

THE DARKEST HOUR

By JACK LAWTON.

As Lella sat, wide-eyed and sleepless before her bedroom window, the moon turned the sandy stretch of beach below into gleaming silver.

Money, not just enough to be comfortable in her own home, but money sufficient to satisfy all the pent-up desires of her heart.

Lella knew slightly this man whom her uncle favored with his choice, and the "knowing" had caused her sleepless night.

It was like Uncle Jared to select such a man as custodian of his accumulated wealth; this new secretary had won the old man's admiration by his cautious cleverness.

Now the girl came slowly like a white wreath down the moonlit sands and seated herself there to watch the dawning.

"I beg your pardon," he said frankly. "I thought I should be quite alone here at this hour; or, he bent smiling to look into Lella's face.

"I came—to settle a troubled question," she answered him seriously. "The moonlight seemed to point down this path and I also wished to be alone."

The man lingered. "Why, that was my case exactly," he said. "I was threshing things out by myself up there in the hotel and my disappointment seemed too big for the indoors, so I brought it out."

"Disappointment?" queried the girl. All at once the stretching beach with its deep shadows was an alarming expanse in which to be alone.

"Disappointment?" she questioned again encouragingly and he dropped down beside her on the sands.

"Something," he began, "the hour perhaps, or the sympathetic interest of your tone, urges me to be confidential."

"Last night only I learned that the old friend who had been so enthusiastically interested in my enterprise and who had given the promise of his support, had died during my recent absence and had made a hasty will leaving all his property to a niece upon condition that she marry his latest secretary, one who had in some way gained the old man's favor.

"The unexpected outcome of the will is merely one of life's disappointments. The bitter hardness of it to me lies in the fact of the failure forever of my achievement. Pardon me," ended the man abruptly.

Tensely the girl leaned forward, a glimmer of light across the water shone in her eager eyes, her red lips parted breathlessly.

"And if," she asked, "this niece of old Jared's should refuse his request?"

"The property then would strangely revert to me," the young man replied.

"The darkest hour," she murmured softly, "is just before the dawn. Perhaps your darkest hour of disappointment has already past. And mine—I wonder—?"

"I want to see you again," he said suddenly, imperatively. "I must see you again."

Then side by side the two walked off together into the golden path of the sun.

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CLAIM KARL'S JEWELS

Dispute Between Italy and Austria Over Art Collections.

Italians Particularly Anxious to Recover Former Austrian Emperor's "Florentine Gem."

Vienna—A new turn has been given to the dispute between Italy and Austria over art collections by the statement that former Emperor Charles has carried off to Switzerland the imperial jewels, the whole of which are regarded in Austria as being his private property.

The Italian commissioner, Professor D'Ancona, has stated that this diamond formed part of the collection left to the city of Florence under the will of Anna Maria Medici, but that it was carried off by the house of Austria in 1748 when Duke Leopold became emperor of Austria.

He said the Austrian government had been notified of Italian claims to this jewel months ago, and if it permitted Emperor Charles to carry it away it would be necessary to obtain possession of it again.

Professor D'Ancona has carefully traced the history of this remarkable stone which, legend relates, was lost on the battlefield of Granson by Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy, six centuries ago.

It was picked up and believed to be a piece of glass and sold for a small sum. It found its way to Switzerland, where it was sold for 11,000 francs to the duke of Milan, and brought to Rome in 1601 by Ferdinand Medici. It has been an exhibition of late years in the Hofburg museum.

Professor D'Ancona pointed out to the Associated Press correspondent that the Austrians cannot claim that in surrendering this stone they would be injuring Vienna's art collection, since they were willing to part with it in the former emperor who is now a private citizen and has left the country.

Nicholas had expected to find his only relative in the world here. He believed his uncle to be living in Los Angeles, but upon arriving learned that his relative had moved from the city over four years ago.

Truck of Dynamite Dumped. Pottsville, Pa.—A dozen miners went over an embankment near here seated on a truckload of dynamite and are still living to tell the story.

NO, INDEEDY



"Lost 3-30" trail of g-ghosts, Ephy? "No-o-oo!"



CARVING OF TURKEY



Here is a piece of documentary evidence to prove the need of opening the doors of the old Turkish empire to free commercial intercourse with the western world.

That rich region, as well as many other parts of the old Turkish empire, need only the modern machinery of America and western Europe to make it produce wonderful crops.

LAD WALKS ACROSS COUNTRY

Ends Transcontinental Jog in Los Angeles With 25 Cents in His Pocket.

Los Angeles, Cal.—With only a 25-cent piece in his pocket, Nicholas Cascario, sixteen, arrived in Los Angeles the other evening from New York.

"Everybody in New York is talking about Los Angeles," he declared, "and I sure am glad I came here."

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