

## The Russian Prince

### Walden

Stephen Walden was born in 1864, first son of the seventh Earl of Walden. He learned to ride before he could walk and to shoot before he could write. He went to Eton, where he misbehaved, and to Oxford where he surprised everyone by graduating (in History). In 1887 he made his first trip to Africa where he fell in love with big-game hunting. When in London he would pursue loose women, and in 1893 he had a wildly notorious affair with a singer, Bonnie ("Bonnie") Lesca (real name Maudie Lesca). He even gave her a present of a small home in St John's Wood, the area of London which was at that time Maida Vale. But Bonnie threw him over when the Prince of Wales took a fancy to her. Even before that Walden found England restricting — partly because he and his father were so alike they could never live together — and spent little time there. He was a restless young man who lived for kicks. He went on safari once a year and travelled the world in between. Being the heir to an earldom, he was entertained by England's ambassadors in the world's capital cities. The diplomats, having heard of his reputation as a hell-raiser, were usually 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 for what would later be a considerable expertise in foreign affairs.

In 1896 he was in St Petersburg when he heard of the death of his father. His lifestyle changed immediately. He proposed to Lydia, the daughter of a Russian count, and married her right away. He brought her back to England, moved into the ancestral home of Walden Hall, took his seat in the House of Lords, and settled down.

He found the family fortunes somewhat diminished because of the late-Victorian collapse of agricultural prices. While New Country Landowners demanded for tariff protection, Walden ratched money into London property and railways, and he is now richer than his father ever was. To look after himself, his wife and their teenage daughter Charlotte he employs more than 100 servants at his four homes — Walden Hall in London, a town house on the edge of St James' Park in London, a shooting-box in Scotland and a villa in Monte Carlo. He is now fifty, and is one of those men who come in their prime at that age. His big, bushy body has yet to collapse into fat, although he has a gashy leg and walks with a cane. His folly, heavy manner

conceals a sharp intelligence. He thoroughly enjoys life. He likes hunt balls, and social parties, 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 with Lydia and debars on shoulders. He hunts fox in ? and shoots grouse in Scotland, but it is not the same as big game, and late at night he and his valet stow it in the gun-room over a glass of port, surrounded by the stuffed and mounted heads of lion, elephant and rhinoceros, and reminisce about the African days.

Walden, in common with most Educationist aristocrats, feels that his whole way of life - and England's - is under attack. The Liberal Party is in power, with the left-wing Lloyd George as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Asquith is the first British P.M. without a country estate. The Labour Party is burgeoning. In 1904 Lloyd George introduced a heavy Tax in his Budget - and this ~~beginning~~ was the beginning of a bitter political battle which split the British Aristocracy into two hostile camps. Walden and all the aristocracy are defending their vast country estates, England's right to rule (referred), against votes for women, for Tariff Reform, and defending the House of Lords. So fierce is the dispute that - unusually - it has spread beyond the debating-chamber, and Tory husbands refuse to speak to Liberals (and vice versa).

Walden is firmly on the side of the Tories in all this. Until 1906 (when the Liberals came to power) he was frequently consulted on foreign - especially German - affairs, because of his great expertise; and was occasionally used for unorthodox diplomatic work. One episode in particular is memorable. In 1906 the German and the British signed the Treaty of London, a deal which would - if it had ever been respected by the signatories - have altered permanently the balance of power in Europe. Walden was dispatched to talk the German out of it, and he succeeded. Walden looks back on this as a triumph.

Now, however, domestic politics are about to take second place in a greater threat develops: Germany.

### Lydia.

Back in 1845 Lydia was the belle of St Petersburg society. Then aged 19, she was beautiful in a frail, shoulders sort of way, and remarkably respectable: modestly dressed, obedient to her parents, respectful to her elders, a devoted churchgoer, helplessly impractical, and liable to faint at the slightest suggestion of impropriety. However all that was to

some extent an act, for at the same time she was conducting a most passionate liaison with a disreputable anarchist student. But ~~the student was arrested~~ her father found out about the student and had him arrested; and about that time Walden came along and proposed.

Nineteen years later Lydia is still beautiful. Her public image has not changed much - except to be Anglicised - in the interim. She is still highly respectable, and she plays the part of an Edwardian lady with conviction. But what is happening beneath the surface?

She has never learned to feel really guilty that she doubly deceived Walden when she married him, for of course ~~at the time~~ he thought (and still thinks) that she was (a) a virgin and (b) in love with him. This burden of guilt has prevented their having a warm, candid relationship. 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 has maintained the memory of her adolescent passion for felicitas, and her ~~own~~ repressed impulses are not dead, only dormant.

She too dotes on Charlotte - and fears for her, too; for Charlotte may suffer the same destiny as Lydia, and this possibility makes Lydia anxious.

### 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 wilful (like her father). Back in 1845 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. Charlotte has never seen poor people's houses - 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. Her schooling has been heavily biased toward the impractical - she knows a lot about music and art, and she speaks Russian and French, but she knows little of history or geography and nothing of mathematics, science, politics or finance. She is therefore

cultured and intelligent but has a hopelessly one-eyed view of how the world works.

