Tuesday, March 13, 1923

new serial story

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## THE HEPPNER HERALD, HEPPNER, OREGON

"Here's my track; pretty near the house. The betrothed couple looked washed out. And here's the other's, at each other. Alexander squared his That cycle was a big Indian, by what little I saw of it. And likely it was half crippled when it got away. And here it got on the high road, and headed straight on past Jervaulx again.

That's nighty queer. I always reckoned they'd have gone the other way. ething must have turned them." He passed along the wider line in the direction of Jervaulz, his eyes scanning the ground and the ditch. A little distance short of the gate through which Billy had wheeled the Sphinx when dodging the police, he stooped quickly and picked up a scrap of metal. It was the broken end of an exhaust silencer.

"I was right!" ejaculated Billy. Here they crashed again-or the engine gave out for good. And they came the very way I did myself. And one of the two was lame-dead lame. One sure thing-they couldn't have got far that night. And if they weren't able to ride the thing, what did they do with It?"

He hurrled to the far end of the field, where the last of the tracks had failed. He hesitated, and glanced towards the distant crag-pits.

"What should I have done myselfif I hadn't known the ground?" he thought. "I'll try here first."

Less than a hundred yards to the right was a clump of brushwood, growing alone, a little oasls on the bare field.

The bushes masked a narrow clay plt, twenty feet deep, that had been delved in times past to bring up the heavy marl subsoil and spread it over the sandy field. It was now completely cloaked with brambles. Billy pulled them apart, and saw something gleaming dimly at the bottom of the pit. It was the buckled frame of a big twin Indian motorcycle.

With a whoop of triumph Billy clambered down the steep side of the pit and disappeared through the brambles. He remained below some time. When at last he emerged and stood on the brink, Billy's face was rather pale, and his eyes troubled.

"Great Caesar's ghost!" he said. "Who'd have expected this? Now-if I can pick up the other track, I'll have the game in my hands!"

He hurrfed in the direction of the distant crag-pits, then suddenly pulled up short and glanced at his wristwatch.

"Almee!" he exclaimed.

He had an appointment with Aimee at five, and an urgent one. It was already past the hour. Billy set off at a run, and in ten minutes reached the rendezvous. Aimee was there already, in a rough serge walking-cloak and a Snooks hat trimmed with calico violets. In spite of the costume she looked vividly lovely.

"Mr. Chauffeur," said Almee, severely, "I don't know if you think I want to waste my afternoon off like this, You're late."

"I'm sorry," panted Billy. "Came as quick as I could."

"What are you looking excited about?" she said, eyeing him suspicionsly.

"Oh-just seeing you," blurted Billy, "That isn't true. I've never seen you look excited before. You've found out something. What is it?"

Billy paused. "It's true I have found out son

"Yes. Georgie will exactly suit him, I shouldn't have, a bit." "You!" exclaimed Billy,

"Exactly, Aunt Erythea's Idea Is that Alexander's marrying me. You're not very bright today, Billy, They'll have a fonny tangle to straighten out. when the crash comes,"

"Geel They will, We'll have to help them somehow," "Of course we shall. But I wonder

now we'll do it. And that's not allthe Viconite has sublenly become befrothed, as he calls it, to Alexander's sister-Coid Lambe "Sho'll tone him down," suld Billy, "Not a "bli. He'll tone her up," replied Ainee couldently, "and a jolly tood thins too. So there they all are. oughth't to mave mentioned it to gou,

Billy-I Line how it depresses you. it's houring -mit this semiment." Billy stared herore him gloomily, and VIEWEBURG

"Isn't R.P. Invisted Almes. "Stelening" said Hilly, bitterly,

Almost glattest at him and, looking away, stirred the grass with the point of his shoe. There was a long pause. "What was it you were saying about things?" solid Aimee, "I told you," replied Billy, "that be-

fore tomorrow it will either be a complete crash-or all clear." Aimee nodded. "I see. That means, in the first case,

that I'll be exploded-broken-done for-" "No!" said Billy, sharply.

"It does, though. But in the second,

if things go better-I shall just be back at Scroope, in a sort of mild disgrace-stood in the corner. That's nothing much, I'm used to it. And there you are! Well, the curtain's soon going to ring down. Our partnersills-Billy turned to her quickly.

