

# A DOUBLE ROBBERY

By ELINOR MARSH

Miss Emily Granger, a maiden lady of thirty-eight and nervous, had never been fifty miles from her quiet country home. Then came the announcement that an aunt had died and left her a house and lot in a distant city. There was a mortgage of \$1,000 on it, which Miss Granger desired to pay off. No other way of doing this suggested itself to her than to take currency to the person holding the mortgage and receive in return a release. So she drew the money from her bank and started on her journey.

Now, the problem before her of taking care of herself was quite enough without having to look out for her thousand dollars. She arrived at her destination at 11 o'clock at night and was driven to a hotel. A night clerk received her and told her that the only room he could give her contained two beds, and one of them was already occupied by a lady. Since there was but one other hotel in the place and that was undesirable Miss Granger was obliged to accept a roommate.

Being shown to the room, she noticed that the two beds were at opposite ends of it. On one side was the door, opposite which was a window. The roommate was apparently asleep. Miss Granger disrobed, and, taking the money from that part of her clothing in which she had pinned it, she put it under her pillow. Then she went to bed and to sleep.

She was awakened by hearing some one moving in the room and that which resembled a white cloud passing across a dark sky passed without further sound to the door and seemed to go through without opening it. Miss Granger raised herself in bed and kept her eyes fixed on the apparition, repressing a desire to scream until it had disappeared. Then it occurred to her that what she had seen was her roommate. This led her to thrust her hand under her pillow. Her money was gone.

Getting out of bed, she turned on a light. True enough, the woman was gone, and so was her clothing. Near the door a stocking lay on the floor. Miss Granger picked it up. A wad of something in it was evident. Miss Granger, with woman's intuition, thrust in her hand and withdrew a roll of bills.

Miss Granger was counting the roll of bills when she heard persons in the hall. Hastily turning off the light, she jumped into bed. She had scarcely done so when the door was opened, and the night clerk, entering, turned on the light. He was followed by a half dressed woman.

"This lady," said the clerk, "accuses you of having stolen some money belonging to her."

"That's exactly what the horrid thing did to me!" cried Miss Granger, trembling with excitement.

The clerk looked puzzled.

"She took it from under my pillow," continued the lady, "and put it in her stocking. Then she tried to steal out of the room without my knowing it. But she dropped the stocking, and I've got my money back."

"Oh, my goodness gracious!" cried the roommate. "What a story to back up a theft! I heard you moving about the room, and"—

"You didn't hear any such thing," retorted Miss Granger. "I didn't get out of bed till after you had left the room."

"Maybe you were nervous," said the clerk to the roommates. "The last

person to occupy this room complained of mice in the walls."

"Why don't you make her show what she's got?" replied the roommate to the clerk.

"Did you have money with you?" asked the clerk of Miss Granger, "when you came here?"

"Yes, a whole lot of it."

"How much?"

"A thousand dollars, besides money for expenses."

"Let me see it."

Miss Granger produced the roll she had taken from the stocking.

"What denomination?" asked the clerk before making an examination.

"Ten \$100 bills and \$30 in smaller bills."

The clerk opened the roll and found a ten, two fives and six one dollar bills.

"Oh, heavens!" exclaimed Miss Granger.

"You contemptible thief!" snarled the roommate triumphantly.

Miss Granger did not hear. Without remembering that there was a man present and she was in her nightgown, she jumped out of bed and began to pull it about. While she was doing so the clerk took up another roll of bills from under the head of the bed. Opening them, he found that they tallied with Miss Granger's description of her lost funds.

"What rot," he exclaimed impatiently, "to make all this racket for nothing! I'll know better another time than to put two women in the same room."

He gave each lady her funds and was about to depart when the roommate refused to pass the rest of the night in the same apartment with Miss Granger, and he was obliged to put her in another chamber. Miss Granger locked herself in, but there was no more sleep for her that night. The next morning she paid off the mortgage and found herself infinitely more contented and happy with a bundle of canceled documents than with good money.

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