THE RUSSIAN PRINCE

Prologue

Two young tourists from the U.S., Peter and Lizzie, are visiting Walden Hall in Surrey, England. Walden Hall is England's answer to Disneyland: a stately home with fabulous ornamental gardens and a wildlife park in the grounds. Peter and Lizzie tour the 80-room house, then explore the landscaped garden, with its vistas, waterfalls, lakes, artificial hills, secret pathways, and – best of all – the follies, which are whimsical little buildings dotted about in a variety of crazy styles dotted about the garden for decoration. One of these is a funny little gazebo about half a mile from the main house and almost concealed by shrubbery. By accident Peter and Lizzie find their way inside. The place is clean, with marble seats, a working fountain, and a wonderful view across the valley. They smoke a joint, enjoying the ambience and imagining the lives of the incredibly rich people who used to live here. They make love, pretending to be Lord and Lady Walden. A little later they hear a voice: "I heard heavy breathing so I waited outside." It comes a woman who must be 80 years old. Peter realises they probably aren't allowed in here, and begins to apologise. The old lady has a twinkle in her eye. "Don't worry, I got laid in here once." Peter and Lizzie give each other a look which says: She's an original! It turns out she owns the whole place. This gazebo, she says, has seen some deaths as well as some sex scenes.

Her name is Lady Walden, and this is the story she tells: –

Part 1: 1894

The Earl/Marquess? of Lord Walden is dying. He is a typical Victorian lord: hearty, beefy, wealthy and night-mare. hunting-shooting-fishing,
Four servants manoeuvre him into a chair and carry him, wrapped in blankets, to his favourite spot in the garden. His younger son is with him. Walden asks after his elder son. "Where's Stephen?" The younger son replies: "St Petersburg." Walden grunts: "Bloody. He won't get much huntin' there." Then he dies.

Stephen Walden, 3rd, is like his father – so much so that they could never live together. Stephen was born in 1864. He learned to ride before he could walk and to shoot before he could write. He went to Eton, where he misbehaved, and Oxford, where he surprised everyone by graduating (in History). After Oxford, in 1887, he made his first trip to Africa where he went on safari and fell in love with big-game hunting.

On that first trip he picked up a manservant. Nikolai, then 17, was the intelligent,

cynical son of a London shirtmaker. He had run away to sea and then jumped ship in Zanzibar. A close bond between the two young men was forged as they hunted lion together. Pritchard is intensely loyal to Walden despite his, Pritchard's, contempt for the British ruling class. In turn Walden, who normally remains aloof from servants, talks with Pritchard the way a company chairman might talk to his managing director (but only when they are alone).

They have gone on safari together annually for the last seven years. In between safaris they travel elsewhere, for England suffocates Walden, who is a restless young man hungry for kicks. When (rarely) in London he pursues showgirls. Last time he fell in love with a famous courtesan, Bonita Carles, (real name Myrtle Jenkins). He gave her a house. Then she left him for the Prince of Wales.

On his travels, being the heir to an earldom, he is frequently entertained by England's ambassadors in the world's capitals. The diplomats, having heard of his reputation as a hell-raiser, are surprised to find that he is intelligent and knowledgeable about foreign affairs and has a flair for languages. He in turn is laying the eyewitness foundations for what will later be a considerable experience in international politics.

At the British Embassy in St Petersburg he meets Lydia,[19] the daughter of a Russian count.

Lydia is an outwardly respectable girl who is conducting a mad, passionate affair with Feliks Muroutsiv, a left-wing student.

Lydia is beautiful in a pale, slender, frail sort of way. She is terribly respectable: modestly dressed, a devout churchgoer, obedient to her parents and respectful to her elders, prone to faint in a crisis, rather impractical.

However she is conducting a mad passionate affair with a young left-wing student called Feliks Muroutsiv.