"Is finished," continued Almee quiet-

ly, looking out across the park. "I shan't be able to ride the Sphinx for you, Billy. I'm sorry about that, It would have been fun."

Billy caught his breath, "You mean," he said slowly, "that I shan't see you again?"

"I mean that, How can you? Our little holiday is over, Billy."

His fingers closed on the turf on either side of him, and dug deep. "I understand. It's up to me, Tomorrow-we don't even know each

other." He let go the turf, and caught her

hands. "Aimee!"

"Billy I"

Before either of them knew how it happened, he had her in his arms. "I can't let you go !" said Billy wild-

"You're the darling of the world. The lovellest, brightest thing that ever breathed, Aimee-do you think-you could try and love me?"

"Love you?" said Almee, trembling, "Who could help loving you, Billy !" He held her tight and kissed her.

"I was so frightened-" said Almee In a stifled volce, "Frightened-!" He held her tighter.

"That you'd be frightened-' "Me!" "-of being sentimental," panted

Aimee. Billy felt stunned.

"If you knew what I've been through," he said a little hoarsely, "this past week-trying not to let you see It!

He kissed her again-more than

a whirl. There was the longest pause

yet; a silence that seemed intermi-

They were recalled to earth by a

"Yap! Yap! Yap! Yap! Yipe-

Aimee and Billy started violently.

Then he sat back, his head in

Erythea," he said quierty, "I guess I can give you one very briefly. I have

just asked Miss' Snooks to marry me." Lady Erythea was mentally staggered. "You have asked her-to marry you?" she said, staring at Billy

"And she has done me the great honor to consent." Billy's grim expression relaxed into

a very charming smille. "I feel sure your ladyship will not

throw any obstacles in the way of this humble romance," he said gently, "We shall be very happy to have our employer's approval."

His employer gazed at him dumbly. The approuncement came as a shock And It was difficult even for Lady Erythea to resist Billy's smile. As well attempt to resist a sunbeam. She melted imperceptibly. Her faculties were bemused. Billy, despite the smile, looked so extraordinarily diguified that Lady Erythea almost felt an impulse to apologize to her chauffeur. She made an effort to recover her austerity.

"You have asked this girl to marry you-after an acquaintance of four days?" she said acidly. "Is that-an American custom?"

Billy's smile intensified.

"I haven't much experience, my lady," he said, "but I think it's a British custom, too-sometimes.

With two such recent examples at hand, her ladyship felt unable to contradict him. She looked at him stead ily, wondering why she felt no resentment. There was something so re markably disarming about Billy.

"What you tell me, Spencer," she said at last, "places a new aspect on the case. It is, I suppose, within your discretion to engage yourself to a young woman if you wish to do so. The situation in which I found you led me to suspect mere irresponsible philandering-a thing most stringent ly forbidden within the precincts of Jervaulx. Admitting the seriousness of your intentions," she continued with returning indignation, "I am still unable to consider your behavior dec orous."

"I was very careful to choose a place just outside the park boundary, my lady," said Billy gravely, "and I was obliged to make use of the small amount of free time at my disposal." Lady Erythea drew a long breath.

"I am making unprecedented allowances for you, Spencer," she said, "since I cannot forget how far I am indebted to you for the recovery of my emeralds. If I was under a misapprehension as to your conduct just now, it was natural. I will say no more. But I gather from this event that you will be leaving my service in any case, so I will merely give you a week's notice---if you are willing to stay so long."

"Yes, I guess I shall be quitting rather soon," said Billy, "but Fil be very glad to serve your ladyship in the meantime, and I hope I'll give sat-Isfaction. But, may I take it that you won't put it across-that you will not say anything to-Amy?"

"I have nothing more to say in the matter whatever," replied her ladyship abruptly, "But you must understand that the conduct of both of you will have to be rigidly circumspect and correct."

Billy twinkled. "We shall be careful to give your her. Thinking it likely she would be in the neighborhood of the garage, he burried in that direction. He was within sight from the park boundary, when Monsieur de Jussac, approaching the fence from the abbey, saw him and called him by name.

