

THE RUSSIAN PRINCE

Walden

Stephen Walden was born in 1864. His father, the seventh Earl of Walden, was a typical huntin'-shootin'-and'-fishin' Victorian aristocrat. Young Stephen 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). In 1887 he made his first trip to Africa and fell in love with big-game hunting. There he also met Pritchard who was to be with him as a manservant for the rest of his life.

As a young man his taste was for loose women. In 1893 he had a mildly notorious affair with a singer called Bonnie Laska, Bonnie for short, real name Maudie Jenks. He even gave her a present of a small house in St John's Wood, the area of London which was at that time Midsussex. Then the Prince of Wales (later to be Edward VII) took a fancy to her, and she threw Walden over.

Even before that Walden found England suffocating - there did not seem to be room enough for both him and his father - and he spent little time at home. A restless young man who lived for kicks, he went on safari one year and travelled the world in between. Being the heir to an earldom, he was entertained by British ambassadors in the world's capital cities. The diplomats, having heard of his reputation as a hell-raiser, were surprised to find that he was intelligent and knowledgeable about international politics and had a flair for languages. In fact he was laying the foundations of what would later be a formidable expertise in foreign affairs. The diplomats' wives were charmed by his genuine gentility.

In 1895 he was in St Petersburg when he heard that his father had died. From the moment that his servant Pritchard called him "My lord", Stephen Walden changed radically and permanently. He proposed marriage to Lydia, the beautiful daughter of a Russian count. After the wedding he brought her back to England, moved into the family's ancestral seat of Walden Hall, took his place in the House of Lords, and seemed in every way to become the man whose title he had now inherited.

He found the family fortunes somewhat diminished because of the late-Victorian collapse of agricultural prices. While other country landowners clamoured for tariff protection, Walden switched money into London property and railways, and he is

was richer than his father ever was.

He is now fifty, and is one of those men who are in their prime at that age. His big, beefy body has yet to collapse into fat, although he has a gouty leg and sometimes walks with a cane. His jolly, hearty manner serves to conceal a sharp intelligence. He thoroughly enjoys life: he likes society parties and hunt balls, the opera and the music-hall, bitter ale and vintage port, the company of young men and mature women, any game from chess to poker.

He ~~is in love~~ adores Lydia and dotes on Charlotte, although he feels he has never really possessed his wife, and is sad that they have had no more children.

They have four three houses in addition to Walden Hall: a town house on the edge of St James's Park in London, a shooting-box in Scotland, and a villa in Monte Carlo. They employ more than 100 domestic servants.

Walden has never had any kind of job apart from a ceremonial post in the royal household. However he is active in the House of Lords and friendly with all the senior Tory politicians. While the Tories were in power he was often consulted on foreign - especially Russian - affairs, and was occasionally used as a confidential diplomatic messenger. He knows the Czar and is related to him through Lydia. When in 1906 the Kaiser persuaded the weak-willed Czar to sign the Treaty of Bjorko - a treaty which would, if it had ever been ratified, have permanently altered the European balance of power - it was Walden who was dispatched to St Petersburg to talk the Czar out of it. Walden looks back on this mission as the triumph of his life.

In 1905 the Tories lost the election to the Liberals. For a while this made little difference to anything; then in 1905 Campbell-Bannerman died and a bunch of young (ish) firebrands came to power. Asquith was the first English Prime Minister without a country estate. As Chancellor of the Exchequer he appointed Lloyd George, the Welsh hitherto; and another innovator, Winston Churchill, became Home Secretary. Thus began a period in politics more bitter than any this century. The Liberals tried to bring in a head tax, Home Rule for Ireland, a cheaper (but modern) Army and Navy, old age pensions, the National Health Service. Before it was over the Army would threaten to secede, the Lords would defy the constitution, the monarchy would be dragged reluctantly into the political arena, and - a rare thing in Westminster - members of opposing parties would refuse to eat at the same dinner table.

