

THE DESPERATE LOVER

By E. Phillips Oppenheim
ILLUSTRATED BY FRANK BORUEN

"Yet, after all, it is best!" she whispered softly, at the end of that unspoken prayer; and with those words of calm resignation, a change crept softly in upon her face. It seemed almost as though, while yet on earth, there had come to her a touch of that exquisite spiritual beauty which follows only upon the extinction of all earthly passion, and the uplifting into a purer, sweeter life. And her eyes closed upon the sunlight, and darkness stole in upon her senses. She lay quite still upon the floor; but the smile still lingered upon her lips, making her face more lovely even in its cold repose than when the glow of youth and life had shown in her dark, clear eyes, and lent expression to her features. Saints like St. Francis of Assisi may die thus, but seldom women.

"Help! For God's sake, help!"

A woman's cry of agony rang out upon the sweet morning stillness. Count Marioni, who had been hurrying on with downcast head, stood still in the cliff path and lifted his head. It was the woman whose memory he had cursed who stood before him—the woman on whom his vengeance was to fall.

Her face was as white as his own, and in the swiftness of her fight her hat had fallen away and her hair was streaming in the breeze. Yet in that moment of her awful fear she recognized him and shrank back trembling, as though some unseen hand had palsied her tongue, and laid a cold weight upon her heart. They stood face to face, breathless and speechless. A host of forgotten sensations, kindled by her appearance, had leaped up within the Sicilian's heart. He had indeed loved this woman.

"Merciful God! to meet you here," she faltered. "You will help me? Oh, you will help me? My husband is being murdered there on the cliff by an escaped lunatic. Oh, Leonardo save him, and you may strike me dead at your feet. It is I whom you should hate, not him. Oh, come! Come, or it will be too late!"

He stood quite still, looking at her curiously.

"And it is I to whom you dare to come for help—I whom you ask to save him—your husband? Adrienne, do you remember my

words on the sands at Palermo?" She wrung her hands, frantically imploring.

"How can I remember anything—think of anything, now? For the love of God, help him," she begged, seizing his hand.

"That was all so long ago. You would not have him killed here before my eyes? Come! Oh, do come!"

"Lead the way," he answered sternly. "Call you loudest for other help. I make no promise, but I will see this tragedy."

She ran back along the path, and he followed her. They turned suddenly an abrupt corner, and came upon two men locked in one another's arms, and swaying backward and forward upon the short green turf. The lunatic, an immense fellow, more than six feet high, was clutching his opponent's throat with his left hand, while with his right he brandished a long table-knife with keenly-sharpened edge. The struggle was virtually over. The madman's strength was more than human, Lord St. Maurice was lying exhausted and overcome in his arms.

With a final effort he turned his head at the sound of footsteps and saw them come—his wife and this shrunken little old man. But close at hand though they were, nothing could help him now. He saw the steel flashing in the sunlight, and he closed his eyes.

The knife descended, but Lord St. Maurice remained unhurt. With a swiftness which seemed almost incredible, the Sicilian had sprung between them and the knife was quivering in his side. Behind the lunatic was struggling helplessly in the grasp of three keepers.

There was a wild cry of horror from Lady St. Maurice, a choking gasp of relief from her husband, and a horrid chuckle of triumph from the madman as he gazed upon his handiwork. But after that there was silence—a deep, awe-stricken silence—the silence of those who stand in the presence of death.

Count Marioni lay on the turf where he had sunk, very white and very still with the blood dropping slowly from his wound upon the grass and his eyes closed. At first they thought that he

was already dead; but, as though aroused by Lady St. Maurice's broken sobs, he opened his eyes and looked up. His lips moved, and she stooped low down to catch the sound.

"Will you tell Margharita that this was best?" he faltered. "I have heard a whisper from over the sea, and—and the White Hyacinth forgives. I forgive. She will understand."

"Leonardo," she sobbed, "your vengeance—"

He interrupted her. "This is my vengeance!" he said. "I have kept my oath!"

Then he closed his eyes, and a gray shade stole into his pallid face. A breeze sprung up from the sea, and the tall, blood-red poppies, which stood up around him like a regiment of soldiers, bent their quivering heads till one or two of them actually touched his cheek. He did not move; he was dead.