PAGE THREE

Hilly was too far away to hear. The Vicomite whistled, without result. He saw Billy disappear in the direction of the crag-pits. De Jussac hesitated, uncertain whether to follow.

"Our amazing chauffeur appears to be in a burry," murmured Bertrand. He took out a cigarette, and smoked It reflectively. Bertrand was looking a little puzzled and anxious. Finally he wandered slowly back towards the abbey.

As he neared the main entrance the quack of a motor horn was heard. and an automobile drove up rapidly. It contained the stolld Inspector Panke from Stanhoe. Beside him sut a slim and active-looking man in a gray tweed overcoat.

De Jussac, raising his eyebrows, drew near unobtrusively. The man in tweeds got out and stepped briskly up to Mr. Tarbeaux, who was standing on the steps,

"You have a chauffeur here," said the man in tweeds quietly, "who calls himself William Spencer. "Yes, sir," said Mr. Tarbeaux,

Bertrand de Jussac moved away.

with the air of one retreating from a situation with which he had no concern. He lit a cigarette as he went, but once on the far side of the rhododendrons, Monsieur de Jussac began to move with uncommon swiftness.

"Is he on the premises at the moment?' said the visitor.

"I do not know, sir," replied Mr. Tarbeaux with cold reserve, eyeing the police car. "If you wish to see her ludyship-"

"I do. Inform her at once, if you please, that the police are here."

Mr. Tarbeaux went indoors, leaving the visitor on the step. It was some little time before Lady Erythea herself came to the entrance, grim and forbidding, ear-trumpet in hand.

"I am Detective-Inspector Arkwright, from Scotland Yard," said the visitor. "I wish to see your chauffeur, my lady-William Spencer."

"For what purpose?" said her ladyship, examining him icily through her lorgnette.

"That will transpire as soon as I have seen him," said Arkwright a little sharply.

A face peered down cautiously from a second-floor window. It was the face of Aimee, very white and scared. She drew back quickly behind the window curtains, one hand clutching and kneading them tightly as she listened.

"Does this mean," said her ladyship with distinct hostility, "that you propose to arrest my chauffeur? If not, what do you mean? He is the man who restored the emeralds to me, when the police failed to achieve any thing whatever, and I have complete confidence in him. If that really is your intention, it is my opinion you are about to make fools of yourselves."

Inspector Arkwright looked both surprised and irritated.

"I am here with full authority, my lady," he said abruptly, "and my task is to clear this matter up. Out of

try," said Billy, discontentedly, "except when you want it to." He addressed the remark to the dry and unresponsive soil. Billy's attitude at the moment was unusual. He was

He Kissed Her Again.

nounced Alexander, And he kissed her

CHAPTER XXI

A New Partnership.

"It rains all the time in this coun-

again.

close to the footpath along which he had wheeled the Sphinx, after the encounter with the motorcycle thieves on the night of the burglary.

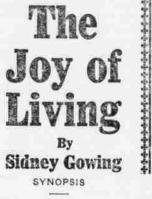
That event was now many days old, yet no rain had fallen in the meantime and here and there the track of the Sphinx's tires was faintly visible in the dried mud-to anyone who had unusually good eyes.

"If they've got a Scotland Yard sharp down here now," reflected Billy, "and he goes over the ground, it's just possible he might see what that fool luspector at Stanhoe never tumbled to, That there were two motorcycles, and not one, at the place where Jack the Climber got ditched. If they were to track up the Sphinx now it would be mighty awkward. They'd soon connect her with Almee and me. But I

guess it's an outside chance." The slight impression of a tire mark. a little to the right of the path, caught his eye. It had passed over a soft mole hill, and was clearly defined. Billy paused, and inspected it with a new interest. The fashion of his countenance changed; he went down on hands and knees, and looked very

