

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

Walden walks around London, brooding. His wife is old as ice, his daughter seems to be going wrong, and the armistice is still at large. The German Kaiser has promised to back Austria in any reprisals against Serbia. The armistice is still at large. Walden's world seems to be falling apart.

He finds himself outside the house in St. Martin's Wood which he gave to Bonnie Cadon in 1892. He wonders what she is like now. My God, she must be fifty.

A hack draws up and a woman gets out. Watching from across the street, Walden recognises Bonnie. She is rather plump and a shade overcast but the smile she gives the driver keeps 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 the house is in a turmoil. Charlotte and two subjugates have been arrested for setting fire to mailboxes. Walden has to go and get her out of jail. He agrees to send her out of London for a while.

The Cabinet approves his counter-offer.

Next day he goes to Walden Hall to put it to Ottomov. He takes Charlotte with him.

*

Feliks is due to meet Charlotte 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?"

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Feliks calls on Lydia a second time. He asks her where Charlotte is. Lydia says: "You tried to use me to help you kill Ottomov." Feliks says: "All these years I had a child - 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. The butler brings Feliks his coat. He leaves.

Pritchard follows him.

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When Walden gets home there are three messages.

One is from Churchill. Austria has sent Feliks a war ultimatum with a 48-hour deadline.

The second is from Almona, saying: "We accept." Walden immediately notifies Churchill and proposes the papers he signed in his sleep's time at Walden Hall.

The third is from Pritchard, the Red Lion pub in Brynny, from the window of which Pritchard is watching the house where Feliks lives. Pritchard says: "Come immediately. Wear my coat."

Walden leaves.

Seven

When Feliks arrives home he finds a letter from Churchill. "Almona is here at Walden Hall. Meet me any morning 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 one to the same destination - a market town near Walden Hall. Pritchard gets on the train and finds out where Feliks is sitting, then comes back and gives his ticket to Walden. Walden switches a note for Pritchard to take to Churchill, then gets on the train. The train pulls out.

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Churchill gives orders for troops to stop the train and surround it.

Pritchard dashes back to the house by St James's Park. He tells Lydia what is happening. Then he takes the bells and dashes pell-mell for the place where the train will be stopped.

*

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

Walden ~~was~~ has been passing the time wondering why Lydia did not tell him

that "Mr. Klein" had called upon, and wondering if there is any connection between that and what Bonnie told him. He sees Feliks go by. He gets up and goes after him.

Feliks gets into the guard's van (the last coach on 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 column of soldiers.

Eight.

Pirkhead arrives. Walden is not seriously hurt. The soldiers fan out and begin to search.

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Feliks stops the guard's van and takes off over the fields. He reaches a main road. A car comes along. He stops it, throws out the driver, and takes the car. A little later the soldiers try to stop him. Once again he bursts through.

Walden and Pirkhead give chase in the hills.

Feliks has a puncture. He rolls the stolen car off the road. He shatters its windscreen and plants the thumb in the muddy road. Then he heads across country.

Walden and Pirkhead drive over the glass and get punctured. 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.

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

Nine

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 rocks to her other hiding-place.

The police dragnet is spread but of course it does not find Feliks because he is inside it.

Charlotte tells Feliks that Ottomar's room is quarantined day and night, door and window. However they are going to sign the treaty tomorrow, Saturday, at 3pm in the Ocheyan.

Lydia arrives from London. After what Pottwood told her last night she has decided that Charlotte must be helping Feliks. She confesses all to Walden. Walden was somewhat prepared for this by Bonnie. He and Lydia forgive one another and venture to meet abroad. [Meanwhile Charlotte is confined to her room, and the house is searched. When the searches reach the attic Feliks goes out on the roof and thereby evades them.

In the night he makes his bonds. He sneaks through the deserted house to the Octagon. He plants the bonds in a cupboard. He wires it to a clerk, and sets it to go off at 3.15.

Ten.

On Saturday Austria declares war on Serbia.

At 3 o'clock the treaty is signed. Walden, Armore, Churchill and the Russian ambassador drink a toast in the Octagon. Charlotte is released from her room. She goes straight to the attic and says to Feliks: "It's too late - they've done 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, says Feliks. I am. You see, Lydia and I were lovers, 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 Octagon. The time is 3.14½. She says: "Get out, everybody —"

Feliks comes in behind her and tries to drag her out.

Walden and Armore jump on Feliks.

3.14.50.

Feliks escapes. For an instant he gets free.

3.15.

Feliks throws himself at the cupboard, covering the bonds with his body.

The bonds goes off.

Feliks is blown to pieces: the others are unhurt.

Charlotte runs to Walden. He puts his arm around her. "Father," she says.

Autograph.