

SATAN'S HENCHMAN

By
ART NAYLOR
Widely-Known Author

A Fast Stepping, Romantic Story Depicting the Operations of an Unscrupulous Crook

Clarice Tries Artfully to Recover Theo's Love As Marcia Mysteriously Disappears

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE—

Theodore Ashton, tall, handsome, bronze-skinned athlete, the idol of his widowed mother, has by hard labor, done much to build the success of the Negrolian Life Insurance Company, and holds the responsible position of cashier. Theo is engaged to Clarice, the daughter of James O. Oliver, president of the insurance company. He admits to his mother that she has asked him to marry her.

J. Francis Bolton, a newcomer in the city, and suddenly popular because of supposed wealth, calls with a friend at the office and applies for two twenty-five thousand-dollar policies for himself and ward. President Oliver is enthusiastic over Bolton, but Theo wins Bolton's hatred by his insistence that the policies be handled in the regular way, and not be rushed through.

Theo had that morning received an anonymous letter warning him to be careful. Bruce, the bookkeeper, discovers a discrepancy in the records. Elmer, Oliver's second and young wife, hating Clarice, her step-daughter, makes advances to Theo.

At the end of the day, counting up the receipts with thousands of dollars in sight, Theo turns to face a gun in the hands of a handit, and the command, "Get 'em up." Theo knocks the handit down and captures him.

Theo discovers he is being constantly shadowed. Harry Bruce, his friend, and the bookkeeper of the Life Insurance Co., informs Theo that a shortage of ten thousand dollars shows on the company's books.

Bolton is royally entertained by the Oliver's at dinner and the theatre.

While Theo and Harry visit Foo Chang's "Paradise," a notorious black and tan cabaret, they observe Edward Terry, Bolton's friend, in attendance with the released handit captured at the attempted holdup of the company. Bolton arrives with Clarice and succeeds in getting Clarice partially intoxicated. The lights go out and Theo rescues Clarice and takes her home. The following day Theo visits Bolton's residence to investigate his applications for fifty thousand-dollar worth of insurance, and is preceded by Jenny Gilman, Bolton's housekeeper and mistress.

Theo enters and finds Jenny threatening death to a beautiful girl, but Jenny falls in a stupor from dope. The girl proves to be Marcia Anson, Bolton's ward, who has long admired Theo, and informs him of Bolton's treachery. It is love at first sight. And as Theo is leaving, Edward Terry enters. Marcia seizes Theo in a closet, and Terry insists upon her being with him. When she refuses, he attempts to attack her.

Theo springs out of the closet and knocks Terry out when the man attempts to attack Marcia. He then escapes out of the rear door as Bolton arrives.

Theo, leading the opposition, loses his fight to prevent the issuance of the Bolton policies. He also loses the right to attend Bolton's meeting in the board of directors. Bolton secures a shrewd coup by introducing Marcia, his ward, into society at a magnificent reception. But Theo is worried and pained. Jenny, Bolton's former housekeeper, has been replaced. Terry has disappeared and Bolton attains the zenith of his power in social and financial circles.

Theo is rejected by Clarice as her escort, but substitutes his mother as a companion at the debut reception, and he is practically ignored by Marcia during the festivities. In a despondent mood, he seeks a secluded balcony but is immediately joined by Elmer, President Oliver's wife, who again proposes a clandestine friendship which Theo rejects. Just as her husband appears and faces them, a heretofore unseen figure steps from the shadows to Theo's side.

The shadow figure proved to be Theo's mother, Mrs. Ashton, whose presence prevents a scene.

Theo is ignored by his fiancée, Clarice, and by Marcia, to whom he had given his heart during her debut party.

A few days later, Bolton wishes the exchange of some securities after the time safe had been locked and insists upon Theo's holding the new ones until the following day. Working overtime that night and alone, Theo is watched and receives a call that the office is to be robbed. He discovers the wires have been cut and he pockets an official looking packet and leaves. At the outbreak he is kidnapped, put into a car and robbed of the packet.

