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The Woman In the Alcove

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By ANNA KATHARINE GREEN, Author of "The Millionaire Baby," "The Filigree Ball," "The House In the Mist," "The Amethyst Box," Etc.

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(Continued from last week)

lieves the thief and murderer to be should feel themselves at liberty to de name of being a captivating woman, still in the house!" "Do you see the part. diamond on me?" "Why don't they confine their suspicions to the favored few who were admitted to the al-

"They will," remarked some one close

guess from whom the comment came. Possibly from a much beflowered, bejeweled, elderly dame whose eyes were fixed on Mr. Durand's averted face. If so, she received a defiant look from mine, which I do not believe she forgot in a hurry.

Alas, it was not the only carious, I might say searching, glance I surprised way to where I could see my uncle side hall. The whisper seemed to have gone about that Mr. Durand had been Fairbrother prior to the tragedy.

In time I had the satisfaction of joining my uncle. He betrayed great relief at the sight of me, and, encouraged by his kindly smile, I introduced Mr. Durand, My conscious air must have produced its impression, for he turned a startled and inquiring look upon my companion, then took me res-

olutely on his own arm, saying: "There is likely to be some unpleasantness ahead for all of us. I do not think the police will allow any one to go till that diamond has been looked. for. This is a very serious matter, dear. So many think the murderer was one of the guests."

"I think so, too," said I. But why thought so or why I should say so with such vehemence I do not know

My uncle looked surprised.

"You had better not advance any opinions," he advised. "A lady like yourself should have none on a subject so grewsome. I shall never cease regretting bringing you here tonight. I shall seize on the first opportunity to take you home. At present we are supposed to await the action of our

He cannot keep all these people ere long," I ventured.

"No. Most of us will be relieved soon. Had you not better get your wraps so as to be ready to go as soon as he gives the word?"

"I should prefer to have a peep at the people in the drawing room first," was my perverse reply. "I don't know why I want to see them, but I do; and, uncle, I might as well tell you now that I engaged myself to Mr. Durand this evening-the gentleman with me when you first came up." "You have engaged yourself to-to

this man-to marry him, do you I nedded, with a sly look behind to

see if Mr. Durand were near enough to hear. He was not, and I allowed ny enthusiasm to escape in a few "He has chosen me," I said, "the

plainest, most uninteresting puss in the whole city." My uncle smiled "And I believe he loves me; at all events, I know that I love him." My uncle sighed, while giving me the

"It's a pity you should have come to

occupant, the Englishman. He was seated before a table, and his appearance was such as precluded any attempt at intrusion, even if one had been so disposed. There was a fixity Dutting you to." in his gaze and a frown on his powerful forehead which bespoke a mind greatly agitated. It was not for me to read that mind, much as it interested me, and I passed on chatting as if I had not the least desire to stop. I cannot say how much time elapsed | what can he want of me?"

saw a detective in plain clothes look moment. A little room? Yes, I know in here a minute ago. He seemed to one, there, under the stairs. Come, I have his eye on you. There he is will find the door for you. Why did again! What can he want? No. don't we ever come to this wretched ball?" Frightened as I had never been

arm with the remark:

motest way code I be said to be con-Mr. Durand has suspicions of his nected with it; why, then, had I caught own," I explained determinedly to my- the attention of the police? Looking self. "He met some one going in as about I sought Mr. Durand. He had he stepped out. Shall I ask him to left me on my uncle's coming up, but name this person?" No, I did not have had remained, as I supposed, within the courage, not while his face wore so sight. But at this moment he was stern a look and was so resolutely nowhere to be seen. Was I afraid on his account? Impossible; yet-

The next excitement was a request | Happily just then the word was

The time had now come to take a I paused in sudden alarm. A look his evident chagrin, that I should not sured me that we were no longer found for staying.

ually lessened and the great hall and eye. drawing rooms began to wear a look of desertion he at last ventured on this

"You have more pluck, Rita, than I supposed. Do you think it wise to stay I smiled. on here? Will not people imagine that you have been requested to do so? Look at those waiters hanging about directed against him as we made our in the different doorways. Run up with a bow, which included my uncle. and put on your wraps. Mr. Durand | Then he closed the door. us leave this place before that imperti- come up concerning which I mean to Provinces have contributed to Canadian cation for them is Mother Graves' Worm nent little man dares to come around again," he artfully added.

> moved by his final suggestion, and being a small tyrant in my way, at least with him, I carried my point.

Suddenly my anxiety became poignant. A party of men, among whom I saw Mr. Durand, appeared at the end of the hall, led by a very small but self important personage whom my uncle immediately pointed out as the detective who had twice come to the door near which I stood. As this man looked up and saw me still there, a look of relief crossed his face, and after a word or two with another stranger of seeming authority he detached himself from the group he had ushered upon the scene and approaching me respectfully enough said with a deprecatory glance at my uncle whose frown he doubtless understood:

"Miss Van Arsdale, I believe?" I nodded, too choked to speak. "I am sorry, madam, if you were expecting to go. Inspector Dalzell has



arrived and would like to speak to you. Will you step into one I these rooms? Not the library, but any other. He will come to you as quickly as he

I tried to carry it off bravely and as leave him behind when you start for glance between him and the group of home. All who have been seen enter- men of which he had just formed a sarily be detained here till the coroner men whom I had noted in Mrs. Fairbrother's train early in the evening My uncle and I strolled toward the and a few strangers, two of whom drawing room and as we did so we were officials. Mr. Durand was with passed the library. It held but one the former, and his expression did not

"The affair in very serious," commented the detective on leaving me. "That's our excuse for any trouble we may be

I clutched my uncle's arm. "Where shall we go?" I asked. "The drawing room is too large. In this hall my eyes are forever traveling in the direction of the alcove. Don't you know some little room? Oh, what.

before my uncle touched me on the "Nothing serious, nothing important," blustered my good uncle. "Some "The police are here in full force. I triviality such as you can answer in a I had no answer for this. Why, in-

r grade to the in the state of the state of

But once seated within and out of the range of peering eyes and listening ears he allowed a sigh to escape him which expressed the fullness of his

"My dear," he began and stopped. "I feel"-here he again came to a pause-"that you should know"-

"What?" I managed to ask. "That I do not like Mr. Durand and -that others do not like him." "Is it because of something you knew

about him before tonight?"

