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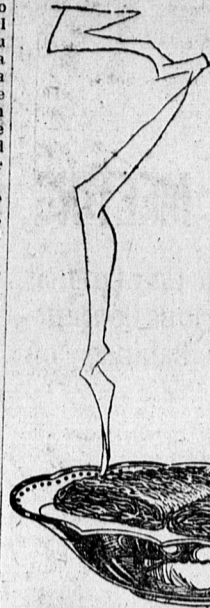
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The years had been by American had woman's
BLACK OXEN
GERTRUDE ATHERTON

The Middle Ground
By Marion Rubincam.
NEW PROBLEMS
Chapter 82

Serve it hot



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Shredded Wheat

had hoped for this, and despaired of it—for years she had not dared admit even to herself that she wanted to marry Donald.
She tried to think he was too splendid for marriage, too fine a character to be bound by the petty everyday problems that came up in a domestic household. "He has the same petty problems every day as it is," her mother said to that. "Life is too full of tiny worries for him or anyone to escape. He won't have more problems when he's married, he may have different ones."
Jane found this true enough. In fact, she found that by watching the little things, she saved him a hundred petty cares a day. She planned what he ate, saw to his clothes, found the glasses and keys and collar buttons he lost and had them ready for his hand when he wanted them. Donald floated along in a world with nothing to worry him but the problems of his own profession.
So she, Jane, had settled down as a wife—and nothing else. She used to lie and stare into the darkness thinking of this, listening to Donald's slow quiet breathing



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The above sale is made under and by virtue of a power of sale contained in an Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the seventeenth day of January, A. D., 1910 made between William Hennessey of St.

Catherine's in King's County in Prince Edward Island, Farmer and Rosalie Hennessey his wife of the one part and Matthew & McLean, Limited, a body corporate having its Head Office at Souris in King's County in Prince Edward Island, of the other part default having been made in the payment of the principal and interest secured thereby.

For further particulars apply to the Office of Arthur F. McQuaid, Solicitor, Souris, P. E. I.

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(To be Continued)

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They ate their dinner under the amused eyes of Mrs. Larsing, who had served dinners a deus before to couples that had "lost their way." Afterward they sat by the fire and talked desultorily; a great deal about themselves; sometimes wandering to the subjects that had interested them most before they had met each other. Claverling told her of the many plays he had written, and burned; because in his inordinate respect for the drama he had, she found them, when not wholly bad, too good to be good enough. But she and long practice had given him a certain mastery of technique, and when she had set his brain on fire he had less trouble than most young playwrights in compelling his imagination to adapt itself to the inexorable framework.

He had always felt that the imagination, what is called for want of a better term, the "creative faculty," was there, but it was self to spurts and flashes during wakeful nights, but slept like a boar-constrictor that had swallowed a pig when he tried to invoke it. No doubt, as Gora had told him, his life had been too good and agreeable; he made a good deal of money with no particular effort, he was a favorite with the cleverest myen and women in New York, and he had no one to think of but himself. His mother was dead and his sisters married. And there was no doubt that if you were on top, a personality, New of ancient history, and her gaze placed in the world to live in, just as it must be the most unsatisfactory for the poor and insignificant. To have conquered New York meant more—several thousand times more—than conquering all the rest of the United States put together with New York left out.

Moreover it was the only place where you could have any real fun, if you wanted your fun with the sort of men who drifted to New York from all parts of the nation as naturally as pilgrims went to Mecca. If it was your fate to be a politician, Washington, of course, was the goal, but that, in his opinion, was merely moving from a little small town to a big one, and he thanked his stars when he did not have to live in a place where there was nothing but politics and society. In New York you had only to help yourself to any phase of life you wanted.

Mary smiled as he remembered the contemptuous remark of another New York convert: "Oh, Washington is merely an island outside of New York," and she felt that once that New York would have been like it had not been fed so persistently by those streams of eager and ambitious brains debouching into it from every part of a by no means unambitious and negligible commonwealth. Another island, probably. Certainly it was the most exhilarating place in the world today, with its atmosphere of invincible security and prosperity, its surging tides of life. No wonder, it was impossible for the intensive New Yorker to realize that four thousand miles away a great world was falling to ruin.

