

One.

~~178~~

"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 whippersnapper, I don't know where he gets the nerve, first calling on me in London then following me down here, he knows damn well I won't see him -

The butler coughed.

Walden looked at him with irritation. "Still here?"

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

Walden realised 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 his own the Earl of Walden was intimidated. He took the letter and opened it.

Brackenheim Palace

24 May 1914

My dear Walden,

You will see young Winston.

George R.

Walden recognized the handwriting. It was the King's.

He hesitated only a moment longer, then said: "Ask Mr Churchill to come in."

Churchill is now 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 trying to destroy England. However, Churchill wants Walden to do a job which transcends domestic politics. He explains that he has arranged for a young Russian admiral to come to London for secret naval talks - at least, "naval" talks was the original proposal, but Churchill is portraying the whole thing into a defence treaty. The admiral is Prince Alexei Andronikovich Alonov, aged 30, a nephew and favourite of the Czar and a distant relation of Walden. It is the Czar who has insisted, in a personal telegram to King George V, that the English side must be represented in the negotiations by Walden.

To obscure the real purpose of the visit, Walden - a very eligible bachelor - will stay at Walden's town home and be introduced to London society, while it is whispered about that he is looking for a wife.

Walden is no stranger to the world of international diplomacy, but even he is somewhat awed by the importance 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 Anna, his wife is Russian, and he has rather a lot of money invested in the Trans-Siberian Railway. But more important, it seems to him that if Russia remains neutral, Germany will conquer Europe.

~~§~~

Lydia leaves the men talking politics in the morning-room and strolls into the garden. She walks around the park, lovely old house and wanders through the landscaped park. The mention of Walden has unnerved her: she remembers him as a ten-year-old boy at her wedding, and she remembers that as the unhappiest day of her life. She was coerced into marrying Walden although she was in love with another man. Walden knows nothing of this, but Lydia, despite appearances, has nourished the memory of that adolescent passion. Remembers "Help!"

Lydia sees Charlotte deep in conversation with Belinda, and thinks: Please, God, let me keep my secrets.

~~§~~

Charlotte and Belinda are talking about being debutantes (both are to be presented at court this season), marriage (which is supposed to follow soon after), and sex. This last is a subject upon which they are breathtakingly ignorant. (No doubt most children learned about sex despite the notorious Victorian conspiracy of silence, but Charlotte and Belinda are unusually protected.) They realize 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. 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 the pressure on girls to marry at 19 or 20.

Belinda is merely naive, but Charlotte is made of sterner stuff. There are forbidden books in a locked cupboard in the library, she says; I know where

the key is. Belinda immediately gets cold feet, but Charlotte insists. They get the books and sneak upstream. (Annie, who is supposed to be supervising them, is meeting her boyfriend in the woods.) Charlotte leads the way through the dense nursery to an attic under the roof which used to be her hiding-place when she was little. From here you can see over the several acres of roof which covers Walden Hall. There is way to get up here from the middle, all across roofs, says Charlotte. They look at the forbidden books, but they get little help from the internal diagrams in the medical textbook and none at all from the bizarre, and to them incomprehensible, pornographic novel.

\* (ii) \*

Meanwhile Feliks' boat is docking at Dover.

The hints anarchists have learned, through a traitor in the Ochrana, of Adonov's planned talks with Walden. Feliks is horrified by the prospect of a European war. The idea of Kaiser and Czar and prime Ministers sending young men to be killed and maimed in a cause not their own is exactly the kind of thing that makes Feliks an anarchist. As far as he is concerned, Walden and Adonov are conspiring to murder millions of young Russians. So he plans to kill them both.

The effects of such a murder would be greater than might immediately be apparent. First, it would of course bring the talks to an abrupt halt. Second, once it became known that the perpetrator was a refugee Russian anarchist, the old quarrel between Britain and Russia about expatriate revolutionists would flare up again and prevent the talks from continuing with replacement negotiators. Thirdly, Feliks (or, if he is dead, his Soviet friends) will announce that Adonov was killed because he was scheming to drag the Russian people into a war they do not want; and Russian popular reaction to that might set off a chain-reaction of revolt leading ultimately to revolution.

Feliks is tense, excited, apprehensive and happy. He may die soon, but for now life has suddenly started opening doors again.

As he sets foot on English soil for the first time in his life, there is something else on his mind. The woman he loved, nineteen years ago, married an Englishman. Feliks never knew the man's name, but he heard that they had gone to England. He remembers how she used to yell "Help!" at the moment of climax. Now, after all this time, he will be in the same country as she. Will he see her?

