Masked Longing

BY HOWARD ROCKEY — A ROMANCE OF RADIO

SYNOPSIS: When Aileen Gray's stage career is ended by an accidental disfigurement, she becomes a mystery radio singer, "Mademoiselle Masque," wearing a porcelain mask made for her by Dwight Channing, artist. Jimmy Crane, who loves her, does her press agent work. Arnold Kronberg, movie magnate, is shot by a masked woman while making advances to Aileen's sister Vivienne. Recovering, he tries to make Vivienne admit his assailant was Aileen, as he suspects. A message to Aileen signed "Adrastein," hints the sender shot Kronberg but will incriminate Aileen if necessary. Max Klein, producer, wins a confession from Edna Vellamy, actress, that she is "Adrastein," and fired at Vivienne in a fit of jealousy but hit Kronberg instead. Vivienne meanwhile has become engaged to Channing. Dr. Richard Saunders, a plastic surgeon who has fallen in love with Aileen, has operated on her in an effort to restore her beauty.

Chapter 33

THE MASK YIELDS TO LOVE

"DON'T go, Jimmy." Max Klein detained him as Kronberg sauntered in. "We don't want any publicity about this conversation, but you might as well stick around. Sit down, Arnold. Have a cigar."

"What's on your mind?" asked Kronberg, not quite at his ease.

"Well," said Klein, "there's a couple of things we three can straighten out, and I got some information I guess you'll like to have. It's a shame the girl that potted you didn't have more pistol practice."

"Didn't what!" Kronberg bristled. "Did you ask me here to kid me? I don't feel funny this morning."

"Anyway, maybe you'll get a laugh when I tell you something. That dame was shooting at someone else and you got in the way. Sure, I'm perfectly serious." Then, without mentioning Edna's name, Klein told him her story.

"How do you know she isn't lying?" Kronberg's forehead furrowed.

"Because I believe she's telling the truth," Klein spoke with conviction. "When a woman isn't in love with a man, he usually can believe her. This one never would have confessed to you—because she's nuts about you."

"That's absurd!" Kronberg scoffed. "Don't you think I've a strong suspicion as to who the lady is?"

"Sure. But you got your masks mixed. Dwight Channing ain't got no copyright on black silk dominos."

"I suppose you're trying to say that the girl wasn't Vivienne's sister—and that she isn't this radio Mademoiselle of Gluck's."

"That's exactly what I'm saying. And I got evidence to prove it—locked up in that safe. Did you see her before she fired?"

"Certainly," Kronberg shrugged. "I could see her eyes through the slits of that mask—"

"What color were they?" Klein cut him short.

"Black!" snapped Kronberg.

"Aileen Gray's eyes are blue," Klein stated positively. "And as for accusing Vivienne, you couldn't get away with that—even if you wanted to. You see there was a woman who knows just what happened—and I know who she is."

"Then why all this nonsense?" Kronberg exclaimed. "Tell me her name and I'll fix her."

"Get that!" Klein grinned at Jimmy. "There's so many girls in love with him he wouldn't have no idea. All right!" He turned to Kronberg. "Take a tip from me. Maybe you got off easy. But I got the girl's word to behave herself, and I know she'll keep it. Suppose you and I play together. Then there won't be no trouble."

Nonplussed for a moment, Kronberg did not answer. Perhaps there was more behind all this than he cared to ferret out. Channing was going to marry the girl who had been his model. And it was Channing who had found him that night in his office. Klein and Crane, apparently, were deeply interested in the elder sister—as well as in the other girl. It might be the part of wisdom—not to try to guess her name.

"That's fair enough!" Kronberg stood up. "I'll go along with you, Max."

When Jimmy arived at the hospital, he was surprised to see Viv and Channing talking with Doctor Saunders. He had not seen them since the wedding, and he was not aware that they had returned from their honeymoon. He was there today as the result of a phone call from Aileen herself. She had said that he must not tell anyone, since she was only able to ask a few people as yet—but she wanted him to come.

"Have you seen **her**?" Jimmy asked Vivienne, hopeful yet apprehensive.

"Yes, indeed!" Viv told him delightedly. "Oh, Jimmy, she's beautiful! Isn't it simply marvelous? After what he's done for her, I'm going to get Richard to fix my face. Then just you watch my speed!"

