

# The Goose Girl

By HAROLD MacGRATH

Copyright, 1909, by the Bobbs-Merrill Company

## SYNOPSIS

Gretchen, a goose girl, meets a mysterious mountaineer and Carmichael, American consul in Dreiberg, Kingdom of Ehrenstein. Carmichael loves Princess Hildegarde.

Gretchen's lover is Leo, a vintner. The prince regent of Jugendheit sends Hildegarde an offer of marriage from King Frederick. The princess was abducted in infancy and later restored to her father, the grand duke.

Gretchen and Leo are to wed after the vintage. Hans Grumbach of America reaches Dreiberg.

Carmichael becomes fond of Grumbach, who admits he was born in Dreiberg. Hildegarde's betrothal is announced.

Chancellor Herbeck suspects Grumbach, who later tells Carmichael his real name is Breunner. He has a forged passport. King Frederick refuses to marry Hildegarde, who is pleased.

Gretchen takes a letter from a mysterious old woman to Hildegarde. This woman cared for Hildegarde when she was abducted.

Herbeck prevents the grand duke from declaring war on Jugendheit. Grumbach proves to have been one of the princess' abductors.

Leo, the vintner, escapes when the police raid a socialist meeting. Gretchen hears he is a spy from Jugendheit. The mountaineer shares his plan. Leo lays a trap for Carmichael.

The mountaineer defends Gretchen from insult and offers her a palace and jewels. She declines. An old clock mender is recognized by the mountaineer. Grumbach meets Hildegarde and is amazed by a locket she carries.

against her will is always at heart a coward," said the mountaineer.

The colonel seized the old man by the shoulder to push him aside. He put out one of his arms and clasped the colonel in such a manner that he gasped. He was in the clutch of a Carpathian bear.

"I will kill you for this!" "So?" The old man thrust him back several feet without any visible exertion. He let his staff slide into his hand.

The colonel drew his saber and lunged toward his assailant. The old man laughed. He turned the thrust with his staff. Then the old man struck back. The saber rattled to the stone flooring. The victor put his foot upon it.

On his part the colonel's blood suddenly cooled. "My sword," the colonel demanded.

"I could have broken it half a dozen times. Here, take it. But be wise in the future and draw it only in the right."

Outside the old man laid his hand on the colonel's arm.

"You must never bother her again. Listen. You are Colonel von Wallenstein; you are something more besides."

"What do you infer?" "I infer nothing. Now and then there happens strange leakage in the duke's affairs. The man is well paid. He is a gambler, and one is always reasonably certain that the gambler will be wanting money. Do you understand?"

"Who are you?" "Who I am is of no present consequence. But I know who and what you are. If you behave yourself you will be allowed to continue in prosperity. But if you attempt to molest that girl again there will be no more gold coming over the frontier from Jugendheit. Now do you understand?"

"Yes," weakly. "Go. But be advised and walk circumspectly."

The colonel, pale and distraught, saw in his mind's eye a squad of soldiers, a wall, a single volley and a dishonored roll of earth. Military informers were given short shrift. The colonel went to the barracks.

## CHAPTER X.

GRUMBACH PICKS UP A LOCKET. "I AM going into the garden, Gretchen. Bring me a stein of brown." The mountaineer smiled genially. "But I am not working here any more," said Gretchen.

"She has had a fortune left her," said Frau Bauer.

"Well, well!" The mountaineer seemed vastly pleased. "And how much is this fortune?"

"Two thousand crowns." Gretchen was not sure, but to her there always seemed to be a secret laughter behind those clear eyes.

"Handsome! And what will you do now?" "Study for the opera." The old man was jubilant. "Where were you going when this

popinjay stopped you?" he cried. "To the clock mender's." "I've nothing to do. I'll go with you. I've an idea that I should like to talk with you about a very important matter. Will you come into the garden with me now?"

"Yes, herr."

"So you are going to become a prima donna?" he began, seating himself opposite her on a chair in the garden.

"I am going to try," she smiled. "Have you any dreams? I mean the kind one has in the daytime—when the eyes are wide open."

"Oh, yes!"

"Who has not dreamed of riding in carriages, of dressing in silks, of wearing rich ornaments?"

"Ah!" Gretchen clasped her hands. "And there are palaces too."

"To be sure. How would you like a dream of this kind to come true?"

"Do they ever come true?"