## T IS DIFFICULT big shoulders. "What on earth will happen now?" L to imagine anysaid Georgina faintly. Alexander's reply was practical. He thing more fascinating than our lifted her suddenly off her feet and

klassed her. "I don't care what happens!" an-



CHAPTER 1.-Disiking the prospect of month's visit to her austers aunt. Lady for the second state of the second state of the visit to her austers and the second visit to her austers and the second visit to her austers and the second transmitted the second state of the park there encountering a strange youth ingly introduces himself as "Billy." Amer-frank there encountering a strange youth ingly introduces himself as "Billy." Amer-frank there encountering a strange youth ingly introduces himself as "Billy." Amer-frank there encountering a strange youth ingly introduces himself as "Billy." Amer-frank there encountering a strange youth ingly introduces himself as "Billy." Amer-frank the two cement the acquaintance by a ride on the motorcycle, the 'Frying Spink." and part. With Georgina Ber-ners, her cousin, Almee sets out for Jer-vauk. On the way she decides that Geo-mina shall impersonate her at Jervauk, while she goes on a holiday. Georgina's corrified protest is unavailing. CHAPTER 11.-Happy in her new free-form and search to the spink. In a spirit of madoap adventure, she accepts. The ber as amy Snooks, at presest 'out of a proceed to the town of Stanhoe, tab. Madoap adventure, she accepts. The bas not been discovered. By her dominant to been discovered. By her dominant to been discovered. By her dominant to been discovered. By her dominant town been discovered. By her

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CHAPTER V.-On a trial spin next day on the Sphinx, with Billy, Almes almost collides with a carriage in which are her aunt, Georgina and Alexander. The pair escape unrecognized. CHAPTER VI.-Georgina learns that Lord Scroope is coming to visit Lady Ery-thea and, realizing what will happen on his arrival, is in hopeless bewilderment.

CHAPTER VII.-While Aimee is secretly visiting Georgina at Jervanix, the place is burglarized. Aimee escapes.

CHAPTER VIII.-Georgina learns, with much relief, that Aimee has got away.

CHAPTER IX.-Police Inspector Panke decides that the robbery is the work of "Jack the Climber" and "Calamity Kate," noted thieves, who travel on a motorcy-cle.

CHAPTER X.-Billy, aware of his "partners" nocturnal jaunts, is troubled. He follows her, on the Sphinx, to Jer-vaulx. He hears the commotion, at once suspects burglary, and follows two figures on a motorcycle who are apparently in a desperate hurry. Cornering the pair, Billy knocks out a man who attempts to shoot him, pleking up a package the fellow hau dropped. He discovers the other fugitive to be a woman. Stopping to aid her, she strikes him with a stone, rendering him unconscious, and the pair escape.

CHAPTER X1.-Recovering, Billy dis-covers the package he had picked up is a jewel case, containing emeralds. Realiz-ing they must be part of the loot from Jervauix, he starts for the abbey. On the way he meets Aimee, with the police in pursuit. In a secure hiding place, a cave among the crag pits, Aimee tells him the whole story. He urges that she make a frank confession to her father, but on re-flection both realize Aimee's good name has been compromised by her two nights stav af ivy contage.

CHAPTER XII -- Assuring Aimee he has a plan to save her, Billy leaves her in the cave and, proceeding to Jervauix, re-stores the emeralds to the astounded Lady Erythea.

CHAPTER XIII.-Rejecting any re-ward, after explaining how the emeralds came into his possession, Billy accepts the position of chauffeur to Lady Erythes, seeing in the situation a promise of a way out of the embroxilo. CHAPTER XIV.-Realizing what her father's visit to Jervaulx would mean. Aimee goes serveily to her home, disables the family auto, thus preventing his jour-ney, and induces a parlormaid to let her take her place at Jervaulx.

CHAPTER XV .- Alexander recognizes Almee as the woman on the motor yeld which ran into the Lambe carringe, de-nouncing her as "Calamity Kate," Geor-gina divulges Aimee's identity. Hearing her story, Alexander consents to keep the sector.

CHAPTER XVI.-Alexander finds him-self very much in love with Georgina.

CHAPTER XVII - The approaching vis-it of Alexarder's sister, Lady Diana (who, of course, lucows Aimee) brings conster-nation to the two girls.

CHAPTER XVIII.-Another visitor to Jervaula is the Vicomite de Jussac, Di-ana's suitor. Diana recognizes Aimee and threatens to denounce her. CHAPTER XIX.- Interested in the Lambs collection of armor, De Jussac, during the night, tries on a suit. Diana, investigating an alloged phosity armati-

investigating an alleged ghostly appart-tion, meets him. He declares his love, and is accepted. Almee finds them to-gether and binds. Diana to secrecy concerning her affairs.

