Storm

Dornford Yates

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CHAPTER X—Continued

"He said-it may not be true, but he said they were always tattooed be- occurred. In the twinkling of an eye I think, an expert was brought from Japan. It was thought, very properly, deserved to be shot. if I may say so, that so exquisite a canvas deserved a master's brush. . . .

May we . . . see his handiwork, please?" Helena sat as though strickenturned into stone.

Pharaoh proceeded mercilessly. "If you would like assistance, you've only to say the word. We're none of us lady's maids, but Rush has the reputation of being a lady's man." The sweat was running on my tem-

As I tried to measure my distance, I found that I could not see, for my from the head of the winding stair. now could not pierce the darkness | that his captive had merely moved. which veiled the rest of the room.

must have been the end of this tale. | this was a chair with its back to the But he only passed behind me, to stand wall. If my torch were trained upon I can only say that at that time I had him dead on the spot. It seemed, first between me and Dewdrop-I suppose this, Pharaoh would receive the imto be nearer his master . . . the sud- pression that his captive had changed very well that the man was as swift happened, so the gentleman took this denly favoured courtier approaching her seat, for the chair was masked and as cunning as I was slow, I was for proof there was no God and

the steps of the throne. was very plain. Any moment now I how to support the torch. should have to send my mask flying. down the torch and hurl myself at the Reason, this office must devolve upon do it again? monster before he had time to think. Rush. First Pharaoh, and then his fellows. But for the thought of his fellows, I torch in his hand would be almost could not have stood my ground. But | sure to illumine the opposite side of if I should not survive Pharaoh. . . . the room. The corpse must therefore My heart that had been smoking be moved, in any event. And if I

reputation of being a lady's man. Helena was trembling. A little hand

went up to cover her eyes. "I'll make you an offer, I nearly made it just now. If you'll go now, I'll with an arm along one of the chair's show you the secret way. Tomorrow night I'll meet you with five thousand pounds in gold. And after that I'll pay you five thousand a year-for every year that you let Mr. Spencer live."

It was clear that a child was speaking, a terrified child. Offer, promise, figures were things grotesque. Her suggestion was below comment. But Pharaoh had his foot in the opening, quick as a flash.

"That's better," he said. "Much better. You've gone, shall we say, a long way. But I'm sure Mr. Spencer's worth ten thousand a year."

The man was playing with her-playing the fish he had hooked. Helena's voice was shaking.

"I've no right to give any more. The money's not mine. That's more than I ought to take for my personal use. It was awful to hear such naivete issue from Helena's lips.

"I am not concerned with your right, To insure Mr. Spencer's life will cost you ten thousand down and ten thousand a year."

Her palms clapped fast to her eyes, Helena threw back her head.

"All right," she said, "I'll pay it." The words seemed torn from her throat.

"One thing more," said Pharaoh. "It will not be convenient to meet you tomorrow night. I take the first premium now. Show me that cellar, or strip. I don't care which you do, for I guess you can open it naked as well as clothed."

I think a full minute went by before Helena moved.

Then very slowly she rose and turned to the right. Then her hand went up to a sconce, laid hold of the bracket and pulled it down.

I heard no sound, but a panel below the sconce moved, and, when she turned. I saw the shape of a door which was standing ajar. So Helena severed one of the threads

by which her life was hanging.

Slowly she returned to the bench. As she took her seat, Pharaoh rapped out an order.

"Put a light on the lady, Bugle." I think my heart stood still: but I | flesh. had a torch and the wit to do as he

"Rush and Bugle stand fast: Dewdrop with me." He crossed to the gaping panel, with

Dewdrop directly behind him, lighting his steps.

the stonework beyond. I stood waiting for their footfalls to fade. My moment had come.

dreadful head. "Sheba's the goods," he murmured. so soon. "Look at that mouth, Here. I'm goin' to 'ave a close-up. Gimme that-torch."

Between us we bungled the business. and the torch fell down and went out. I let him grope and find it. As he stood up, grunting, I took him fast by came to my ears. the throat and drove my knife into his

heart. He gave one frightful convulsion. And then I knew he was dead. . .