Put out of the handit car, Theo stumbles upon Terry and Jenny Gilman, Bolton's confederate and his former mistress, sitting in the park, and overhears their plot against Marcia. He follows them and discovers the secret entrance to Foo Chang's dive. At the office the next morning Theo, in the presence of Oliver, relates the hold-up to the police.

When Bolton arrives he is informed of the robbery and holds Theo to be liable for the theft of the bonds. Theo hands him the bonds that he had received and informs him that the packet of which he had been robbed contained only blank envelopes, and that Bolton's bonds were still in his desk and were false documents.

Two detectives enter the office.

After explaining how he had received the handit and returning Bolton's fake bonds to him, Theo accompanies the detectives to Oliver's residence to interview Clarice. The handit's car number turns out to be Oliver's car, and Clarice confesses that the car had been parked for several hours in front of a resort which she visited with Bolton. In the meantime the handits had evidently used and returned the car.

At the company's annual charity ball and masquerade, Theo is induced by a girl to enter a secluded nook, and discovers the girl to be Marcia. She pleads for his loyalty, explaining her past conduct, and warns him that something is going to happen.

As they separate from their short but renewed truce, Theo is approached by police officers and arrested.

Booked and cast into jail on a charge of subornation, Theo spends a week in prison before being admitted to bail. At his home he finds Marcia and his mother busily awaiting his return. While they are at dinner, Clarice arrives to return his

apparent ease put him down and out with a crushing blow to the jaw. To further the fallen man's humiliation, Theo lifted him, with arms of

son. I don't give a rap about your threats, and I want you to understand that everybody in this city is not asleep, and at the proper time, just as I floored you at will tonight, I am going to jolt you with a few more surprises. And furthermore,

always fought in the open, but henceforth, I'll fight you under cover and with your own dirty methods," warned Theo, as he left the room with Marcia at his side. In the hall he paused and kissed his lovely companion.



But Theo, realizing her near approach to hysteria, had contemplated just such a move, and before she could raise her arm and fire he had disarmed her. Like a fanatic, she clung to him, but disregarding her near nudity, he searched her until he found the key and disengaged her arms from him. Taking the revolver with him, Theo descended and left the home.

"You're a hero," she whispered. Then she sped up the imposing stairway and disappeared. As Theo opened the entrance door to make his exit, he stood face to face with President Oliver, whose serious eyes shone under the porch light.

Bolton Found Out
"Ashton, I wish you would wait for me," Oliver requested.
"All right, sir," Theo acquiesced, as the father entered and faced the surprised occupants.
"Bolton, it is inconceivable to me

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ring, and becomes furious when Marcia appears and commands Theo to place the ring on her finger, revealing their hidden love.

Clarice leaves in a huff and is waiting with Bolton, who invites Theo in when he escorts Marcia home. Bolton assaults Theo and forbids his attentions to Marcia. Marcia defies Bolton and Clarice urges his wrath. Bolton and Theo engage in a battle

INSTALMENT VIII

It was apparent from the first that Bolton, although taller and heavier, was no match for his college trained opponent. For Theo easily parried and avoided the brute strength and rushes of the infuriated man, and with

steel, to a chair into which he slumped, thoroughly defeated.

Theo Vows Vengeance

Clarice rushed to Bolton's side to display her sympathetic devotion, but his rage blinded him to all show of affection.

"I'll fix you for this assault," he hissed at Theo.

"I'm sorry, Bolton, that you permitted your wrath to get the better of your judgment. I have known for some time that sooner or later I would have to teach you a severe les-

son. I don't give a rap about your threats, and I want you to understand that everybody in this city is not asleep, and at the proper time, just as I floored you at will tonight, I am going to jolt you with a few more surprises. And furthermore,

"I love fair play, Bolton, and I have