preferred a dungeon of ancient times, where she could rave at her and curse her, but she was a secret service agent, and had early learned the art of concealing her feelings.

With passion burning in her heart she was able to respond gracefully to Astra. Even while she watched the conflict of the American Eagle and the European fleet she was scheming. She lived for intrigue. Her soul craved the excitement of battling minds. She considered herself still in the employ of the Count von Werdenstein, so she planned as she thought the count would have demanded.

Santos Duprel came to report the events of the day at the Z ray station, and to put before Astra suggestions for further defense. Napoleon could not come personally, so he sent his trusted assistant.

He was admitted to the library where the countess sat. Santos Duprel was a pleasant individual, having, as most fat men, a keen sense of humor. He greeted the two beautiful women with a broad smile.

When Rositta retired to the rooms that had been assigned her she sat



The Once Armored Monoplane Was Shattered into a Thousand Bits.

for a long time motionless, mulling a plan for the benefit of the Count von Werdenstein.

Astra was still at work in the library, completing preparations for the following day's duties as she closed her desk a sigh, a prayer left her lips: "God save our country, and shield Napoleon."

The next morning the admiral of the united navies of America received orders to sail with the fleet toward the east in a broad line; they arrived at the isolation and could see hundreds of men-of-war before them, flying the flags of almost every European nation, but no sound penetrated the invisible ray that stretched before them.

The Count von Werdenstein was in despair. He and all his boats had

been imprisoned between two Z rays for a week. He had held councils of war and the quickest boats and air craft were sent out to break through the lines of resistance. He was ready to retire to Europe.

The word retreat did not seem so shameful as it had.

They had not seen the eagle during this time, but the arrival of the obsolete men-of-war told the count that some preparation had been made by his enemy to end this terrible state of affairs.

The eagle's appearance was reported early one morning. It came majestically sliding downward from a great height, flying the beautiful tricolor flag of liberty. This time Santos was at the wheel. Napoleon and a woman stood behind him.

The bird flew directly to the flagship. Not even the flag of truce was shown. When it reached the Brigitta the eagle dropped down toward the count, who stood on the bridge. His face was pale and carworn, and his eyes spoke of many sleepless nights.

"Brigitta, ahoy!" shouted Napoleon through the speaking tube. "A message for the commander." He dropped a large sealed letter at the count's feet. The eagle then turned and disappeared in the clouds toward the west.

Thought and care had been put into the message. It was a great document in itself, but its greatest beauty was in its expression of brotherly love, in its magnanimity in extending mercy to the enemy.

Rositta was present when that document was read finally. She was one of the last to touch it before it was carefully wrapped in the silk covers; it was she who placed the great seal on the imposing envelope.

The count took the message and retired into his cabin, where nobody dared disturb him. He cut the envelope, unfolded the silk wrapping and began to read. It was a long, concise resume of the present state of affairs; the chancellor was touched by the kindness of his enemies. Notwithstanding the degrading defeat, he knew now that the loss would not be as great as he feared.

The document decided upon the following:

1. The whole navy of the confederate Europe might shall be delivered into the hands of Admiral John Earle, the American commander, who will see that all men and officers are safely returned to European ports.

2. The war vessels shall be the property of the United Republics of America, in consideration of which the said United Republics of America will pay a sum of money to be decided upon; however, not less than one-third of the actual value involved.

3. The European armies shall be immediately disbanded and the men in service shall be returned to their homes.

4. No other force, save for policing and a number of bodyguards for the reigning rulers, shall be allowed to exist in any of the countries. The United Republics of America will see that this item, in particular, is enforced.

5. The United Republics of America will open its ports to all foreign commerce, will give free entrance to all European products, and also insure free exportation into Europe for American products.

6. The oriental foes on the eastern hemisphere will be treated with when a final settlement is agreed upon, but until that time the isolation in Pacific waters will be maintained.

7. Peace shall reign over the earth; national differences shall be settled before an international committee that will make its headquarters in Washington, the capital of the United Republics of America.

8. Any further points that may arise in the course of events will be decided upon after the final settlement with the rulers of all the countries.

When the count turned over the last page a tiny slip of paper fell to the floor. He picked it up and glanced at the words that were written and not typed, as was the rest of the message. It was a writing that he knew well.

"Don't hesitate! Accept the treaty! The future rests in the aerodrome, the secret of which will be delivered to you, sooner or later. I have kept my contract; will talk of my reward when circumstances permit."

This was not signed, but it was not necessary.

"And I," murmured the count, after a moment, "I never thought of Rositta. What a wonderful, clever woman she is. But what will be her price? What is the difference," sighed the man who had suffered so much the last few days. "The next time we meet it will be in the air."

He regained his calmness, finished the paper and refolded it. He placed Rositta's message in his pocketbook.

Twenty-four hours were given for consideration. He called his admirals together at four o'clock that afternoon. The council sat until late that night. When the admirals and captains left for their respective boats they were depressed. The world seemed to have reached the millennium.