\*

Heliks is at Victoria Station for the arrival of Orlonov. Orlonov is travelling in a private coach (borrowed from the King) at the back end of the train. He steps out of the coach and into Walden's carriage. Heliks gets a glimpse of a handsome, expensively-dressed young man. Two servants (who travel with Orlonov) load a mountain of luggage on to the carriage and it drives away. Heliks, on a bicycle, follows it through the crowded London streets to a large house on the edge of St James's Park - a house which, he is soon able to establish, is the town home of the Earl of Walden.

Inside the house a reluctant Lydia greets Orlonov. He is a rather appealing young man. He talks about Russia; and this pillar of the Conservative regime turns out to be something of a radical. He speaks earnestly of the need for change in Russia: for land reform, mechanised agriculture, free speech and parliamentary democracy. But Lydia is thinking: Could he possibly know about me?

When Chudlke appears we find out why this handsome, charming, incredibly wealthy young prince is still a bachelor at 30: he is chronically shy with girls. When he sees Charlotte - who, ~~has~~ in grown-up clothes, suddenly has become a real dish - he drops his beard, mustache, and acquires a thick Russian accent. But now Chudlke's hidden talents begin to emerge, and with her unique naive charm she puts him at ease. Assuming this, Lydia and Walden exchange a secret smile of parental pride.

Outside, Heliks walks in the park and ponders what he has seen. Clearly Orlonov is wary of showing 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 be Heliks' ingenuity.

\* \*

Walden and Orlonov begin their talks, and Orlonov springs a surprise.

The Russian navy's great long-term aim is to have a warm-water port. They have their Black Sea coast, but the Black Sea is connected with the Mediterranean only by a narrow strait, the Bosphorus, at Constantinople, and both banks of the Bosphorus are held by Turkey. Russia has been supporting slow nationalisms

in the Balkans, in the hope that when the Greeks throw the Turks out, Rumania will have free passage through the Strait; but better than Greek control of the area would be Rumanian control; and now Adonias announces that if Rumania is to fight on the Allied side in the coming war, the price of her participation will be British recognition of the Balkans as a Rumanian sphere of influence. Walden tells around this a bit, then they adjourn.

~~\*~~ ~~(it)~~

Feliks buys a gun. He learns from the society papers that both Adonias and Walden will be present at the King's Court on 4 June.

\* \*

The King's Court is the biggest and most gorgeous ceremony of British royalty, when the aristocratic girls of the kingdom parade before the monarch at Buckingham Palace. "Court dress" is obligatory. For women this means a white dress with a low bodice and a train three to four yards long plus a lace with three white plumes. Men wear a uniform if they are entitled to one, otherwise velvet knee-breeches with white silk stockings, and all their medals. Senior politicians, nobles and diplomats also attend. Adonias is there as a member of the delegation from the Rumanian Embassy.

Meanwhile, outside in The Mall, the Waldens' footman William waits with their carriage (among a hundred others). He is watched by Feliks.

In the main part of the ceremony the King and Queen sit on thrones while the debutantes pass in front of them one by one. Charlotte's debut is marred by an (historically true) incident. The girl ahead of her in line suddenly drops to one knee and says: "Your Majesty, for God's sake stop torturing women!" She is hustled away by her footman. The royal couple pretends not to notice, but Charlotte is flustered. She assumes the girl is completely mad, and for now no one will tell her differently.

William goes into the park to take a leak and is hit over the head by Feliks. Feliks ties and gags him and puts on his livery coat and top hat. Then he goes to the Walden carriage.

At the supper after the ceremony Walden haultahales Churchill and tells him of Orlow's proposal. Walden suggests a counter-offer: the Byzantium could be declared an international waterway, with free passage to all nations in peacetime guaranteed jointly by Britain and America. Okay, says Churchill.

Feliks hears the call: "The Earl of Walden's carriage." He drives up to the Palace gates. He does not turn his head while his passengers get in. He drives away. He stops the carriage in the middle of the park. He pulls his scarf up over his face (so that the woman, whom he does not plan to kill, will not be able to describe him afterwards). He jumps down from his seat, takes his gun from his pocket, and flings open the carriage door.