In all this Walden is on the side of tradition against change. And, in his person and his lifestyle, he contributes the only decent argument against reform. He

represents the very best of the English aristocracy. His lands are scrupulously well maintained and scientifically farmed; his tenants' cottages are in good repair, his servants are well cared for, his home is beautiful, he is a patron of the arts. He is shrewd, knowledgeable, and humane. He and his kind have ruled Britain ~~the British Empire~~ through its great period of greatest glory: why should things change? His tenants and tenants agree: they already get pensions and health care from him, and they see no point in having the government take the money from Walden in hand Tax then give it to them.

However, his intense, arduous domestic political battle is about to be transcended by another, more serious threat from overseas; and Walden will find that the life he leads and the England he loves are in jeopardy, not from the liberals, but from foreigners.

Hydia

Hydia is a woman haunted by a guilty secret.

Back in 1895 she was the belle of St Petersburg society. Then aged 19, she was beautiful in a frail, slender sort of way, and terribly respectable: modestly dressed, obedient to her ~~eldest~~ parents, respectful to her elders, a devout churchgoer, hopelessly impractical, and liable to swoon at the slightest suggestion of impropriety. However all of this was to some extent an act, for at the same time she was conducting a most passionate sexual liaison with a dirt-poor anarchist student, Feliks Mironov.

About the time Walden proposed, Hydia's father found out about Feliks and had him arrested and tortured. He did break them told Hydia he would have Feliks freed if and only if she agreed to marry Walden. She agreed.

In between the engagement and the wedding she realized she was pregnant by Feliks.

Nineteen years later Hydia is still beautiful. Her public image is not much changed, except insofar as it is Anglicized. She is still highly respectable, and she plays the part of an Edwardian lady with conviction. But she has never ceased to feel guilty that she doubly deceived Walden when she married him - for of course he thought (and still thinks) that she was (a) a virgin and (b) in love with him - and this burden of guilt has prevented their having a warm, candid relationship. Nevertheless she has grown enormously fond of Walden, indeed she would say she loves

him, and ~~nevertheless~~ she would never be unfaithful to him. Yet she has nourished the memory of her adolescent passion for Feliks, and her Bohemian impulses are not dead, only dormant.

Lydia has everything under control - but the events of summer 1914 will show her that the defenses she has built around her secrets are terribly fragile; and it may be that her whole carefully-constructed facade must come crashing down before she can begin a new life, one based on the truth instead of on lies.

Charlotte

Charlotte is an only child who has grown up among adoring family and servants. She is too good-natured to be quite spoiled, but she is at least spoiled (like Walden).

Back in 1895 both her parents in their different ways suppressed the libertarian sides of their personalities in favour of respectability, and the submerged drives have surfaced in the offspring. Whether they knew it or not, Walden and Lydia always smiled when baby Charlotte escaped from her crib.

Nevertheless her upbringing has been narrowly restricted. She has always been educated at home. Her only real friend is her cousin Belinda, who is the same age and has had a similarly protected childhood. Charlotte has never seen poor people's homes - indeed she has never seen the servants' quarters of her own home - and she was never allowed to play with the children of servants or tenants. (Of course Lydia remembers the trouble she got into when she mixed with the working class in the shape of Feliks, and she is terrified of the same thing happening to Charlotte.) Charlotte's schooling has been heavily biased toward the impractical. She knows a lot about music and art, and she speaks fluent Russian and scholarly French, but she knows little of history or geography and nothing of science, mathematics, politics or finance. She is therefore cultured and intelligent but has a hopelessly one-eyed view of how the world works.

Willful, cultured, overprotected... she has one more crucial trait: idealism. She realizes that only white European aristocrats are entitled to be wealthy, powerful and idle; but she knows ~~no~~ no reason why the whole world should not be fed, clothed and happy. And all the people she meets are relatively fortunate, for her father is the archetypal paternal country squire.

Finally, Charlotte is as beautiful as her mother. At present her beauty is entirely natural: an innocent smile, a dear complexion, a graceful walk. But soon she will

learn to dress like a woman, and then she will be ravishing.

She recently asked her governess Marya: "what will I do after I get married?" Marya replied: "why, my child, you will do nothing." Charlotte has always regarded her mother as perfection personified; but now she realises that in fact Lydia does nothing. She feels, like any teenager, that she is faced with a decision about what kind of person she is going to be, and for the first time she is entertaining the unsettling idea that she may not want to be a replica of her mother. This is Charlotte's personal version of the perennial adolescent identity crisis. It will come to a head during the summer of 1914; and when it is over she will know who she is.

