

THE BLACK LILY

By
CORA BALL MOTEN
Nationally Known
Serial Writer

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In the priest's harsh voice. Another



Try This Tonight

What do you do when a sluggish system shows the bowels need help? The best thing yet discovered for this is still a little candy Cascaret. Take one tonight if liver and bowels aren't functioning as they ought. See how quickly bad breath, coated tongue or a bilious, headachy condition is cleared up. No gripping or discomfort from Cascarets. The quick, pleasant relief they always bring constipation sufferers is lasting. For Cascarets are made from cascara which doctors say actually strengthens bowel muscles. So you can take Cascarets as often as needed. 20 million boxes used yearly proves their merit.



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minute and Chenah and John Northington were lashed in place against the tall candle-like standards. Ramon Montez, the hood still over his head, was lashed in the chair and Dolores was stretched at full length on the couch, her head on the altar stone. Held almost immovable by a slender steel wire around her neck while the golden chains served to keep her body still, looped as they soon were through and over couch and body.

This done, Jonthra moved to a place behind the altar. He towered over it.

For a moment he stood gazing down on the girl's nude body. His face flushed and he ran his tongue avidly over his wet lips. The girl's face paled. Jonthra leered smilingly down at her. His great hand came to rest on the swelling softness of one rounded hip, as with the other he lifted the veil and laid the moss swathed flower against her lips. His coarse lips brushed the veil just above the swelling roundness of her bosom as he stooped low above her. She shrank inward and closed her eyes.

The hooded figure in the throned chair made a convulsive movement toward the priest but the looped ropes tightened and checked him.

The Glass Case of Death

Now out of the temple doors two men advanced bearing an immense glass case, almost an exact replica of the sort used in the days when it was the vogue to encase wax wreaths or hair flowers under glass. At its lower edge was a small opening curved like the openings in a cashier's window, only much smaller.

The bearers advanced to the altar with the huge contrivance. As they came nearer, Ramon groaned. John Northington looked with wide questioning eyes and Chenah closed his own.

At the altar the men carefully lowered the huge case. The narrow opening fit like a close fitting necklace about Dolores's slender throat. It was as if her head were cut off and laid like an ornament inside the glass with the long stemmed lily lying against her lips.

Jonthra looked on, and when the men, their task finished, moved back, he threw a single glance at the sun and then stepped forward. With a gesture he called for attention before he spoke.

"When the god of Day calls, the Lily will breathe," he said. "I go now to the inner room to prepare the bridal couch. I will come again at the appointed moment just before THE SACRED FLOWER rejects the unwilling bride—as is the custom. Meanwhile these are yours to watch and guard. When the Flower has taken its own, the Blazing Death will receive these others while the unwilling one is taken to her inner couch. Until the Hour—I go." He turned and passed into the Temple.

The Chamber of Debauchery

Ramon knew, as did John Northington, that it was the sun's rays acting on what was virtually a great sun glass that would force the blooming of the blossom even while the secret preparation that had been smeared on the girl's face and head protected her from its burning heat.

But Northington did not know, as

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did Ramon, that Jonthra had but gone to the secret chamber somewhere below, either to release another and surer death, as was customary if real death was intended, or merely to stay in that secret chamber where the sensitive recording instruments were kept to tell him when to return and take the Bride to his own evil arms after a short sleep—or really to consign her to a secret grave beneath the temple where re-calcitrants were often sent.

But Jonthra? Swiftly he went about his evil affairs. He would possess the maiden, then—when he was through with her beauty—she should taste the quick death. For this it was needful that he snare the thing he needed from the place where it was kept. But he must be careful for that death cared not for his priestly state nor another.

(To be concluded next week)

Her Old-Fashioned Love Stands the Acid Test

(Continued from Page One)

the man she loves to come back. There are still five years hanging over Gunn's head.

The people in the community are wondering! What won't a woman do for love? But they know what one woman did.

What excused Muzette for her duplicity, the jury held, was the great and trusting love she had for the slayer. She had contended all along that she believed positively in Gunn's innocence. Her testimony, too, was what kept the jury from bringing in

a worse verdict against the young culprit.

A love such as Muzette's is a rare occurrence in this day and age of the world. Maybe such existed forty or fifty years ago, but it is rare now. She was willing to go to the dogs for the man in her heart, and nothing else mattered. There was, it appears now, no end to her devotion.

She said in part to the lawyer for the state:

"You ask me why I did it; why I hauled him to my home after he stopped me in the road and told me what he had done; why I helped him escape from the deputy sheriff, and was willing to go with him. So I shall answer all those questions at

once. Mine is a simple reply, shorn of all complications. I love him."
THE END

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