### Three

Hydia screams "Help!" in American - just as she used to when Feliks made love to her. Feliks freezes. Hydia! Here in this carriage! My own Hydia —

Walden, who is never frozen with shock, latches out with his cane, hitting Feliks' wrist. Feliks drops the gun. He has forgotten the ammunition and is staring at Hydia, who is still screaming hysterically. Walden hits him again. Feliks runs away.

Feliks remembers the last time he saw Hydia. She came to his dingy room and snatched an hour with him on her way to a reception at the British Embassy. That night Feliks was arrested by the Ochrana. They beat the soles of his feet in an attempt to make him reveal the names of other anarchists. He broke stopped without explanation, and six weeks later - equally inexplicably - he was released. On the day he came out he learned that, the day before, Hydia had left for England with her new husband.

Walden, Orlow and Churchill sit in the library. Churchill is mad at Walden for almost letting Orlow get killed. Walden is angry too, at himself and at the unknown assassin who hit William over the head and scared Hydia half

to death. They agree that Adams should be moved into an hotel. Churchill tells Walden: "It is your responsibility to make sure the security is watertight." Adams says: "You should be grounded too, Walden. The gun was pointed at you."

Hydia has not recognized Feliks (except perhaps unconsciously). She faints when he ran away. She believes that what happened was an attempted robbery. (So does Charlotte.) Hydia has been put to bed with a dose of laudanum. She dreams about Feliks. When Walden comes to bed she makes love to him without waking up.

\*

Charlotte, who is reading the newspapers for the first time in her life, reads that the "incident" at the court was a suffragette protest. She talks to Pritchard about it. He explains the reference to striking women: suffragettes who are jailed go on hunger strike, and consequently are force-fed by a degrading and painful method. Charlotte refuses to believe this.

That night her coming-out ball is held at Claridge's Hotel. It is a glittering occasion, with all the girls in fabulous gowns and the young men in white-tie-and-tails. Belinda is there. She has joined the "fun" 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 now she relays them to Charlotte, who is stunned.

On the way home from the ball at dawn Charlotte is horrified to see a woman sleeping on the pavement. Manger 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 insists on stopping the carriage and speaking to the woman.

It turns out to be Annie, the housemaid who used to deplore for Manger at Walden Hall. She explains that she got pregnant and was fined without a "character". She subsequently had a miscarriage and is now destitute. Charlotte says: "Come home with me." Annie knows better than to accept. Charlotte says: "Come to the house tomorrow at 4.30 - at least I can give you money for lodging."

Charlotte is grossed out by the revelations of the night. Next day

she screams at her parents: "Why didn't anybody tell me?" It seems to her that her education so far has been little better than a conspiracy to deceive her. She practically accuses her parents of murdering Annie's baby.

Walden and Lydia are somewhat thrown. Pregnant housewives are always fired, it's the only way to run a respectable house. But in truth they cannot feel too proud of themselves.

Walden in particular is really shook. First an anarchist attacks his family in the middle of London, then his daughter announces that his moral standards are evil. What is happening to the world?

Charlotte says she wants to take Annie on as her personal maid. Lydia is aghast; Walden less so; reluctantly they consent.

\*

Feliks is really down. He has lost the element of surprise. Reading the weekly papers he notes that the name of Adolphe no longer appears in great letters: the prince has obviously gone into hiding. The two Russian servants no longer go in and out of the service entrance of the Walden house, so Adolphe has obviously been moved. This is hardly surprising but it puts Feliks in a quandary. Adolphe could be anywhere. Feliks cannot check every hotel, every Cabinet Minister's country residence, every London house used by a Russian diplomat, etc. In desperation he realises that he has only one hope of locating Adolphe: he must ask Lydia.

He waits until Walden goes out; then he knocks on the door.

Four

He gives his name as Constantine Dmitrich Levin, and tells the butler that he must see Lady Walden immediately, it is a matter of urgency, and he is sure she will remember him from the Petersburg. (The name he has chosen will seem vaguely familiar to her because it is that of a character in Anna Karenina.)

The butler shows him into the morning-room where Lydia is writing letters. She looks up with an automatic smile, then frowns, then turns as white as a sheet.

Eventually she tells Feliks how she came to marry Walden. Her father

had found out that she was having an affair with Feliks. The old count forbade her to see Feliks again. Dejectedly, she rushed straight to Feliks' house, to be told by his landlady that he had been arrested as an anarchist. Her father calmly informed her that Feliks was being bothered. She was distraught. The old count then told her that the Earl of Walden had formally asked permission to court her. If you promise to marry Walden, said the count, Feliks' torture will end today and he will be released the day after you leave for England. Lydia consents.

