

SATAN'S HENCHMAN—

By
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Widely-Known Author

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

Bolton's Nefarious Scheme Finds Theo to the Rescue of Clarice and Ethel

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE—

Theodore Ashton, tall, handsome, bronzed ex-soldier and athlete, the idol of his widowed mother, has by hard labor, done much to build the success of the Metrolan 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. Ethel, Oliver's second and young wife, having 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 bandit, and the command, "Blick 'em up." Theo knocks the bandit 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 really 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 bandit 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 the applications for fifty thousand dollars 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 at Theo is living Edward Terry enters. Marcia seduces Theo in a closet, and Terry insists upon her fleeing 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 issuance of the Bolton policies. He also loses the fight to defeat Bolton's election to the board of directors. Bolton executes a shrewd coup by introducing Marcia, his ward, into society at a magnificent reception. But Theo is worried and puzzled. 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 dejected mood, he seeks a secluded balcony but is immediately joined by Ethel, President Oliver's wife, who again proposes a clandestine friendship which Theo rejects. Just as her husband appears and faces them, a briefcase unseen figure steps from the shadows to Theo's side.

The unseen 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 axis 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 curbing he is kidnapped, put into a car and robbed of the packet.

Put out of the bandit 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 den. 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 blame 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 deceived the bandits and returning Bolton's fake bonds to him, Theo accompanied the detectives to Oliver's residence to interview Clarice. The bandit'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 bandits 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 room, 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

"They were ordered to remain inactive for thirty minutes, and warned that the wires had been cut."



While the president recounted the money, the stranger scrutinized several documents which Oliver had surrendered to him, and was about to place these in his grip when three masked men suddenly entered the room with revolvers levelled at the two occupants. With hands raised, Oliver and his visitor watched one of the bandits seize the package of money and the documents.

but renewed truth, Theo is approached by police officers and arrested.

Booked and cast into jail on a charge of embezzlement, Theo spends a week in prison before being admitted to bail. At his home he finds Marcia and his mother happily awaiting his return. While they are at dinner, Clarice arrives to return his ring, and she 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 insults Theo and forbids his attentions to Marcia. Marcia defies Bolton and Clarice urges his wrath. Bolton and Theo engage in a battle. Theo knocks Bolton out, which is witnessed by Clarice's father. Clarice, jealous of Theo and Marcia, schemes to have Marcia discover Theo alone with her in her bedroom, but failing this, threatens suicide.

On a trip with Harry Bruce, his friend, Theo observes Terry arrive in Bolton's car and enter the house next door to where Harry has called. Before leaving, they see also the escaped bandit enter the same house and investigation discloses the house recently rented by a couple named Gilman, recommended by Bolton.

A week later the papers carry headlines about Marcia's disappearance, and mention a possible elopement. The headlines announcing Marcia's dis-

appearance, and hinting at her elopement, cause a search, which leads Theo to enter Bolton's home and overhear some of his plans outlined to Ethel Oliver, who has answered a command to visit Bolton's home. As she departs, Foo Chang, the Chinese cabaret owner, slips in and Theo again overhears some more plans. With the de-

Continued on Page 4