At the age of 11 Feliks discovered that the St Petersburg shopkeepers who brought him up were not his natural parents. In fact he was the son of a now-dead peasant girl and an unidentified young aristocrat. He grew up thinking of himself as something special, a VIP temporarily lodging with the petit-bourgeoisie. He developed a commanding manner and an intuitive understanding of the psychology of dominance. He learned to despise the aristocracy (to which he fancies he belongs) when they failed to pay their bills at his father-father's shop.

He is thin as a ~~rake~~ rail, undernourished, pale-faced with staring eyes, fiery, passionate, idealistic, and mad as hell at the whole world. At the university he has acquired extreme left-wing opinions of a generally anarchist colour.

The intellectual rationale for his politics is (though quite sound) fixed by his personal enthusiasms and hatreds. Lydia is helplessly in love with him.

Now Lydia's father has found out about the affair with Felix (he doesn't imagine they're screwing but knows they're seeing each other) and he is threatening to put her into a convent. Lydia in at a loss what to do.

Now she meets Walden who falls in love with her.

Walden hears of his father's death and proposes to Lydia. She accepts.

Basé ?

Part 2 : 1914 Intro : two ends of Walden.

1. After the death of his father, Stephen (now Lord) Walden settled down. He married Lydia, brought her back to England, moved into Walden Hall, took up his seat in the House of Lords, and generally stepped into his father's shoes. He found the family fortunes somewhat diminished, due to the late-Victorian collapse of agricultural prices. While other country landowners clamoured for protectionism Walden switched money into London property and railways.

He is now richer than his father ever was. To look after himself, Lydia and Charlotte he employs more than 100 servants at his four homes - Walden Hall, a town house in Belgravia, a shooting-box in Scotland and a villa in Monte Carlo. He is now 50, and in one of those men who are in their prime at that age. His big beefy body has yet to collapse into fat. His hearty manner conceals a sharp intelligence. He enjoys life. He likes hunting parties and society balls, the opera and the music-hall, ale and port, the company of young men and mature women, playing poker and chemin. He hunts fox in Surrey and shoots grouse in Scotland, but it's not the same as a safari, and late at night he and Pritchard often sit over a glass of port in the gun room, surrounded by the stuffed and mounted heads of elephant, lion and rhinoceros, and reminisce about the African days.

Walden has no real job except for a ceremonial post in the royal household, but he is active in the House of Lords and friendly with several senior politicians - including ~~Asquith, the Prime Minister~~, Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, with whom he was at ~~Eton and~~ Oxford. Because of his superb knowledge of international affairs - especially Russia - he is often used for confidential diplomatic work. ~~His triumph took place in 1906. Against all expectations the Czar and the Kaiser signed~~

~~a treaty which, if it had been followed, would have allied Russia with Germany and~~ Austria and altered the balance of power. Walden was dispatched secretly to St Petersburg ~~where he succeeded in subverting the treaty.~~

~~Eight years later, however, the diplomatic situation is unchanged.~~ The Central Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary, are encircled by hostile nations: France, England, Belgium, Russia and the Balkans. England and France, enemies for a thousand years, have been thrown together by their shared fear of the growing wealth and power of Germany. On her side Germany is increasingly confident of defending her interests by force of arms. The problem facing German military planners is, as always, the danger of war on two fronts: against Russia in the east and France in the west. The aim of German diplomacy, therefore, is to neutralise Russia.

One attempt in this direction almost succeeded. In 1906 the ~~Kaiser~~ Kaiser met the Czar on a yacht at Bjorko and persuaded him to sign a treaty. To the astonishment of the world the Czar signed. If it had been followed this treaty would have radically changed the balance of power; but the treaty was, surprisingly, forgotten as rapidly as it had appeared.

The fact is that Walden was dispatched to St Petersburg by the British and successfully persuaded the Czar to drop it. This was his great triumph.