Lord and Lady Lumley had lingered long in Rome, and now, on the eve of their departure, they had spent nearly the whole of a bright November afternoon buying curios of a wizened old dealer, whose shop they found in one of the dark narrow streets at the back of the Piazzo Angelo. Lady Lumley had taken up a curious old ring, and was examining it with a vague sense of familiarity.

"Ten pounds for that ring, my lady," the curio dealer remarked "and it has a history. You will see that it bears the arms and motto of the Marionis, once the most powerful family in Sicily. I had it from the late Count himself."

Lady Lumley sank into the little chair by the counter, holding the ring tightly in her hand.

"Will you tell us the history?" she asked in a low tone.

The man hesitated.

"If I do so," he said doubtfully, "will you promise to keep it absolutely secret?"

George A. Roney
OPTOMETRIST
Eyes examined Glasses fitted
Offices—Upstairs above shoe store.
Phone 57 Sullivan, Ill.

"Yes."
"Well, then, I have told it to no one yet, but I will tell it to you. Many years ago I was a chemist, and among my customers was Count Leonardo di Marioni. His history was a very sad one, as doubtless you may have heard. When he was quite a young man he was arrested on some political charge and imprisoned for five-and-twenty years—a cruel time. Well, scarcely more than twelve months ago he came here to me so altered that I found it hard indeed to recognize him. Poor old gentleman, when he had talked for a while, I felt quite sure that his long confinement had affected his mind and his errand with me made me sure of it. He came to buy a celebrated poison which I used at one time to be secretly noted for, and I could tell from his manner that he wanted it for some fatal use. Well, I thought at first of refusing it altogether, but what was the use of that? Some one else would have sold him an equally powerful poison, and the mischief would be done all the same. So, after a little consideration, I made up quite an innocent powder, which might cause a little momentary faintness, but which could do no further harm, and gave it to him as the real thing. I couldn't take money for doing a thing like that, so he

pressed this ring upon me. You see, it really has a history."
Lord Lumley took his wife's hand and pressed it tenderly. In the deep gloom of the shop the curio dealer could not see the tears which glistened in her dark eyes.

"We will have the ring!" Lord Lumley said, taking a note from his pocket-book and handing it across the counter.

The man held it up to the light marked. "One hundred pounds," he marked. "I shall owe your lordship ninety."

Lord Lumley shook his head. "No Signor Paschuli, you owe me nothing; it is I who owe you a wife. Come, Margharita, let us get out into the sunshine again."

And Signor Paschuli kept the note. But he has come to the conclusion that all Englishmen traveling on their honeymoon are mad.

THE END.

Miss Alberta Harsh and Mrs. Vivian Poland.

The little tots present were: Cora Lucas, Verna Lucas, Sally Martin, Richard Kilton, Jack, Myrna Rose and Florence Crockett, Cynthia Newbould, Marion Miller, Maxine Dixon, Catheryn McFerrin, Betty Clark John M. George, Eloise McDavid, Rowena Dean, Millie and Rosaline Schneider, Billie Plummer, Shirley Lee Poland and June Yates.

Sunday in Neoga. Mrs. Anna Armantrout called on Mrs. Viola Scoby Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Zula Gearheart and children spent Sunday afternoon with her mother, Mrs. Charles Fowler. Mrs. Fowler is some better.

ARTHUR GRADE SCHOOL OPERETTA TONIGHT (FRI).
The Arthur Grade schools will present the operetta "Carrie Comes to College" at the Township High School auditorium in that city tonight (Friday April 12th.)
The operetta represents a well balanced program of vocal and instrumental music and a clever plot. Geneva Robinson is the director. The public is cordially invited to attend. Price of admission is 20c and 40c.

FRED FISHER TO TUSCOLA
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fisher and son Billy moved to Tuscola Tuesday where Mr. Fisher will engage in the oil business.

COLES

Mrs. Lillian Davis and Mrs. Bettie Davis spent Friday afternoon with Mrs. Albert Boyd.

Miss Fannie Hinton spent Friday with Mrs. Nate Hinton.

Mrs. May Willis was a Sullivan caller Saturday.

Miss Jennie Cole spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Ed Finley.

Dale Hinton has been out of school on account of tonsillitis.

Virgil Claxon and family spent Sunday with John Henderson and family.

Dick Eaton and family spent Sunday afternoon with Roscoe Graham and family.

Clay Davis and family spent Sunday with Claude Fleshner and family.

George Bouck and family spent Sunday with William Roland and family.

