

Virginia of the Air Lanes

A ROMANCE OF FLYING

Herbert Quick

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SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I—Theodore Carson, inventor of an airship, rescues from a fugitive flying machine called a helicopter, a beautiful young girl.

II and III—Carson is infatuated by her and takes her where she can communicate with her friends.

IV—Carson visits the Roc, a giant airship owned by Shayne, uncle of Virginia Suarez, the girl he rescued, and, being coldly received, leaps from the Roc, at a great height, in a parachute.

V, VI and VII—He lands in the grounds of the Slattery Institute for Inebriates, where he makes a friend of one Craighead, who plans to raise capital to manufacture the new style airship Carson has invented. Thus they hope to rival Shayne, who controls the airship industry.

VIII—Mr. Waddy decides conditionally to capitalize the Carson-Craighead project.

IX—Carson goes to Florida to complete a sample airship to exhibit to Mr. Waddy, and he finds Virginia there.

X—He is in love with Virginia. Waddy, a rival inventor, conspires to kill Carson.

"Can't you go a little faster?" said she, laying down the binoculars. "Aftah we clear Week's bay," said the captain.

Once clear of the channel, they stood for the south shore, the evening breeze in continuous gusts.

out to look upward past the awning. In the water, instead of bird or sail or cloud, she had seen, coming up from the depths under their rail, the Roc, under full speed, her great engines purring like tiger cats, her screws shimmering, her giant hull a resplendent bubble of steel. Looking up, Virginia saw her overhead and covered back into the boat, for peering over the rail and calling like an evil bird was Silberberg.

"Shall Ah answer the hall, miss?" asked the captain.

"No," whispered Virginia. "Take no notice, I beg of you, captain!"

The Roc swept on like a meteor, leaving the launch behind. Virginia



VIRGINIA STUDIED HER ABSORBEDLY WITH HER FIELD GLASSES.

asked the captain if he supposed she had been recognized.

"Ah reckon not, miss," said he. "Jist a chance meetin', Ah reckon. She's come to, right ove' the inn," said the captain.

Virginia sat under the middle of the awning, quite in a tremble. The boat slowly threaded the shelly entrance to the bayou and passed the wharf of the Roc. The people on the quay were raising their necks at the descent of the passengers from the Roc.

"Hurry, captain, hurry!" urged Virginia.

"Ah can't, ma'am," said he. "Ah'll hev to lie to a minute fob that boat. Heve' fear, miss; yo' all right with me!"

"Here you see," said a voice from the wharf, "two soon to be discarded modes of navigation—the boat displacing water and the aerostat floating in the air upheld by gas. The hydroplane must replace the boat; the aerostat, the aerostat. I have made a specialty of this. I know. The value of that cigar shaped craft up there as unk, deducted from her present value, is the measure of Mr. Finley Shayne's loss when our big show opens its ticket wagon. Seest thou?"

Virginia looked attentively at the

speaker, started to hear her uncle's name mentioned almost in his presence. She saw a youngish man of medium height, thin habit of body and long, thick hair, who was gazing, with every appearance of interest, not at the airship, but at a lady of perhaps twenty-seven years, short, plump, admirably gowned in a sort of reduced half mourning, with her jolly little face turned toward the Roc, her brown hair tousled about her face, her prominent little chin carrying the facial angle forward and downward.

"That talk will do with me," said she, "but you've got to show papa something besides oratory pretty soon or there'll be trouble. He tells me that you and Mr. Carson are the first ever to sell him a gold brick, and he proposes to make an example of you. You're supposed to be in custody now. Why, here's papa!"

Mr. Waddy came down the wharf, combing his whiskers and mustache out in front of his nose with his fingers. As Harrod's boat glided within arm's length of the wharf the lift descended from the airship, filling Virginia with terror.

"I don't think I'll get you another posy, Caroline," said the old man, "picking it to bits like that."

"I'm trying my fortune," said she, with a little embarrassed laugh.

"Humph!" said her father.

The younger man, seemingly recovered from his perplexity, was touching the row of buttons one by one, and as the launch gathered way Virginia heard him say to button after button: "She loves me! She loves me not! She loves me! Hooray!"

The shout greeted the favorable answer of the oracle. The lady, as if feeling the fingers in her curls, turned and gently slapped the gentleman's ears. The launch shot into the canal and out of sight. The ladies were made the owners of Carson's cabin, and the men slept with the aerostat by night, while by day Captain Harrod stood by to aid Theodore, slipping away to the top of the dunes at times to scan the offing for the slimy nosed Stickleback, inexplicably reappearing with her oval deck just awash, her thin, semi-invisible periscope in air. Having arranged with Reagan for a cessation of the contraband business until the aerostat was off the stocks, the captain was worried. He waved the Chautauqua salute one day, whereupon the submarine sounded like a galled roquial. The captain's ingenuity was not equal to the task of developing a theory to account for her presence or her alarm.

Carson suddenly became possessed of an unremitting energy that commanded Virginia's admiration. As he told her again of his struggles, his experiments, his falling into the garden of Dr. Witherspoon, his meeting with Craighead, the financial enlistment of Mr. Waddy and of the puzzling messages he had received she became an enthusiast too.

"I'd like to meet Mr. Craighead," said she. "I'd like to feel sure that he can secure a monopoly of the navigation of the air."

"You might form an opinion of him," said he, "by reading his telegrams."

"Of whom?" inquired Virginia, evidently thinking of something else.

"Craighead," replied Carson. "Here they are. What do you think of them?"

The first was dated Charleston, W. Va. "Air products incorporated." It ran: "Immense sensation in trust incubator and brooder. Why don't I hear from illustrious co-conspirator? Craighead, the Plute."

"Tries to be humorous," said Virginia. "Let's see the next."

(To Be Continued.)

WOMAN, AGED 60, TO SWIM MISSISSIPPI

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 9.—Though she is past 60, Mrs. Lena Brandenburger will in the next few days attempt to swim the Mississippi river.

Mrs. Brandenburger proposes to swim from near the Eads bridge on the Illinois side, across to a landing at Altenheim, on the Missouri side in South St. Louis.

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14 STUDENTS ARE BURIED ALIVE

Dormitory Hurled Down Hillside by Landslide Caused by Heavy Rains—Little Aid Can Be Sent as the Tracks Are Washed Out.

TOKIO, Aug. 9.—Fourteen students of the Siouka commercial school were buried alive today in the collapse of their dormitory in a landslide caused by a heavy rain.

Prefecture authorities are handicapped by washed-out bridges and submerged railroad tracks in sending aid.

The Tokaido (government highway) railroad has been unable to move trains, owing to the heaviest rains in many years.

OLYMPIC CLUB ATHLETE TO REPRESENT FRANCE

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 9.—Andrew Glarnes, formerly an Olympic club athlete, who holds many distance records on the Pacific coast, will represent France at the international games to be held at Strasbourg, Germany, August 31. Against him, representing the United States, will be pitted J. B. Lightbody, former University of Chicago middle distance runner. Frank Angold will wear British colors.

Haskins for health.

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