As she tells this story, watching Feliks' face, she feels more and more the desperate need to touch him, kiss him, kiss him. She can hardly sit still.

Feliks is much moved by her story. He goes to kiss her. No, she says; all that is half my life ago. Now that you know the truth, go away and never come back.

Feliks tries to go. Then: "I came to ask you something..." He reminds himself of the importance of his mission, and forces himself to repeat his proposed speech, a yarn about wanting to petition Monnow personally for the release of an anarchist ruler who has been jailed. Lydia tells him Monnow is at the Burg Hotel.

As Feliks leaves, Lydia thinks: Thank God, he hasn't guessed the truth.

From conversation with Annie, Gertrude is learning about poverty, sex and the role of women. But now that she is beginning to understand the real world, what can she do about it? She discovers that as a woman she cannot even vote! The action of Feliks de Vries, the debt in the court incident, now appears in a different light. Gertrude calls on her. Since the incident, the de Vries family has been ostracized by "good" society, so they are delighted to see the daughter of the Earl of Walden. Mrs Parkhurst is there. Gertrude is ripe for conversion. She promises to go on a suffragette march.

Lydia thinks over her meeting with Feliks, suppressing (for the moment) her still-strong physical desire for him. She knows he was and no doubt still is an anarchist. Did he tell her the truth about why he wants to see Monnow? Perhaps he wants to murder Monnow. It might even have been Feliks in the park that night! The more she thinks about it the more worried she is that

She may have betrayed Ottomov to an assassin.

She tells Walden: "A man called this morning, a Russian whom I remembered vaguely from the Petersburg, asking for Ottomov... I told him the Sunny Hotel, I hope that was all right..."

Walden says: "Don't worry about it."

Walden is concealing his anger. Things are getting on top of him. Ottomov is taking an unreasonably long time to reply to the British counter-proposal. It is now mid-June, and the Germans have completed the widening of the Kiel Canal, a strategically vital project which will enable their Dreadnoughts to pass between the North Sea and the Baltic. Every day which passes makes a deal with the Russians more urgent. The unknown assassin seems incredibly daring and ingenious. Now once again he has located Ottomov. But perhaps Walden can turn this to advantage and catch the man.

\*

During a political argument in the senate hall, Annie makes a mistake: she declares that Mrs Pankhurst is "a real lady". She knows because Miss Charlotte says so. Marga reports to Lydia that Charlotte has met Mrs Pankhurst. Charlotte is surprised, the whole story comes out, and she is forbidden to leave the house alone.

Belik buys the necessary materials and makes a bundle.

Belik writes on an envelope: "Prince Ottomov, Sunny Hotel." He gives an usher a penny to deliver it in 15 minutes' time. By then Belik is in the lobby of the hotel, reading a newspaper, apparently waiting for someone. The boy comes in and hands over the letter. Belik watches carefully: he plans to follow the envelope all the way to Ottomov. Suddenly the usher is surrounded by plain-clothes policemen who seem to have materialised out of the walls.

Walden is summoned from an office off the lobby. He questions the usher. He opens the envelope and finds it empty. He begins to suspect what this is all about. He looks around.

But the lobby is empty.

five

hysteria finds herself longing to see Felix again. This feeling, and its associated guilt, make her cold toward her husband.

Walden moves forward again. He also tells his mother: "If 'Mr. Berlin' should call again, admit him, then call Parkhurst immediately." He says to Parkhurst: "If 'Mr. Berlin' calls, follow him when he leaves."

Felix tries following Walden around for a couple of days. The first day Walden has lunch at his club, makes two calls in the afternoon, goes to the gym and ends up at a supper hall. Next day he leaves early in his car. Felix follows in his bicycle, but as soon as the car leaves Central he can't follow it picks up speed and Felix is left behind.

There is nothing for it but to try hysteria again.

Charlotte is determined to go on the suffragette demonstration. The King has refused to give an audience to Mrs. Parkhurst, so the suffragettes are marching on Buckingham Palace. Annie announces that Charlotte is in bed with a headache and must not be disturbed. Then Charlotte ~~secretly~~ sneaks out of the house.

Felix sees his sister coming out of the Walden house. "Nadia!" he says. She gives him a puzzled look and walks on by. Felix realizes that he has not seen Nadia for 20 years and that although she looked like him then she doesn't any more. So who is this girl? Since she came out by the main door she is presumably Charlotte, hysteria's daughter, whom Felix has until now seen only from a distance. He follows her.