Feliks.

Feliks is the son of a poor country priest. His father was a somewhat saintly man - dedicated, selfless and devout. Feliks inherited his selflessness but not his piety. He grew up with a deep and sincere compassion for the world's down-trodden and a bitter contempt for the church which (with a few honorable exceptions such as his father) ~~supported~~ supported the status quo and even profited by it.

Nevertheless, the priesthood was the only way for a poor boy to get educated, so Feliks went to theological college in St Petersburg. There he found and adopted a system of beliefs more to his liking: anarchism. Anarchists believe that all property is theft, all government is tyranny, and all organisation is coercion. As soon as people realise this, they will rise up and destroy the state. However, because anarchists are fundamentally opposed to organisation they cannot form a cohesive political movement. The only way for them to encourage the revolution is by propaganda and by example - e.g. by assassinating politicians. So a caring political theory leads to murder. But this is the central conflict of anarchism, and Feliks epitomises it, with his unmelodramatic qualities of entirely real compassion ~~for~~ and brazen political brutality.

When as a student he fell in love with Lydia he was a tall, gaunt, white-faced fanatic, mad as hell at the whole world yet tender and vulnerable in bed as a lover, and both lascivious and passionate in bed. When Lydia's father had him arrested he was tortured by the Ochranka, the Czar's secret police. He was released the day after Lydia left for England. For a while he wandered the Russian countryside, dressed as a monk, preaching the anarchist gospel. Eventually

he was arrested again and exiled to Siberia for life. He escaped from there, after killing a guard (the only time he has actually killed), and made his way to Switzerland.

Now aged 40, hardened both physically and in his convictions over the last 19 years, he is an impressive figure: intense, dominant, magnetic. He is tall, thin, hairy and none too clean, but there is an animal energy in him which a few women find completely hypnotic.

In Switzerland he is deeply discontented. Russia is in a turmoil: the Czar is a halfwit, the Duma (parliament) is inept, the oil workers are literally at war with the landlords, and a million workers are on strike. The country is a powder-barrel waiting for a spark, and Feliks wants to be that spark. But he knows that as soon as he sets foot on Russian soil he will be sent to Siberia (as Stalin has been) and he could do nothing there. But what can he do outside Russia?

He is about to find out.

Arkhard + Masha.

One.

"Churchill? Winston Churchill?" said Walden. "Here?"

"Yes, my lord," the butler said.

"Send the blighter away," Walden said. "I'm not at home." He turned and walked to the window, thinking: Young whippnapper, I don't know where he gets the nerve, first talking to me in London then following me down here, he knows damn well I won't see him —

The butler coughed.

Walden gave him an irritated look. "Still here?"

"Mr Churchill told me you'd be 'not at home', my lord, and insisted I give you this."

Walden noticed for the first time that the butler was carrying a letter on a tray. "Give it back to him - no, wait." He had seen the seal on the envelope, and for once he was intimidated. He opened the letter and read it.

Buckingham Palace
1 May 1914

My dear Walden,
You will see young Winston.
George R.

Walden recognized the handwriting: it was the King's. He hesitated a moment longer, then said: "Ask Mr Churchill to come in."

Churchill is first lord of the Admiralty, which means not that he is a lord but that he is in charge of Britain's navy. He is of course a Minister in the liberal government, so from Walden's point of view he represents the people who are hell-bent on destroying England as ^{Walden} knows it, which is why Walden would not receive him. However, Churchill - backed by the King - wants Walden to do a job which transcends domestic politics.

Viewed from England, Europe appears menaced by an increasingly wealthy and aggressive Germany. Germany's annual steel production, for example, has overtaken that of Britain and is still accelerating. The Kaiser is no smarter than the other European monarchs - which is to say that he's dumb - but he is also militaristic. In the past year Germany's war preparations have been increasingly obvious. The government has imposed a one-off special tax to raise a billion marks - the largest levy in European history - and the money is being used to step up conscription (so that it now includes all fit men without exception) with corresponding increases in military hardware. On the home money market German firms have been factoring credits, i.e. discounting bills for early payment, with the result that Germany has collected all her debts but is still in debt to everyone else.