I turned the beam on to myself. "Helena," I said, "it's all right. I've

done the swine in." She did not answer, so I got to my raoh thayth-" feet and threw the beam round the

She had fled for the staircase-turret | carried a message to Pharaoh which when Rush and I, between us, had not even a child could misread. dropped the torch.

Rush had locked the door of the hall, not the door of the secret room.

stopped in my tracks. tered had disappeared.

.

Helena was safe-for the moment. So much I saw. (As a matter of fact, she was saved: but at that time I did not know that no one within the room could open the door she had shut.) And Rush was dead, and Pharaoh and Dewdrop knew nothing of what had

I stepped to the cut through which Pharaoh and Dewdrop had passed. As I had supposed, this gave to a winding stair-no doubt of a considerable depth, for though I strained my ears, I could hear nothing at all. Determined to leave nothing chance, I proceeded to lay my ambush

with infinite care. Pharaoh must find nothing wrong -until too late. To all appearance the room must be as he had left it.

The bench, however, could be seen eyes had been fixed on Helena and must therefore suggest to Pharoah This was easy enough. Next to the And then I heard Rush moving. . . . | bench stood the fireplace, which jutted | defend my annoyance at finding that Had the fellow moved forward, that | into the room. On the other side of by the fireplace and could not be seen full of apprehension lest he should es- went his way rejoicing. That the end was fast approaching from the cut. The only question was

For a moment I stood thinking. Then

Anyone leaving the stair with a seemed suddenly cold. Rush had the | could gird it into the semblance of

In two or three minutes the grisly business was done, and Rush was seated upright in a high-backed chair, and the torch in his hand. His belt and mine and some cord I had found in his pocket had done the trick. His drop, I had cast away the element of the next thing she knew she was holdhead had proved troublesome, but took a stick from the grate, buttoned | chief that I had done, for the roar of this into his waistcoat and propped it | the heavy pistol had made me com-

The effect was hideous, for the corpse was poking its head. But that was beside the point. At the first blush, not even the man's own mother would ever have known he was dead.

set Rush up, I had taken away his pistol and Helena's master key. Once again I took care to listen at the head of the winding steps-and

Here I should say that, before I had

heard no sound. To pick my own position was easy enough. I had only to take my stand behind the panel-door that belonged to the cut. This was wide enough to con-

I decided to use a pistol, for the bullet was swift and sure and at quarters so close I could not possibly miss.

For all that, I took the knife too. And then at last I was ready, with the knife at my hip and a pistol in

either hand. Looking back, I find it strange that , who ten days before had never, that I can remember, so much as knocked a man down, should have made these troubled me very much less than the cern was lest by some improvidence hand. on my part the butchery which I pursave my life; but I cannot plead that excuse, for that consideration never

is that I was possessed. What I had witnessed in that chamroaring hate. I was going to kill teur. Pharaoh and Dewdrop exactly as I had killed Rush-not because I had set out to do it, not because that was the reason why I was there, but because they had ravished Virtue-broken a tered the torch.

lovely spirit, by abusing its lovely fore I heard a sigh on the winding least had the sense to move.

sound—the regular scuffing of feet that | tips of his fingers, and I should beare mounting a flight of stone steps. | caught. As he pulled open the door, I saw | The footfalls were hasty. The two were mounting apace.

Why this was I could not imagine. my pistol all ready. Why should they run? The stars were Rush was speaking and wagging his fighting against them. But for their my life, for Pharaoh passed me in the haste, I should not have heard them | darkness and came upon Rush.

The rapid, regular shuffle began to the body, supposing it to be me, and grow clear. . . .

the shoes of one of the two were rub- lighting my face. ber-soled, for only one set of footfalls

In this case-And then I saw the glow of a torch. Two steps more, and I heard their | America from England were in the

heavy breathing. . . . I got to my knees and sought for | The stars against them? All the stock that the racing dogs was dethe torch. When I had found it, I company of heaven had ranged itself 'veloped.

switched it on to the bench. This was on my side. The two would be spent and breathless. . . . Dewdrop began to speak before he had entered the room.