The police have been ordered to repel the suffragettes with a minimum of arrests, because the women are more trouble in jail than out. Hearing the weapon of arrest the police resort to violence, and idle male bystanders join in. Felix sees Charlotte go down in a scuffle. He rushes in and rescues her.

He takes her to a cheap cafe and buys her a cup of tea. They talk. So Lydia  
has a daughter who looks just like my sister... He asks her what is  
her exact date of birth. She tells him.

Then he knows: Charlotte is his daughter.

Walden has gone to Walden Hall, which is Mamon's latest hideout. Mamon,  
who is in daily contact with the Czar by coded telegram via the Russian  
Embassy, presents a modified demand: Russian control of that area of the  
Balkans which is presently European Turkey. Walden dashes back to London  
to consult with Churchill again.

Charlotte is fascinated by Feliks, for he has answers to the questions that  
trouble her: Why is there poverty? Why are there wars? Why is sex  
secret?

Feliks says that he knew Lydia in Russia long ago, and that Charlotte  
resembles him of his sister. Maybe we've related, Charlotte says idly.  
Feliks catches his breath, hesitates, then says: I doubt it.

They arrange to meet again.

Walden and Churchill come up with a new counter-proposal: Russian  
control of the Bosphorus plus Constantinople. Walden thinks the Russians  
will go for that. Churchill says he must get Cabinet approval.

Feliks faces a dilemma. He has found a daughter he never knew he  
had - and she may know where Mamon is. Should he use her?

He reads in the evening paper that the Archduke Franz-Ferdinand  
has been assassinated at Sarajevo.

He must use her.

They have the National Gallery together. He talks to him about the  
pictures. He is proud, proud.

He tells her that the assassination in Sarajevo means war. He  
explains how he plans to keep Russia out of the war by killing Mamon.  
Charlotte looks troubled. Feliks puts it arithmetically: one death will save  
millions; besides, Mamon deserves it for opposing the Czar. Charlotte

Suep: "You're right."

"Then tell me where Adams is," says Feliks.

Charlotte says: "I don't know."

Feliks' heart sinks.

Charlotte adds: "but I could find out."

Six (Walden will tell Charlotte where O is.)

Walden walks around London, brooding. His wife is cold as ice, his daughter is turning out wrong, and the assassin is still at large. Meanwhile the German Kaiser has promised to break Austria in any reprisals against Serbia. Walden's world seem to be falling apart.

He finds himself outside the house he gave to Bonnie in 1892. He wonders what she is like now. My God, she must be fifty.

A hack draws up and a woman gets out. Walking from across the street, Walden recognizes Bonnie. She is rather plump and a shade overboarded but the smile she gives the driver trips at Walden's heartstrings. She looks in his direction. He turns quickly and walks away, not knowing whether she has seen him.

When he gets home his horse is in a turmoil. Charlotte and her subordinates have been arrested for setting fire to mailboxes. Walden has to go and get her out of jail. He promises to send her away to keep her out of trouble.

The Cabinet approves his proposed <sup>new</sup> member-ship to the Republic. So, next day, he goes to Walden bluff to put it to Adams. He takes Charlotte with him and leaves her there.

Feliks is due to meet Charlotte again that day. He waits all day for her but of course she does not turn up.

\*

Next day, back in London, Walden calls on Bonnie. Yes, she did see him the other day, and she has been waiting ever since for him to call. She is now living on her savings, comfortable but a little lonely. They make love. Afterwards she tells him that she knows (from

experience) that he is infertile. He says: "But I've got a daughter." Bonnie says: "When was she born, dear... exactly?"

Meanwhile Feliks calls on Lydia. He asks again where Oleson is. Lydia says: "You're trying to use me to murder him!" Feliks says: "All these years I had a daughter... do you know what you've stolen from me?" They quarrel like lovers who have betrayed one another. At the height of the row they kiss passionately. Lydia breaks away and runs out of the room. Feliks leaves.

Pritchard follows him.

When Walden gets home there are three messages.

One is from Churchill. Austria has sent Serbia a new ultimatum with a 24-hour deadline.

The second is from Oleson, saying: "We accept." Walden immediately notifies Churchill to have papers drawn up for signing.

The third is from the Red Cross with a reply. Pritchard is waiting the post down at the house where Feliks lives. He says: "Come immediately. Wear my clothes." Walden leaves.