One thing they were certain of. That was that they did not know how they would earn a living when released from military duty.

When Napoleon came for the answer, he received the original document signed by the commander in chief and all the commanders of the respective nations of the European confederacy.

When the American Eagle appeared for the first time above the capital its mission was to announce that peace on earth would be established.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

### Her Work Undone.

After a woman has spent twenty years trying to make a man of her son, along comes another woman who proceeds to make a fool of him in twenty minutes.

### Fine Laces Within Reach of All



Who wouldn't undertake to own a pretty bodice and gown when both can be made for about two dollars and a half expenditure? Since manufacturers of lace have said goodbye to the old hand-made patterns and have turned their attention to the original designs that can be made by machinery, we have a new order of the finest and most exquisite laces that cost hardly more than fine, plain cotton fabrics. This adaptation of design to mechanical workmanship has done wonders in putting pretty things within the reach of even women.

These laces are woven in wide flouncings as well as narrow edgings and can be used like any other thin material. They have made a tremendous advance in popularity this season. The cheaper varieties of machine-made laces are not specially durable, but they are not intended for garments demanding durability. But with a modest outlay one can buy the German Val and better grades of shadow lace and be sure of their wearing qualities. It is lauding that is hard on flimsy lace. It is so easily done that garments made with lace trimmings should never be sent to a

laundry but done at home. No starching, no blueing is necessary. They are washed as other laces are washed by hand.

The pretty nainsook bodice gown shown here is made up with sleeves and trimmings of the least expensive shadow lace which sells from twenty-five to forty cents a yard. About two and a half yards of it provide for the sleeves, trimmings and lace strips in the cap. Five yards of ribbon an inch wide is needed and two yards of baby ribbon. A yard of net ruffling for the cap and five yards of a very narrow lace edging in one of the simple Cluny patterns for the gown are needed. Four yards of nainsook will be an ample allowance for the body of the gown. It is easy enough to figure that this bewitching little outfit can hardly be called an extravagance by any one.

The same design can be worked out in wash silks and more durable laces of it is not necessary to practice strict economy. Even in these materials so much prettiness can hardly be achieved at so small an outlay of money, in any other way.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

### SMART FALL GOWN.



Model of brown and white striped wool cloth with collar, vest and belt of brown poplin.

### Chiffon Motor Bonnet.

Among the attractive new automobile caps is one of two thicknesses of chiffon, made like a sunbonnet. The chiffon is green and blue and is shirred over a wire frame which fits closely about the head and flares out over the face. The inside of the bonnet is blue and the outside is green.

Raffia is also used for automobile bonnets. A prettily patterned cap is woven of colored straws and is mounted over a shirred foundation of colored silk. A frill of the silk about the face and neck softens the effect of the raffia. A silk chin string fastens at one side under a bunch of artificial flowers.

### PLEASE HIM WITHOUT FUSS

Not Hard to Put Some Dainty Handwork on the Front of Husband's or Brother's Silk Shirt.

A man doesn't like "fussy" things, but he'll appreciate a bit of handwork on the front of his silk shirt. Ask him! No, don't—surprise him!

If you are afraid that you can't make the shirt entire, buy one from his haberdasher. The material best suited for the purpose is striped—colored stripes about an inch apart on a white ground—so be sure that you get his favorite color. Most men are fond of lavender. Now stamp in the center of the white ground between the colored stripes, about two inches apart, tiny designs not larger than a ten-cent piece down the front. There is a tiny round five-petaled flower without foliage or stem and with a solid dot to fill the center space where the petals meet that is easily drawn or stamped by even the novice, and looks well. If preferred, one can use the more difficult bowknot or fleur-de-lis. Find the designs well and work them in white silk floss. Floss the color of the stripes may be used, but it is rather conspicuous. There is a quiet elegance about the white on a white ground that most men would prefer. It is necessary to embroider only that part which shows when the coat is unfastened. Of course, a hand-embroidered monogram upon the left sleeve pleases the wearer still more.—Philadelphia North American.

### New Sashes.

To the invention of new sashes there seems no end. These long lengths of supple material are an absolute rage in Paris, and they are worn by women and girls of all ages.

Some of the newest sashes are tied directly in front, in a large, full bow; others are tied at the side rather low down; others, again, are wound round the hips in Fatima fashion and simply knotted at the back.

All the art shades of blue are in demand for these sashes, especially the blue known as Madonna.

For wearing with pure white dresses we find smart sashes of printed gauze, which exploit various shades of red intermingled with touches of black and deep blue. Almost all the sashes of this season are fringed in order that they may fall heavily.

### Gathered Skirts.

All smart skirts now are gathered at the back of the waistline, and the plain, close-fitting skirt—at this point—is distinctly out of the running. Of course, the fullness is between the waistline and hip only, for below the hips the garment must cling closely to the figure.

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Man in the Case, Probably. Alice—"I think Kitty's new hat is simply a fright." Marie—"Isn't it I helped her to select it."—Boston Transcript.

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