But most important is her navy. English policy is that the English navy must be bigger than the combined navies of the two next largest powers, to guarantee the safety of the island's vital trading arteries. But Germany is catching up and refuses point-blank to discuss an arms limitation treaty.

In short Germany is ready to fight. The problem facing the German general staff is - as always - the danger of war on two fronts: against France in the west and Russia in the east. For this reason the aim of German diplomacy is to neutralise Russia (hence the abortive Treaty of Bjorko). And for the same reason, England and France would like to extract from the Russians a firm commitment to join in on the Allied side

if and when war breaks out. And this is where Walden comes in.

Churchill explains that he has arranged for a young Russian admiral to come to London for secret naval talks. He is Prince Alexei Andreevich Ostrov, aged 30, a nephew and favourite of the Czar and a distant relation of Lydia. Churchill wants the talks to result in an Anglo-Russian military treaty; and Walden, with his expertise, his Russian connections, and his personal relationship with the Czar, is probably the only man who can bring about such a deal.

To obscure the real purpose of the visit, Ostrov - a very eligible bachelor - will be introduced to London society, and it will be whispered about that he is looking for a wife.

Walden is no stranger to the world of international diplomacy, but even he is somewhat awestruck by the ^{importance} ~~significance~~ of his task, which is no less than to get the Russians on our team. Of course he has strong personal reasons for wanting this: he loves Russia, his wife is Russian, and he has rather a lot of money invested in the Trans-Siberian Railway. But more importantly, he knows that if Russia remains neutral, Germany may well destroy England.

Lydia leaves the two men talking politics and strolls into the garden. She walks around the vast, lovely old house and wanders aimlessly through the landscaped park. The mention of Ostrov has unnerved her. She remembers him as an 11-year-old boy at her wedding; and she remembers her wedding day as the most unhappy day of her whole life. She sees her daughter, Charlotte, talking to Belinda in the gazebo; and she thinks: Please, God, let me keep my secret.

Charlotte and Belinda are talking about being debutantes (both will be presented at court this season), getting married, and sex. This last is a subject upon which they are breathtakingly ignorant. (Most children learned about sex despite the notorious Victorian "conspiracy of silence", but Charlotte and Belinda are unusually protected.) They realise that babies grow inside women but cannot imagine 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 no one they can consult about this.

It is Belinda who has raised this subject. Charlotte now remembers a locked

upward in the library. Belinda is horrified by the idea of opening looking in the secret books; but Charlotte says: "why should they be secret?" They look at the books, but get no help from the formalized medical drawings or the bizarre pornography.

Meanwhile Felix's boat is docking at Dover.

The Swiss anarchists have learned, through a traitor in the Odeana, of Obonov's planned visit to England, and its purpose. Felix considers the conflict between Germany and England to be a squabble between capitalists of no essential concern to the ordinary man; however, he is horrified at the thought of the millions of young humans who will be maimed and killed if Russia is dragged into a European war. So he is determined to sabotage the Obonov-Walden talks. How? By killing Obonov and Walden.

As he sets foot on English soil for the first time in his life, there is something else on his mind. He doesn't know who Lydia married, but he knows it was an English Earl, and he knows she came to England to live. He wonders whether he will bump into her...

Two.

~~Felix makes contact with the London anarchist. From a sympathizer who works for the railway he learns the date and time of Obonov's arrival. Sadly, the anarchist community is riddled with price spies.~~

~~Churchill, who and Walden, forewarned. However Walden arranges tight security for Obonov's arrival.~~

Felix is at Victoria Station ^{carrying a gun} when the train comes in. At the back end of the train is a private coach (borrowed from the King). The nation is crawling with biblicists. Walden's personal carriage is driven on to the platform. Obonov steps off the train and into the carriage. Two policemen get in too. Felix pumps on his bicycle and follows the carriage. It goes to a large house on the edge of St James's Park, the London residence of the Earl of Walden.

Inside the house Obonov is greeted by Lydia. She is charming, but underneath she is in a moment.

~~Obonov speaks good English. He talks about Russia; and this pillar of the ~~Crusist~~ regime turns out to be something of a radical. He speaks earnestly~~

Two.