CHAPTER XX.-Alexander and Geor-gina become engaged. Lady Erythes, be-lieving Georgina to be Lord Scroope's daughter, is delighted.

For once Alexander was at a loss He had turned very pale. Georgina came nobly to his rescue.

"Alexander." she said faintly, yet articulately, "has asked me to be his wife." And, with desperate confusion. she added-"may 1?"

The ear-trumpet clattered on the gravel. Ludy Erythen gathered Georgina into a triumphant embrace.

"My dear child," she exclaimed, kissing Georgian warmly on both cheeks, "I am delighted !" Lady Erythen released her and klssed Alexander. "You have made me very, very happy. The match is in every way Ideal. Alexander, you will have just such a wife as I should have chosen. for you-and I never thought you would have the sense to choose one at all. My dear Aimee, your excellent father, I am sure, will be as plensed about this as I am,"

Georgina felt her knees giving way. She stooped and recovered the eartrumpet.

W-would you mind not telling anybody for just a day or two?" she said desperately. "We have told you, but we-I-feel-"

Lady Erythes smiled.

'Foolish, romantic child!" she said, patting Georgina's cheek. "Well, well -we shall see."

She turned and disappeared towards

ciosely indeed.

"Snakes !" exclaimed Billy. He rose, and quartered the ground carefully for a considerable distance in either direction. The ground was too hard to show any continuous track. But mole hills were plentiful, and some way farther on he found another one, also

showing the print of a tire. "It's the same. And not the Sphinx's tire, by a mile !" said Billy, knitting his "This one was steel studded " brow.

With growing perplexity he made a close examination of the soll, and presently discovered other traces. There were a few footprints and, faint though they were, they hore some very marked characteristics.

Billy stood up straight and gave a liquid whistle. The furrows in his brow deepened. He carried his investigations still farther afield, but toward the healthy common the soll was light, wind-blown sand that shifted with every fresh breeze. There were no tracks left. The seeker was at a Lokit.

Billy stopped and reflected rapidly. "It came this way, whatever it was," he said. "But why on earth did itand how? Let's start from the beginning."

He struck across country and, breaking through a hedge, came out into the blind lane where Jack the Climber's machine had crashed on the fateful night; the spot where he had recovered the emeralds, and made acquaintance with Calamity Kate's resource-

The muddy lane still showed slight traces, very much mixed up and trampled, of the place where the thleves' machine had fallen; the ruts were now dried and hard. Billy also recognized what were evidently the hoof marks of the Stanhoe police.

"A herd of steers wouldn't have made more mess," said Billy. "And Panke found nothing after all, or he'd have- Well, I can't blow much, either. I've been here twice since, but never got wise to it till now."

He turned back down the lane toward the highway, his eyes noting the smallest details of the ground.

when a dress or hat has a strong merided cotor, it is not advisable to use a complementary color of the same strength or luminosity, as it would form too striking a contrast. A safe rule is to select lighter tints or darker shades of the original color for trimutng. The remarks made regarding trump of a girl, that. And the parson's good combinations hold good for trimming also.

thing," he said quietly, "but there's more to do, and I haven't quite all the cards in my hands. It's the most amazing stunt yet. I'll tell you about it the moment I've got it set "

Almee looked at him wistfully, "I don't think you ought to have any secrets from your partner," she said. "I always tell you everything."

"Give me till tonight," pleaded Billy. "I hate to talk about it now. It's ugly.

A small white Highland terrier with its four legs braced, was barking at them excitedly, but not wholly with disapproval. Aimee felt stricken as though by a sudden paralysis. Rebind the terrier stood Lady Erythes, orect and rigid. The glare in her eyes was the glare of a destroying Gorgon. CHAPTER XXII Not Guilty. The guilty pair arose to their feet, Almee, from rosy red, had turned extremely pale. There was every excuse for it. Lady Erythea's expression was enough to unnerve the stout-

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Billy Stared Before Him Gloomily.