Now, however, other war looming. The British want to nail down the Russians with a firm commitment. It is with this in mind that Sir Edward Grey – a weasel-faced bird-watcher – visits Walden. Grey explains that a young Russian general is coming to London to conduct secret military talks. He is Prince Alexei Andreivitch Obanov, 30, a nephew and favourite of the Czar and a distant relation of Lydia. (Walden recalls that Obanov, then 10 years old, was a page-boy at his wedding.) Obanov will stay at Walden's house, and Walden, whose Russian is fluent, will negotiate on behalf of Britain. To cover the real purpose of the visit Obanov, who is a bachelor, will attend the festivities of the London season.

Walden is no stranger to the world of international diplomacy, but even he is somewhat daunted by the gravity of his task. Of course he has strong personal reasons for wanting Russia to be on the Allied side in the coming war: his wife is Russian, her family are there, he loves Russia, and he has quite a lot of money in the Trans-Siberian Railway. Plus his great triumph of 1906 will have been wasted. But most of all he is afraid that if Russia remains neutral, Germany will win.

2. While Walden talks politics in the library his daughter is in the gazebo. Charlotte is 18, although in some ways she seems a lot younger. Normally she is closely supervised by her axe-faced (Russian?) governess Maya. (Maya and Archibald quarrel all the time. He needles her mercilessly. But perhaps secretly they lust after one another.) But today is Maya's day off, and an easygoing maid called ~~Sarah~~ Annie takes over. Annie meets her boyfriend in the woods, leaving Charlotte in the gazebo.

Today Charlotte has a guest, her cousin and childhood playmate Belinda, also 18. This year both girls will "come out" - that is, they will put their hair up, be presented at court, and go to the endless parties and balls of the London season in order to meet suitable prospective husbands.

Charlotte is an only child and has grown up amid adoring family and servants. This has made her willful (like her father) rather than selfish. In addition, both her parents back in 1894 both her parents in their different ways repressed the freedom-loving sides of their personalities in favour of respectability; & and the submerged desires have surfaced in the child. Whether they knew it or not, Walden and Lydia always smiled when Charlotte escaped from her crib.

Nevertheless Charlotte's life has been narrowly restricted. She has always been educated at home. Her only real friend is Belinda, who is also an only child. She has never seen poor people's homes; — indeed she has never seen the servants' quarters of her own huge home — and she was never allowed to play with the children of servants or tenants. (Perhaps her mother is mortified that Charlotte will fall to the same temptations as Lydia.) Her schooling has been heavily biased towards the impractical. She knows a lot about music and art, and can speak Russian and French, but she knows little of history or geography and nothing at all about mathematics, science, finance or politics. She is therefore cultured and intelligent but has a hopelessly one-eyed picture of the world.

Willful, over-protected; fear is one more element in her personality: idealism. She realizes that only white European aristocrats are entitled to be idle, wealthy and powerful; but she knows of no reason why everyone shouldn't be fed, clothed and happy. And all the poor people she knows about are relatively fortunate, for her father is a typical paternal squire who provides for his tenants in hard times (while creaming off up to half their produce in good times) and takes care of his servants (while paying them next to nothing in wages.) But Charlotte does not know all this: all

she knows in that old servants get a cottage and a pension, newly delivered mothers always receive a basket of provisions; and in a hard winter everyone gets hot soup.

Finally, Charlotte is as beautiful as her mother. For now she has only her natural looks: a clear complexion, fine features, a graceful walk, an innocent smile. But soon we will see her learn how to dress to kill.

At the moment Charlotte is treated as a little girl. Suddenly she must become a woman. (The same goes for Belinda and most Edwardian debutantes.) She recently asked Manya: "What will I do after I get married?" Manya answered: "Why, my child, you will do nothing." Looking at her mother and those rich Edwardian ladies, Charlotte can see that while they are continually busy with social events it is nevertheless true that they do nothing. She feels, like any adolescent, that she is faced with a decision about what kind of person she is to be; and she is not at all sure she wants to be like her mother. These, then, are the parameters of Charlotte's personal version of the eternal adolescent identity crisis; and in confronting the crisis she will, like her parents twenty years ago, also confront the choice between freedom and responsibility.

