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# The Vanishing Men

BY **RICHARD WASHBURN CHILD**

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(Continued From Last Week)

He stretched out upon the sofa, bent and sagged by years of pressure of the fox-hunting banker's solid weight, and closed his eyes.

Muriel, who had drawn up a stool, sat down upon it, staring into the firelight. There in the study behind the heavy door, which she had closed the two seemed suddenly very remote.

"I had a wonderful time—this afternoon," she said in a tense and trembling voice which made a struggle to appear normal.

"Good!" said DeWolfe.

Her hand moved timidly forth and her soft fingers touched his forehead.

bringing to his lips. Peter closed his eyes. She leaned over softly and with a little cry hardly audible pressed her lips to his.

He knew what had happened—the real Muriel had come up through layer on layer of tradition, training, pride, habit, restraint. He only was confused by his own stupidity in allowing this to happen.

He sprang up.

"I never did that before. I never by any one," she said, clasping her hands.

"Oh, I say, I'm sorry," he began.

"Sorry?" she said.

"Of course," he replied with unnecessary coldness. "Of course I'm sorry. I've allowed you to think—"

Muriel's eyes were wide and blazing. She threw her clasped hands apart until her wrists were outstretched to their utmost. The firelight was upon her face and Peter could see elementary passions enough upon it.

"You needn't say more," she almost screamed, so that suddenly Peter had a great distaste for the exposure of things he did not know had lived in her. "You needn't say more, because I know."

"Know?" said Peter in a low tone, as if inviting her to speak more quietly.

"Yes—know. It's her!" she said, pointing toward the hall where the deer's heads were hung. "I know it's my brother Everett. He told you about her. That's why you came. That's what you've been thinking about. My brother was a fool!"

Peter raised his hand.

"I kissed you and I'm glad," she went on furiously. "Yes, I am. I'm"

this rich New York bachelor drew a large and almost affectionate acquaintance, from following through his door to come down to the bar.

He was waiting for a steamer that had made up her mind frequently not to leave Liverpool for another five days. Two nights he had spent at ready in London where, if he had wished, he might have dined at at least one of half a dozen recognized homes, had luncheons with a Russian ex-ambassador or Tommy Caminthorn of the war office, or Boleby Broke, the critic of the National Gazette, or taken breakfast with Mrs. Holdrege Habb, the widow of a certain nabob's son who had gone wrong at Oxford. He had an inclination, however, to write verses and wander by himself through the naughty, jaded soldiers and yellow-haired girls in Leicester square and the Circus. He ate his meals in lonely state.

(To be continued next week.)

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the resident tax payers of Road District No. 47, Washington County, Oregon, is hereby called and will be held at Cooper Mountain School in said Road District No. 47, Washington County, Oregon, on the 6th day of November, 1925, at the hour of 8 o'clock P. M. of said day, to discuss the advisability of levying a special or additional road tax in said district, to determine what, if any county roads or portions thereof in said district shall be improved, in any special manner, and the character and extent of such improvement or improvements they shall make thereon, and to levy such special or additional tax, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar, on all taxable real and personal property in said road district, as a majority of such resident tax payers of said road district shall deem advisable for the purpose of raising money with which to defray the expense of such special improvement or improvements in said Road District No. 47, Washington County, Oregon.

Dated this 14th day of October, 1925.

E. J. Ward, County Judge.

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the resident tax payers of Road District No. 61, Washington County, Oregon, is hereby called and will be held at Huber Commercial Hall in said Road District No. 61, Washington County, Oregon, on the 7th day of November, 1925, at the hour of 7:30 o'clock P. M. of said day, to discuss the advisability of levying a special or additional road tax in said district, to determine what, if any county roads or portions thereof in said district shall be improved, in any special manner, and the character and extent of such improvement or improvements they shall make thereon, and to levy such special or additional tax, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar, on all taxable real and personal property in said road district, as a majority of such resident tax payers of said road district shall deem advisable for the purpose of raising money with which to defray the expense of such special improvement or improvements in said Road District No. 61, Washington County, Oregon.

Dated this 14th day of October, 1925.

E. J. Ward, County Judge.

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the resident tax payers of Road District No. 11, Washington County, Oregon, is hereby called and will be held at the Union Chapel in said Road District No. 11, Washington County, Oregon, on the 2nd day of November, 1925, at the hour of 2 o'clock P. M. of said day, to discuss the advisability of levying a special or additional road tax in said district, to determine what, if any county roads or portions thereof in said district shall be improved, in any special manner, and the character and extent of such improvement or improvements they shall make thereon, and to levy such special or additional tax, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar, on all taxable real and personal property in said road district, as a majority of such resident tax payers of said road district shall deem advisable for the purpose of raising money with which to defray the expense of such special improvement or improvements in said Road District No. 11, Washington County, Oregon.

Dated this 14th day of October, 1925.

