SYNOPSIS

"THE MYSTERIOUS PEARL"

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BY
J. GRUBB ALEXANDER
AND
HARVEY GATES.

15 Episodes

A psychological photomelodrama in fifteen chapters

CAST.

CHARLOTTE DURAND---------- NEVA GERBER.

ARIEL, "THE PEARL"---------- NEVA GERBER.

SCOTT MALLORY ---------- BEN WILSON.

VICTOR DURAND---------- WILLIAM CARROLL.

PAUL KOZDOFF---------- JOSEPH W. GIRARD.

TOPPER LACEY---------- ASHTON DEARBOLT.

CAPTAIN X---------- ????????????????

"THE BRASS SPECTRE---------- ????????????????

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SYNOPSIS

Ariel, a baby girl, born an innocent victim of the unknown ghosts Heredity has put to sleep within it. If evil, if good,-always at the mercy of the spectre's awakening within her soul, of the dual personality latent within her, below the surface. Marked at ~~xx~~ birth by the satin sheen of pearls and doomed to slavery beneath the lash of blood---- victim of THE CRIMSON LASH....

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The scene is in Paris, Victor Durand, a French scientist, has worked for years to perfect a method of making pearls, genuine pearls; pearls have become an obsession with him to the exclusion almost of his young wife, Charlotte. Strange as it may seem, Durand's method requires real pearls and in order to perfect the last big experiment, which proves a success, Durand has had to solicite aid in securing a pearl necklace - a famous chain which has been stolen for the occasion.

It is evening and Durand is in his laboratory with success at hand. His young wife , fondly preparing for the greatest event of a woman's life, is in an adjoining room. Paul Kozloff, a friend and laboratory assistant to Duranf, arrives and is told by ~~xxxxxxxx~~ by the scientist himself of the experiments of success. It is at this moment that Kozloff shows his true colors ; he has helped Durand in the theft of the necklace and now demands a half

share in the secret ~~sk~~ on the threat of exposing Durand to the police.

Their conference is along; the arguement culminates in a short but vicious struggle between the two men. Durand, with ~~mank~~ manical strength, bears the assistant to the floor bent on strangling him to death for his duplicity. His gaze reverts to scalpel and a test tub containing human blood on the work bench. One of the requisites of Durand's methods is human blood, and there comes to the scientists in the terrible moment the idea of spilling ~~Kazp~~ Kozloff's blood for that very purpose.

However, the timely entrance of Charlotte, his wife, prevents the tragedy and Durand, trembling with surpressed passion and fear, turns the fellow loose. And Kozloff, the Russian, vindictive and unforgiving, pauses at the door to hurl his threat; that very night the police will be informed that Victor Durand is the thiefof the famous necklace- the pearls which the police are searching for that very moment.

It is this which causes Durand, with his beautiful wife to flee to the city. The pursuit leads across the continent and finally into the Algerian mountains of Barbary. Like haunted animals they seek, one bleek afternoonm, escape by making a short cut across the cliffs. Lead by a guide, they are on one of the cliffs when the storm breaks. Lightning, a splintered tree, a small land slide washes Durand and his wife over the edge. The guide, saved from the fall, struggles to maintain his position and keep the other two, on the end of the safety rope dangling in mid air, from falling to their death. Durand is some distance below the woman.. The guide, slipping slowly forward, cries to them that the weight is too great. Durand, realizeng that two lives will be sacrificed by Charlotte's death, cuts himself free. The woman, horrified, faints; she is finally rescued and carried to the guide's hut where his wife takes the girl in charge.

That night a child is born, An insane being looked out of a woman's eyes into the shadowland of motherhoos. The storm is still raging about the hut. Two men, one of them Paul Kozloff and the other, Boris, an alleged detective, make their way to the hut demanding information. They learn of the tragedy. Kozloff, sensing that the young mother is insane from the grief and tragedy of it all and would kill herself if permitted,

makes this possible by leaving the knife near the bed. To the peasants he poses as a friend of the foreignersand takes possession of the child; also he manages to steal the secret formula. And to add to the irony of ot all, it is revealed that Boris and the other men he has brought with him are not detectives, but are only friends posing as such who have entered into a bargain with the Russian.

