

and exploring the quiet splendor of the countryside.

"It was on one such excursion that I briefly lost my way down some of the old country back lanes, and didn't return until it was early dusk. You can imagine my surprise, then, when upon entering the house I found a young lady in the hall, as though waiting. At first I assumed she must be another of George's patients. 'I'm sorry, miss,' I said, 'but I'm afraid that Dr. Cavendish is out on another call.' To this she laughed and said she was quite aware of it. 'We can surprise him when he gets back—I'll show you a secret of this house that even he obviously doesn't know about.'

... AND A DESCENT INTO THE EARTH ...

"She led me to a set of stairs going down farther than the lantern light could illuminate. 'Into the cellars,' she instructed, and as I was the one holding the lantern already, I duly went first, she following after.

"We came down into an old stone-walled chamber, which I assumed to be contemporary to the time when the house had been built. In fact, it looked so old and untouched that there was not the slightest hint that anything was at all new or even refinished.

"The chamber was empty, and the stairs faced a vacant doorway. Here she took charge again, leading the way a few steps ahead of me, though I still carried the lantern. We passed out of the chamber and into a twisting hallway from which branched other passages and rooms, but she seemed to know exactly where she was going. Given the size of the house above, the expansiveness of the cellars wasn't unexpected, though I did find it somewhat strange that every room we passed, large and small—for which there was not a single door among them—looked as though it stood completely empty.

"Well, at any rate, it was only a bare few minutes before we came to what looked like it was probably an old storeroom about ten feet square, with a dirt floor. This was also empty, but having reached it, she pointed to a spot in the far corner where the lantern reflected a tiny glimmer of yellow."