

The Hope Diamond



—a legacy of doom

For 300 years, tragedy has plagued this exquisite gem; now that it's a national treasure, has its sinister heritage ended?

by Jack Pitman

AS AMERICANS, each of us has fallen heir to a multimillion-dollar diamond—or, if you're the gloomy kind, fallen heir to a centuries-old curse.

The Hope diamond, which has a past as breath-taking as its beauty and monetary value, recently passed into possession of the nation through a chain of events strangely prosaic for such a storied stone.

Wrapped in butcher's paper, the 44½-carat oval jewel was taken via the New York subway to a general post office by a shipping clerk employed by Harry Winston, internationally known gem deal-



Mrs. Harry Winston presents fabulous Hope diamond to Smithsonian Institution official.

er. The four-pound package—one-quarter pound of it priceless jewel—was insured for \$1 million.

The following day, an unimpressed postman delivered the registered packet to Dr. Leonard Carmichael, secretary of the Federally operated Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. A brief speech was made, some hands were shaken, and the latest and dullest chapter of a fiction-like history closed.

But the romance and adventure linked with the Hope diamond are as impossible to becloud as its shimmering lights and



BONUS IN LUXURY

Discover how luxurious Modess can be.
Look for this fabulous but limited offer
tomorrow at your favorite store.

Modess... *because*