# IDLE ISLAND

#### STORY FROM THE START

On the verge of nervous col-lapse, due to overwork, Gay De-lane, successful New York artist, seeks rest at Idle Island. She seeks rest at Idle Island. She rents a cottage, the "Lone Pine," from an Island character, the "Captain," and his sister, Alice "Captain," and his sister, after Andover, "administrator." Gay finds the cottage is tenanted by an elderly lady, "Auntalmiry," who consents to move to another abode, the "Apple Tree." On an exploration of the island Gay, standing on the seashore, is hor-rified by the appearance of the drifting body of a drowned man, drifting body of a drowned man, which she nerves berself to bring to the shore. A bullet wound in the temple shows the man to have been murdered Gay makes her way to the "Captain" with the story. Returning with him to the shore, they find no body there, and Gay's story of the incident is set down to an attack of "nerves." Gay, unable to convince her neighbors of the truth, draws a picture of the truth, draws a picture of the face of the dead man, intending to send it to the authorities. She to send it to the authorities. She meets a stranger, to whom she tells the story and shows the picture. He asks her to let him take it, but Gay refuses. Next day Gay finds the picture has been taken from the cottage. "Rand" Wallace, wanderer, and considered something of a "black wheer", by the fellowers. by the Islanders, sur prises Gay at household tasks. Gay's acquaintance with Rand ripens into affection. Rand leaves the island on business. Gay de termines to stay for the winter. The stranger whom Guy had met the day of her discovery of the body introduces himself as Ron-ald ingram. "Auntalmiry" tells Gay of her son, "Buddy," who has been missing for years. Rand is suspicious of Ronald In

#### CHAPTER VI-Continued

"I was nervous that night-anybody would be! At dusk I was all jumpy nerves, hearing noises, seeing shadows. So I went down and stayed all night with Auntalmiry .- Rand, I was in bed, and when she raised the blinds on this side of the house, toward the hill, you know, she said, 'Oh, you left the lights on.' I didn't, because I went down before dark. So I went over and looked, and there was a light in the window; now it showed, now it faded, pale and misty, not And, Rand, I swear on my word of honor, that we saw-we both saw-a hand reach out from the darkness into the light, a hand long and slim, like his .- And then the light went out, and the band was gone.

Rand tapped his fingers thoughtfully upon her arm, his eyes dark, brows contracted. His lips were curiously pursed and rigid.

"And this is the strangest thing of all. When I came back the blinds were all down, though I was sure I had left them up. And, Rand, the sketch I had made of the body in the cove was gone."

Rand stared at her a moment, in-

cent! You gullible! You "You inno New York!" be shouted. "All that. laid right out before you like two and two, and you couldn't plece it together, and see what was going on." Gay's lips parted wonderingly. It was curlous of course, but she remained as she had been before, entirely puzzled.

Then his mood changed. He pulled her arm roughly. "What do you mean," he demanded botly, "keeping all this from me? What do you mean. staying in this house alone, with that gang of murderers hanging around. watching your every move, spying on you-"

"Rand!" "Get your hat," he commanded, "get your hat and come with me. You'll have to stay with us. What do you mean, doing such things?"

Gay fell into his arms with choking laughter. "You darling," she said, "How adorable to have you order me about like that. But of course I shall do no such thing. I don't hold to obedience!"

Rand's implicit and troubled acceptance of her somewhat lurid story was sweet solace to Gay's sensitive nature, which had long grieved at the misunderstanding, levity and flagrant suspicions with which she was surrounded. But while she was pleased, she laughed at his serious view of the matter. Whatever of intrigue, cause for fear, had been on the Island, It was now buried in the past. The self-conscious flush that rose to her cheeks when Rand wondered at Ronald Ingram's repeated appearance was sufficient explanation.

You must keep out of the forest, I don't like that Chink prowling about, and I'm going to find out what he is up to. You keep out of the forest, and keep your doors tocked. Keep the Baby in good shape. Don't be afrald to shoot. If you hear a noise, grab it and fire into the air. He opened the drawer, and took out the pistol, to emphasize what he said "No man expects a woman to hit what she shoots at, but a nervous woman is apt to shoot anywhere. So shoot, every chance you get, at every shadow. at every sound .- For heaven's sake Gay, this is no protection to you If you don't keep it tonded."