## Seven

When Feliks arrives home he finds a letter from Churchill. "Oleson is here at Walden Hall." Meet me any evening on the middle path in the woods north of the house."

He begins methodically to pack his bomb kit.

Walden and Pritchard follow Feliks to the railway station. Pritchard gets behind him in the ticket queue and buys a ticket to the same destination — a market town close to Walden Hall. Pritchard gets on the train. He establishes where Feliks is sitting, then comes back and gives his ticket to Walden. Walden scribbles a note for Pritchard to take to Churchill, then gets on the train. The train pulls out.

Churchill gives orders for the troops to stop the train and arrest everyone on it.

Pitteward dashes back to the house. He tells Lydia what is happening. Then he takes the Rolls and goes pell-mell to the place where they plan to stop the train.

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The train stops on an uphill slope. Feliks takes out and sees it surrounded by soldiers. He gets up and heads toward the last carriage.

Walden has been passing the time wondering why Lydia did not tell him that 'the train' had called again, and whether this has any connection with what Lydia told him this afternoon. He sees Feliks run along the train. He gets up and follows at a distance.

Feliks gets into the grand's van (the last carriage coach in the train). He releases the brake and dynamites the coupling. The van begins to roll backward.

Walden leaps the gap and attacks Feliks. The fight is unequal. Walden is thrown off the train.

The runaway carriage gathers speed and bursts through the ranks of soldiers.

Eight.

Pitteward arrives. Walden is not seriously injured. The soldiers begin to search.

Feliks when the grand's van comes to a halt Feliks takes off over the fields. He reaches a main road. A car comes along. He stops it, throws the driver out, and takes the car.

The soldiers have set up a <sup>road</sup> roadblock. Feliks drives through it. Walden and Pitteward give chase in the Rolls.

Feliks hears a machine. He drives the stolen car off the road and hides it. He hatters its windscreen and plants the bombs in the road. Then he heads across country.

Walden and Pitteward drive over the glass and get punctures. They

have to hire a horse-drawn carriage.

Feliks steals a horse from a field. He arrives in the vicinity of Walden Hall and hides in the woods.

Richmond and Walden arrive at Walden Hall. Walden arranges a police dragnet to search for Feliks as soon as it gets light.

## Nine

<sup>Friday</sup> Charlotte goes riding before breakfast and picks up Feliks in the woods. She gets him back to the stables and then leads him up over the roof to her attic hiding-place.

The police dragnet is spread but it catches Feliks in inside it.

Charlotte tells Feliks that Monow's room is guarded day and night, door and window. However they are going to sign the Treaty tomorrow, <sup>also</sup> tomorrow, at 3 pm in the Oregon.

Lydia arrives from London. After what Richmond told her last night she has deduced that Charlotte isn't helping Feliks. She confers all to Walden. Walden was somewhat prepared for this by Bonnie. He and Lydia forgive one another and resolve to stand together.

Meanwhile Charlotte is confined to her room and the house is searched. When the searchers reach the attic Feliks goes out on to the roof and evades them.

In the night he makes his break. He sneaks through the deserted house and plants the bomb in a cupboard in the Oregon. He wires it to a clock, and sets it to go off at 3.15.

## Ten

On Saturday Austria declares war on Serbia.

At 3 o'clock the <sup>secret</sup> treaty is signed. Walden, Monow, Churchill and the Russian ambassador drink a toast in the Oregon. Charlotte is released from her room. She goes straight to the attic and says to Feliks: "It's too late - they've signed it."

Not so, he says. They will all be blown up in ... two minutes.

Charlotte says: "But you can't kill my father!"

"He's not your father," Feliks says. "I am. You see, Lydia and I were born, then —"

"It makes no difference!" says Charlotte — and she runs off.

Feliks goes after her, terrified now that she will die.

Charlotte runs into the Otkrytiye at 3.17.20. She says: "Get out, everybody —"

Feliks comes in behind her and tries to drag her out. Walden and Arsenov jump on him.

It is 3.14.50.

Feliks struggles. For an instant he gets free.

It is 3.14.57.

Feliks runs, picks up the flower pot, and throws himself out of the window.

The bomb goes off before he hits the ground.

Charlotte runs to Walden. He puts his arms around her.

"Father," she says.

### Outline.

1. Russian intervention drives troops off the German western front.
2. In 1915 the Russian gets Constantinople and the Bosphorus, officially.
3. In 1917 the Russian revolution.