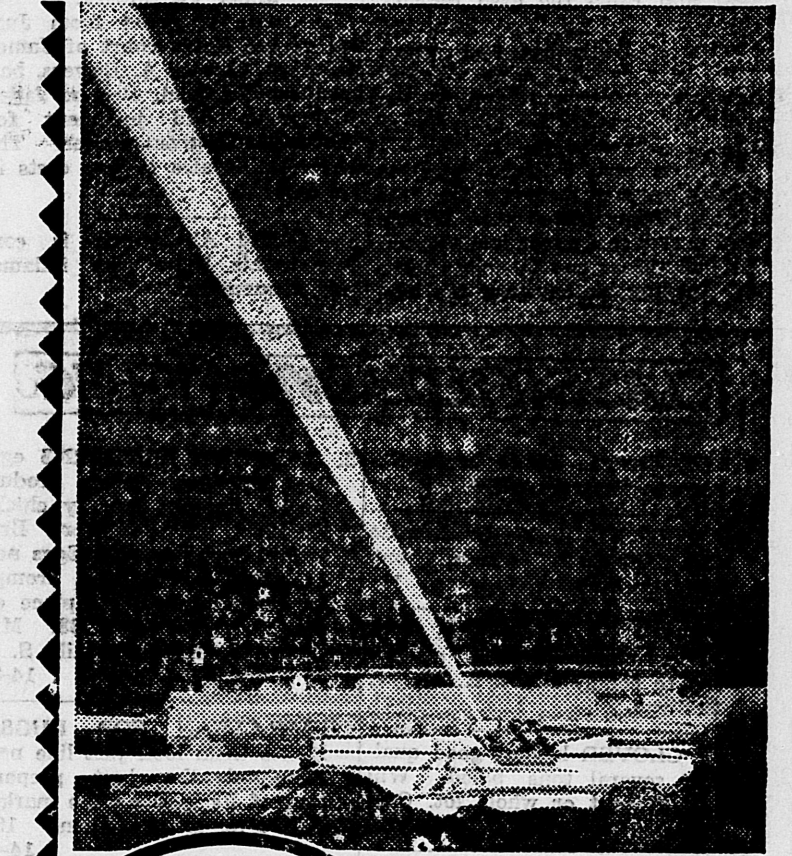
Job Johnson and family spent

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BUTLER & BUTLER
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FRANK NEWBOULD'S SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FOR THE PAST YEAR

(Continued from page 1)

Table listing various items and amounts, including '1-31-29 Cinders sold', '2-8-29 Lumber sold', '2-16-29 Cinders sold', etc.

Table listing names and amounts, including 'W. H. Elzy, labor', 'Wm. Miller labor', 'Lawrence Pierson, labor', etc.

Table listing names and amounts, including 'Supplies', 'Les Atchison, supplies', 'David Hardware, supplies', etc.

Table listing names and amounts, including 'L. T. Hagerman, supplies', 'Grote garage supplies', 'L. B. Riley, scraper', etc.

—Mrs. Frank Gibbon, Mrs. Ruth Larson and Mrs. Theo Sona went to Danville Saturday where they visited the Soldiers' and nurses' home.

—Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Craig who reside east of this city went to Beecher City Sunday to attend the funeral of a relative. They returned Tuesday.

—Clark Reed and family visited in St. Louis over Sunday. —Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hill and daughter Beatrice spent Sunday in Springfield.

SPECIMEN BALLOT

Below is a Specimen of the Official Ballot to be voted in the First Ward, City of Sullivan, Illinois, on Tuesday, the 16th day of April A. D. 1929.

JOHN EDEN MARTIN, City Clerk

Ballot form for the First Ward with columns for CITIZENS, PEOPLES, and Independent, and rows for Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Police Magistrate, and Alderman.

SPECIMEN BALLOT

Below is a Specimen of the Official Ballot to be voted in the Second Ward, City of Sullivan, Illinois, on Tuesday, the 16th day of April A. D. 1929.

JOHN EDEN MARTIN, City Clerk

Ballot form for the Second Ward with columns for CITIZENS, PEOPLES, and Independent, and rows for Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Police Magistrate, and Alderman.