Jimmy had not failed to note her use of the Doctor's given name. Natural enough, but pregnant with a meaning he had foreseen. "Well, that's fine!" he stammered awkwardly. "Maybe, when he's resting, he could give me a new mug, too."

"Well, you go on up," Vivienne said. "We want to get back to the studio. The doctor says we can take her there in a day or two."

"Come up and have dinner," Channing called to him from the car. "You too, Dick, if you can."

"Possibly." Saunders thanked him. "But I'm rather busy." Then he and Jimmy went inside, and the Doctor walked with him along the corridor.

"I'm really a little proud of myself," Saunders confessed his satisfaction. "It's been a wonderful privilege to be able to do it for her. Now, don't stay with her too long—and while she's perfectly all right, try not to excite her."

"I shan't," Jimmy promised. "But I don't think I can—come again."

"Why?" Saunders asked him sharply.

"Well, you see I'm going to Hollywood. I've signed up with Arnold Kronberg at a nice fat salary—and I'm leaving—right away."

"Is that—necessary?" the Doctor asked searchingly. "I don't think Aileen will like it."

"Listen, Saunders. You might as well understand." Jimmy decided to tell him frankly as they paused outside Aileen's door. "I've always been crazy about Aileen, and there's never been anything I wouldn't do for her. There was a time when I used to think that maybe she would care for me—in the way I thought of her. But, from the start, she made it plain that we'd always be just pals. Now that everything's before her, and she's going to be rich and famous—"

"She'll value that friendship all the more." Saunders' tone was authoritative. "You mustn't rob her of it. Of course, I realize how you feel. It's much the same with me. Both of us have the right to feel that we've done our part. Every time I hear her over the radio, see her in pictures or on the stage, I'll have that satisfaction. The public will be indebted to me for some little part of the pleasure her performances will give them. And I'll know that I was able—to help to make her happy."

It was far from easy for Jimmy to voice what he felt he must. But, somehow, he found words. "You can make her—completely happy," he reminded Saunders. "You remember what you told her. The one big reason you advanced for her having the operation."

"Of course." The doctor nodded. "But surely you didn't imagine I was speaking—for myself? Crane, that would have been sheer nonsense! Hardly professional, either. Aileen's twenty-five, I think, and—"

"You're not old!" said Jimmy.

"No, I'm not, but you see, I've learned—that Aileen loves some one else."

Jimmy stared at him in astonishment, mingled with admiration. There was no mistaking Saunders' gesture as he put out his hand. "What you're suggesting's cricket! But, Saunders, you deserve her. Even if she hasn't found out—what you could mean to her—she's certain to in time. Help her do it. I'm going West."

"No, Crane," said Saunders firmly. Then his eyes grew less serious. "Perhaps, if you could put it off, that trip would do Aileen good."

Jimmy's heart went out to him as their silent grip sealed a bond of magnificent understanding. "There isn't a man in a million who'd do what you are doing!"

"Well, I won't admit that." Saunders smiled. "But there's one thing I will say. I'm a darn good plastic surgeon! Now—go in to her."

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THE END

EXCURSION RATES OPPORTUNITY FOR MUSIC ENJOYMENT

The Southern Pacific ticket office reports many inquiries and quite a number of reservations being made for various trips from Rogue River valley points on February 20 and 27. It is expected that a large number of Rogue River valley residents will avail themselves of the recently announced low rates, the lowest in the history of Southern Pacific operations.

The excursions have been so timed that week-ends can be spent in the larger cities to the north and south, and newspapers of those cities show numerous concerts by world renowned artists, among them being Rachmaninoff at the Dreamland Auditorium, San Francisco, afternoon of March 1; San Francisco Symphony, Curran theatre, San Francisco, afternoon of February 22; Portland Junior Symphony orchestra, Municipal Auditorium, Portland, evening of February 21, and the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Other attractions at Portland theaters are May Robson at the Dufwin theater, February 21, and Leo Carillo at the same theater, starting February 22. Kolb and Dill will be at the Geary theater in San Francisco February 22.

Those contemplating availing themselves of the low rates should let the local Southern Pacific officials know of their intention so that proper and sufficient accommodations will be available, even though sleeper accommodations are not desired. It is important that the company know the number who contemplate making trips so a sufficient number of chair cars, as well as sleepers, will be available.

