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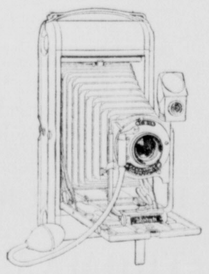

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ORDER NISI.

ORDERED this 7th day of June, 1910, by the Orphan's Court for Kent county, Maryland that the sale of Real Estate made and reported by Wm. L. S. Murray, Executor of Edwin P. Janvier, deceased, be ratified and confirmed unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 14th day of August next; provided that a copy of this Order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent county once in each of four successive weeks before the 14th day of July next.

The report states the amount of sales to be $8800.00.

JOHN H. SIMPERS,
JOHN P. NICHOLSON,
EDWIN S. MORRIS,
Judges of the Orphan's Court.

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HARRIS KAPLAN,

Chestertown, Md.

FAIRFIELD FED FOWLS FEEL FINE

HOW HER FORTUNE CAME.

Also Her Husband, Who Proved an Important Element.

By ANNA BENTLEY.

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May 10.

We have all received a dreadful shock. When uncle's valet went to his master's room this morning he found uncle on the floor dead. Poor, dear old man, to die all alone, without any wife or child to soothe his going! If he had only let me live with him I might at least have been within call at the moment when he was stricken. But, no: though I offered repeatedly to be a daughter to him, he steadily refused, persisting in living alone with no one but servants in the house. But uncle was very eccentric.

I supposed there was no doubt that uncle died of some heart trouble or apoplexy, or something like that, but they say now that the doctors declare there are no evidences whatever of disease—that he was in perfect health. It is suspected that he was murdered. But how could that be since no wound has been found on his body? Oh, dear! I am so frightened! I am uncle's nearest relative—indeed, his only relative so far as is known—and unless he has left his wealth to charities I shall inherit it. I do hope nothing will come of this theory that he has been made away with. Suspicion will fall upon me, for it is quite likely that I shall fall heir to all of his estate, which, they say, will turn out to be worth millions.

IT WAS A TREATISE ON POISON.

May 11.

I can't wait to see the morning paper, and yet I dread to look at it for fear it will contain some terrible development.

Great heavens! "Arnold Maxwell came to his death through an insidious poison!"

Who could have had an interest in murdering him? No one but me. I shall be charged with the crime. In any event, I shall be suspected. Oh, how many horrors accompany wealth!

May 12.

Every one is talking about uncle's taking off. The papers are full of it. The police, they say, have been very active, but do not claim as yet to have got any clew. One account says that both servants—there are but two—have been under close surveillance ever since that dreadful night, though they have both proved that they were at a servants' ball from 10 o'clock till 3 in the morning, while the doctors say uncle died between 11 and 1. I wonder how they know that. Oh, how I wish they would find the poisoner!

May 14.

This morning I saw the first newspaper mention of myself in connection with uncle's death: "No will has yet been found, but it is understood that Miss Clementine Deane, a daughter of the deceased's late wife, has long been the heir expectant. But Miss Deane, not being a blood relative of the murdered man, cannot inherit under the common law."

What a relief! I cannot inherit unless by a will. And yet what a singular position in which to be placed! If a will is found making me an heiress I shall doubtless have to answer to a charge of murdering the man who loved me well enough to leave me his property. God grant that no will may be found, or, if one is found, may some one other than I be the beneficiary! I would rather work and starve than go through the ordeal of being mistaken for a murderess. Think of the long wait in jail for a trial, my portrait everywhere staring me in the face, gaped at in a crowded courtroom. My God, I shall go mad!

May 20.

For a week I have been dreading an arrest. I fancy every one with whom I come in contact is a detective watching me. I am getting thin and have lost all my color. I must divert my mind and look less worried or it will be assumed that my crime is preying upon me. I will try to read. Perhaps a sensational novel would draw my thoughts from this frightful sensation of my own.

I have been to the library and brought home a book. How kind that librarian was to me! I wonder if he knew that I was dreading a terrible misfortune. When he was telling me about the singular things he finds between the leaves of books returned to the library I forgot my trouble. He says he finds everything from a love letter to a hairpin. How careless we women are! Men seldom leave things between the pages of books, but men don't read as many books as women.

May 21.

The will has been found. I am heiress to a great fortune. I have been congratulated. I hinted to one of my congratulators that I shall be suspected of having poisoned uncle. He replied that I would at least have "millions for defense." But that would not remove the charge, the trial and the stain to follow. The same person bade me not worry. He says that detectives have been watching my every act since the crime was committed and they have admitted to not getting a single item of evidence against me. I knew it. That woman who insisted on coming in to make a dress for me for a song was one of them. That man I saw at so many places, in the shops, on the street, everywhere, was another. I am not reassured by the person who has comforted me, but I have finished my book and will go for another. I long to talk to my friend the librarian about what is on my mind. He has become my only confidant.

