

The Winterdyne Ghost

BY ALLENA AUDLEY.

CHAPTER V

From New York Weekly:

Sir Hugh had thrown himself down on a couch without undressing, and was in a sound sleep, when something stirring in the room awoke him.

He raised himself on his elbow, and looked around. Yes, there it was, the ghost of Winterdyne, who had twice brought him warning of his wife's unfaithfulness; had twice left a three-cornered note on his bureau, written in a cramped almost illegible hand, accusing Lady Blanche of being secretly in love with her cousin Ralph, to whom she had been engaged before her marriage.

See, the face was turned away, but the snow white robes swept up close to the table, and he saw the oddly shaped note drop from a ghostly hand.

Slowly the figure turned, and would have passed again through the half-open door had not Sir Hugh at that moment sprang to his feet and pursued it.

The door unheeded had swung together.

That night, from some unaccountable impulse, Sir Hugh had opened a window looking out into the road, which had not been open for months before. The shutters were flung wide open, and the window, which opened in the middle like a door, was partly unclosed.

Right on, in the terror of the moment, in the horror of being discovered, the frightened creature ran on to the open window.

It was dark, and Sir Hugh could never tell just how it happened—the white figure had stepped through that open window.

There was a quick uplifting of shadowy hands, a vain clutch at empty air, a wail of despair, and the tragedy was ended.

A heap of white garments on the stone walk and the figure of a woman flying up the avenue of leafless trees was what Sir Hugh saw when he reached the window.

Lady Blanche had made her escape and came home through the starless night to see that mad leap to death.

Half frozen with horror, the reunited husband and wife looked on the face of the dead. But the secret Sir Hugh had read that night in eyes that would never open again he kept to himself.

The whole household knew that the ghost was Miss Gilroy, but they thought, as did every one else except Lady Blanche, that she had walked in her sleep to meet death.

From New York Weekly:

Gentleman (on railway train)—"Parden me, madam; is this seat beside you engaged?"

Lady (coldly)—"I presume I can remove my satchel and bundles and make room; but the three seats behind me are entirely unoccupied."

Gentleman—"Yes madam. Your open window is in front of them."

Bilkins—"I'm going to lav in my stock of winter coal right off before it goes up."

Mrs. B.—"What will put the price up this weather?"

"The big strike, of course."

"Is their going to be a strike?"

"Certainly."

"How do you know?"

"Because there isn't any going on now."

Policeman—"I don't see how a little woman like you could succeed in capturing and holding a big burglar like that."

Little Woman (weakly)—"It was dark and I—I thought it was my husband trying to— to elope with the servant-girl."

Mrs. Brickrow (after the annual moving)—"The family who last lived in this house left it in a perfectly horrible condition."

Mr. Brickrow—"The agent told me it had stood empty ever since we lived in it before."

City Editor—"The street is all excitement. An electric light wire has blocked traffic, and no one knows whether it is a live wire or not."

Editor—"Detail two reporters to go to the wire immediately—one to feel of it and the other to write up the result."

Mrs. Degree—"How did you manage to get home so early to-night? You said there were to be a number of entiations."

Mr. Degree (prominent Mason)—"The entiations had to be postponed. All the regalia, draperies, etc., had mysteriously disappeared."

"Aha! Now I've found out all about you Masons. So its true after all, and you said it wasn't."

"What's true?"

"You keep a goat."

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