She told him something of the old political life of Vienna, continually agitated by some "Balkan Question," of the general dislike of Sarajevo had been the death knell of the day when he should ascend the throne, for he was intensely clerical and reactionary. If he had survived until the old Emperor's death, and there had been no war, it was doubtful if there would not have been a "palace revolution" within six months of his succession. It was also possible that the people would have had their revolution.



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lution, for they were becoming enlightened and discontented, and powerful men in the highest offices of the Government were in sympathy with them.

"I suppose you mean this Prince Hohenhauser for one," said Claverling.
"Hohenhauser believed that every throne in Europe would be overturned before the middle of the twentieth century, and that it was the part of wise leaders to prepare not only themselves but the people for a republican form of government. He had the greatest admiration for the principals on which this republic was founded, and said that Europe was to be congratulated that we had made the mistakes for her to avoid. Much as the rest of the world congratulated itself that Bolshevism was tried out in Russia and made a ghastly thing of improving the condition of the underdog before the masses in other countries had time to lose their heads, I've no doubt that he will be the next Chancellor of Austria, and that when he gets the reins of power in his hands, he'll keep a firm hold on them, which is more than any one else has done."

"What do you suppose has brought him to this country?"
"I fancy he has come to obtain the moral support of the American Government in whatever plan he has on his feet again."
"Have you any idea of what that plan may be?" Claverling was watching her intently, his car tuned to every inflection of her voice. But her tones were as impersonal as if reciting a page out of the annals of ancient history, and her gaze was frank and direct.

"I can only guess. Personally I would be in alliance with Bavaria and other South German States—a South German Confederacy. That would make a powerful combination, and as Bavaria has always hated Prussia, she would be last to lend herself to any schemes of vengeance the north may cherish. And, of course, she would share her share of the Allied debt."
"It would be a wonderful thing if it could be brought off, Vienna," her eyes sparkled.
"Vienna, of course, would be the capital—and again one of the great capitals of Europe. Perhaps the greatest."

"Were you ever closely associated with Hohenhauser in any of his schemes?"
"He had no immediate schemes then. He only awaited events, while the old Emperor lived no move was possible, he was most illogically adored by his people. But Hohenhauser told me that once that he was only biding his time."
"And what of that preposterous estate of his in the old Galicia—sixteen million acres, wasn't it? Did he expect to hang on to that under a popular form of government?"
"He would have retained the castle and a few hundred acres, for he naturally had a great affection for his birthplace, and divided the rest among the people, whose natural inheritance it was. But he could do nothing until the proper time, for such an act would undoubtedly have resulted in confiscation and banishment. He would have accomplished no good, and lost his immediate power for usefulness besides. Like all those old-world statesmen, he knows how to play a waiting game."

"Sounds like a great man—if there are any such."
"I should certainly call him a great man," said Mary, but still with that note of complete, perhaps, signal indifference in her voice.
"He not only has immense brain power and personality, but far-sightedness and a thorough understanding of the people, and sympathy with them. Even the Social Democrats liked and trusted him. And he has more than the ordinary politician's astuteness in trimming his sails; but coming out, nevertheless, at the end of the course exactly at the point he had aimed for. If he captures the bridge, to change the simile, he'll steer Austria out of her deep waters. No doubt of that."

"Exactly what was the part you intended to play in Austria?" he asked. "You have never told me."
"I thought you were not to talk of that. It is impossible to make deliberate plans, anyhow. Only, there is a part for any one who loves the country and has the political knowledge to help her."
"I have never quite understood why it should be Austria. Why not Hungary? After all—"
"I never cared for anything in Hungary but the castle, which was wonderfully situated in the mountains of Transylvania. The surroundings were wild beyond description and the peasants the most picturesque and interesting in Europe. But even if Buda Pesth had appealed to me socially, which it never did, there were deep personal reasons that made me dislike Hungary—I never spent a night in the Zattian palace until I turned it into a hospital. But Vienna! I

always lived in Vienna when I could, even during my first years in Europe, and later I made it my home. It is the most fascinating city to me at least, in the world. Besides, Hungary is in the hands of Horthy and Bethlen, who have no more idea of making a republic of it than of permitting any one else to be king. There is no role for—"
"Hullo! Hullo! Hullo!"
Claverling sprang to his feet. "Shall we take the bull by the horns and go to meet them?" he asked. "Poor devils! They'll hate us for looking so fresh."

(To be Continued)