Wiffl, cultured, overprotected... He has one more crucial trait: idealism. She realizes that only white European aristocrats are entitled to be wealthy, powerful and idle, but she knows of no reason why the whole world should not be fed, clothed and happy. And all the people she comes across are relatively fortunate, for her father is the archetypal country squire who provides for his tenants in hard times (while collecting just rents from them) and takes care of his servants (while paying them next to nothing in wages). But Charlotte is ignorant of the downside: all the houses in that old manor get a cottage and a pension, newly delivered rathens are sent a basket of provisions, and in a hard winter everyone gets hot soup.

Finally, Charlotte is as beautiful as her mother. At present her beauty is entirely natural: an innocent smile, a clear complexion, a graceful walk. But soon she will learn how to dress like a woman, and then she will be ravishing.

The recently widowed her governess, Marya; "What will I do when I get married?" Marya replied: "Why, my child, you will do nothing." Observing her mother and the Edwardian ladies, Charlotte realizes that while they are always busy with social affairs nevertheless it is true that they do nothing. He feels, like any teenager, that he is faced with a decision about what kind of person he is going to be, and he is not at all happy with the prospect of a life spent doing nothing. This is Charlotte's personal version of the perennial adolescent identity crisis, and in conformity it she will - as her parents did in 1845 - face a choice between freedom and responsibility.

## Feliks

[At the age of 11 Feliks discovered that the old Moraw shopkeeper who brought him up were not his ~~real~~ <sup>natural</sup> parents. In fact he is the son of a now-dead peasant girl and an unidentified young aristocrat. ~~He grew up~~ His promiscuous upbringing is a determination with a deep - if somewhat mechanical - compassion.]

Feliks embodies the paradox of the anarchist, combining a deep and sincere compassion for the world's down-trodden people with a political nihilism that enables him to kill in the cause of liberty.

Feliks was released from jail the day after Lydia's wedding. He left the University and,



It up and broke the seal.

He read:

1 March 1914.

My dear Walden,

You will see young Winston.

It was signed: "George R."

Walden recognized the <sup>handwriting</sup> signature: it was the King's. He hesitated only a moment more, then said: "Ask Mr. Churchill to come in."  
\*

- (i) Churchill is first lord of the Admiralty, which means he is in charge of Britain's navy. Walden dislikes him because Churchill is part of the liberal government, i.e. a representative of the party that is hell-bent on destroying all that is good about England. But Churchill has a job for Walden to do: a job which involves domestic politics.
- (ii) Lydia goes out to remember letters.
- (iii) Charlotte + Bolinda talk about her.
- (iv) Letters on the boat. / Louis dt. meet German Embassy man. )

Two.

- (i) Charlotte presented at court.
- (ii) Arrival of Anne. F: "Walden?!"
- (iii) First attempt failed when he sees Charlotte.

Three.

- (i) Marchmont begins. becomes among anarchists.
- (ii) talks with Lydia: where is Anne?
- (iii) Lydia sells jewellery.

Ch. 1. Churchill tricks Walden  
 Lydia remembers for Helenburg  
 Charlotte + behind  
 Feliks.

Ch. 2. Charlotte presented at court.  
 Monna's animal - Feliks  
 - Lydia  
 - Charlotte  
 - Feliks.

Ch. 3. Walden + Monna discuss  
 Charlotte's ball: Feliks' first attempt.

Ch. 4. Manhattan begins.  
 Feliks approaches Lydia.  
 Charlotte learns about sex + poverty.

THE SPARK ?

SPARK

Summer Learn  
 Summer Theater

Common in Summer  
 Murder in June.

M

Prologue: In 1894 Lydia is in love with Felix but marries Walden. (Does she know she's pregnant?)

- 1: Felix learns (through a disenchanted Ochrana double) of Roman's new plan & heads for England. Does he see Roman on the boat?  
Walden is tricked by Churchill, Charlotte & Belinda.
2. Lydia at Roman's arrival.  
Felix's first attempt.  
More Churchill.
3. Walden begins a manhunt.  
Felix approaches Lydia.  
Charlotte learns about sex & poverty.
4. Lydia & the jewelry - Walden suspects.  
Charlotte & Felix.
5. Charlotte sent away.  
Walden & Annie.  
Abrasive arrest.
6. Train chase.  
Lydia confesses.  
Charlotte learns the truth.
7. The end.

Epilogue?

feliks = hydia = Walden  
 |  
 Odessa = Charlotte

(Richard  
 Manya  
 Churchill  
 Hartmann

feliks arrives  
 his first attempt  
 the manhunt  
 the abortive arrest  
 the chase  
 the bomb scene.

Walden's efforts.

Charlotte as a  
 5<sup>th</sup> column

hydia's  
 dilemma.

Prologue: 1894 chapters as in.

Ch. 1: feliks on the boat - murder in his mind.  
 Walden + Churchill.  
 Charlotte + Belinda.

Ch. 2: feliks' first attempt hydia + Odessa.  
 Churchill's bull  
 feliks' first attempt

Ch. 3: Manhunt - Walden.  
 feliks + hydia  
 Charlotte's medical opinion

Ch. 4: Charlotte + feliks.  
 Walden suspects hydia.

Ch. 5: Abortive arrest.  
 Walden + Bonnie  
 hydia + feliks  
 Charlotte sent away  
 Abortive arrest.

Ch. 6: Train chase  
 hydia confesses  
 Charlotte leaves the truth.

Ch.

7: the end. (Epilogue?)