

# Through the Wall

By CLEVELAND MOFFETT

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"Well," she went on quite charmingly. "I have done some foolish things in my life, but this is the most foolish. I did give Martinez the five pound notes. You see, he was to play a match this week with a Russian, and he offered to lay the money for me."

"But the dinner—the private room?"

She shrugged her shoulders. "I went there for a perfectly proper reason. I needed some one to help me, and I—I couldn't ask a man who knew me, so—"

"Then Martinez didn't know you?"

"Of course not. He was foolish enough to think himself in love with me, and—well, I found it convenient and amusing to utilize him."

"For what?"

Mrs. Wilmott bit her red lips and then, with some dignity, replied that she did not see what bearing her purpose had on the case since it had not been accomplished.

"Why wasn't it accomplished?" he asked.

"Because the man was shot."

"Who shot him?"

"I don't know."

"But you were present in the room? You heard the shot? You saw Martinez fall?"

"Yes, but— Now her agitation increased. No one had entered the room except herself and Martinez and the waiter who served them, she insisted. Martinez was standing near her when—when the shot was fired, and he fell to the floor. That was all."

Coquell smiled indulgently. "What did you do with the sugar?" he asked.

"The sugar?" she gasped.

"Yes; it was seen by the cab driver you took when you slipped out of the hotel in the telephone girl's raincoat."

"Yes," she answered weakly.

"And you threw it into the Seine as you crossed the Concorde bridge?"

She stared at him in genuine admiration. "My God, you're the cleverest man I ever met!"

M. Paul smiled. "I can return the compliment by saying that it isn't every lady who could throw a clumsy thing like an anger from a moving cab over a wide roadway and a stone wall and land it in a river. I suppose you threw it over on the right hand side?"

"Yes."

"How far across the bridge had you got when you threw it? This may help the divers."

"We were a little more than halfway across."

"Who bought this sugar?"

"Martinez."

"Did you suggest the holes through the wall?"

"He did."

"But the holes were bored for you because you wanted to see into the next room?"

"Yes," in a low tone.

"And why?"

She burst out in a flash of feeling. "Because I knew that a wretched dancing girl was going to be there with—"

"Yes?" eagerly.

"With my husband!"

"Then your husband was the person you thought guilty that night?" questioned Coquell.

"Yes."

"You told M. Kittredge when you called for him in the cab that you thought your husband guilty?"

"Yes, but afterward I changed my mind. My husband had nothing to do with it. If he had, do you suppose I would have told you this? No doubt he has miscondacted himself, but—"

"You mean Anita?"

It was a chance shot, but it went true. She stared at him in amazement. "I believe you are the devil," she said, and the detective, recalling his talk with M. Gritz, muttered to himself, "The tall blond! Of course!"

And now Pussy, feeling that she could gain nothing against Coquell by ruse or deceit, took refuge in simple truth and told quite charmingly how this whole tragic adventure had grown out of a foolish fit of jealousy.

"You see, I found a petit bleu on my husband's dressing table one morning—I wish to heaven he would be more careful—and I—I read it. It began 'Mon gros bebe,' and was signed 'Ta petite Anita,' and—naturally I was furious. I have often been jealous of Addison, but he has always managed to prove that I was in the wrong and that he was a perfect saint, so now I determined to see for myself. It was a splendid chance, as the exact rendezvous was given—9 o'clock Saturday evening, in private room No. 7 at the Ansonia. I couldn't go alone, so I got this man Martinez—he was a perfect fool—I got him to take me because, as I told you, he didn't know me and, being such a fool, he would do whatever I wished."

"What day was it you found the petit bleu?" put in Coquell.

"It was Thursday. I saw Martinez that afternoon."

"And you are sure it was his scheme to bore the holes?"

"Yes; he said that would be an amusing way of watching Addison without making a scandal. It was the first clever idea I ever knew him to have."

"Did you look through the holes at all?" he asked.

"No; I hadn't time."

"Did Martinez look through the first

hole after it was bored?"

"Yes, but he couldn't see anything, as No. 7 was dark."

"Then you have absolutely no idea who fired the shot?"

"Absolutely none."

"Except that you think it wasn't your husband?"

"I know it wasn't my husband."

"How do you know that?"

"Because I asked him. Ah, you need not smile. I made him give me proof. When I got home that night I had a horrible feeling that Addison must have done it. So I waited until he came home. I could hear him moving about in his room. I went in and asked him where he had been. He began to lie in the usual way. And then I told him a murder had been committed at the Ansonia in private room No. 7. I wish you could have seen his face. He never said a word. He just stared at me. Well, it was the longest time before I could get anything out of him. Then he explained what had happened. He had started for the Ansonia with this woman, but she had changed her mind in the cab, and they had gone to the Cafe de Paris instead and spent the evening there. I said: 'Addison, put your things right on. We're going to the Cafe de Paris to settle this business.' The waiters hadn't gone, and they all swore black and blue that Addison told the truth."

"H'm!" reflected Coquell. "I wonder why Anita changed her mind?"

"I'm not responsible for Anita," answered Pussy, with a dignified whisk of her shoulders.

"You know a great deal about this young man who is in prison," he suggested.

"I know he is innocent."

"I hope you can prove it."

"Of course I can prove it," she declared. "M. Kittredge, an old friend, was arrested because he called for my things, but I asked him to do that. It's absurd!"

(To Be Continued.)

**RAISIN DAY, APRIL 30, 1910.**

The above date has been set apart as an annual event by the people of California, in which all are asked to join by eating raisins in the form of "Raisin Bread" or in any form that may be desired. The object of this special day is to create a widespread raisin sentiment that will result in a greater demand for that fruit, and to direct the attention of all good housewives to the excellence of the raisin as an article of food. The good people of the northwest are invited by their neighbors to participate in the pleasant custom and "break" raisin bread on April 30th.

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## MAKES STUDY OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS

Chicago Professor Visits Schools Through Great Britain and Is Indeed Favorably Impressed by Them.

LONDON, April 28.—Professor G. W. Myers of the chair of mathematics in the department of education at the University of Chicago, has been studying English schools and is very favorably impressed with them. Of the free, or so-called board schools, he does, indeed, speak highly. Their drawback is, however, that the social stigma attached to attending them is so serious that parents who can scrape up even a shilling or two weekly to pay for their children's attendance at private institutions will have nothing to do with them.

"Coming to London," says Professor Myers, "I found no great difficulty in getting into private schools on the outlying districts, but was evidently not wanted, though I had the backing of the local board of education and the London county council at these in the heart of the city. A number of school teachers have told me that these schools have not advanced in thirty years. This may explain why they want no visitors. I cannot but suspect that a school which will not permit inspection must need it sadly."

"The English schools are divided into three classes—the free or board schools, which have government support and are subject to government inspection; the schools which are not quite strong enough to stand alone, therefore permit occasional inspection and government representation on their boards, and schools which run independently of the authorities."

"I have had every opportunity to examine into the free schools methods and cannot speak too highly of them. They excel, and especially in the matter of individual instruction, considering the personal needs and limitations of the pupils and including only 25 or less in a class, instead of 50 or 60, as in America. As the children generally leave their studies at 14, the teachers also wisely give them the kind of instruction likely to benefit them on entering the working world."

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