

how Cleo had changed her testimony. Finally lapsing into silence, as his arm dropped limply over the table.

Gwen left him hurriedly, left the ballroom, rushed to her own room. Tomorrow night was the final rehearsal of the show. Thousands of dollars were behind it. How she had studied and slaved to interest the producers in that offering. Tomorrow night would mean the realization of her dreams. Tomorrow the man she loved was to die. There was but one decision. She must save him. The early hours of the morning found her waiting for a train to Baltimore.

"My dear Miss," said the Governor, as she sat across from him in his office the next afternoon. "as much as I would like to grant your request, I am powerless to do so. Twelve men have found him guilty, and what right have I—one man—to reverse their decision, merely on the basis of a story you heard from a drunken lout in a noisy club? What would the voters think?"

"Voters?" cried the girl with emotion. "Does not a man's life mean more to you than a few measly votes? You must save him. I tell you he is innocent."

"Bring me the woman who was in that room, and if her story backs you out, I will sign a reprieve."

Gwen left the office. She was in a daze. She knew not which way to turn. Where could she find Cleo? Was she in the city?

Slowly the hands of the city hall clock moved. Ten-thirty and still her frantic search was not rewarded. Eleven o'clock. One minute after twelve Leslie would hang.

The priest was in Leslie's cell. "Is your soul safe?" he asked in solemn tones.

"Safe as a dollar, father," smiled Leslie. "And if it isn't even hell could treat me no worse than I have been treated here. Are they ready for me out there?"

"Yes," answered the priest, as the warden nodded his head.

"Bless you, child," said Kayne. "Any one would think it was you instead of me that was going to be hanged."

"His voice choked on that last word."

The Governor was pacing his office. He had been impressed with the girl's story and had refused to leave even for supper for fear she might return. He had filled out the papers, but he thought it hopeless as his desk clock ticked persistently—ticked away a man's life. The door flew open and two women entered. One fell at his feet.

"I lied! I lied!" she cried. "I lied because I loved him and he scorned me!"

The Governor seized the pounce. His line was already open direct to the penitentiary. He talked hurriedly.

"Gee, it's tough to chase those boys down there," said Kayne looking down upon the newspaper men from the trap on which he stood as the noise was lifted from his neck.

Gwen met him the next day and carried him away. She told him about Rupert. The next morning Leslie had disappeared. Under Gwen's door she found a note reading:

"Tell them not to take that rope down. They will need it as soon as I find Clifford."

Kayne had gone to New York. She must follow him and prevent the murder. As she stepped out of the last in front of Rupert's Seventh Avenue apartment, her heart came into her mouth. There was a crowd gathered around the door. Police were bearing the body of a dead man on a stretcher. It was Rupert's. Kayne walked down the

steps behind them. Restraining herself no longer, she forced her way through the crowd and threw her arms around his neck.

"Why did you do it, Leslie?" she cried.

"I didn't," returned Kayne, "a girl that he ruined beat me to it."

"Then you—you're not a murderer?"

"In my heart I am, but not in fact," he laughed.

The premiere of the new musical comedy had been postponed a week. And Leslie stood with Gwen looking up at the twinkling lights of Broadway.

"How did you do it, Gwen?" he asked admiringly.

"I did it," returned Kayne, "a girl that he ruined beat me to it."

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