"It is loaded," she said indignantly. "I always keep it loaded. I know an in perpetual darkness-anything but empty gun is-"

disclosed its empty chambers. Gay's bare possibility the doctor may be a lers of this kind very much depends Hips parted, closed firmly, parted few million years off in his calcula on who the lovee and laughee happens self.

# By ETHEL HUESTON

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Rand took cartridges from the box | upon her sentiment, and the Captain and filled it grimly. "I'll keep an eye on it for you," he said. "You shot them out weeks ago, the last time we went to the shore. And bragging about the protection of the Baby!"

Gay closed her lips firmly and said nothing. But she knew she had not emptied that pistol at target practice. On the afternoon of the day just previous, she had affectionately cleaned and polished the Baby, and loaded every chamber. Some other hand, not hers, had emptled that barrel.

#### CHAPTER VII

One day, toward the end of the month, when Rand had gone to the city by the early boat and was not present to witness the abjectness of her surrender to his love, Gay went bravely up to the Captain's door and told him she was still too ill and weak to return to the stress of the city; she felt it the part of wisdom to remain in the Lone Pine through October.

The Captain scratched the thin line of gray hair that outlined his furrowed brow.

"I allus put up the storm windows on the summer houses come October first," he said vaguely. "Not the Lone Pine, not this year," she cried gayly. "You will have to

"At Dusk I Was All Jumpy Nerves."

wait until November. You wouldn't shut me up behind storm windows, would you?"

"But I allus do put them up come first of October," he persisted. Then Alice Andover breezed in,

smiling good cheer, a little out of

"I saw you coming up the hill," she said. "I suppose you are off to Broadway, like all our summer Birds of Paradise. It is only we drab and somber native sparrows who brave

the Island winters." When Gay explained that she wished to continue another month Alice Andover fairly radiated satisfaction. "You will love the Island in October, my dear. The summer colony is nice, yes, but the island without them is a different place, a dearer place-not so gay, but finer. A little heaven, a little paradise. We settle down. We have time for things. We talk, we live, we have leisure for thought, for feeling; after the hectic summer we draw a deep breath." And sulting the action to the word, she

chuckled slyly before he took advantage of the moment to interpolate plaintively:

"But I allus do put up the storm windows on the summer houses come October first."

And on the morning of October first, Gay, wakening early, was conscious of a confusion of sounds upon her hilltop, a sound of trundling, a sound of thudding, muffled swearing in a high-pitched, gentle, unprofane little She wrapped herself in a heavy robe and ran down. The Captain stood by the plazza carefully unloading from his rickety wheelbarrow the huge wooden frames to protect the windows from the winter storms. a difficult matter for the little frail old man, so that he accompanied his efforts with panting gusts of breathlessness, and much gentle profanity. "Captain- Why-what in the

"First of October, Gay. I allus put the storm windows up come October first. Looks some like a big nor easter beadin' in. Think?"

He looked persistently away from her, down the peaceful smiling little valley, its profusion of harvest apples festooned with silver cobwebs. A nor'easter!

She flew into her clothes, down the hill and up the lane to Mrs. Andover's, "See here," she shouted; "come quickly. He's putting up the storm

windows. "My dear! He's not! He wouldn't

dare!" "You just tell him I said-" "I shall tell him nothing. You're the administrator. You must come

yourself." Alice Andover sighed resignedly. Well, I'll come then. If anybody thinks it's any pleasure to be the administrator for an old fool that tries to run good tenants out of his own houses- Well, come on, then."

Not one word passed between them as they made their way swiftly down the lane and up the bill slope.

"John," Alice Andover began with icy coldness, "will you kindly tell me who is the administrator of this estate?"

