

THE WORM TURNED —A True Story

(Continued from Page 5)

believe that he would leave the store without making certain that the place was empty.

I started a tour of investigation. But as I rounded the corner of the cigar case that had blocked off my view of the back of the store, I halted, ghostly features.

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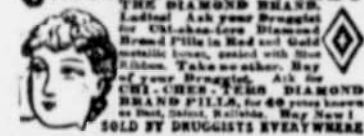
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ed with an involuntary gasp.

A man resembling the druggist lay stretched on the floor, the ray of the night light faintly revealing his

Shrinking, I advanced a step or two; then stopped again as I saw on the other side of the prone figure a dark, spreading pool of blood, and a yard or two away the gleaming barrel of a revolver.

"Murder," was the first word that crossed my terrified mind.

I recoiled in sick horror, voiceless, unable, for the moment to move; then backing away, turned and dashed wildly for the front door—only to realize once more as I reached it, that the way was barred.

I was locked inside the store with a dead man.

I thought of nothing but to escape at any price. There was no other way, said I to myself, but to smash out the glass before someone saw me.

I clapped my hands over my face to defend myself from flying glass, and picked up a mineral water bottle to use as my instrument.

Standing at bay, half sideways toward the front door, I became aware that someone, passing along the opposite side of the street, had stopped and was coming over toward the store.

Quickly I crouched down behind a tall wire receptacle full of sponges, which shielded me from the view of anyone outside.

Peeping out through an aperture between the sponges, I saw a man advance to the door and try it. Then when he found it locked, he shook it vigorously, and rapped on the panel with his knuckles. Finally, securing no response, he bent his face, close to the glass, and peered inside. I was again struck with fear.

It was a policeman.

"Open up there at once," he ordered, "or I shall break down the door."

I arose, trembling, from my hiding place and tried to explain to him that I could not open the door; but when he saw, as I turned, the figure of the dead man stretched upon the floor, he asked no further questions but simply hurled himself against the door and came charging in.

He looked first at me and then at the dead man on the floor.

"Anybody here with you?" he asked.

I shook my head; but he was not satisfied. Leading me with him, he looked here and there. Then, holding my wrist, he put in a telephone report of the affair to the police station.

Soon a patrol wagon arrived with several officers, and for three hours I was questioned by a detective and several coarse policemen. I was about convinced that the stupid detective would put the blame on me when a young man came in and announced himself as the assistant state's attorney.

"There's a trap door in this store," said the young attorney. "Here it is," he said, holding up a large trap door in the corner of the store. "This is how the murderer escaped."

Then the detective and officers rushed to the place. They looked at each other with expressions of surprise.

"Where does it lead?" someone asked.

"Down through the city sewer to the Plaza Club, two blocks away," was the reply. "There's a fellow there named Glen Reston, who was a partner here in this bootlegging business. We've been looking for him."

And as they turned once more to the figure on the floor one officer

discovered in the vest pocket of the dead man, a piece of white paper. They took it out for close inspection.

It bore the address of Glen Reston, in its upper left-hand corner, and had been mailed the day before to the dead man. The slip of paper was one of the drug store's monthly statements made out to Mr. Glen Reston, showing the amount due as one thousand dollars. And below this was written in a different hand:

This is sheer extortion, and I refuse to stand for it. You can take that anyway you choose. But you'll find out what I mean, if you try to start anything. Put in an order with your florist for a lily.

The detective immediately turned to me and said: "Miss Conway, you may go home now, but be ready if we should need you."

I felt a burden fall from me as I walked out of that place in which I had spent a night of horror. How strange the whole thing had been and how would I ever explain to mother?

But there was no opportunity for explanation when I reached home and heard mother's stern voice. She did not open the door, fully, she yelled through the small opening:

"You can't come in. You'll have to go elsewhere for your support; I warned you."

The door slammed viciously and I was left outside. There was no use of trying again, for it was obvious that the worm had turned. Mother meant exactly what she said.

With a petulant jerk of the head, I flung myself around and down the street I flitted, and away.

Mother did not understand it all, but I had deserved what I had brought upon myself. It is an example of the thoughtlessness and waywardness of youth. I have paid a woman's greatest price for what

might have never happened.