Feliks is at Victoria Station for the arrival of Oblomov. The train comes in. Oblomov is travelling in a private coach borrowed from the King. Feliks hardly sees him. He steps out of the coach and into Walden's carriage. Feliks gets a glimpse of a handsome, expensively-dressed young man. Two burly servants (or bodyguards?) who seem to have travelled with Oblomov load a mountain of luggage on the back of the carriage.

Feliks, on a bicycle, follows the carriage to a large house on the edge of St James's Park, the town home of the Waldens.

Inside the house a reluctant Lydia greets Oblomov. She is reluctant because he brings such uncomfortable memories. Oblomov talks to her about hermia, and he turns out to be something of a radical. He speaks earnestly of the need for change in hermia: for land reform, mechanised agriculture, modern industry and parliamentary democracy. He is a rather appealing young man.

When Charlotte appears we find out why this handsome, charming, wealthy prince is still a bachelor at thirty: he is chronically shy with girls. As soon as Charlotte walks in (looking ravishing) he turns into a nervous wreck - dropping his teacup, suddenly acquiring a thick Russian accent, blushing and stammering. But now Charlotte's hidden talents begin to emerge, and with her unique naive charm she begins to put him at his ease. Observing this, Walden and Lydia catch one another's eye and exchange a secret smile of pride.

Outside, Feliks walks in the park and ponders what he has seen. Clearly Oblomov is reluctant to show himself in public: he will not be an easy target. (Perhaps the possibility of an assassination has occurred to him, too.) Getting close to him will test Feliks' ingenuity.

Walden and Oblomov exchange information on mobilisation and military planning, and begin to discuss joint campaigns. The talks are given added urgency by the news that the Germans have completed the widening of the Kiel Canal, a strategically vital project which enables their dreadnoughts to pass between the North Sea and the Baltic. But now Oblomov drops a bombshell.

~~Walden's~~ ^{The Russian navy's} great long-term aim is to have a warm-water port. She has her Black Sea coast, but the Black Sea is connected with the Mediterranean by a narrow strait, the Bosphorus, at Constantinople. Both banks of the Bosphorus are held by Turkey.

Russia has been supporting Slav nationalism in the Balkans in the hope that when the Slavs throw out the Turks Russia will have free passage through the Bosphorus. But better than Slav control of the Balkans would be Russian control; and Adonai now announces that if Russia is to fight on the Allied side in the coming war, the price of her co-operation will be Britain's recognition of the Balkans as a Russian sphere of influence.

Of course Walden is not mandated even to discuss this, and he tells Adonai while he puts the question to the Foreign Office.

On 4 June Charlotte is presented at court. This is the biggest and most gorgeous ceremony of British royalty, when the aristocratic gits of the kingdom parade before the monarch at Buckingham Palace. "Court dress" is obligatory. For women this means a white dress with a low-cut bodice and a train three to four yards long, a tiara with three white plumes, and just about all the jewelry jewels. Men wear velvet knee-breeches with silk stockings and all their medals. In the main part of the ceremony the King and Queen sit on thrones while the ~~to~~ debutantes pass before them one at a time.

While Walden, Lydia, Charlotte and Adonai are in the palace, their carriage and a couple of hundred other wait in The Mall, and night falls. Feliks finds their carriage, ~~catches~~ overpowers the driver, and puts on his livery. Then he waits for the carriage to be summoned to take the party home.

Charlotte's debut is marred by an (historically true) incident. The girl ahead of her in the line suddenly drops to one knee and says: "Your Majesty, for God's sake stop bothering women!" She is hustled away by two footmen. The royal couple pretend not to notice, but Charlotte is flustered. She announces the girl is completely mad, and for now nobody will tell her otherwise. Eventually they leave and have their coach summoned.

Feliks drives up to the gates. It is dark. He sees two men and two women, and figures the larger man walking with a cane is Walden and the other Adonai. The few people get into the carriage. Feliks drives off, heading for the house.

He stops in the middle of the park. He pulls his scarf up over his face (so that the women, whom he does not intend to harm, will undoubtedly be unable to describe him). He throws open the door of the carriage and pulls a gun.