John removed a rusty na!! from his mouth. "You are, Alice," he said. fitting it carefully into a hole in the frame, "but I'm the one that puts up the storm windows." Bang, bang.

went the hammer as he spoke. Alice Andover wavered uncertainly flushed with anger, but clung to the shreds of her dignity. "John-John Christian Wallace-do you hear me?" John banged another nail into the

frame. "Yes, Alice, God help me, hear you." he answered gently. Gay looked around her, far and wide-at the shivery little forest of spruce and birch, whispering hope, at the orchard in its autumn gold below. at the little cottage on its rocky perch a lookout over land and sea. She looked, and thought of Rand. A little

"Isn't the cottage for sale? How much do you want for it? Perhaps I'll buy it."

thrill tugged at her heart. She could

"My dear! How lovely that is. The dear little cottage. How happy you are going to be.-John," severely, "do you hear? She is going to buy the cottage." The Captain smiled amiably, drop-

ping his nails back into the bag. "Reckon you won't want these storm windows up then, will ye? Shall I store 'em in the cellar for ye?"

When Gay swung up the hill slope that afternoon, joyous in complete ownership, she saw Rand sitting on breathed so deeply she quite choked the plazza step. Her eyes were shin-

# 

# Moliere Unhappy in His Choice of Mate

was for a long time in love with Madeleine Bejart, who had accompanied hlm on his provincial tours, but when he married his bride was Armande, a younger sister of Madeleine.

Armande was twenty years old and Mollere was forty. She was an actress like her sister, and while she was fascinating she was not exactly beautiful. Though it is difficult to get at the truth of Moliere's married life, it is known that Mollere was not very happy. Undoubtedly his wife aroused his jealousy by her eagerness for admiration and her enjoyment of flirtations. But whether he had deep reason for jealousy, it is impossible to be sure. though many biographers have attacked Armande's character. Three children were born, but Moliere and his wife failed to get on well together and

#### Predicts Earth Will Stop

If the earth continues to slow up in its rotation, Doctor Crommelin, English astronomer, says it will cease to rotate in a "few millions of years." owing to the friction of the tides, according to Capper's Weekly. When that happens one-half of the world will be in sunshine and the other balf a pleasant situation. But that needn't Rand broke open the barret, and bother us now. Besides, there is a

Moliere, the great French dramatist, | finally they separated. They were reunited, however, shortly before the dramatist's death. The night of February 17, 1673, he struggled through a performance at the theater and then was sent home desperately ill. Before his wife could reach his bedside he was dead .- Detroit News.

### Frozen Eye Glasses

Optical glasses cannot be cut unless fixed immovably. To this end they are glued to iron frames of different sizes and various shapes. Until recently, when finished the plates of glass have been knocked from the frames with a light mallet, cautiously struck upon the edges of the plates. The work was hard and as the least shiver of the edge, though inperceptible, disqualified the lens, the work man needed a very light, skillful hand. The discovery was made by an expert optician that the blocks of crystal separated more easily when they had been exposed to the cold during the night. This discovery has effected a revolution in the manufacture of special glasses.

#### Good Advice

"Love, laugh and live longer," advises one of the Polyanna syndicate sisters. Not a few men have loved. laughed and lived shorter. In matto be. - Thrift Magazine.

ing as she told him of her acquire-

"You do love me," he said in a low voice, and kissed her.

Gay in her triumph, she led him, proudly, all over the cottage, exulting in its charms. It was hers, the home of her love, her cleft in the rocks, her bit of bare ocean, her rift of forest. Hers, all hers, and for love. She belonged to it, it belonged to her, and both alike for Rand.

"But don't you realize, Gay," he said soberly, when they sat quiet, side by side, at last, "that you will not be happy here for long? It is because it is temporary that it is dear to you. You love me, and you love this place, because you can get away from us whenever you like. Tying you down to it will be the end of everything."

"That is the beauty of it, Rand. 1 shall not be tied down. This is my home, but I shall lock my door and run away to the city whenever my mood, or my work, suggests it. I shall stay away as long as I like, and then come home again with joy."

"But when you cease to love me you will cease to love this."