> "Bugle an' Ruth to go down, Pha-As he stepped through the cut and

I fired, I saw my mistake. Dewdrop would lisp no more, but the deafening roar of my pistol had

I could have done myself violence. It was not as if I had not been warned: I had been told as plainly took a step towards this-and as any fool could have been told that Dewdrop alone was mounting the wind-The doorway by which I had en- ing stair. I had only to pocket my have made no resistance. . . .

As it was, by using my pistol, I had thrown away the most valuable weapon I had—the element of surprise.

It was true that, had I stabbed Dewdrop, Pharaoh would still have waited At first congress will in vain for Bugle and Rush. But though he would have been angry and it'll see a great light, neath the left breast. . . . In your case, my position had been reversed. If I would at last have come up to see for and this new pension could not make an end of the two, I himself the reason for their delay, he act-one that will be would never have dreamed of danger. to all previous pen-But now he was warned.

Pharaoh was more than warned. My shot, being fired when it was, passed. had reported the ugly news that Dewdrop was dead. The fact that no one came down would confirm this report. of patriotic service on And no one could have killed Dew- their side. And isn't it true that to drop, unless he had first made an end of Bugle and Rush.

He knew as well as did I that someone Yankee Doodle. It's a generous, jolly was in the chamber, waiting to take smiling Santa Claus bringing free

As I say, I could have done myself until the taxpayers start paying the violence. I was here to play the knave, bill. and instead I was playing the fool. I am bound to confess that I cannot

must fight Pharaoh instead of play- sonage, a cock-sure infidel made a ing the butcher as I had already done. speech lately, defying God to smite no fear for myself: but since I knew off, a very sound idea, but nothing cape. The bare thought of such an outcome made the sweat start on my brow. Live-after what he had done? First Pharaoh. . . I would strike I perceived that, unless I were to flout Live-to walk out of that room and

Somebody laughed-a very unpleas-

ant laugh. I think it was the devil within methe sheriff that had been sent to fetch

Pharaoh's soul. I pulled myself together, slid my pistols into my pockets and set about hoisting Dewdrop out of my way.

CHAPTER XI

Helena surprise: but that was not all the mispletely deaf.

When I had fired in the forest, so savage was the report that four or five minutes went by before my full hearing came back: but here, within four such walls, the shock of the violent explosion had appalled the drums of my ears.

To listen for Pharaoh's coming was, therefore, but waste of time, and, since he might arrive any moment, I made my preparations as swiftly as ever

These were simple—there was not

much I could do.

The chair on which Rush was seated I slewed to the left, so that the beam of his torch fell full on the cut in the wall. I then took Dewdrop's torch and studied the room, marking the furniture well in case I must move in the dark. Then I slid the torch into my pocket and lay down behind the great table of which I have spoken

gray oak. Between the two pedestals time I thought I was having a nervous there was a knee-hole or archway chill.

Pharaoh could contrive to come in, the not of valour. I think the plain truth | utterly lost, for, though we should, in classic profile. a sense, be fighting on even terms,

I do not know how long I waited, battles on the Hollywood front, and but the first Intimation I had of Pharaoh's approach was the sudden roar of his pistol as he fired at and shat-

And then-silence.

Pharaoh was trying to find me, steal-The sigh grew into a murmur, and ing this way and that. He had only to the murmur into that unmistakable brush against me, touch me with the

> At once I set out to find him, with my left hand stretched before me and

I truly believe that my action saved know this was so, for he fired upon the flame that leaped from his pistol Unless they were moving as one, gave me a mark to aim at, instead of

(TO BE CONTINUED)

First Greyhounds in America The first greyhounds imported into late 70's, and it is from this foundation

what thinks

about: Pensions for Veterans.

CANTA MONICA, CALIF .-Merely another little prophecy by old Doctor Cobb, the amateur soothsayer, who never said a sooth he's surer of than this one:

Agitation for a blanket pension pistol and to take my knife. Torch in to cover all World war veterans, rehand, out of breath, my victim could gardless of ratings or physical condition, will start as soon as those latelywon billions are distributed. At first

some veterans' organization will oppose it -not for long, though. be lukewarm. Then sion acts what a whale is to tadpoles-will be

At least the veterans have the argument Irvin S. Cobb nearly all of us has come a new conception of the national figurehead? No The truth was in Pharaoh's hands. longer is it square-jawed, self-dependent

checks for everybody; that is, free

Defying the Almighty. COLLOWING the example set some years ago by a certain famous per-

Some look on this as blasphemy, but, granted that every man is entitled to speak his opinion on religion, I'd call it pure gall. Think of inviting the Almighty to suspend the entire cosmic scheme while forging a thunderbolt to abolish one solitary copycat of an amateur Ajax. Would you call out the standing army of the United States to kill a cockroach?

