



## CHAPTER I.

In the drowsy heat of the summer afternoon the Red House was taking its siesta. There was a lazy murmur of bees in the flower-borders, a gentle cooing of pigeons in the tops of the elms. From distant lawns came the whir of a mowing machine, that most restful of all country sounds; making ease the sweater in that it is taken while others are working.

It was the hour when even those whose business it is to attend to the wants of others have a moment or two for themselves. In the house-keeper's room Audrey Stevens, the pretty maid, retrimmed her best hat, and talked idly to her aunt, the cook-housekeeper of Mr. Mark Ablett's bachelor home.

"Funny thing that about Mr. Mark's brother. Fancy not seeing him for fifteen years."

"As I told you all this morning," said her aunt, "I've been here five years, and never heard of a brother. I could say that before everybody if I was going to die tomorrow."

"You could have knocked me down with a feather when he spoke about him at breakfast this morning. I didn't hear what went before, naturally, but they was all talking about the brother when I went in. Mr. Mark turns to me, and says—you know his way—'Stevens,' he says, 'my brother is coming to see me this afternoon; I'm expecting him about three,' he says. 'Show him into the office,' he says, just like that. 'Yes, sir,' I says quite quietly, but I was never so surprised in my life, not knowing he had a brother. 'My brother from Australia,' he says—there, I'd forgotten that. From Australia."

"Well, he may have been in Australia," said Mrs. Stevens, judicially. "But what I do say is he's never been here. Not while I've been here, and that's five years."

"Well, but, auntie, he hasn't been here for fifteen years. I heard Mr. Mark telling Mr. Cayley. 'Fifteen years,' he says. Mr. Cayley having first him when his brother was last in England. Mr. Cayley knew of him. I heard him telling Mr. Beverley, but didn't know when he was last in England—see? So that's why he first Mr. Mark."

"I'm not saying anything about fifteen years, Audrey. I can only speak for what I know, and that's five years Whitsuntide. If he's been in Australia, as you say, well, I dare say he's had his reasons."

"What reasons?" said Audrey lightly.

"Never mind what reasons. Being in the place of a mother to you, since your poor mother died, I say this, Audrey—when a gentleman goes to Australia, he has his reasons. And when he stays in Australia fifteen years, he has his reasons. And a respectable brought-up girl doesn't ask what reasons."

"Got into trouble, I suppose," said Audrey carelessly. "They were saying at breakfast he'd been a wild one."

The ringing of a bell brought Audrey to her feet—no longer Audrey, but now Stevens. She arranged her cap in front of the glass.

As Audrey came across the hall she gave a little start as she saw Mr. Cayley suddenly, sitting unobtrusively in a seat beneath one of the front windows, reading.

No reason why he shouldn't be there; certainly a much cooler place than the golf links on such a day; but somehow there was a deserted air about the house that afternoon. Mr. Cayley, the master's cousin, was a surprise; and, having given a little exclamation as she came suddenly upon him, she blushed, and said, "Oh, I beg your pardon sir, I didn't see you at first," and he looked up from his book and smiled at her.

An attractive smile it was on that big ugly face. "Such a gentleman,

## MARKS

By United Press  
MILWAUKEE, Aug. 1.—The drop in German marks resulted in Dr. Albert J. Hershmann, prominent physician and former Austrian consular agent in Milwaukee, killing himself by drinking poison. Dr. Hershmann was found dead in his office. He had invested heavily in marks recently.

"Hallo, Aud," said Elsie. "It's Audrey," she said, turning into the room. "Come in, Audrey," called Mrs. Stevens. "What's up?" said Audrey, looking in at the door. "Oh, my dear, you gave me such a turn. Where have you been?" "Up to the Temple." "Did you hear anything?" "Hear what?" "Bangs and explosions and terrible things."

"Oh!" said Audrey, rather relieved. "One of the men shooting rabbits." "Rabbits!" said her aunt scornfully. "It was inside the house, my girl."

Audrey looked at her aunt and then at Elsie. "Do you think he had a revolver with him?" she said in a hushed voice. "Who?" said Elsie excitedly.

"That brother of his. From Australia. I said as soon as I set eyes on him. You're a bad lot, my man!" "Rude!" She turned to her aunt. "Well, I give you my word."

"Yes, sir. He is expecting you, if you will come this way."

Audrey went to the second door on the left, and opened it.

"Mr. Robert Ab—" she began, and then broke off. The room was empty. "If you will sit down, sir, I will find the master. I know he's in, because he told me that you were coming this afternoon."

"Oh!" He looked round the room. "What d'you call this place, eh?" "The office, sir."

"The office?"

"The room where the master works, sir."

"Works, eh? That's new. Didn't know he'd ever done a stroke of work in his life."

"Where he writes, sir," said Audrey, with dignity. The fact that Mr. Mark "wrote," though nobody knew what, was a matter of pride in the housekeeper's room.

"Well! Here was something to tell auntie! Her mind was busy at once, going over all the things which he had said to her and she had said to him—quiet-like. "Directly I saw him I said to myself—" Why, you could have knocked her over with a feather. Feathers, indeed, were a perpetual menace to Audrey.

However, the immediate business was to find the master. She walked across the hall to the library, glanced in, came back a little uncertainly, and stood in front of Cayley.

"If you please, sir," she said in a low, respectful voice, "can you tell me where the master is? It's Mr. Robert called."

"What?" said Cayley, looking up from his book. "Who?"

Audrey repeated her question.

"I don't know. He went up to the Temple after lunch."

"Thank you, sir. I will go up to the Temple."

The "Temple" was a brick summer-house, in the gardens at the back of the house, about three hundred yards away. Here Mark meditated sometimes before retiring to the "office" to put his thoughts upon paper. The thoughts were not of any great value; moreover, they were given off at the dinner-table more often than they got on to paper, and got on to paper more often than they got into print. But that did not prevent the master of the Red House from being a little pained when a visitor treated the Temple carelessly, as if it had been erected for the ordinary purposes of filtration and cigarette-smoking.

Audrey walked slowly up to the Temple, looked in and walked slowly back. All that walk for nothing. One of the men shooting rabbits. Auntie was partial to a nice rabbit, and onion sauce.

She came into the house. As she passed the housekeeper's room on her way to the hall, the door opened suddenly, and a rather frightened face looked out.

Search For Missing Boy

Mary Murphy Richards of Sheridan, Ind., telephoned to Indianapolis police today asking them to search for her son, Frederick Murphy, 16. The young man according to his mother came to Indianapolis to join the Navy.

Employes Oppose Plan

Postal Clerks Averse to Recording Finger Prints

The employees of the local postoffice are stirring opposition to the proposed plan to make records of the finger prints of all members of the service.

Henry W. Strickland, editor of the railway postoffice, Washington, said the movement has arisen out of the fact that a few of the younger employes of the New York office were found to be criminals. Leaders of postal organizations assert this condition does not exist in other cities.

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89 Pairs of black kid one-strap slippers, with low wood-cored heel, sizes 2½ to 8.

Also at this price are 75 pairs of odds and ends and short lines, taken from regular stock and greatly reduced.

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