"But as long as I am free in my love, I shall never cease. It is only when love ties people down, restricts them, rules them, that they chafe at the chains .- Leave me free, Rand, as I shall leave you, and we shall go on and on all our lives, in love and happy."

Auntalmiry's pleasure in Gay's re maining was unalloyed, for she loved the girl, and Alice Andover had already asked her to remain in the Apple Tree during the winter, so she felt no disappointment on that score.

"It will be nice to have my little neighbor on top-of the hill," she said pleasantly. "I like the Apple Tree better anyway. It was only for the Christmas party that I came up here. -I always have a Christmas party for the island," she explained to Gay.

Gay offered the use of the Lone Pine for the event, but Aunt Almiry shook her head. She said it would not seem like her party, if she had it anywhere else. She wanted it all hers. It was her only festivity during the year. "Who knows but this may be my last," she finished cheerfully.

When she had gone, Alice Andover asked Gay why she had not, as she requested, told her she could have no Christmas party.

"Why didn't you tell her yourself?" Gay retorted.

"Well," said the administrator cravenly, "I'd rather have you tell her. I think she would take it better from a stranger. I know her too well. You tell her, first chance you get. But tell her when I'm not there."

Every day after that, Auntalmiry talked of her Christmas party, made her plans, and it was not in Gay's kind heart to crush her hope with the sad word. So at last Alice Andover herself was driven to it, as they sat. all three, in Gay's living room before her cheery fire.

"Auntalmiry, John and I decided that you can't have any Christmas party this year.

Anntalmiry did not understand, answered with a vaguely troubled smile. "What say, Alice? What say?"

"Auntalmiry, you hear what I say You can't have a Christmas party. It costs too much, and it's too much work. Last year you nearly worked yourself into pneumonia, and nearly died, giving that Christmas party. And those little rascals don't need a party: they-"

"But I need it," the small voice was suddenly protesting, plaintive. "Alice. I need it. Seems like I just live for that Christmas party, from year to It's the only recreation ! year.

"Recreation, nonsense. Call it recreation working yourself to skin and bone to give half the Island indigestion eating candy and nuts! Recrea tion to make bags, make presents clutter up the house with trash .- You hear me now, you can't have it."

Auntalmiry was silenced. The little frozen smile settled more grimly upon her face, her little birdlike tingers twisted nervously together. Very soon she said she must go now, and went out, stumbling a little. She was very old. Gay and Alice Andover watched in silence as she made her way down the slope to the Apple

"Afford it," Alice Andover sepeated bitterly, when the door closed behind her. "Afford it. Who do you suppose pays for her Christmas party? John does, I do, both of us pay, but mostly me, for I am the administrator. She hasn't any money. She hasn't had any money for twenty-five years. Afford it .- But it's not the money. It's the work. She begins three months ahead- Oh, she's at It already, working her fingers to the raw bone, getting ready for Christmas-I know her Sewing. Making things. Planning tokes, and presents .- And tast year she was in bed three weeks afterward. and nearly died with pneumonia. She's too old. She works like a slave for it, gets thin, gets pale.-Why, the way she works for that Christmas party, she could almost earn her own living .- If she had to," she added apologetically. "Nobody wants her to earn a living, of course."

Much to Gay's surprise, she found that Rand was not always available For one so indolent, on an Island w idle, he found an inconceivable nem ber of things with which to busy him

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Improved Uniform International

# Lesson '

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (©, 1928, Western Newspaper Union.)

#### Lesson for April 8

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST (EASTER LESSON)

LESSON TEXT-Mark 16:1-20. GOLDEN TEXT-Because I live ye shall live also.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Comes to

Life Again.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Christ Rises from the Grave.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jesus, Our Living Leader.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOP-IC—The Power of the Resurrection.

1. The Ministry of Love (vv. 1-4). 1. By whom (v. 1). Mary Magdalene, the mother of James and Salome. They brought sweet spices with which to anoint Him.

2. When? (v. 2). Early in the morning of the first day of the week. 3. Their perplexity (vv. 3, 4). They questioned as to who should roll away the large stone from the mouth of the tomb. To their surprise they found the stone removed.