He made no answer. "Or because he was seen, like many other gentlemen, talking with that woman some time before-a long time before-she was attacked for her dia-

mond and murdered?" "Pardon me, my dear he was the one may yet be found who went in after he came out, but as yet he is considered the last. Mr. Ramsdell

"It makes no difference," I exclaimed in all the heat of my long suppressed agitation. "I am willing to stake my life on his integrity and honor. No from Mr. Ramsdell for us all to go into passed about that the police had given man could talk to me as he did early the drawing room. This led to various orders that, with the exception of such this evening with any vile, intentions cries from hysterical lips, such as, "We as had been requested to remain to at heart. He was interested, no doubt, are going to be searched!" "He be- answer questions, the guests generally like many others, in one who had the

stand and I informed my uncle, to had crossed my uncle's face which asleave as long as any excuse could be alone. Who could have entered so silently? In some trepidation I turned He said nothing at the time, but as to see. A gentleman was standing in But quickly as I turned I could not the noise of departing carriages grad- the doorway, who smiled as I met his

Instantly my courage, which had "I am." said I. "Are you the in-

"Inspector Dalzell," he explained

be perfectly frank with you. It may prove to be of trivial importance; if But I stood Arm, though somewhat so, you will pardon my disturbing you.

> "I am engaged to him," I declared before poor uncle could raise his hand. "You are engaged to him. Well, that makes it difficult, and yet, in some respects, easier for me to ask a certain

Mr. Durand-you know him?"

than easy, for he did not proceed to put this question immediately, but "You know that Mr. Durand visited

It must have made it more difficult

Mrs. Fairbrother in the alcove a little while before her death?" "I have been told so." "He was seen to go in, but I have not yet found any one who saw him

come out; consequently we have been unable to fix the exact minute when he did so. What is the matter, Miss Van Arsdale? You want to say some-"No, no," I protested, reconsidering

my first impulse. Then, as I met his look, "He can probably tell you that himself. I am sure he would not hesi-

inspector's response. "Meanwhile, are you ready to assure me that since that time he has not intrusted you with a little article to keep- No, no, I do not mean the diamond," he broke in, in very evident dismay, as I fell back from him in irrepressible indignation and alarm. "The diamond-well, we The Hardware Dealers shall look' for that later; it is another article we are in search of now, one which Mr. Durand might very well have taken in his hand without realizing just what he was doing. As it is important for us to find this article, and as it is one he might very naturally have passed over to you when he found himself in the hall with it in his hand, I have ventured to ask you if this surmise is correct."

"It is not," I retorted fiercely, glad that I could speak from my very heart. "He has given me nothing to keep for

Why that peculiar look in the inspector's eye? Why did he reach out for a chair and seat me in it before he took up my interrupted sentence

"-would not give you anything to hold which had belonged to another which a young, trusting girl like yourself would hardly expect from thom" "Not Mr. Durand," I maintained

(Continued)

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Sir Leonard Tilley

Tilley in New Brunswick, just unveiled, weeks. I was advised to try your Liniment to allay the irritation, and commemorates the life of one of the noted did so, The effect was more than I band of statesmen who made Canada. He expected, a few applications comcame into the public eye in his early days pletely curing the irritation, and as an apostle of Temperance when intemsore. MINARD'S LINIMENT is also perance was common and the "cause" was a good article to keep off the mosnot especially popular. He was called to quitoes. public life and became easily a leader and a force in his own province. When Confederation came he was one of those who entered the wider and untried arena of "Salada" Tea when you feel warm. Dominion affairs, throwing in his lot with A small piece of lemon will add to will come to the house fast enough as "I hope I have not frightened you," Sir John A Macdonald, and proved to be flavor. soon as he is released. I give you leave he went on, approaching me with a one of the most practical and able of the to sit up for him if you will. Only let gentlemanly air. "A little matter has brilliant coterie of public men the Lower fants is worms, and the most effective appli-

When the country was in a state bordering on despair from long-continued depression, Sir Leonard Tilley was the Minister of Finance who formulated and fought through Parliament the National Policy, Every household has its share of aches, pains, bruises, chilblains, burns, stiff joints, chest colds, sore throats, muscular | native industries, under which Canada's soreness and similar troubles. It is sure- great industrial development was brought ly unwise to suffer with even the least of about. There were those who strenuously these, when there is a sure and speedy opposed the proposal at the time, and some who do so -in theory at least-yet, physician, was especially successful in but with successive administrations, includdevising a prescription for the prompt ing those who were Sir Laonard Tilley's opponents, and with the subsequent amend-Morriscy's Liniment constantly in the ments of the tariff, the principle involved in the policy adopted in 1879, has not been Unlike most liniments, it has both a departed from. Sir Leonard Tilley, of course, had opponents, and he vigorously defended the policy his name was associated and does not blister. Better yet, it goes with in every province of the Dominion. straight to the seat of the trouble, very but he was a man of essentially amiable character and exemplary life, and made a helpful adjunct to Father Morriscy's no personal enemies. Retiring to the guber-"No. 7," and in cases of sore throat and | natorial chair of his native province, he cold on the chest it supplements his well- ended his days in private life. The present memorial shows that vigorous, progressive Canada in her growing time has not for-

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