

Virginia OF THE Air Lanes

A ROMANCE OF FLYING

By 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. Wisner, a rival inventor, conspires to kill Carson.

XI, XII, XIII and XIV—Wisner with a submarine in a sensational manner almost accomplishes the death of Carson and Virginia and the destruction of the airship, a case of "devilish versus bird." Virginia flees from Carson in the Roc.

XV, XVI and XVII—Carson and Craighead pursue the Roc northward in the Carson airship, the Virginia. They land at the Shayne home, Shayne's Hold, in the Catskill mountains, at night. Carson talks with Virginia and is forced to flee. A big lawsuit is brought by Craighead to gain exclusive dominion in the aid based on the rights to their air he has acquired from hundreds of landowners. Craighead argues in court.

XVIII—Shayne determines to violate an injunction issued by the court by sailing in the Roc. The Roc is wrecked in a gale.

"Just a little delay," said he to Mr. Coryell. "You know how it is—last kisses of bridesmaids—well askew—rubbish—but we must wait."

Mr. Coryell, with Craighead's money in his pocket, sufficient in amount to pay the entire expenses of his vacation study of Atlantic gasteropods, waited smilingly, rubbing his hands. Mr. Van Brunt lighted a cigar and looked officially grave. Carson seized Craighead by the throat in the privacy of the kitchen.

"What do you mean?" he snarled. "What insane thing is this?"

"Explanations," said Craighead, extricate his throat, "are uncalled for."

THE END.

Sir Arthur Sullivan's Reverses. Twice in his career Sir Arthur Sullivan, after building up a small fortune, was placed in the same unenviable position as was Mark Twain when in 1895 his "rainy day" balance disappeared in the failure of a concern in which he was interested. And the famous composer met financial disaster with the same equanimity as did the author. By far the greater of the two financial disasters which overtook Sullivan happened in 1882, and the news reached him under very dramatic circumstances. In that year "Iolanthe" was produced at the Savoy, and as usual its composer conducted the first performance. On the day fixed for the production the bankruptcy was announced of the firm in whose keeping Sir Arthur had entrusted all his securities, and the news of the crash reached the composer just as he was setting out for the Savoy theater. "In a moment," says Mr. Lawrence, his biographer, "the result of the work of a lifetime and of economy had been swept away. From the monetary point of view he had to make a beginning all over again; but, unmoved by his ill fortune, he conducted the first performance of 'Iolanthe' that night."—London News.

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Carson walked back and forth, torn with rage, embarrassment and anxiety for the result with Virginia, thrilled with a growing realization of what it might mean to him.

"I'm going in to tell her," said he. "And if I fall I shall come out and kill you, Craighead!"

"I shall make no will," said Craighead. "Why, if she were Caroline and I you?"

Carson walked into the apartment of Virginia. The serving girl withdrew and left them alone.

"Virginia," said he, "I'm going to take you with me!"

She flushed rosily, but, woman-like, refused to take his meaning.

"I can't go back, unkie," said she. "You failed in your exams. You are marked away, away down as an unkie! But I've forgiven you."

"Don't let's talk of that," said he. "I shan't even apologize. I'm glad I deceived you! Glad, do you hear? And now you're going back—Psyche—as my wife. Don't struggle and try to escape. Don't you love me? Don't you love me? Don't you love me?"

She was past the struggle now, and in the new print gown of the servant maid she lay in his arms, quite surrendered. The time passed much more rapidly for them than for Mr. Craighead. His voice grew hoarse, the roco periods grew shorter, and at last he rapped on the door and called "Time!"

The audience had entered upon the phase of impatience characterized by stamping in unison.

"What do they want?" asked Virginia.

"Us," said Carson. "Let us go out."

"Out?" queried Virginia. "Out there?"

"Virginia," said Carson, "did I not say I was taking you away with me now?"

"Oh," gasped Virginia, shrinking back. "You don't mean for me to understand?"

"The minister is outside—to marry us—darling! Come!"

"Oh, Theodore!" she gasped.

The door opened. Craighead's voice came through in inquiry.

"All ready?" he asked loudly. "Then let the cortege move! After these nuptials we shall have the full music of the grand sweet song. Like Prince Azib of Gilbertian story—"

"We will diligently play On the zootrope all day And blow the loud pantechinon all night!"

"Forward, march!"

The wedding march from "Lohengrin" tinkled feelingly forth from the piano. The minister stood in the narrow circle left open by the crowd. Craighead, like a new ducked usher, bowed grandly at the door to let them through. Theodore took Virginia's plump, print covered arm and whispered in her ear promises which instinct told him would break down the last resistance. The short service went on as remembered by the priest.

"Who gives this woman away?"

And who but Finley Shayne broke through the press to take her by the hand and respond heartily, "I do!"

And when the ring was called for who but the captain of the life saving crew, true to the traditions of the service, came forward and took it from his chain and saved them?

And when the minister asked, "Do you, Virginia, take this man to be your wedded husband?" and the dear old remainder of it who but Theodore Carson turned dizzy at the bride's pause before answering, and who but Virginia said sweetly and clearly, "I do?"

And as for Craighead, that worthy gentleman would have been in still higher feather had he known that within two weeks he was to succeed in persuading his adored Caroline to join him in a similar ceremony.

PORTLAND, Sept. 2.—Three important changes in the personnel of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway were announced yesterday. W. F. Turner has been appointed secretary and controller, E. P. Shannon has been appointed assistant treasurer and Ralph Budd has been appointed chief engineer.

The appointments were made at a meeting of the board of directors yesterday afternoon after the resignations of Secretary and Controller M. P. Martin and Chief Engineer Thomas H. Crosswell had been accepted. Mr. Martin, who lives in Tacoma, also resigned from the office of assistant treasurer of the line, for which position Mr. Shannon was elected.

W. F. Turner, who succeeds Mr. Martin as secretary and controller, is at present in charge of the auditing departments of the Oregon Trunk, the United Railways and the Oregon Electric.

Mr. Turner is well known in this city, having been auditor of the Pacific & Eastern.

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