Charlotte and Belinda talk of these things, and eventually the conversation turns to sex, a subject upon which they are breathtakingly ignorant. The Victorian conspiracy of silence about sex cannot often have been as completely effective as it is in their case. The children of the poor slept in houses too small for secrets. Middle-class children went to school where they learned not from their teachers but from their pupils. Aristocratic boys went to boarding schools where they experienced or at least knew about sex of a more or less homosexual nature. Even aristocratic girls might have learned from their brothers. Complete ignorance was possible only to girls educated at home, without siblings, growing up without knowing more than ordinary children — girls like Charlotte and Belinda.

They realise that babies grow inside women but cannot understand how they come out. Charlotte knows where eggs emerge from chickens, and Belinda once saw a cow drop a calf, but they agree that their own bodies have no apertures big enough for a baby. They wonder whether they suffer from a congenital deformity. There is literally no one they can ask about this. They do not consider the question of how a baby gets started — they assume it happens spontaneously around the age of 21, which for them explains why girls are pressured to marry at 19 or 20.

3. The news of Okhrana's forthcoming visit is reported in the society magazines and noted by Dieter Hartmann, senior aide to the German Ambassador in London. Hartmann is a patriotic German, proud of his country's claims to greatness. He sees no reason why Germany should remain forever a second-class power, and he finds offensive the arrogant British assumption that anyone who rejects Britain's right to rule the world is a warmonger. He is by nature an analyst, plotter and manipulator – essentially a behind-the-scenes man. He has a network of informants which is quite unconnected with the official German espionage establishment.

Just as Walden sees the need for a firm alliance between England and Russia, so Hartmann is desperate to drive a wedge between them — and now, in the visit of Okhrana, he sees what may be the best chance of doing this.

In the East End of London the poorest of Englishmen mingle with even poorer immigrants from Eastern Europe. England is the only European country with no restrictions on immigration. Consequently London is a haven for political refugees from Russia, Poland and Germany. The anarchists are particularly strong, with their own clubs and their own newspaper. The open-door policy is a cause of friction between England and Russia, for these expatriate revolutionists constitute a permanent threat to the Czar. However, much as Britain's leaders want a deal with Russia, public opinion and the conscience of the liberal government will not allow these political refugees to be sent home and imprisoned, tortured and executed.

Hartmann sees that this cause of friction between the two countries might – on the eve of war – be inflamed into a full-scale quarrel. For what if the Czar's favourite nephew were to be assassinated in London by one of these refugee Russian anarchists?

In order to find someone who will play patsy, Hartmann calls in one of his informants, Andre Barre, who poses as a French Bolshevik, his main task being to keep an eye on expatriate German troublemakers who might be planning to return home. Hartmann explains his plan to Barre, and Barre immediately mentions a name: Felikss Neumeier.

4. Felikss knew that Lydia had left him to marry an English lord, but he never knew the man's name.

After the break-up Felikss left the university and, dressed as a monk, wandered around Russia preaching the anarchist gospel (and selling peasant goods?). Eventually he was arrested by the Okhrana, the Czar's secret police. He was imprisoned and tortured, then he escaped and fled to England.

Now aged 40, he is a Rasputin-like character: intense, fiery, magnetic and

dominating. He is tall, thin, hairy and more too clean, but there is in him a kind of animal energy which some women find irresistible. In his wanderings he left illegitimate children all over Russia.

He lives now by robbery, stealing to finance the anarchist cause and his own frugal lifestyle. He can be found most evenings at the Whitelee Street Anarchist Meets in Stepney, drinking and arguing politics. He dominates any group with his authoritic manner and the evangelical fervour blazing in his eyes. Nevertheless he is aware that since he came to England he has not advanced the anarchist cause at all.

Tonight Andre Barre joins Felix' crowd. Barre is shy and hesitant. He is accepted by the anarchists as one of them. He shows them the report of Oblonov's visit. It causes much hot-headed excitement around the table: there must be some kind of demonstration against this representative of the brutal Czarist regime.