GOLD HILL

GOLD HILL, Ore., Feb. 17.—(Spl.)—Howard Drake has been confined to his home this week because of illness.

The W. R. C. held the regular dinner and meeting at their rooms in the city hall Wednesday. Several visitors from Grants Pass attended.

John Chisholm has been confined to his home with chicken pox.

Mrs. Della Shaver and son, Woodrow and T. J. Shaver were Medford visitors Sunday.

Mrs. A. E. Kellogg of Medford was the guest of her mother, Mrs. Matilda Parker, for several days the latter part of the week.

Mrs. Delphia Masterson Moore of Grants Pass called on several friends in this city Wednesday and attended the W. R. C. meeting.

Mrs. Katheryn Lance entertained the Sewing club at her home Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Meisinger, accompanied the high school delegates to the high school conference at Oregon State College in Corvallis this week-end. The delegates from this school were Jean Chisholm, Velma St. Clair and Opal Hayes.

Clifford Wright spent last week-end in this city as the guest of the Rogue Nook Inn.

Mrs. Evelyn Thompson was hostess to the Past Noble Grands club Thursday afternoon.

Maxwell Marvin, a student at the Southern Oregon Normal school, spent the week-end with home folks.

The Amythest Rebekah lodge No. 97 celebrated its 33rd anniversary at the I. O. O. F. hall here Wednesday evening. There were about 50 members present. Following a short program games were played and lunch served.

Mrs. W. G. Davis had as her guest for the week-end Miss Suzanne Koske of the Almeda district.

The Ladies' Aid will meet at the M. E. Church Thursday. A basket lunch will be served at noon. All members and friends are urged to attend and bring their basket and thimble.

Maxwell Marvin and Miss Suzanne Koske were at Ashland Saturday evening where they attended a Valentine's dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Barrett.

Ernest Ross came in from his work near Trail to spend the week-end at the Rogue Nook Inn.

NEW LAND DISCOVERED IN ANTARCTIC REGION

OSLO, Norway, Feb. 17.—(P)—New land has been discovered in the Antarctic by the Norwegian whaler Torlyn, which has been operating in connection with a Norwegian Antarctic expedition, the whaler reported in a wireless message.

Dorothy Mackaill in Rialto Talkie

Dorothy Mackaill and C. Henry Gordon in a scene from "Once a Sinner." A Fox Movietone production.

"Once a Sinner," Fox movietone production which features Dorothy Mackaill and Joel McCrea and opens today at the Fox Rialto theater.

Woven in this drama is the luxury, beauty, conflict and jealousy of young love capped with a climax of emotion.

"Cimarron" Star

Richard Dix as "Yancey Cravat."

A seven-mile cavalcade wound its way through Cahuenga Pass, Calif., recently—the strangest big parade, perhaps, of all time. Five thousand persons made up the mighty horde bound for a wide expanse of plain 20 miles south of Los Angeles. At daybreak the next morning the cannon boomed its signal and the record throng roared its way across the prairie to "he mightiest, maddest moment ever recorded on celluloid — the land rush sequence in "Cimarron," opening tomorrow at the Holly theatre.

Richard Dix plays Yancey Cravat, vivid, brilliant, striking central character of the Ferber novel.

Dorothy Mackaill Wins Holly Crowd

Just $25,000 worth of feminine finery, including gowns and shoes, figures in a single scene of "Hard to Get," the feature now at the Holly theatre.

Six beautiful girls, headed by Dorothy Mackaill, star of the picture, appear in the costumes. The scene represents the dressing room of a fashionable New York City modiste shop.

This pleasing picture closes at the Holly with the last performances tonight. Also on the closing program is a Pathe News Reel and a sound reel entitled "The Scout Trail."

Hood River—Elmer W. Fisher took over Wiley green grocery.

"Dance Fools Dance" Craterian Opener

"Dance Fools Dance," which will open tomorrow at the Fox Craterian theatre, is the latest talking picture, starring Joan Crawford.

This is the most glamorous of Miss Crawford's recent roles, reflecting both the glitter of "Our Blushing Brides," and the tragic drama of "Paid."