II. The Angel in the Tomb (vv. 5-8). Jesus knew that these women would come to the sepulcher with perplexed and unbelieving hearts so He had an angel waiting there to announce to them the fact of His resurrection. Note the angel's message: 1. "Be not afraid" (v. 6).

2. "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified" (v. 6). This threefold designation with marvelous clearness shows (1) His humanity-Jesus, (2) Lowly residence-Nazareth. (3) Ignominious death-crucified.

3. "He is risen; He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him" (v. 6). These words throw light upen His birth, humility and shameful death. He who was born in lowly circumstances and suffered the shameful death on the cross, is now the conqueror of death. His resurrection gives meaning to His death. "If Christ be not risen your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins" (I Cor.

4. "Go your way, tell His disciples and Peter" (v. 7). As soon as it was known that Christ was risen from the dead they were to tell it to the disciples. The disciples all needed this blessed news, but Peter especially, since He had utterly denied Him.

5. "He goeth before you into Galilee, there shall ye see Him" (v. 7). Christ had told the disciples that He would rise from the dead and meet them in Galilee, but their unbelief kept them from this blessed truth. III. The Appearances of the Risen

Christ (vv. 9-14).

These appearances had as their object the restoration of the disciples from their awful failure and discouragement and convincing them without a peradventure of a doubt of Christ's resurrection. Since His resurrection was to be the central theme of apostolic preaching, it was necessary that they have knowledge as to this matter (Acts 1:3). Without the resurrection of Christ His death would be meaningless. Out of the ten or more appearances. Mark selects three,

1. To Mary Magdalene (vv. 9-11). Mary's heart responded to the Savior who had graciously delivered her from demons. Her sufferings were no doubt terrible. She was first at the tomb; her devotion was amply rewarded by being first to meet the risen Lord. Though her faith was weak she went at once and told the story to the disciples.

2. To two disciples on the way to Emmaus (vv. 12, 13). Luke gives full particulars concerning this appearance (Luke 24:13-25). Jesus had walked, talked and eaten with them. 3. The eleven disciples (v. 14). Christ appeared to them while sitting at meat and reproved them for their

unbelief. The fact that they steadfastly resisted the testimony that Christ had risen, and yet afterward were willing to risk their lives in the proclamation of this truth proves the genuineness of their faith. IV. The Commission of the Risen

Lord (vv. 15-18). After the disciples were convinced

of the truth of His resurrection, Christ sent them forth to "preach the gospel to every creature." What a glorious and supreme task is this. What a blessed issue to those who believe and how awful to them that believe not. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (v. 16). V. The Activity of the Enthroned

Christ (vv. 19, 20). After giving the disciples their commission He ascended on high

and from the unseen sphere directed their activities. Wherever they went He confirmed their word. He does the same for His disciples today.

#### Our Thoughts

We should manage our thoughts as shepherds do their flowers in making a garland; first, select the choicest. and then dispose them in the most proper places, that every one may reflect a part of its color and brightness on the next .- Samuel Taylor Cole-

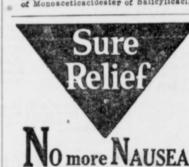
#### The Presence of God

Man is more blessed or less blessed in the same measure as he is aware of the presence of God .- John Tauler.



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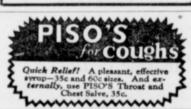


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# For Galled Horses Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh



Lacked Support

Father-Here's a C in your report again, in spite of your getting help at home all this term.

Young Son-That's hardly fair, pop. That C's only in deportment, an' you didn't give me any help in that.-Stockholm Kasper.

#### Why Dog Flees "It's a wonder Mrs. Axelfritz

doesn't understand why her dog doesn't like to sit on her lap while she eats," observed Grandma Matson, "No self-respectin' dog likes to be used for a napkin."-Farm and Fireside.

#### A physician who reaches out to

humanity leaves a record behind him that is worth while a man was Dr. R. V. Pierce.

A Benefactor



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