Felix is unthermometrically quiet.

5. Oblonov arrives, with four servants and many trunks. Walden meets him at Victoria Station and they drive to Bolgravia in Walden's new Rolls-Royce. Oblonov is a strikingly handsome young man, elegant and confident, who speaks good English.

Hypatia greets him at the house. He insists on calling her Aunt Hypatia although she is in fact a second-cousin-by-marriage. He brings back to her uncomfortable memories of her teenage in St Petersburg, and in particular her affair with Felix.

Hypatia, 39 and still beautiful, has never quite got over Felix. She has grown very fond of Walden, indeed she would say that she loves him; and she would never be unfaithful to him; yet she nourishes the memory of Felix, and still contains deep in her soul the contradictory impulses to loyalty on the one hand and freedom on the other (a conflict which she has handed down to her daughter).

Meanwhile Oblonov talks of Russia; and this pillow of the Czarist regime turns out to be quite a radical. He speaks earnestly of the need for change in his home land: for land reform, mechanised agriculture, industry, free speech and democracy. He is in fact a delightful young man.

Finally Charlotte appears, and now we see why this handsome, charming, wealthy young man is still a bachelor: he is chronically shy with girls. As soon as Charlotte enters [illegible] he becomes a nervous, charming stammerer. However the

is almost as nervous, and they each recognise a kindred spirit.

6. Feliks also spies on Oblomov at Vic. Stn. broods over Oblomov. There have been assassinations in Russia, but never of a member of the Royal Family. If Oblomov were murdered it would be front-page news all over the world. Feliks believes in the anarchist doctrine of propaganda-by-deed. What good did he do in his years of preaching in the Russian countryside? The world is changed by bullets, not by words. It is Oblomov and his kind who are responsible for starvation, slavery and torture in Russia. Feliks daydreams about strangling Oblomov, or pulling a trigger and watching him die, or blowing him to smithereens with a bomb.

Barre shows Feliks a magazine article about Charlotte's coming-out ball, to be held at the Savoy Hotel. Feliks, assuming Oblomov will be there, gets a temporary job as a waiter. He then visits certain hushed comrades to prepare an alibi.

7. Charlotte is presented at court. This is the high spot of a debutante's year. All the debs ~~wear~~ must wear white dresses. Feathers and trains are obligatory. The mean men wear court dress, which means uniforms or breeches-and-stockings. The event takes place at Buckingham Palace. The whole thing is organised like a military parade.

Charlotte's presentation is preceded by the suffragette incident.

8. Charlotte spends all the next day getting dressed for her ball. It is another glittering occasion. (Too soon after the last.)

Oblomov is the most dashing of the men. Charlotte dances with him several times and wonders whether this is love.

In the ladies' powder-room Charlotte has a girl-to-girl chat with her cousin Belinda. Since that afternoon in the gazebo Belinda has learned the sexual facts of life, and now she relays them to Charlotte.

9. Feliks, serving champagne, despises the extravagant glitter, the empty chatter, and the obscene over-consumption. He watches Oblomov and thinks: just another worthless parasite. He sees the girl dancing with Oblomov and finds her very desirable.

He has a gun under his jacket. He watches Oblomov. He sees his

chance - then he sees Lydia. His alibi is ruined because she sees him. He follows her and hears her addressed as Lady Walden. He asks her to meet him somewhere. She refuses, but he gets the impression he still has some power over her.

10. On the way home from the ball at dawn, Charlotte is horrified to see a woman sleeping on the pavement. Maria explains that thousands of men, women and children have nowhere to sleep but the streets of London. Charlotte simply did not know that people could be so poor. She insists on stopping the carriage and speaking to the woman. It turns out to be Sarah, the maid who used to depute for Maria at Walden Hall. She explains she was fired for getting pregnant. Charlotte says, Come home with us. Sarah cannot believe them to accept. Charlotte (who has no concept of cost) makes Maria give Sarah all the money she has in her purse.