E. J. Ward, County Judge.

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the resident tax payers of Road District No. 10, Washington County, Oregon, is hereby called, and will be held at the residence of F. M. Allen in said Road District No. 10, Washington County, Oregon, on the 7th day of November, 1925, at the hour of 1:00 o'clock P. M. of said day to discuss the advisability of levying a special or additional road tax in said district, to determine what, if any county roads or portions thereof in said district shall be improved, in any special manner, and the character and extent of such improvement or improvements they shall make thereon, and to levy such special or additional tax, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar, on all taxable real and personal property in said road district, as a majority of such resident tax payers of said road district shall deem advisable for the purpose of raising money with which to defray the expenses

of such special improvement any county roads or portions thereof in said district shall be improved, in any special manner, and the character and extent of such improvement or improvements they shall make thereon, and to levy such special or additional tax, not to exceed ten mills on the dollar, on all taxable real and personal property in said road district, as a majority of such resident tax payers of said road district shall deem advisable for the purpose of raising money with which to defray the expense of such special improvement or improvements in said Road District No. 26, Washington County, Oregon.

Dated this 14th day of October, 1925.

E. J. Ward, County Judge.

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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the resident tax payers of Road District No. 26, Washington County, Oregon, is hereby called and will be held at the Barnes School House in said Road District No. 26, Washington County, Oregon, on the 7th day of November, 1925, at the hour of 2 o'clock P. M. of said day, to discuss the advisability of levying a special or additional road tax in said district, to determine what, if

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**"I Kissed You and I'm Glad," She Went On Furiously.**

glad. It has brought out the truth. I never did it before. I'm glad. The truth."

"Yes," said Peter sternly. "It has brought out the truth."

"You came here to see her. I know. I guessed. I knew Eversley told you about her, but you never asked. And I knew why. I didn't want to know. I wanted—"

"I'm sorry," Peter said again. The girl came on several paces and leaned forward toward him.

"For God's sake, Peter, keep away from her. She might like you. Of course she'd like you. And if she liked you—"

"What do you mean?" he said.

"I know. I can't tell. It's a matter of honor, a matter of confidence—her confidence—something I learned. I wish I didn't know. But I warn you."

She moved toward the door.

"Wait a moment," he said.

"No. I want to go. I hate you now, Peter. Yes, I do. It has been awful, though. I never want to see you again. If you will only go while I hate you!"

"Of course," he said.

"But she is—"

Muriel stopped aghast.

"Well?" he asked.

"I can't tell you. But I warn you. It is too awful to believe. If she takes you in, you will—This is all I can tell."

"What?"

"Vanish," she whispered, "—like the others."

The door closed after her.

"Too late to go to London tonight," he said, looking at his watch. He listened for a moment. There was rain upon the window panes. "Vanish! Vanish—like the others? Oh, it's absurd. A piece of jealous outburst. Vanish? Nonsense!"

**CHAPTER III**

The name of Peter DeWolfe, U. S. A., was upon the register of the Carleton hotel, written in a hand purposely scrawled and blotched to prevent any one in the flux of diplomats, army officers, correspondents and gentlemen adventurers, the classes from which

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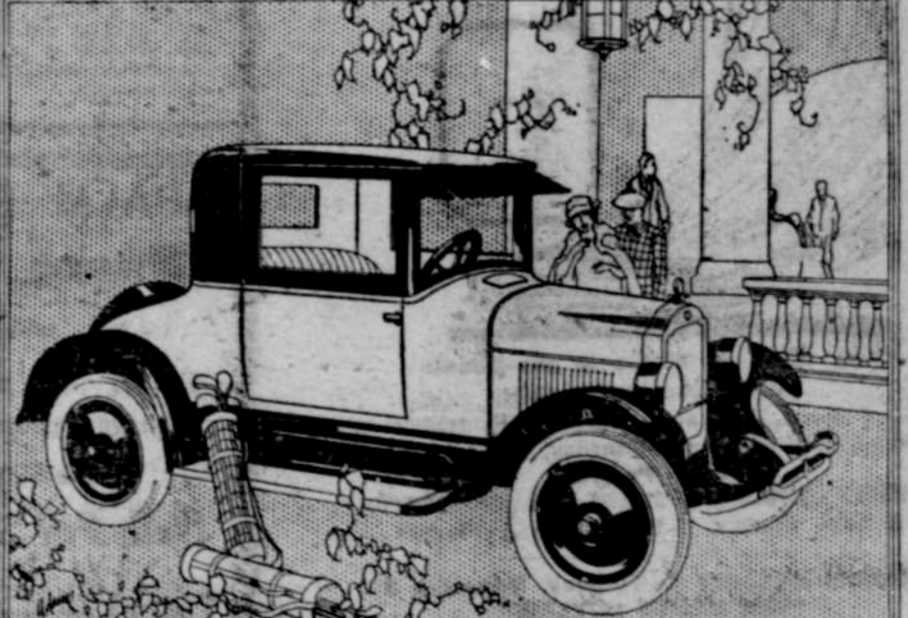
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