

VERNA, the Irresistible

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any masquerader to look. The brilliant assemblage gasped as the four six-foot black men in lion clothes bore the black and silver palanquin with the resplendent beauty inside, down the length of the elaborately decorated hall.

As Verna, trembling with excitement, alighted, Margot, garbed as Queen Elizabeth, took her by the hand and whispered into her ear: "My dear, you'll be in all of the newspapers tomorrow."

And, indeed, it seemed that she was speaking truly, for at least a half dozen newspaper photographers descended with their heavy cameras upon the brown beauty and the hall was soon hazy with smoke from the flashlight powder.

Verna Envied by Women

"Pick up the marbles!" exulted Fred Watkins, arrayed as Francois Villon, as he held Verna at arm's length and surveyed her admiringly.

"You vos really von panic," cried Will Rondoski, who, for the evening, was King John of Poland.

A few of the women, jealous, held aloof in little knots, condemning Margot for bringing Verna to the exclusive Beaux Arts Ball but grudgingly conceding that Verna was beautiful and charming. The men, on the other hand, crowded around her and soon her dance card was filled.

"A triumph!" crowed Phil Sherman, a tall, blonde giant, who frequently visited Margot's studio. "That's what it is, old dear. You've made a lot of these pale ladies furious tonight, Verna."

Then, during the long intermission, when each person was required to perform some act or stunt, Verna sang in her beautiful soprano voice "The Ethiopian Love Song."

The vast, crowded ballroom was

hushed to the quiet of a cemetery and every eye was upon the singer. No uncritical auditors were these, but people who knew voices and knew music. Franz Leiper, at the piano, gave an unusually sympathetic accompaniment.

The applause was deafening and prolonged. Three times she sang the chorus before they were satisfied. Then they swarmed about her, wringing her long, slender, perfectly manicured hands, embracing her, kissing her, raising her on willing shoulders and parading the length and breadth of the hall.

"Come, Verna," said Margot, enthusiastic and breathless, "I want you to meet Count Ferdinand de Raalbonne. You've sliced his heart in two, it seems."

A tall, distinguished looking man with long thin nose, slightly graying black hair, long, black, tapering eyebrows, high forehead and an enigmatic smile, came out of the crowd, was introduced by Margot, and, taking Verna's hand, raised it to his lips.

Help from Count Raalbonne

"Ah, Mademoiselle," he sighed, "You are so, what you call him, beautiful; so exquisite; wonderful! My English, Mam'selle, it is not capable of telling you how much you have impressed me. Your voice, ah, it is rich, appealing, delightful! A little training and it will be incomparable. Let me send you to a real master. It will cost you nothing, nothing! What you say?"

Verna caught Margot's eye and mumbled her assent. She was filled to the brim, and tears of gratitude stood in her big, dark brown eyes and hung like pearls on her sweeping lashes. She could have shouted her joy. At last she was on the way to her goal.

When she finally got to bed at four in the morning, tired but happy, she could not sleep for an hour or two, but lay there thinking, planning, dreaming. Ever and anon her thoughts would dwell on the past; on the indigent denizens of Billy Goat Lane; on Dick Colvin, Donald Baxter, Hugh Godfrey, Charlie Meyers, the coal fields and her journey to New York.

At last she fell asleep, dreaming of Success, Success, Success, the plaudits of the multitude, of the whole world.

(To be continued next week)

Candy Creams and Puddings

The last ingredient many might think of adding to a cream or pudding would be candy. Yet many kinds of candies lend themselves to the dessert in a surprising manner—and as they add a touch of quick energy food to the dessert, a great deal is to be said in favor of such an addition.

Here are two particularly tasteful dessert dishes in which candy appears. Try them and see how flavorful they are:

Candy Bar Cottage Pudding

Cut cake into squares or use cup cakes. Cover with very thin slices of candy bar. Pour hot custard or lemon sauce over it. Two layers of cake with slices of candy bar between as well as on top makes a Cottage Sandwich Pudding.