I am electrified by a spark of hope. This morning I received a letter addressed in a strange hand. I studied the superscription a long while, but I could not make out from whom it could be. It was postmarked as sent from this town. Finally it occurred to me to open it. I suppose I would have done so before had my mind not been so tortured by the frightful specter that has been hanging over me. What was my surprise to see at the bottom of the letter, "Your friend The Librarian."

This is what he says:

After talking with you yesterday I went home and, taking up a newspaper, read a detailed report of the doctors who were deputed to analyze the poison found in the case of your late uncle. Suddenly my fingers released their grip on the paper, and it fell to the floor. An idea had flashed upon me. What a singular faculty is memory, and how marvelously it is awakened! I remembered a wet, dismal night a month ago when I was sitting at my desk in the library. A young man, a stranger to me, came in and asked for a rare work of a foreign author. Since it had never been called for before I should not have remembered it except for its rarity. I went to the shelf, where I found it covered with dust, took it down and gave it to the stranger.

It was a treatise on poisons.

A group of events recorded in my brain had led me to this remembrance. My chats with you as to your uncle's death, all I have heard about it and lastly this report of the doctors—might not that book contain mention of the poison reported by them as having been used to kill your uncle, and might not this in some way connect this stranger with the murder?

I hurried to the library, found the book which had been returned, and opened it.

You remember that the first day you came here I told you how many articles are left carelessly between the leaves of returned books. Well, the book I opened contained an instance of this kind. On running over the leaves looking for mention of the poison named by the doctors I found lying between two pages devoted to a description of it and its effects a soiled piece of paper. On it was a note written in a peculiar hand referring to the chapter and page on which this poison that killed your uncle was described.

But one thing more remained for me to do to establish my find as a bit of evidence. I referred to the record of the book's withdrawal and found the name of the person who had withdrawn it, or at least the name he had given. I also found that the book had not been taken out since he had taken it.

The volume, the bit of paper—evidently slipped in between the pages for a place mark and forgotten—and the record concerning its withdrawal are now all in the hands of the police. I write this to you before going to bed that with the morning light you may have a hope of being relieved of that unspoken suspicion that you cannot but feel overshadows you.

Isn't it delightful? If it really turns out that this man who seems to have been so interested in this especial poison killed uncle I shall be vindicated and rich.

But it may turn out that he wished the poison for another purpose. They may never find him. If not, at any rate this bit of evidence proves his existence and diverts suspicion from me.

June 20.

The young man who took the book on poisons from the library has been arrested. The police have been a long while about it and would not have succeeded in finding him had it not been for the handwriting on his slip used for a bookmark. The way it came about was this: Uncle has a nephew, a real nephew, his own sister's son. I have never before heard of him. He is a physician. He put in a claim as next of kin for uncle's estate. As soon as the police heard of this they secured a specimen of his handwriting. It turned out to be the same queer hand as that found in the book.

Sept. 18.

The second part of the horror attending uncle's death is ended, thank heaven. Yesterday the murderer received his punishment. I did not know it till it was all over. It is all so dreadful! I don't wish another fortune to come to me in such an awful way.

It is my wedding day. And whom am I to marry? Why, the man who removed the cloud that hung over me at the time of uncle's death. Isn't it natural that I should appreciate such an act even if it came unintended? But he sympathized with me from the first. And when he made the discovery that vindicated me he could scarcely contain himself for joy.

And so ends the episode of the coming of my fortune. We are to go abroad, my husband having received a commission to examine libraries there and purchase a new lot of books for the library here. There has been a gift for this purpose. Who knows who is the giver? I do.

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For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

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Cross Street, - - Chestertown

CHAS. T. WESTCOTT, Trustee.

Order Nisi.

Charles T. Westcott, Administrator of Anna M. Westcott

versus

Mary C. Howard, Joseph W. Howard.

In the Circuit Court for Kent County in Equity. No. 1735.

ORDERED, this 23rd day of June, 1910, by the Circuit Court for Kent county in Equity that the sale of the mortgaged real estate mentioned in these proceedings made and reported by Charles T. Westcott, Trustee, under a decree of this court dated April 5th, 1910, to make sale of said property, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 24th day of August, next;—provided a copy of this Order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent county, once in each of four successive weeks before the 27th day of July next.

The report states the amount of sales to be $10,500.00.

JAMES T. DIXON, Clerk.

True Copy—Test;
JAMES T. DIXON, Clerk.

June 25, 1910—4t.

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