"In this particular case I win a fairy. With one touch of my wand—this oak staff—I can bring you all these things you have dreamed about. How would you like a little palace, with servants at your beck and call, with carriages to ride in, with silks and velvets to wear and jewels to adorn your hair?"

A shadow fell upon her face.

"By what right should I possess these things?"

"By the supreme right of beauty—beauty alone!"

"Come, let us go for your clock," he said, rising. "I am an old fool."

Gretchen had gone home with her clock, but still Herr Ludwig, as the mountaineer called himself, tarried in the dim and musty shop.

"I've a watch I should like you to look over," he said to the clockmaker.

The clock mender literally pounced upon it. "Where did you get a watch like this?" he demanded suspiciously.

"It is mine. You will find my name engraved inside the back lid."

The clock mender tried open the case, adjusted his glass and dropped it, shaking with terror.

"So this is the end," the amazed watchmaker gasped, "of all my labors, to me and to what little I have left!"

"Fiddlesticks! I am here for no purpose regarding you, comrade. Your secret is as dead as it ever was."

"Gott! For seventeen, eighteen years I have traveled hither and thither, always on some false clue. Never a band of gypsies I heard of that I did not seek them out. Nothing, nothing! You will never know what I have gone through, and uselessly, to prove my innocence. What benefit to me would have been a crime like that of which I was accused? Was I not high in honor and wealth? What benefit to me, I say—all my estates confiscated, my wife dead of shame?"

"But why the clocks?" in wonder.

"It was a pastime of mine when I was a boy. I used to be tinkering

among all the clocks in the house. The grand duke has a wonderful Friesian clock. One day it fell out of order, and the court jeweler could do nothing with it. I was summoned—I! No one recognized me, I have changed so. I had begun to give up hope when the gypsy I was seeking was seen by one of my agents. He alone knows the secret. And I am waiting, waiting. But you believe, Ludwig?"

"Carl, you are innocent of it all. Come to Jugendheit."

"No, Ludwig; this is my country, however unjustly it has treated me."

"Yes, yes. But if your gypsy falls you?"

"Still I shall remain. I am only sixty-eight, yet no one would believe me under eighty. There were letters found in my desk, all forgeries. I fled to Paris. I wrote Herbeck once while there. He believed that I was innocent."

"He keeps a steady hand on the duke."

"But you—what are you doing in Dreiberg in this guise?"

"Well, once upon a time there lived a king. He was young. He had an uncle who watched over him and his affairs. This prince regent had an idea regarding the future welfare of this nephew. He would bring him up to be a man, well educated, broad minded and clean lived. The lad grew up clean in mind, strong in body, liberal, a fine prince. In his palace few saw anything of him after his fifteenth year. He went into the world under an assumed name. By and by he came home quietly. In one month he was to be coronated. And now what do you think? He must have one more adventure, just one. And one morning his uncle found him gone. Ah! The prince regent set it going that his majesty had gone a-hunting in Bavaria. Then the prince regent put on some old clothes and went a-venturing himself."

"And the end?"

"God knows," said Ludwig. "And fatuous fool that this uncle was. He tried to marry off his nephew."

"I understand. But if you are discovered here you will be harshly dealt with."

The other shrugged and picked up his watch. "Can I be of material assistance? No? Proud old imbecile!" said the mountaineer kindly. "You have been deeply wronged, but some day you will be right. I myself shall see what can be done with the duke."

"He will never be brought to reason unless indubitable evidence of my innocence confronts him. The place once occupied by my name is obliterated. I have given the best of my heart and of my brain to Ehrenstein—for this! I am innocent."

"I believe you, Carl. Remember, Jugendheit will always welcome you. I must be going."



"PROUD OLD IMBECILE!"

Carmichael walked his horse. This morning he had ridden out almost to the frontier and was now on his return.

No longer did Carmichael take the south pass for his morning rides. That was the favored going of her highness, and he avoided her now. In truth, he dared not meet her now: it would have been out of wisdom. She was to marry the king of Jugendheit; it was in the order of things that he ride alone.

The road to Elissen began about six miles north of the base of the Dreiberg mountain. It swerved to the east. As Carmichael reached the fork he heard the faroff mutter of hoofs. Coming along the road from Elissen were a trio of riders. Carmichael laughed weakly. Should he mount and be off before she made the turn? He waited.

She came in full flight, rosy, radiant, as lovely as Diana. With a short nod of her head she signaled for the two soldiers to fall back.