SPECIMEN BALLOT

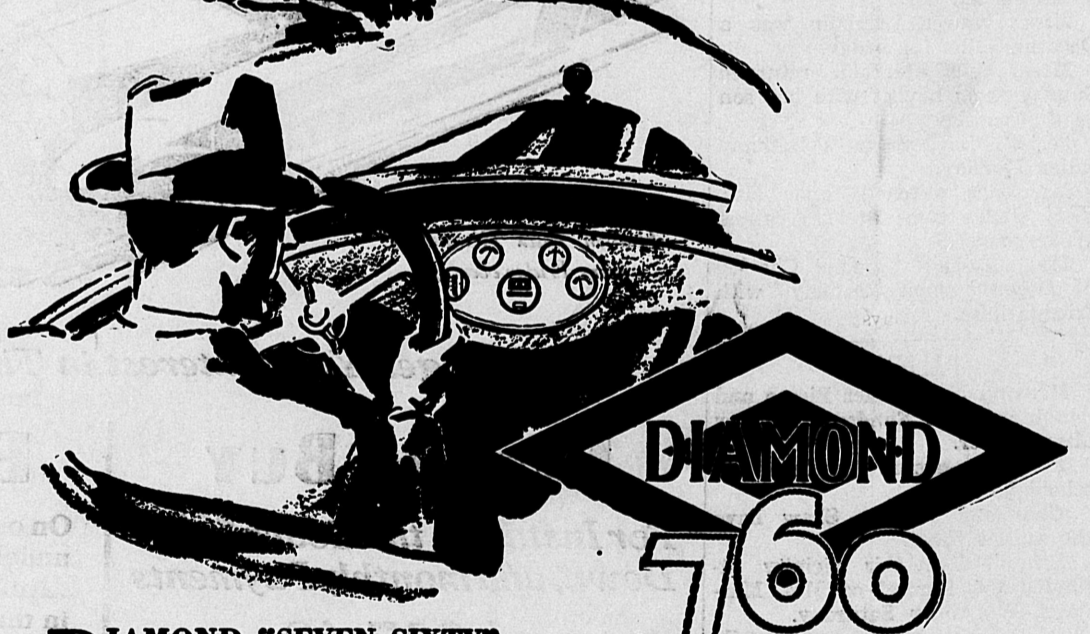
Below is a Specimen of the Official Ballot to be voted in the Third Ward, City of Sullivan, Illinois, on Tuesday, the 16th day of April A. D. 1929.

JOHN EDEN MARTIN, City Clerk

Ballot form for the Third Ward with columns for CITIZENS, PEOPLES, and Independent, and rows for Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Police Magistrate, and Alderman.

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FRANK NEWBOULD'S SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FOR THE PAST YEAR

(Continued from page 6)

Table with columns for item description, amount, and date. Includes entries for concrete, lumber, labor, and various supplies.

Summary table for the report, including 'Total amount received to March 30, 1929' and 'Total amount paid out to March 30, 1929'.

Advertisement for Capitol Chevrolet Sales, featuring 'WE USE ONLY GENUINE CHEVROLET PARTS' and 'QUALITY AT LOW COST'.

Table listing disbursements for 'Tom Pierson, labor' and 'C & E I R. R. freight', with amounts and dates.

Summary table for the disbursements, including 'Total amount received to Mar. 30, 1929'.

Advertisement for 'MONEY to Loan' by J. A. Webb, located at 256 N. Main St., Decatur, Ill.

Table listing disbursements for 'Grace Sona, election judge' and 'Raymond Shasteen, Judge'.

Summary table for the disbursements, including 'Total amount received to Mar. 30, 1929'.

Advertisement for 'SPECIAL NOTICE' by Frank Wallace Eye Service, located at 256 N. Main St., Decatur, Ill.

Table listing disbursements for 'G. C. Miller, 12 days' and 'G. C. Miller, 11 days'.

Summary table for the disbursements, including 'Total amount of outstanding indebtedness due and unpaid'.

Advertisement for 'High School Election Notice For Board of Education' for Saturday, April 13, 1929.

Table listing disbursements for 'Merritt' and 'John Brown'.

Summary table for the disbursements, including 'Total amount of outstanding indebtedness due and unpaid'.

Advertisement for 'A Poultry Specialist' representing Purina Mills, located at Freeland Grove Auditorium.

Advertisement for 'DR. S. TROWBRIDGE PROSTHETIC DENTIST' with practice information.

Advertisement for 'The Alexander Lumber Co.' with contact information for Chas. Kelso.