Lady Killers.

IT HAS been in print so often you must know it by heart, yourself: At sight of her recreant gentleman friend, the poor bruised butterfly felt a great sense of her wrongs-the wretch wanted to go back to his wife Now by firing, as I had, upon Dew- or something equally dastardly-and ing a smoking automatic that accidentally happened to be in her handbag along with some lipstick and a recipe for fudge; and he was deader then the prosecutor's chance of con victing her for the killing. But just prior to that "everything went black before her eyes." There's one detail which never varies-that going-black-

before-the-eyes business. It was in the case they tried re cently in New York. It's in this latest case at Chicago. 'Tis a sore affliction. always marked by total lapse of memory and frequently coupled with temporary insanity, but it's certainly fine for marksmanship. The lady scores a perfect bull's-eye, invariably. I wish could go blind to order that-away. I'd be the best quall-shot that ever came out of Kentucky, instead

of the worst. Brawls in Hollywood.

NIATURALLY, I have hot southern blood, which seems to be the hottest there is, although down home never noticed it. But up north, if trouble impended, people would speak This was a pedestal table of carved, of my hot southern blood when all the

dreadful preparations without a qualm. | three feet wide by some twenty-six | Being thus all hot-blooded up, I That I had already done murder inches high. Looking through this, I adore fighting, if somebody else does the "basic wardrobe," which is a good directly commanded the cut, while the it. Since our movie heroes always idea for the spring budgeteer. loss of my belt. Indeed, my only con- pedestal offered good cover on either stage their combats in some utterly secluded spot, such as a cafe or a I ventured to settle myself with the night club, I hurry hither and you posed should not be fulfilled. It might greatest care, for I knew that if I hoping to be present when an embitbe said that I was but making ready to possibly could I must kill my man be- tered star satisfies his honor by bouncfore he had entered the room: if ing a special order of sweetbreads under glass with mushrooms-twenty once entered my head. But that was advantage I presently held would be minutes, 90 cents-off some rival's

But it's hard enough for me to get Pharaoh was an expert at murder, but in touch with a waiter, let alone a ber had fired within me a furnace of I was no more than a resolute ama- good plate-tossing contest. Today the war correspondents report two brisk silk frock.

I'm absent, as usual. In the main bout, both gladiators were script writers, proverbially a tigerish breed. Believe it or not, a Mr. Riskin tangled with a Mr. Rus-We were both of us deafened, of kin, the presumption being that one endless variety by choice of contrast-I had to wait full five minutes be- course; and, remembering that, I at of the gentlemen regarded the other as a typographical error.

> English Reds Again. COMETHING printed here recently about the way the English handle their reds and pinks prompted an English gentleman to write giving further

public servants, including, notably, accompany summer suits. Some of Milliners are making many widestate-paid school teachers, must swear | them have long crook handles. official heads instanter. Moreover, no tumes. avowed or suspected agent of the Soviets may use the radio to preach the overthrow of the existing government in favor of the Russian plan.

always will be suckers! IRVIN S. COBB -WNU Service.

Hats to Match Top Juvenile Coats

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



RANTED that mother and big sister are looking too chic and charming for words this spring, in their new spic and span stylish tailleurs or their bolero costumes, if not a redingote outfit that contrasts print with plain, to which there has been added accessories utterly feminine and seductive as accessories must be that

would go high-style this season. However, we are not saying that voguishly attired adults are the whole show, not when a bevy of stylishly navy flannel continues to hold its own. arrayed youngsters join the procession. Then does competition become keen and it is the tiny tots in their new | collection of little folk's fashions disspring outfits that will be getting played at a preview style event rethe big applause, we venture to say, cently held at the Merchandise Mart be their elders ever so beguilingly in Chicago. garbed. Which they should for children's fashions are as cunning and intriguing as fancy dare picture this

the little coat-and-hat ensemble that covets for her child. Tweed in the is taking precedent at the immediate popular dusty rose shade fashions it. moment. It adds zest to the mode Cunningingly flared lines, the douthat children's coats are unusually ver- | ble breast button fastening, and the satile this season in the matter of deftly tailored details of collar, cuffs styling. Then, too, a particularly and pockets are all significant style wide choice of materials is offered. I tems. The collar of natural linen is Tweeds in delectable colorings, camel's hair weaves, navy twills, novelty wool plaids and serge are all-important in the list of juvenile coatings.