It is years later. Ariel has grown to young womanhood under the belief that Paul Kozloff is her father and that she has been marked at birth by pearls. The possession of them seem necessary for her very existence and the shrewed Russian has played upon this fact in order to compell the girl to his will. Ariel has become known to the police of two continents as "The Pearl", cleverest of all women raffles who confines her efforts solely to the finest pearls in the land. And to add to their dilema these pearls necklaces are usually returned after a time.

It is the Chippendale home at night. The owners are away. The few servants have long since retired. In one of the upper boudoirs there is the play of a flash light. "The Pearl" is at work; her face is reflected in the long dressing mirror. The famous Chippendale necklace is in her hand when she is startled by a noise over at the French window, shut off by portiers. Her light goes out, but almost as quick as another is turned on and Scott Mallory faces her, a revolver in his hand. A mask is on the Pearl's face; a long evening cloak covers the beautiful gown. At last he has met the Pearl face to face; and in answer to her smiling question he informs her who he is- Mallory from New York, but now attached to London's Scotland Yard. He starts to put handcuffs on her. She drops her handkerchiel and stoops to recover it. On the instant she gives the long rug, on which he is standing, a jerk forward, Mallory goes down.

Ariel makes Mallory a prisoner with his own handcuffs. Yet the place is surrounded with police; she makes the balcony outside the French windows and produces two carriers pigeons. She uses these to send the necklace to her uncle and prevent it being found on her in case she should be caught. By a clever ruse she later manages her escape from the house by the front door under the very noses of the police who are rushing to the

boudoir in answer to Mallory's police whistle.

Kozloff, waiting in his study with Boris, hails the appearance of the carrier pigeons. Ariel has returned to her own apartment while Scott Mallory, cursing his luck and the stupidity of the police, reaches Scotland Yard and in conference with the chief, informs the latter, of his intended return to America. Mallory's mission in England related to quite another matter than that of "The Pearl", His interest in this woman has only lately been aroused and though deploring the fact that he must return to America, is determined to return and run the Pearl to earth. However, the chief gives him a tip which causes him to change his sailing date- to take passage on another steamer. The Connaught pearls will be on this boat , and there is every reason to believe that an effort will be made to secure them by"The Pearl."

Kozloff has sent Boris, with the Chippendale necklace with which he has finished, to Ariel's apartment, One of the conditions which the girl has made is that the necklaces will be returned so that she, in turn, can send it back to the owner. Boris makes the delivery and leaves. Outside standing a little away from the aprtment house and under a street lamp, is the dim figure of a man. Ariel, a moment later, hears an awful scream. Rushing to the window she looks out; she observes Boris rolling down the steps in a death struggle. As the man pauses on the landing a peculiar hand, as though it were of metal, was seen to come out from the door and grip him about the neck.

While the girl is at the window the door to her apartment is cautiously opened- a shadow is seen to enter and across the room. A brass hand comes into the picture and picks up the necklace. When the girl swings about all she sees is the door closing. Finding the necklace the girl is panic- stricken, furious. She hastily leaves to see her supposed father, Kozloff.

Kozloff, who has been at his study, denies all knowledge of the theft and murder. The girl, however, refuses to continue her life - to be a party to such things which have just happened. Yet Kozloff plays upon her sympathies- after all he is her father and after all they are not responsible if others, unknown

to them, steal and kill for jewels. The girl's filial affection is aroused; realizing his advantage, the Russian brings into play the hynotic power which he exercises over Ariel and finally she consents to go on. He tells her they are to sail the next day for America.

Two days out the ship, bearing Scott Mallory, Ariel and Kozloff and Connaught pearls, runs into a fog bank. It is night and the captain is giving a ball. Madam Courtnet Maynard has secured her pearls from the purser to wear at the ball. But there is another, unknown to Ariel, bent on securing these pearls. This is Topper Lacey, an international society crook. By clever means, Ariel manages to gain entrance to the state-room, duplicate the pearls and make off with them along the deck in the heavy fog.

Down in the saloon Scott Mallory is watching Mrs. Maynard and notes that she has her Pearls around her neck. He is startled when another passenger complimenting Mrs. Maynard on the pearls discovers that they are fakes. This man is a jewel expert and merchant; a man who won his captaincy in the great world war and lost with it his identity, from shell shock. He is known as Captain X, the half of his face being covered by a silver plate from wounds received. A character of mystery, a nameless man with a silver face.

Up on deck a hand comes out of the fog as though to receive the necklace. Ariel imagines it is Kozloff, a passenger in the steerage, who was waiting to receive it. The hand, however, closes about the girl's wrist-- the figure is that of a ship officer. She is caught.

