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THE TRIPLE MYSTERY

ADELE LUERMANN

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THE TRIPLE MYSTERY

BY

ADELE LUEHRMANN

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AND "THE OTHER BROWN"

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CHAPTER II

A CHANCE OF ESCAPE

ALONE in the alley leading from the stage door to the street Olive Thrace stopped. A tremor passed over her, then another and another until her entire body was shaken. "I can't do—I can't do it," she told herself in a chattering whisper. But the next words of revolt were bitten back and in another moment she had forced her feet onward.

For half a block her way lay along the side of the great concert hall, and as her eye swept the panel of framed posters that announced the approaching concerts of famous musical artists another shiver seized her. She thought of how many times during her student years in New York she had passed that line of posters and had promised herself that some day her own name should be emblazoned there, that she should sing with the great Panharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of the celebrated Alois Zarady. How little she had guessed what the realization of that dream was destined to cost!

Oh, to be a man! In the career of men merit alone counted. There was Rudolf Kala, for in-

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"Yes. It is something that has come up very suddenly, very unexpectedly. I 'phoned you downtown, but you had already left and I could not wait. I must have the money not later than Monday."

"Monday morning?"

"Yes."

"I see. Ten thousand, not later than Monday morning," Andrassy repeated reflectively. "Very well, Alois, I shall be delighted to oblige you."

"Ah!" A relieved sigh broke from Zarady. "I thank you, Theodore. You are a good friend."

"But," continued the banker, disregarding the tribute, "if, by any chance, you are borrowing the money for Miss Olive Thrace—Ah, I thought so! In that case, Alois, you need not trouble yourself further. Garrison has just made arrangements with me to come to that young lady's assistance."

"Garrison!" Zarady was on his feet, glaring furiously. "She came to me!"

Andrassy shrugged his shoulders. "She must also have gone to him. At any rate, he has just been here and I have agreed to give him ten thousand dollars on Monday. That he wants it for Miss Thrace I think there can be no doubt, as I happen to know that that is the amount of which she is just now in need. She wants it to pay off

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