

Dr. Jack's Wife.

(Continued from 1st page.) CHAPTER XX.

This sudden change in the situation demands energetic measures to meet it. Once the yacht is underway, and to see that she will have no chance to escape. At least it will be a dozen times more difficult to accomplish.

Doctor Jack runs to the window in the stern of the same which Larry used the point of his car upon the legs of the dangle sail.

Through this stream the light from the cabin, and he is content to see two boats astern—the one they have used in coming from the shore, and another.

"Ready, Jack," he says. "There is plenty of noise or commotion on board the yacht, which is fortunate, as it helps to drown any they may make."

"All is ready for the next move, and Jack has decided now, in his mind, what it will be. Avis does not hesitate to meet him half-way, for she knows what he means to do."

CHAPTER XXI. The Panama sails early in the morning, with but a little party of four men. It looks as though they have left all dangers behind at Valparaiso, and their future seems as fair as the glad October morning the goods they are to carry.

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"Still I must reach New York in time. A vast interest demands my presence there at a certain day. I shall, perhaps, have to keep on board the steamer until California is reached, and then cross the Continent by rail," musingly.

"Ah! you know considerable about the canal. I believe you had some connection there."

"Yes, I'm something of a civil engineer, and worked a year on the canal. Of all the hard places on earth, command us to the towns at either end of the isthmus. With such forces working against you, Doctor Jack, and the elements their gold can buy up on the isthmus, it would be suicide for you to try the passage."

"Tell me. Then and how did you discover that when men were on board?"

"A short time ago—two figures passed me as I leaned over the rail—it was dark, and they probably failed to notice me. I thought a voice I heard sounded familiar, when I soon learned the truth."

"Not enough to decide, but it had some reference to you."

"These things combined cause Doctor Jack to believe the fate has trouble in store for an individual about his size. He can grapple with difficulties as well as the best man, and does not lose that admirable self-possession that has long been his heritage."

"The doctor bites his lip. "You should be sure she is on my mind, old friend. There are three of us. Surely we should be able to protect her; and we will, mark me, with the ring of steel in his low spoken words."

"I see them, and recognize mildred's flowing side whiskers. He does not lose that envious and detestation," returns Jack, in a whisper.

"The figures above vanish presently, but leave a peculiar influence behind. Jack, in his old fashion, likens to the odor of sulphur. At any rate, their presence on board the steamer is suggestive of evil."

Jack grows quite uneasy, and soon tosses his cigar overboard as though it has lost its flavor.

"Good night, Kirke. See you later." Truth to tell, he fears lest something might happen to Avis with these elements around.

Another day dawns and all is well. Doctor Jack looks in vain for the two men. They prefer to avoid him as being sent, though sooner or later he is bound to come upon them.

It is evident that the Englishman has abandoned his yacht at Valparaiso in order to follow the man he hates and the woman he adores.

The worst may be expected from a man who would thus make sacrifices in order to accomplish his end.

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