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All employers of labor in said disict willing to give preference to re-icped disabled soldiers as employees | nd all returned discharged soldiers | ng employment residing therein equested to notify the secretary

BLACK IS WHITE

CHAPTER XVII—Yvonne goes to Fred-bric in the jade-room and asks him to graway with her. He refuses. She taunts, hen tempts him. Brood comes through the doorway, Ranjab behind him.

CHAPTUR XVIII—Brood shoots at Yvonne and wounds Frederic. Yvonne commands the situation, Brood thinks she is his dead wife, and Ranjab says he sees the dead in her eyes.

CHAPTR XXIV—On leaving, Brood orders his wife to remain at home until he eturns. She consents. Six months later whiteless comes from him, calling her o him, but she tells Eriggs and Dawes "I biall not go to him." . "He will some to me." . "Send him a cable aying . . . I cannot come to him."

not killed him. He shall not die—he shall not—" Flinging the Hindu aside, Slowly her eye he threw himself down beside the body on the floor. The revolver as it dropped, was caught in the nimble hoarsely. As he stared, the delicate hand of the Hindu, who took two long swift strides toward the woman who he again saw the brilliant, undimmed now faced him instead of her husband. There was a great light in his eyes as it was Matilde! What accursed trick he stood over her and she saw death of staring out upon her.

But she did not quail. She was past all that. She looked straight into his eyes for an instant and then, as if putting him out of her thoughts entirely, turned slowly toward the two men on the floor. The man half raised the pistol, but something stayed his hand -something stronger than any mere physical opposition could have done.

He glared at the half-averted face, confounded by the most extraordinary impression that ever had entered his incomprehensible brain. Something strange and wonderful was transpiring before his very eyes-something A genius is a man who can do almost anything but make a living and leep up his reputation for being a genius complete amazement and unbelief That strange, uncanny intelligence of his, born of a thousand mysteries, was being tried beyond all previous exac-It was as if he now saw this woman for the first time—as if he had never looked upon her face before. A mist appeared to envelop her and through this veil he saw a face that was new to him-the face of Yvonne and yet not hers at all. Absolute won-

der crept into his eyes. As if impelled by the power of his gaze, she faced him once more. Fo reality only seconds, his searchin and his lips moved but there were no words, for he addressed a spirit. All

trate Frederic and straightened his tall figure as would a soldier under command in her eyes. He placed the weapon on the table. It had been a dis inct command to him.

monotonously. "Go!"
With incredible swiftness he was gone. The curtains barely moved as he passed between them and the heav door made no sound in opening and closing. There was no one in the hall The sound of the shot had not gone beyond the thick walls of that proscribed room on the top floor. Somewhere at the rear of the house an indistinct voice was uttering a jumbled tream of French.

Many minutes passed. There was not a movement in the room. Brood, eside the outstretched figure of his nintended victim, was staring at the raying face with wide, unblinking res. He looked at last upon the feaain through all the sullen years. here was blood on his hands and on s cheek, for he had listened at first for he beat of the heart. Afterward his gonized gaze had gone to the bloods face. There it was arrested. lumb wonder possessed his soul. He chelt there petrified by the shock of discovery. In the dim light he no onger saw the features of Matilde, but his own, and his heart was still. In that revealing moment he realized that he had never seen anything in Frederic's countenance save the dark, never-to-be-forgotten eyes—and they were his Matilde's. Now those eyes were closed. He could not see them, and the blindness was struck from his own. He had always looked into the seek farther than those haunting, in-

quiring eyes-but now he saw the lean, strong jaw, and the firm chin. the straight nose and the broad fore-head—and none of these were Matilde's! These were the features of a man—and of but one man. He was see-ing himself as he was when he looked

into his mirror at twenty-one! All these years he had been blind. all these years he had gone on curs-ing his own image. In that overpowering thought came the realization that it was too late for him to atone. His mind slowly struggled out of thrall that held it stupefied. He was looking at his own face—dead! He would look like that! Matilde was gone forever the eyes were closed-but he was

ward. She had not moved throughout

CHAPTER XXIII—Frederic recovers and he and Lydia plan to go abroad with rood. The young couple endeavor unaccessfully to reconcile Brood to his rife, whom he plans to leave alone in the out a hand and saved himself from falling, but his eyes never left the face of the woman who prayed—whose whole being was the material representation of prayer. But it was not Yvonne, his wife, that he saw standing there. It was another—Matilde!

"My God, Matilde-Matilde! For-

Slowly her eyes were lowered until he again saw the brilliant, undimmed features of Yvonne. "God in heaven,

He sprang to his feet and advanced upon her, actually stepping across the body of his son in his reckless haste. For many seconds they stood with their faces close together, he staring wildly, she with a dull look of agony in her eyes, but unflinching. What he saw caused an icy chill to sweep through his tense body, and a sickness to enter his soul. He shrank back.

"Who-who are you?" he cried out in sudden terror. He felt the presence of Matilde. He could have stretched out his hand and touched her, so real, so vivid was the belief that she was actually there before him. "Matilde was here—I saw her, before God, I saw her. And—and now it is you! She is still here. I can feel her hand touching mine-I can feel-no, again. I-

The cold, lifeless voice of Yvonne was speaking to him, huskier than ever

"Matilde has been here. She has always been with him. She is always near you, James Brood." "What - are - you - saying?" he

She turned wearily away and pointed to the weapon on the table.

"Who is to use it, you or I?" He opened his mouth but uttered no sound. His power of speech was gone. She went on in a deadly monotone. "You intended the bullet for me. It is not too late. Kill me, if you will. I give you the first chance—take it, for if you do not I shall take mine.'

"I-I cannot kill you-I cannot kill the woman who stood where you are there! She was alive, do you hear

(To be continued.)



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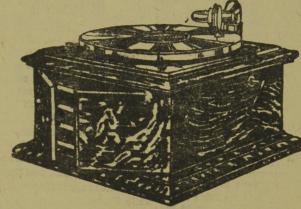


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