But the ship office is none other than Topper Lacey who has worn the uniform under his evening top coat. He admires her cleverness, but forces her to hand over the necklace to her. Later, by a shrewed trick, she manages to force him to return the jewels to their owner.

Now Kozloff, in order that Ariel night serve his purpose the better, has had her educated in the best schools of Europe, making it possible for her to enter the best society with perfect grace and ease; also, he has taught her to hate the

law and all it stands for. Yet the Russian has failed to figure the human equasion- to realize that after all Ariel is - a woman.

Onm shipboard, Ariel meets Scott Mallory and in spite of herself falls in love with him. Prior to this she has met a girl friend whom she knew in school. Lucie Sanborn, an orphan who ahsnever seen her wealthy God-mother living in America, Ariel, for the moment, takes her friends name. Scott is a especially intert interested , since this god-mother is the his aunt, however he says nothing to her about it at the time.

Once in America Ariel, fighting down her love for Mallory, continues on her adventurous carrer in conjunction with her supposed father , Kozloff. The dective, unaware that "The Pearl" and the beautiful girl of the ship are one and the same person, follows the trail determinedly. Then, Ariel meets up again with Topper Lacey, while on one of the escapades. Lacey, believing that the girl would be a wonderful partner in crime for him, threatens to turn her over to the police unless she marrys him. Such a thing is abhorrent to the girl, but he makes it palin taht he will ask nothing further of her than her assistance, Lacey believes that the one way to hold a woman is to marry her.

In a great scene wherein the girl is forced to say good-bye to the one romance of her life- to her love for Mallory- she is forced into the odious marriage; this to protect her father, prevent her exposure to Mallory and save herself from going to jail.

True to his word, Topper Lacey only forces the girl to work with him on his "Jobs". Ariel somes to loathe it. One night she enters a woman's apartment while Lacey watches below. The lights are switched on suddenly- she confronts her friend Lucey Sanborn. Ariel breaks down and confesses who she is and more, that she has been forced into marriagewith a common thief who has forced her deeper and deeper into a life of crime The friend, sympathizing with her, tells her that she will help her to get away- to break off the old life. Lucie, the next day, is to join her god-mother on her country estate in another state. Lucie, as yet, has'nt seen her god-mother, but she insists that Ariel must accompany her.

Ariel with Lucie's assistance, manages to xxxxx avoid Topper and escape from the house. They take the train together for the country.

Scott Mallory has redoubled his effort, without avail to capture "The Pearl"; this, because of the strange murders which have been committed in conjuction with the pearl thefts. While the bodies of these men are not always found in the neighborhood of the thefts, yet the circumstances surrounding their death- the fact that the corpses are bloodless and a blood-stained pearl is usually found near- convinces him there is some connection He has had several narrow brushes with Ariel, but never xxix quite succeeds in overhauling her.

Ariel and her friend, Lucie, are on a train speeding to the country estate of the god-mother. The train is wrecked. Lucie Sanborn is killed. There follows a dramatic moment, after Ariel has overcome her grief, when she determimes to drop her own name and identity and take that of her friend, remembering that Lucie has never seen the god-mother since a baby.

Ariel carries off the deception successfully, only to be thrown into a panicy state by learning that h she is expected to marry the gos-mother's son, Scott Wellington, Ariel does not xxxxxx discover until later that Scott Mallory and Scott Wellington are one and the same.

Scott, though possessed of plenty of money and entree to the best clubs etc., has followed his natural bent of criminologist, He has taken the name of Mallory in order to please the whim of his mother. The love is again renewed between the two, and yet the girl realizes that the situation is impossible that she has a husband, Topper Lacey, still living, She is taxed almost beyond endurance in order to make excuses and avoid an engagement with Scott. Her position is a perilous one.

Both Topper Lacey and Paul Kozloff believe that Ariel is dead, as a result of the train wreck. Then one night Topper, in pursuit of the Wellington jewels, invades the country estate.

A tremendous situation develops wherein Lacey threatens to expose Ariel unless she returns to him and Kozloff Scott Mallory is at the Boudoir door, having heard noise and fearing harm to the girl.