Then Lydia screams "help!" in Russian - just as she used to when Feliks pushed her. He recognizes the voice, and for a moment is frozen with shock. Walden lurches out with his cane, striking Feliks' arm. Feliks drops the gun. He runs away.

Three

An hour later Walden, Momar and Churchill sit in the library. Clearly someone wants to kill Momar, and he may try again. Momar must be moved, says Churchill: perhaps to the Russian Embassy. Walden thinks we can do better than that. Let us move him into the Embassy, then straight out through the back door and down to Walden Hall. This is agreed. Churchill thinks Walden too should take precautions. I shall, says Walden.

Meanwhile Churchill makes Momar a counter-offer: the Bosphorus to be an international waterway with freedom of passage for all nations in peacetime guaranteed jointly by Britain and Russia.

Feliks is dazed, humiliated and angry: angry because he failed, humiliated because it was so easy for Walden to knock the gun out of his hand, and dazed because of the sudden shocking reappearance of Lydia in his life. He only caught a glimpse of her, but that and the single potent word she spoke have taken him back nineteen years, reviving all his old feelings toward her and his bitterness toward the conspiracy which took her away from him.

Charlotte has believed the story that this was a failed robbery attempt, and she is impressed by her father's courage and quick thinking. She gives the matter no more thought, and ~~next day she~~ ~~the other~~ Next day she reads in the newspaper that the "incident" at the court was a suffragette protest. She talks to Pritchard about the suffragettes. He explains the reference to starving women: suffragettes who are jailed go on hunger strike, and consequently are force-fed by a humiliating and painful process. Charlotte refuses to believe this.

That night ~~she~~ attends in her evening-att ball at the Savoy Hotel. It is a glittering occasion, with all the girls in fabulous gowns and the young men in white-tie-and-tails. Belinda, who is there, has joined the "fast" set: she wears

ankle-revealing dresses, does the Turkey Trot, smokes cigarettes in restaurants, and goes to boxing matches. Since that day at Walden Hall she has learned the sexual facts of life, and tonight, during a girl-to-girl chat in the ladies' powder room, she relays them to Charlotte, who is stunned and cannot take it in.

On the way home from the ball at dawn Charlotte is horrified to see a woman sleeping on the pavement. Manya, Charlotte's chaperone, reluctantly 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 that poor. She invites a stopping the carriage and speaking to the woman. It turns out to be Annie, the maid who was fired from Walden Hall. Annie says she was given notice because she was pregnant. Charlotte says, come home with me. Annie knows better than to accept. Charlotte makes Manya give Annie all the cash in her purse.

Charlotte is grieved and by the revelation of the night. She screams at her parents: "Why did nobody tell me?" It seems to her that her education so far has been little better than a conspiracy to deceive her. From now on, she resolves, she will find things out for herself.

— To red pages.

Feliks, realising Adam has disappeared, begins to follow Walden around. He ponders whether to kill Walden on his own, but decides that Walden's death would leave him with no means of tracing Adam: better to get the two of them together.

Walden goes daily to the Russian Embassy. Is Adam there? Feliks is ~~Feliks~~ ~~now~~ makes a characteristically cautious. He writes: "East Walden Russian Embassy" on an envelope and seals it; then he gives a boy half a crown to deliver it at a specified time. When that time comes Feliks is in the Embassy lobby, saying in a loud voice (and in Russian) that there simply must be a letter ~~has~~ ~~using~~ ~~here~~ for Viktor Prada and ~~and~~ ~~carrying~~ ~~a~~ ~~fun~~. He sees, ~~out of the~~ ~~the~~ ~~boy's~~ ~~is~~ ~~immediately~~ ~~summoned~~ ~~by~~ ~~an~~ ~~assistant~~ ~~carrying~~ ~~hardly~~ men speaking English who seem to have ~~drubwakened~~ ~~out~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ walls: Feliks now knows the Embassy dodge was a trap.

Next day he finds the trunk down at the Embassy and sees Walden leave in a car. He cannot follow on his bike.

Pages. 100

Felix is now in a quandary: he has lost Adam. The man could be anywhere in London. Walden goes there by car, and Felix can't follow a car on his bike, or on a horse, because they are too slow, or by car because cars are still relatively conspicuous. How can he find Adam? He is desperate. And now the unfortunate French-Englishman is assassinated.

