

# Nothing Venture

by Patricia Wentworth

**SYNOPSIS:** Nan Weare at last has secured Ferdinand Francis as an ally in her struggle to protect her husband, Jervis Weare, from the murderous designs of Robert Leonard. She explains to Francis, who has recognized her as the girl who ten years ago saved Jervis from drowning, that what Francis had thought an accident, really was Leonard's first attempt on Jervis' life. Jervis does not believe Leonard desires her. He has asked Francis to join him and himself at Weare, his country place.

### Chapter 16

## "WE'VE MUFFED IT!"

"WELL!" said Robert Leonard. He splashed a small amount of soda into a good deal of whiskey with a jerk of the hand, picked up his glass, and turned to Rosamund Carew. She was standing by the window of her drawing-room looking out into the cloudy darkness of the August night. Her right hand held back the green and gold curtain, her left hung at her side. There was something in the pose that suggested strain. Without turning, she said, "It's frightfully late." Leonard drank half the contents of his tumbler at a gulp. Then he set down the glass sharply. "Hospital creature—aren't you?" "It's too late to be hospitable,"

self-sacrifice, broken heart, and all that. And it would turn him against the girl if he believed he'd been tricked into marrying her." "If!" said Rosamund. "Well, he might. Those things stick, and when a man's been let down by a woman he's generally ready to believe the worst about the next one. You think it over. But don't take too long about it. What's wanted at the present moment is, 'A separation has been arranged between Mr. and Mrs. Jervis Weare, to take effect immediately.' We don't want any little Weares, you know. That would put the kibosh on the whole affair." Rosamund turned sombre eyes upon her glass. The blue seemed to have gone out of them, leaving them bleak and grey. "I wish to heaven I'd gone through with it and married him!" "Do you?" said Robert Leonard. "Yes, I do," she said. "What's the good of pretending? We've muffed it, and we're in the soup. You know it as well as I do." Robert Leonard came deliberately over to her and put heavy hands on her shoulders. "That's enough about that!" he said roughly. "That's for me to say." "No, it isn't! You'll do what you're told."



Leonard splashed a small amount of soda into a good deal of whiskey. Robert. You oughtn't to have come in." "Rubbish!" She looked rather wearily over her shoulder. "I have to be careful when I'm here alone—doubly careful just now. It's been touch and go over this business." She dropped the curtain and turned round. "I've squared Janet Tetterley." "She seemed to be all over you." "I confided in her," she said in a dry, toneless voice. "She was dying of curiosity of course, so I told her that when I found out by accident that Jervis was in love with this girl, I didn't feel that I could stand in their way. She simply lapped it up." She came up to one of the big chairs and leaned against it. "What about Jane Manning Temple?" "I got off the same piece to her. She said I was a saint." "Well, that's all right," said Leonard. "I noticed she made a bee line for old James Mulroy as soon as you left her, and between 'em they'll do all the broadcasting that's necessary." All at once he turned to the table and put down the empty glass. "I suppose," he said in a considering voice. "I suppose you couldn't work out that piece on Jervis, could you?" Rosamund stared at him. "Jervis married this girl to save the cash. He wasn't in love with her, and he isn't in love with her." He blew a cloud of smoke. "Now you're being high falutin'. What's wrong with your making him believe—" He paused, frowning. "Well? What am I to make him believe?" Her voice mocked him. "Hold on—I'm getting there. Suppose the girl had told you he was in love with her—that they were in love with each other." "What are you getting at?" "It would let you out—noble

## MRS. CLARK SURVEYS APPLGATE HISTORY

APPLGATE, Sept. 9.—(Special)—Mrs. A. J. Clark of Eugene is in the Applegate district raking up old history records. Her father, Mr. Kealer, was one of the first men in this section and established the first trading post, which was about where the

house stands now in which Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kubli live. It was called Kealer and Fowler trading post, as Fowler was the name of his partner. Mr. Kealer also had one of the first mines and was the first man to own an ore crusher. Kealer creek was named for him and also two ditches in the lower Applegate section. Mrs. Clark is now at Steamboat, where her father had several mines in the olden days.

## KLAMATH FALLS—Bids called for re-roofing and painting office building on North Eleventh street.

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—(P)—The section of Edward J. Flynn, Bronx Democratic leader and supporter of Governor Roosevelt, in cancelling plans to accompany the governor on the latter's speech-making tour into the west, was interpreted today as

## WALKER SUCCESSOR WILL SEEK ELECTION

MEANS Mayor Joseph McKee—whom Flynn supports—will be a candidate for election to the mayoralty in November. McKee himself, precipitated unexpectedly into the mayor's chair by the resignation last week of James J. Walker, has not talked politics.

## CONNECTICUT DEMOS ADOPT REPEAL PLANK

EASTERN POINT, Conn., Sept. 9.—(P)—Moving rapidly through the ticket after settlement of disputes over the nominations for senator and lieutenant-governor, the Democratic state convention renominated Governor Wilbur L. Cross today on a rising vote.

## SALEM—Bids opened for construction of two-story reinforced hospital building for state institution for feeble-minded here.

KLAMATH FALLS—Local police radio system to be in operation soon.

CORVALLIS—Mrs. Houser opened bakery.

Augustine Lonergan of Hartford was nominated for United States senator. The resolutions committee adopted a platform plank calling for repeal of the 18th amendment and modification of the Volstead act.

## TAILSPIN TOMMY—How About Some Food?



## BOUND TO WIN—While On Prisoner's Rock!



## By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



## S'MATTER POP—A Bigger And Better Birthday Party



## THE NEBBS—The Question



## By EDWIN ALGER



## MUTT AND JEFF—A Detour Sounds Reasonable



## BRINGING UP FATHER



## By C. M. PAYNE



## By SOL HESS



## By BUD FISHER



## By George McManus



## APPLGATE SHOWS SCHOOL INCREASE

APPLGATE, Sept. 9.—(Special)—Applegate schools, which opened Monday, all show an increase in attendance over last year. Little Applegate reports 13 pupils; Sterling, 20; Uniontown, 22; and Applegate, 32. Ruch and Uniontown will start next Monday.

## WOUNDED MAN FOUND IN NEWPORT ALLEY

NEWPORT, Ore., Sept. 9.—(P)—A man who gave his name as Ed Jones of Gleneden, was found in a semi-conscious condition 'sack of a building in the business district here yesterday. He was suffering from a bullet wound in one shoulder and from severe lacerations about the head. The man, about 35, was removed to a hospital where his condition was described as critical. Police believed him a victim of robbers.

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