By tonight we shall have either won or

lost-but we'll win! Will you trust

Aimee seated herself on the turf be

"All right then," she said happily.

"Let's forget our troubles for a hit.

Sit down-you look so tall, towering

up there, that I can hardly see you-

and I'll tell my news. It's much more

interesting than yours. Do you know

that Alexander has got himself en-

gaged to my dear fat Georgie, and

"Has he?" cried Billy, dropping be

side her. "Good for him! She's a real

as white as they make them-be's a

they're idiotically happy?"

neath the sweetbriars.

me?"

fine fellow."

once.

nable.

yipe !"

staccato noise

est heart. "And this," In a voice like the clashing of a motor's gear-box, "In the face of my express warning! You are discharged." She took a step towards Almen, "And as for you-"

Billy interposed his large figure be tween them. "Mudam," he said, "If you have any

comments to make, please make them to me. Or, better still-do not make them at all."

His voice was quiet and respectful. But his chin was lifted remarkably high, and his lips compressed danger ously.

Lady Erythea struggled for breath. "Are you presuming," she said, in a strangled voice, "to dictate to me!" Mr. William Spencer bowed.

"I hope-my lady-that it will not be necessary. What I do presume is to defend Miss-Snooks-against any repronches whatever. This is her afternoon off."

Aimee looked at them both-espe cially at Lady Erythea. And for once the "sand," on which she had so often been complimented, deserted her. Almee turned suddenly and fled. The terrier, under the impression

that it was all an extremely interest ing game got up for his amusement. pursued her out of sight round the bushes, giving tongue excitedly. Billy kept his eyes fixed on the in

trader. "If you require an explanation, Lady

ladyship no grounds for complaint,' he said

Lady Erythea had a vague impres sion that Billy was laughing at her. It was stranger still that she did not seem to feel any resentment. "You may go !" she said, with a ges-

ture of dismissal. Billy saluted and walked away. She watched his tall figure till it had



Billy returned. Lady Erythea in-

"Are you sure that this is a wise

thing you are doing?" she said slowly.

'You seem to me a somewhat superior

Billy passed through the gate into

spected him through her lorgneite.

"Spencer 1"

sure I couldn't."

away with a dazed air.

consideration for you, I have come here quite openly, and what my intentions are I must at the moment keep to myself."

"It is Spencer's afternoon off, I believe," said Lady Erythea coldly. "I do not think he is on the premises."

The inspector was plainly taken aback by his reception. His lips tightened to a thin line. Just then a policeman on a bicycle came riding rapidly along the drive. It was Constable Polson.

"Beg pardon, sir," he said, dismounting and saluting the inspector, "have you found the man you are looking for here?"

"Why?" said Arkwright abruptly, "Well, sir, I know him by sight, of course," said Polson in a lower voire -"the chauffeur, I mean-and as I came off the Stanhoe road awhile ago, I saw somebody like him crossing the forty-acre field and going towards the crag-pits. I thought I'd better burry on and tell you. I'm sure it was he."

"Excellent! You are a man that keeps his eyes open," exclaimed Inspector Arkwright, "Come, Panke-leave the car here. Polson, show us the way."

The three of them departed together hurrledly in the direction of the park boundary,

Lady Erythen stared after them with mingled anger and anxiety. She walted for some time on the steps, pondering, and then went slowly indoors. Her eyes were troubled.

The three police, crossing the park, left it by a wicket gate near the sweet-briar clump. After a short consultation with Polson, Inspector Arkwright gave an order. The three men spreading out in a wide semi-circle, stalked the cragpits by way of the lower meadow.

(Continued next week)

One of our country correspondents, elling about a fire in his town, wrote: "The Fire Department was called, but not much damage was

Teacher-"Johnny, what is veloci-

Johnny-"Velocity is what a felow lets go of a bee with."-Forecast.

the lane, and made for the abbey at Don't refuse to marry a girl behis best speed. He hoped that Aimee ause she can't cook. She may have might be waiting for him somewhere within call, but there was no sign of money enough to pay your board.

young man. I think you could do done."-Capper's Weekly.

much better for yourself." Billy twinkled yet more brightly. "I should hate to disagree with your ladyship," he said, "but I am quite

Lady Erythea turned and walked