I became an outcast. My youth, my beauty and physical features were my only immediate defenses against poverty and starvation. And the day was coming when those defenses would fail me.

Hearing recently that mother had forgiven me, I returned home and am happy again, save in the thoughts of my foolish young life, the worry and humiliation it brought to mother, and the suffering that has come to me.

THE END



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SELECTED RECIPES FOR THE MODERN HOUSEWIFE

AN OLD DISH PROPERLY PREPARED

Scalloped Tomatoes
Drain one can tomatoes from some of their liquor. Season with salt, pepper, a few drops of onion juice, and 2 tablespoons sugar. Cover the bottom of a buttered baking dish with buttered bread crumbs, cover with tomatoes, and sprinkle top thickly with buttered crumbs. Bake in a hot oven until crumbs are brown.

HINTS FOR THE HOME

When boiling onions, cabbage, turnips, or any other vegetable with a strong odor, boil at the same time some vinegar with spices in it. This will destroy the vegetable odor.

PLUM PUDDING
1 packet chocolate junket
1 pint milk
1-3 cup raisins
1-3 cup dates
1-3 cup figs
1 cup water
¼ cup sugar
1 tablespoon lemon juice
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon clove

Cut raisins, dates, and figs in small pieces; add water and cook slowly until tender. Add sugar and boil until thick. Add lemon juice. Cool slightly; place in bottoms of individual dessert glasses. Warm the milk until it is more than lukewarm—NOT HOT—remove from stove, and dissolve in it the chocolate junket. Add spices; pour over fruit, and let stand in a warm room until firm. Chill before serving. Top with whipped cream and maraschino cherry. Recipe makes 6 servings.

SPRING SALAD DRESSINGS

Many housewives know how to prepare the basis of a variety of salads, but find themselves at a loss when deciding upon a fitting dressing for each one. This is unfortunate, for a good dressing adds much to the flavor of the dish. Whenever possible use a dressing that calls for a small amount of sugar, for in addition to blending and bringing out the full flavors of the ingredients of the salad proper, it is an excellent quick energy food. Here are the recipes for two dressings that you will find particularly pleasing:

Brabant Dressing
Mix together the yolks of four eggs, one teaspoon mustard, one teaspoon salt, one tablespoon sugar, one teaspoon butter, four tablespoons vinegar and a dash of red pepper. Cook in a double boiler until thick. Cool and then beat in one cup whipped cream and one cup chopped nut meats. This is a delicious salad dressing for fruit salad, and the sugar it contains adds a touch of quick-energy fuel to the salad course.

CRAB MORNAY
(serves 6)

3 tablespoons lemon juice
½ pound crab meat
4 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 red peppers

Pour the lemon juice over the crab meat. Melt the butter in a frying pan and add the crab meat, seasoning and chopped peppers. Cook for twenty minutes.

CRANBERRY DESSERT

1 junket tablet
1 tablespoon cold water
1 cup cranberry jelly or marmalade
1 pint milk
3 tablespoons sugar
¼ teaspoon vanilla

Prepare the junket according to directions on package. Pour at once into individual dessert glasses and let stand undisturbed in a warm room until firm—about 10 minutes. Then chill. When ready to serve add cranberry jelly or marmalade to each dish. A topping of sweetened whipped cream may be put over the cranberries if desired.

ICED COFFEE RECIPES

Iced coffee, always one of the most popular of summer beverages, has many delightful variations which are easily and inexpensively made. The best plan is to prepare the following syrup as a base: Brew the coffee with one pound of coffee to one and three-fourths quarts of water. Clear and strain the coffee, add three and a half pounds of sugar, boil two minutes and, while still boiling, pour into sterilized bottles, which should be tightly sealed. Here are two refreshing recipes:

DATE BARS
1 cup stoned dates
1 cup nut meats
1 cup powdered sugar
2 eggs
1 tablespoon melted butter
2 tablespoons lemon juice
4 tablespoons flour
¼ teaspoon salt

Put dates and nuts through food chopper. Add sugar and beaten eggs and mix well. Add melted butter, lemon juice, flour and salt and mix thoroughly. Spread evenly in a greased shallow pan, having mixture one-fourth inch deep. Bake in a moderate oven, 325 degrees F. about 30 minutes. Cut in strips and roll in powdered sugar while hot.

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