The two were embarrassed. The little cavalcade directed its course toward the city.

[To be Continued]

## School Books and School Supplies

We carry a complete stock of School Books and the most complete line of Tablets and Supplies in the city. Our prices are right.

BANDON DRUG CO.

## Settle It Now Settle It Right

For constitutional amendment giving to cities and towns exclusive power to license, regulate, control, suppress, or prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within the municipality.

328 X Yes

ENDORSED BY 40,000 OREGON CITIZENS

Greater Oregon Home Rule Association, 618 Electric Building, Portland, Oregon.

(Paid advertisement.)

look out for furniture bargains at our store, Now says little house-maid



your guests know what you have on the inside of your house. the right pieces of furniture in the right places. carpets, rugs, draperies and pictures that blend in coloring, are pleasing to the eye. if you're inexperienced, come to us—advise with us. parlor chairs, carpets, rugs and draperies -- sideboards, dining tables and chairs, dressers, chiffoniers, iron and brass beds. we are experts in dressing homes. the big store with the little prices. come to us. buy now. let us quote you some prices:-

- Fine Iron Beds at ..... \$3.75
- Nice Dressers ..... \$9.00
- Good Rockers ..... \$3.00
- Clothes Pins per dozen ..... 1c
- Art Squares, 9x12, from ..... \$6.50 to \$28.00
- The Best Stove in town for the money, at ..... \$38.00

Claude Woodruff, The House Furnisher, Bandon, Oregon

### BANK OF BANDON

BANDON OREGON  
Capital Stock \$50,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: J. L. Krausenberg, President, J. Denholm, Vice President, F. J. Fahy, Cashier, Frank Fian, T. P. Hanly.

A general banking business transacted and customers given every accommodation consistent with safe and conservative banking.

CORRESPONDENTS: The American National Bank, of San Francisco, Calif; Merchants National Bank, Portland, Oregon; The Chase National Bank, of New York.

### Home Bakery

1st Class, Bread, Cakes, Pies and Pastry OF ALL KINDS. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

A trial will convince you  
Opposite Trowbridge's Store  
CHAS. HERZIG, PROP.

### THE COQUILLE RIVER LINE

Strs. Fifield & Bandon

Twin Screw, New and Fast

1st Class Passage, - \$10.00 & \$7.50  
Up Freight, - 3.00

Our interests are your interests. Fair rates and good service our motto

A. F. Estabrook Co., 245 Cal. St., San Francisco  
L. L. BRANDENBURG, Agent, Bandon, Oregon

### SHIELDS & KENNEDY

BLACKSMITHS AND WAGONMAKERS

Wagons of All Kinds Made to Order Horseshoeing a Specialty

Job Work attended to promptly and all work guaranteed to give satisfaction. Prices reasonable. Shop on Atwater Street, Bandon, Oregon.

### S. S. ELIZABETH

NEW STATE-ROOMS INSTALLED

Eight Day Service Between the Coquille River and San Francisco

First Class Passenger Fare, - \$7.50  
Freight Rates, - \$3 on Up Freight

J. E. WALSTROM, Agent, Bandon, Oregon.  
E. & E. T. Kruse, owners and managers, 24 California St., San Francisco.

Fast and Commodious

### S. S. BREAKWATER

Leaves Portland (Ainsworth Dock) 8 p. m. every Tuesday.  
Leaves Coos Bay every Saturday at service of the tide.

Confirm Sailings Through C. M. SPENCER, Agent Bandon

### Have you Thought About Lights for this Winter

Now is the time to make preparation for electric lights for the long winter evenings. Call and see us and let us show you may have better lights than the kerosene lamp can give, with little or no more cost. Avoid the risk of fire—do away with the nuisance of cleaning lamp chimneys. Install electric lights, and you will not be without them for twice the cost. Let us figure with you. We will treat you right.

BANDON LIGHT & POWER COMPANY.  
Next Door West of Coumerilh Christensen Co.

### A. MC NAIR

THE HARDWARE MAN

BRIDGE & BEACH Stoves, Ranges and Heaters have in them so many excellencies that they are now acknowledged the greatest sellers on the coast and they are growing in favor every year. We have the exclusive agency in Bandon for these household and office necessities, and prices range exceedingly modest in either case.

TINNING AND PLUMBING A SPECIALTY.

Our Assortment of Hardware, Tinware and Edged Tools is Most Complete.

Subscribe For The Recorder