

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 Roe, a giant airship owned by Shayne, uncle of Virginia Suarez, the girl he rescued, and, being coldly received, leaps from the Roe, 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. Wisner, a rival inventor, conspires to kill Carson.

The next day was quiet. "En route to Cosmopolis from Incubator," and was assigned. "To him who commands the winds, from him who winds the commands, greeting." It ran. "Be of good cheer. The train is laid, the gin is set, the dogs of war strain forward in the leash. But is there any aeronef? Broom end of pipe dream assumes terrifying concreteness. Noble, sir, assure me of thine! Just wire saying you are you and there is an aeronef, collect!" "Did you answer this?" asked Virginia.

Theodore shook his head. "It was days and days before I got it."

"Why didn't he send it to the plantations?" asked Virginia.

"I gave him this address," said Theodore. "I-I stayed there too—too long."

He opened the gyroscope globe and began running the engines lightly, setting the heavy little wheels spinning, rocking the aeronef from side to side to note the operation of the balancing devices. Preserving their perpendicularity, as if of intelligent purpose, the gyroscopes moved the levers of the wing differentials which would accelerate the propeller wheels of the lowered wing and correspondingly slow the upper. Right or left, stern or bow, the depressed area would work the harder, the raised part slower, while powerful rudders co-operated, moving like a fish's fins, even now while the propeller rested. Theodore was getting past an awkward reference to his long stay at the plantation by a painstaking examination of the brain of his airship.

"See how it works, Virginia," he exclaimed. "It knows the levers to be moved. Why, if a puff starts to overturn her she'll strike with the lowered wings alone like a bird. And see the intelligence of those rudders! And Wisner said she'd turn turtle!" "And Mr. Craighead doesn't get any report of all this! What must he think?"

"I told him about it," said Theodore proudly. "And it was no time to telegraph apologies. It was a time to work."

Virginia opened another of Craighead's telegrams. It was addressed to Palmetto Beach, "or somewhere it is hoped," and seemed to be regarded by Craighead as very important. "My luck hath turned! It is Craighead Felix now," said he. "Have found a gang of grafters organized to get us grants in no time; will clinch New York by Friday; Chicago already hemmed in. New thought—fee of roads in gaugers everywhere. Will secure title except for road purposes. Shayne, thy sun sets apace! Whoop! Whoop! Whoop! We've got 'em, we've got 'em! Caroline's dad ready to bust all eight banks to back scheme. You must make good, Theodore. Answer for the sake of divine pity just one lecture teency peep! Napoleon Bonaparte Hannibal Miltiades Craighead."

"What does he mean," asked Virginia, "by all this about grants, highways and fee simple? It's awfully queer."

"I don't know," replied Carson. "Some visionary thing."

"And who is Caroline?" asked Virginia.

"Mrs. Graybill, Mr. Waddy's daughter. Now, listen, Virginia, and watch. She's ready to try."

He threw in the clutch, and the wings began whirring like great buzzes. Faster and faster the wing sections whirled until the aeronef strained upward on her lashings like a restive horse. Theodore tipped a lever, and she leaped forward, stretching the wires at an angle of forty-five degrees

reversed it, and she snaked backward, as might an eagle repulsed by a foe. Virginia swung her hat and shouted.

"Pull the line on the end of that wing," said he, "and see if you can tip her. Pull!"

Virginia walked gingerly forward, her dress flying, her hat whisked to the top of the room. Grasping the flying rope end, she pulled downward. The wings settled slightly, and then as the gyroscope brain felt the depression the lowered wings lifted as if consciously rising to a load. It was marvelous.

"Can't you pull harder?" cried Theodore, bareheaded, his hair flying. "Try."

"Aye, aye, sir," cried Virginia cheerily. "Try it is."

Reaching up, she pulled herself clear of the floor, her strong little form swaying like a most charming pendulum. The enormous dragon fly, throwing its power into the depressing wing, rode level, with nine stone weight of solid American girl dangling from the tip of one wing—a mechanical paradox. The boat stood in air as level as a ship in a calm.

"Hurrah!" shouted Theodore, swinging his arms. "Never anything like it in the world. Carried you on one wing and kept level. Hurrah for the Virginia!"

He eased her down and stepped to where Virginia waited, hands outstretched, red from the rough rope, hair blown abroad.

"And are you going to name her that?" she cried. "Oh, how perfectly dear of you!"

Theodore held the chafed hands, triumph in his face. He opened the little red palms and kissed them over and over again. Mrs. Stott came in and saw him doing it.

"I hurt my hands," said Virginia, showing teeth. "And uncle is kissing them well."

"Very kind and self sacrificing, I'm sure," replied Mrs. Stott.

CHAPTER XII.

MR. CRAIGHEAD IN CUSTODY.

THE money for the last touches to the airship was to be the extent of Mr. Waddy's new financial venture, and then came Craighead with his new hatched plan for actually monopolizing the air, and Mr. Waddy, having submitted it to his local lawyer, hesitated and was lost.

"I'll go into it," he said. "We'll make everybody come and settle that wants a trip by airship. Hey?"

"Exactly," replied Craighead.

"Just as if the whole country was our farm," cried Mr. Waddy.

"It will be for circumambient purposes," replied Craighead. "And, as you so well said, a farm's a cinch. And remember, M. Waddy, in putting Shayne and his pirates down and out we and our pirates are making way for the matchless, unsinkable, double acting, universal speed, direct drive, nonhalation, orthochromatic Carson aeronef. Don't forget our haughty southern coconspirator who will wing his way to Illinois by the time we return. Don't fall down and forget that."

"Well, you'd better have him on hand," said Mr. Waddy, "as he promised, or I'll know why he took my good hard money."

It was on occasions of this sort that Mr. Craighead had sweated telegrams begging to know if Theodore really had any airship.

(To Be Continued.)

FRIGATE PORTSMOUTH TO BE NAVAL MUSEUM

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 10.—The old frigate Portsmouth, which took possession of California in the name of the United States, one of the last square-rigged participants in the civil war, will find a final haven in Seattle harbor, where she is to be transformed into a naval museum.

A dispatch from New York states that the Portsmouth will sail shortly for Seattle. She was towed to the New York navy-yard yesterday, where her seams will be freshly caulked for her trip around the horn.

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL OREGON STATE FAIR WILL BE HELD AT SALEM, SEPTEMBER 12 TO 17. \$35,000.00 IN PREMIUMS AND PURSES. GRAND LIVE STOCK, AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITS. SPECTACULAR RACES, BAND CONCERTS, FREE ATTRACTIONS AND FIREWORKS. REDUCED RATES ON ALL RAILROADS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ADDRESS FRANK MEREDITH, SECRETARY.

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JACK BELIEVES FIGHT GAME DEAD

Heavyweight Champion Says Hog-gish Promoters and Crooked Fighters Have Put Game in America to the Mat for the Count.

CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—"Hog-gish promoters" and "crooked fighters" have put the right and left uppercut to the fighting game in America, according to Jack Johnson, a recognized authority on matters pugilistic.

Johnson believes that the next big fights will be held in England or Australia. He thinks that adverse criticism following the Reno battle has effectually killed prize fighting in America. England and Australia will be the only places which would offer large purses, he said.

KOLB AND DILL QUIT TOGETHER, ALREADY, YES!

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 10.—Clarence E. Kolb and Max M. Dill, whose comedy combination has appeared in every city on the Pacific coast, have dissolved partnership, it is announced. The contract to go on at Moore's theater in Seattle has been cancelled and each of the German comedians will go his own way hereafter.

Haskins for health.

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