Topper has suspected her of loving Mallory. Ariel fighting for time, agrees to Topper's demand, telling him that she is only there in order to pull off a big deal. Topper completely baffled? And then, Ariel plans and executes something which she figures will rid herself of the hateful husband. She frames him in a robbery and has him sent to prison.

Ariel, leaving the Wellingtons for a time, manages under her own name to secure a divorce from Lacey on the grounds that he is a felon, Now free, she accepts the love of Mallory and finally marries him; everything seems smooth sailing.

It is the wedding night. Scott, previously, has asked the girl what she wanted for a wedding present. Ariel, her craving for pearls having become stronger and stronger throughout the days, asked for pearls. And Scott, unsuspecting, had given her a beautiful and famous chain of them.

Lacey, meanwhile, has communicated with Kozloff from jail, and informed the Russian of the girl's duplicity. Kozloff has been doing the stealing of pearls himself, with the assistance of Lacey's henchmen. Kozloff has had his eye on the famous pearl necklace which has been given Ariel for a wedding present by Scott.

The wedding finished, there follows a scene between Scott and his bride, Ariel. The girl, fondling the pearls, appears stronger than anything else in her life. And the children which might be born to her - will they be marked as she has been? Fearful of this, she tells Scott she never intends having children. Scott, is nonplused; and then, in the situation which develops, tells of his old fashioned ideas in such matter. In a temper, he tells her he supposed he had married a wife, not a mistress. He leaves the room.

On the same night Kozloff appears and searches, secretly, Ariel out. The out. The girl, heartbroken and yet firm in her intention of not having children, falls under Kozloff's spell and finally promises to join him the next morning. Kozloff leaves with out the pearls, after escaping from the house and Scott, who has spotted the slinking figure. The next morning Scott finds the note bidding him goodbye along with the pearls.

Back with her supposed father, Kozloff, the "Pearl" again comes to the attention of the police and Scott Mallory renews

his efforts to run the woman to earth.

Topper Lacey escapes from prison. Bitter with rev he seeks Ariel and succeeds, in a measure, in bringing her again under his power. The trail leads through many countries, with Scott Mallory, receiving mysterious notes from "The Pearl" unconsciously rescuing his own wife on several occasions. The adventures continue to a point where Scott finally effects "The Pearls" capture.

Scott, at the time, doesn't meet Ariel face to face but is detained in another part of the country. Ariel, under her former, is brought to trial as "The Pearl" - she is accused of the many thefts and the several murders.

IT IS THE FIFTEENTH EPISODE AND HERE IT IS REVEALED THAT THE PREVIOUS FOURTEEN EPISODES ARE FROM THE COURT STENOGRAPHER'S NOTES.

Kozloff is present in the courtroom, and has cleared himself on the stand. Scott Mallory has returned and enters the courtroom to give his testimony against "The Pearl" - and discovers, to his horror that she is none other than his wife, the girl he loves and has searched for through the months. Kozloff has been held for further examination.

The jury has entered to render its verdict. Guilty in the first degree for murder. Scott covers his face in agony as he realizes that nothing can now save Ariel, his wife.

Suddenly the figure of Captain X walks to the stand and baring his false brass arm and removing his silver mask face, discloses that he is the Brass SPECTRE, that he is Ariel's father who was never killed. He confesses to the murders, telling the court that he killed the four men who posed as detectives and caused him to live a hunted fugitive. The men who killed his wife and that he killed them in revenge and returned the pearls that his daughter stole so that she would not be a thief in fact. He turns and says that there is one man still to get, the last of those who killed his wife and the man who caused his daughter to be a thief. He points to Kozloff. Before anyone can stop him, he grasps Kozloff with the brass hand and electrocutes him and commits suicide as Ariel swoons, now a free woman and exonerated and Scott, her husband runs to her through the excited courtroom crowd.

So Ariel came home, now knowing that Scott knows why she refused to have children and telling him that she is still marked by pearls, cannot live here as his wife. He tells her that Kozloff was not her father and only preyed on her kind. That there is no such thing as heredity and proves it to her after leaving her alone with his mother's pearls to prove it to her.

Everything is now all right when Topper Lacey comes back for his revenge. But he meets Scott and Scott kills him saving Ariel.

In the dawn of a new day, Ariel and Scott look out over a beautiful vista of their life to come. Man and wife, happy in their love; she now unafraid of the children's ghost voices echoing in her brain, safe in the love of home and hush. No longer Ariel THE PEARL, but Ariel the woman.

THE END

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