Peppermint Stick Ice Cream

One-half pound peppermint stick, one pint milk, one quart medium cream, one-half teaspoon salt. Soak candy overnight in the milk. Add the cream, salt and sugar if you want it, and freeze.

ECONOMY MEAT PIE

Cut left-over meat and vegetables into uniform medium-sized pieces. Mix with an equal amount of medium cream sauce (1 cup milk, 2 tablespoons flour, 2 tablespoons butter). Season well with onion, salt, pepper, etc. (Use left-over gravy with cream sauce if possible.) Cover with a thick pie crust, biscuit dough, or layer of left-over mashed potato mixed with milk (one slightly beaten egg can be added to potato if desired). Bake in a moderate oven until the crust is cooked, or until browned and heated through if potato is used.

MARSHMALLOW SURPRISE

1 package chocolate junket
1 pint milk
¼ pound marshmallows
1 cup confectioners' sugar
¼ cup boiling water

Prepare chocolate junket according to directions on package. Cut marshmallows in pieces and melt in double boiler. Dissolve sugar in boiling water, add to marshmallows, and stir until thoroughly blended. Turn into a bowl and cool before serving on top ice cold chocolate junket.

"Wonder Slave" Mystified British with Brilliant Strategy

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servicing the smoke of their huts within a hundred yards, though he could not see one of them, called in a loud voice that he was come by the governor's orders to make them an offer of peace which the white people sincerely desired.

"An answer was returned declaring that the Maroons wished the same, and requesting that the troops might be kept back. This request being dictated apparently by suspicion, Colonel Guthrie proposed to them to show the confidence he had in their sincerity by sending a person to them to assure them that the white people were sincere on their part, and to inform them of the particulars relative to that freedom and security that the governor had proposed to them.

The Peace Mission

"This being readily consented to, Russell was selected for that purpose. He advanced very confidently towards their huts near which he was met by two Maroons, whom he informed of the purpose of his message and asked if either of them was Cudjoe. They called out in the Coromanti language to their people, on which several bodies of them, who were before invisible, appeared on the rocks above. Being within

reach of the voice, Dr. Russell addressed himself to them and begged particularly to have a conversation with Cudjoe of whom he spoke in high terms, saying that if he were with them, he felt sure that as a brave and good man he would come down and show a disposition to live in peace and friendship with the white people.

"Several Maroons now descended and among them it was not difficult to discover the chief himself. Cudjoe was rather a short man, uncommonly stout, with very strong African features and a peculiar wildness in his manners. He had a very large lump of flesh upon his back which was partly covered by the tattered remains of an old blue coat of which the skirts and the sleeves below the elbow were wanting.

"Around his head was tied a scanty piece of white cloth so very dirty that its original color might have been doubted. He wore no shirt, and his clothes, such as they were, as well as the part of his skin that was exposed, were covered with the red dirt resembling ochre. He had on a pair of loose drawers that did not reach to his knees and a small round hat with the rims pared so close to the crown that it might have been

Exchange Hats as Token of Friendship

"Such was the chief, and his men were as ragged and as dirty as himself; all were armed with guns and cutlasses. Cudjoe constantly cast his eyes toward the troops under Colonel Guthrie. He appeared very suspicious. He asked Dr. Russell many questions before he ventured within reach.

"At last Dr. Russell offered to change hats with him as a token of friendship, to which he consented and was beginning to converse more freely when Colonel Guthrie called aloud to him, assuring him of a faithful compliance with whatever Dr. Russell promised. He said that he wished to come unarmed to him with a few of the principal gentlemen of the island, who should witness the oath he would solemnly make to them of peace on his part with liberty and security to the Maroons on their acceding to it."

And so peace was made. Cudjoe and his men were given a large tract of land, free from all taxes "forever," and given permission to hunt anywhere on the island, except within three miles of a white settlement.

Today, nearly 200 years later, the

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