Close attention is being paid to tailoring and styling, with the English a white hand-embroidered lingerie coltrend dominating. Inverted pleats, lar add chic finishing touches. The crisp collars, velvet pipings as well perky matching hat is of cloth identical as insets in tailored collars are high style details to consider. Most important to remember is that fashion decrees that every wee coat or suit is to be companioned by a matching hat.

While grown-ups are going in for daring color to the limit, high colors are not so much in the children's wear picture. As a matter of fact, it is the medium tones that are most generally

in use this season. Pastels are also definitely favored in aqua, dusty and skipper blue in the order named. Many

all-white coats will be worn. Full length coats are more popular than the short jackets, although the ever beloved reefer type jacket of The trio of models pictured were selected for illustration from among a

The clever little coat to the left is one of the new and very much admired Princess Elizabeth types. It carries that convincing air of distinc-As a fashion "first" for spring it is | tion such as every fashion-alert mother

The little girl walking hand-in-hand so chummily with her companion has on a very attractive long reefer coat in navy blue. White metal buttons and

with that of the coat. The adorable child in the foreground has on a coat of skipper blue novelty weave wool with the Princess Elizabeth lines given to it such as are regarded as exceedingly smart for the younger set this spring. Her matching Scotch cap repeats the trim of blue plaid silk used on the coat.

@ Western Newspaper Union.

MULTI-DUTY GARB

URGED FOR SPRING There's a lot of talk these days about

The idea is to select the spring suit. coat and printed frocks in one color theme, to be worn with interchangeable accessories. Suppose, for instance, you start with one of the smart new man-tailored suits with black jacket and striped skirt. With it, if you shop wisely, you will get an extra skirt to

match the jacket. Then you should choose a topcoat in tailored style, also black, which may be worn over the suit or with a printed

Your printed silks should be bright, gay and simply made, so that you may wear various frilly lingerie accents with them, changing their mood with the jabot or collar you select. With these for a foundation, you may achieve ing accessories.

Parasols and Fans Give

Frivolous Touch to Garb many summer outfits. In bright print- style message in the tight brim that ed cottons they appear with beach frames the head, namely, the use of 'Twould seem that over there all costumes and in polka-dotted silks they many layers of net closely stitched.

to uphold the crown, which means they | Folding fans made of field flowers, cannot preach communism to their tulle or organdy and flat oval lacquer pupils without violating a solemn oath fans, only a little larger than a hand. and, if caught so doing, they lose their | lend a glamorous air to evening cos-

New Gloves

Don't put on the gloves for the first | jewelry proves just how smart they time when in a hurry. Even if you look on a costume. Hinge bracelets In other words-forgive the pun, do get them on without splitting they carved in a bow have bright metal please-Britain never shall be Slavs, will never fit so well as when they knots for contrast. The clip pairs But, on the other hand, Americans are carefully put on, stretching the kid carry out the same motif in little half gently to conform with the lines of the bows with the same metal knots. They hands. If this is done the first time, come in bright green, red, blue, white all other times will be easy.

WITH A VEIL



A bit of straw, a brim of closely stitched net, a full-blown rose and a fragile, frivolous, flattering vell and presto! The milliner evolves as seductive a little cocktail hat as the world e'er gazed upon. As here pictured this intriguing headpiece is posed by Helen Chandler who wears it in her newest Parasols add a frivolous touch to play. It carries a highly important brimmed hats as well as turbans and toques of stitched net this season.

Bowknot Motif

You can tie yourself in knots, fashionably speaking, this spring. Chanel sponsors the bowknot, and the new and black.