Lester Vail is Miss Crawford's leading man in her new picture, and the supporting cast includes such film favorites as Cliff Edwards and William Bakewell.

Miss Crawford plays the part of a society girl, reduced to poverty, who turns to newspaper work for a livelihood. In her hunt for the gangster killers of another reporter, she discovers her own brother to have been involved in the brutal crime.

JACKSONVILLE GRANGE OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH ABE LINCOLN

A capacity house was entertained at the Jacksonville Grange Friday evening. The program, in keeping with Abraham Lincoln's anniversary, was opened by singing "America," led by Mrs. Mabel Sims. C. C. Hoover, lecturer then introduced Frank Farrell, who gave an interesting sketch of Lincoln's life, including his early boyhood education and later political life.

W. H. Gore then spoke of the character and influence of Lincoln and as bearing on everyday life, an eloquent portrayal of Lincoln as a man and president.

After a brief business session initiatory work of the third and fourth degree was put on by the Central Point degree team.

Morse Haley, captain of the team has done good work in organizing and training the team to put the work on in such an efficient and impressive manner. The Jacksonville Grange certainly appreciated the work done.

Following the meeting a Valentine supper was served by the ladies of the Grange to about 100 patrons and friends.

The H. C. club met with Mrs. Ora Niedermeyer, about 20 ladies being present. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess during the social hour.

In place of the next club meeting there is to be an all-day meeting at the Grange Hall February 18. The men are asked to come to help with some plumbing and the ladies are to serve dinner and complete the kitchen rearrangement.

Survey being made by state highway department to eliminate two curves on Astoria-Seaside highway.

RIVIERA

RIVERIA, Ore., Feb. 17.—(Spl.)—Mrs. Charles Wahl and grandson, Charles Champlin of Medford, called on many of their old friends at Rivera last Sunday.

Mrs. Elsie McMerrick and daughter, Alice, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Loveless, at Williams creek.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson, who have the Clay Biles place rented have returned after a month's visit with their daughter, near Kerby.

Marie and Ralph Biles, Wallace Boling, Genevie Stumbo and Sylvia Childers, among those who had the mumps, are back in school again.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Hunsley are proud parents of a new baby boy.

The Hunsley family now live in Sams Valley. They left here about a year ago and went to Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Harrison and sons, Clarence and Homer shopped in Medford Saturday, and also visited at the McDole home.

C. C. Carr has been quite sick at his home but is reported better at this writing.

Charles McMerrick and David Biles were Medford visitors Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Biles and family shopped in Grants Pass Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Pruitt of Grants Pass were recent visitors at the D. L. Biles home.

Charles Alix shopped in Gold Hill Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blackburn of Medford were visiting last Sunday at the Clay Biles home.

666

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Is Your Rest Disturbed?

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In Arms, Neck, Legs or Thighs

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Trysmol is a powerfully penetrating absorbent, soothing and healing in its action, which goes in through the pores and quickly reaches the burning, aching nerves. Those stubborn pains in the back of the neck, about the shoulder blade, face or head, in the forearm and fingers, or extending down the thigh to the toe tips, will soon disappear. Cramping of the muscles will stop and you will no longer be bothered with soreness, swelling, stiffness, numbness or tenderness of the joints and ligaments.

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Bilious, constipated? Take NR—NATURE'S REMEDY—tonight—the mild, safe, all-vegetable laxative. You'll feel fine in the morning. Promptly and pleasantly rids the system of the bowel poisons that cause headaches—25c.

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ROMANCE was shut out from their lives

MARJORIE and Evelyn Blake were free to enjoy all the pleasures of wealth but still were forbidden the happiness even the poorest might expect.

Their aunt and guardian, Annabelle Querdling, with cunning malice and effective weapons, tried to bar from the lives of these attractive, vivacious girls every bit of affection and romance. So long as the aunt lived, she stood between them and marriage to the men they loved.

But Miss Querdling was killed—murdered—and the finger of suspicion pointed in bewilderingly opposite directions, at the two girls, their lovers, their friends. The crime is solved in a brilliant story of mystery and romance.

THE CRIME IN THE DUTCH GARDEN BY HERBERT ADAMS

Starts, Wednesday, February 18

In the MAIL TRIBUNE