Charlotte is grossed out by the revelation of this night. When she gets home she screams at her mother: "why did nobody tell me?" It seems that her education so far has been little better than a conspiracy to deceive her. From now on, she decides, she will find things out for herself.

11. Lydia has problems of her own. The reappearance of Felix has opened old wounds. She is distraught. She is determined she will not be unfaithful to Walden, but she is desperate to see Felix again. She feels so guilty that she cannot look her husband in the eye. Tonight he wants to make love: she refuses.

12. On reflection, Felix realises that the most important revelation of the evening was that his protagonist now is not the man who stole his girl, Stephen Walden. Felix still longs to wrangle Chloroform, but it is almost as important for him to outwit and humiliate Walden.

He is sure, too, that he could seduce Lydia all over again. But he will not. He fantasises about her begging him to make love to her, and him refusing.

Baume takes him to see Clerkenwell to meet a contact of Polish chemist who makes bombs. Felix says he will need a large bomb with a timing device. The chemist names a price. I'll get the money, Felix says.

13. Feliks calls on Lydia while Walden is out. (He gains admittance by giving a false name.) He tells Lydia how much money he needs and asks her to meet him in a week's time. Lydia, desperate to get him out of the house, agrees.

14. Walden and Obloman exchange information on mobilisation and military planning. They begin to draft an agreement whereby both will attack Germany if Germany attacks France. Obloman may be hopeless with women but he is a tough enough negotiator, and the talks get stuck on the definition of "attack".

15. Afterwards Walden walks around for a while. He is distressed by Lydia's new mood. He finds himself walking past the house in St Johns Wood which he gave to Bonnie Lucks. What is she like now? he wonders. My God, she must be fifty. He walks on. (Does he see her getting out of a carriage?)

16. Now that Charlotte has begun to find out how things are in the real world, the suffragette incident at the Palace begins to mean something to her — for what can she do if she can't even vote? She seeks out the girl in the suffragette incident, who introduces her to Mrs Pankhurst. Charlotte scandalises London society by announcing that Mrs Pankhurst is right. She also meets HG Wells and declares an (entirely theoretical) belief in free love.

Lydia and Walden are horrified by all this, and they absolutely forbid Charlotte to leave the house without Marya.

17. Lydia's problem is that she has no money. The household shopping is done by servants, and they do not use cash — the shopkeepers send bills to Walden who pays by cheque. Lydia's dressmaker, hatters, and shoemakers all send the bill. If she takes coffee at the Cafe Royal during a shopping expedition she signs for it. Her personal fortune consists of property and stocks which she cannot sell without the knowledge of the family lawyer, a personal friend of Walden's. She has no bank account of her own. So, highly embarrassed, she goes to Hatton Garden and sells some jewellery for cash.

18. Feliks now realises that while he can to some extent manipulate Lydia, she will not actually help him to kill Obloman. He really needs an enthusiastic accomplice within the Walden household. He knows what Charlotte looks like (she was the girl who,

dancing with Osborne, bragged at Felix' heartstrings). Now Felix hangs about outside the house waiting for her to come out.

19. Charlotte sneaks out of the house to go on a suffragette march. The police have been ordered to repel the marchers with a minimum of arrests (because the suffragettes are more trouble in jail than out) and in consequence the women get beaten up. Idle male bystanders join in. The more militant women wield Indian clubs and throw pepper, but Charlotte, naive as always, is unarmed. She is rescued from a beating by a tall, roughly-dressed Russian who introduces himself as Felix.

20. Felix takes Charlotte back to his dingy lodgings in Bayswater and seduces her on the rickety bed. He plans to use her, but that does not spoil his pleasure: he has always longed to screw the nobility. This is also for him an act of spite against Lydia and revenge on Walden.

Charlotte is mesmerised by Felix. She has never met anyone like him. And she learns one thing about sex that Belinda never explained, namely how nice it is.