In desperation, Felix goes to see Lydia.

He gives his name as David Larmy-Love and is taken into the dining-room. Lydia looks at him with an automatic smile, frowns, then turns white as a sheet when she recognizes him.

(NB she does not connect him with the incident in the park, which she and Charlotte will believe to have been a robbery attempt.) She is frightened because there is now a risk that her secrets will get out: (a) her premarital affair and (b) Charlotte's paternity. But her hysteria is also sexual.)

~~She represents the opposite of Adam~~ Felix thinking: where is Adam?

Lydia thinking: He mustn't meet Charlotte!

He asks her indirectly, then directly. She will not say. He threatens to tell Walden. Still she will not say. Then Charlotte walks in. Now he knows.

She says: "The Russian Embassy."

Wrong.

She will try to find out.

Now that Charlotte is beginning to understand the real world, what can she do about it? As a woman, she cannot even vote! The action of her father de Voies, the defendant in the court incident, now appears in a different light. Charlotte calls on her. The de Voies family has been advised by "good" society, so they are pleased to see Charlotte Walden. Mrs Bankhurst is there. Charlotte is ripe for conversion. She promises to go on a pilgrimage next month.

She comes home and defiantly tells her parents where she has been. They are humiliated, and forbid her to leave the house alone.

Feliks, watching the house over the next couple of days, realises that Adamus has disappeared. This is hardly surprising but it puts him in a quandary. Adamus could be staying at any of the main London hotels (probably under a false name), or at the London home of Churchill or anybody else, ~~or at the Museum~~ or at someone's country house ... and Feliks has no way of checking these possibilities, except by standing outside for days.

In desperation, he goes to Lydia.

He gives his name as David Ramsey - (here and in France) into the morning room. Lydia looks up with an automatic smile, frowns, then turns white as a sheet as she recognises him.

At present she does not link him with the incident in the park, which - she and Charlotte have been led to believe - was a straightforward attempted robbery. She is frightened because of the danger that now will be revealed the secret of her personal affairs and the secret of Charlotte's paternity. Her immediate hysteria is (a) sexual and (b) the fact that Charlotte is in the house.

Feliks spins her a yarn about wanting to plead with Adamus for the release of a prisoner. Lydia tells him Adamus is at the Russian Embassy.

Meanwhile Charlotte is at the de Vries.

Lydia ~~tells~~ thinks: Feliks ... anarchist ... Adamus ... robbery? and realises about Feliks, so tells Walden, a man who was here today waiting for Adamus and I told him ... Walden sets a trap.

Feliks writes an envelope: "Prince Adamus. Russian Embassy." Then gives it to the courier to deliver.

When the courier delivers Feliks in in the lobby, saying in loud Russian that there must be a letter here for him, they must have let it, they should please look again ... He sees the bag surrounded by busy guards who seem to have materialised out of nowhere ...

Feliks is back at square one.

And Franz-Ferdinand is assassinated.

And the Balkan program.

(Helios goes back to Lydia: you nearly put me back in jail! She cries on his shoulder. But she doesn't know where Artemis is.)

Helios ~~is~~ outside home, sees Charlotte: My father! . . . ?
Follows her, rescues her, befriends her.

Now how does Walden / Pritchard get on to Helios?

Charlotte sent away.

Helios back to Lydia.

Artemis follows him home.

Helios to Walden Hall.

Return to Lydia and rescue arrest.

Walden must be doing something positive
from the start.

(also Charlotte, Lydia?)

Walden must be in physical jeopardy
from the start.

(also Charlotte, Lydia?)

Felix must be in more danger.

The.

Reception: - Walden (Cherwell) from
 - Feliks plan
 - Lydia
 - Charlotte
 - Henry's chemistry.

Charlotte - suffragette.

Feliks + Lydia.

Walden - precautions.

Charlotte - curing - not bad etc.

1. Walden's precautions. ← Feliks' thoughts.
2. Charlotte's revelation ← Feliks shares Walden.
3. Walden's trap.
4. Feliks + Lydia.
5. Trap fails.