21. Walden asks Lydia to wear one of the pieces of jewellery she sold. She tells him she has sent it for repair. Next day he sees it for sale in a shop window. He storms in and accuses them of theft. The manager takes him into the office and explains, with ill-concealed relish, that this happens not infrequently: a lady needs cash for a clandestine purpose so she sells some jewellery unbeknown to her husband... Humiliated, Walden buys it back.

He takes it home but does not give it to Lydia. Instead he confides in Pritchard. He tells Pritchard to follow Lydia and find out whether she has a lover.

22. Following Felix' instructions Lydia books a private room in a restaurant and meets him there for lunch. She gives him the money. Now he asks for something else: a job. She gives him a letter to the head groundsman at Walden Hall, telling him to take Felix on as a gardener.

(Pritchard follows Felix home etc.)

23. Pritchard reports that Lydia had lunch in a private room with a man of about her

our age and they spoke Russian together. Pritchard hears the man's address.

Walden & Pritchard decide to find out all about the man. Their detective instincts are aroused.

Then Walden goes to see Bonnie. She is now a comfortable, plump, horsy woman of 60, no longer a courtesan, living on her investments and a little lovely. She is thrilled to see Walden. They spend a wonderful afternoon in bed. Walden begins to consider ways in which he could spend less time with Lydia and more with Bonnie.

24. Charlotte gets it regularly in Regency. Felix tells her (truthfully) how the Okhrana tortured him. There are many Russians languishing in these internal cells, he says. But we must do something! cries Charlotte. All right, says Felix: let's kidnap Okhrana and hold him to ransom against the release of political prisoners. Wonderful! says Charlotte.

25. Charlotte pays attention to Okhrana and begins to encourage him. Gordon burns with rumours: this is the romance of the season. Charlotte persuades Lydia to give a weekend party at Walden Hall, hinting that Okhrana may take the opportunity to propose. Lydia agrees and the invitations are sent out.

Lydia, feeling that her own international marriage was a mistake, is against all this; but Walden is in favour.

26. On 28 June the Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated at Sarajevo. Sir Edward Grey tells Walden that he must finalise his agreement with Okhrana within the next few days. (Of course the agreement will have to be ratified by the two governments.) Walden thinks he will sign at the weekend party.

27. Friday. Felix goes to Clerkenwell to collect the bomb. (He is followed by Pritchard.) The chemist explains the mechanism. Setting the timer is a delicate job: the bomb must first be armed. Then the timer - an alarm clock - must be set. The alarm bell will go off two seconds before the explosion. The bomb will destroy everyone in a large room, provided it is not muffled by a heavy object like a sandbag.

Felix notes the bomb and leaves for Walden Hall.

28. Pritchard follows him to the station, notes his destination. Then goes back, interrogates the chemist, and learns the truth.

29. Felicia and Charlotte make love in the gazebo. [Then he tells her to leave Orleans here tomorrow at 6.]

30. Saturday morning. Orleans proposes. Charlotte promises an answer later.

31. Walden gets a cable from Pritchard. Felicia is an accomplice, he has a hunch, and he is somewhere near Walden Hall.

Walden immediately suspects an attempt on Orleans's life. He sends Orleans ~~and~~ to stay in a hut in the woods.

Orleans tells Charlotte where he is going, and Charlotte tells Felicia. [Or maybe even it is Charlotte's idea.]

32. Charlotte speaks to another house-guest, a distinguished surgeon. Casually she asks: "Is it at all serious if a woman skips, you know, bleeding?" The surgeon replies gruffly: "It usually means she's pregnant."

Charlotte goes after Felicia.

33. Lydia finds the jewels in Walden's cupboard. She informs all. Now Walden knows that Felicia is here at Walden Hall!

The surgeon tells Lydia about the pregnancy. Lydia leaves instinctively that Felicia is the father. She guesses that Charlotte has followed Felicia.

Walden & Lydia follow.

Chase.

Epilogue.