

Vera took many parties to seamy places, to the opium dens, the Chinese quarter and the sampans on the river. She always got her commission for bringing parties to any of the gambling dens. Yen Hi's [?] casino paid her a little more than the other place, so she always took them there. This den, although elaborate and gay with many smart people about, had quite an eerie atmosphere. One felt that should one be left alone for a moment in any part of the building, in an isolated corner in a passageway, at a table or even standing a little apart from the crowd in the shadow of the glare of the roulette tables, something dreadful might happen to him.

Part 2

Vera's life at the café is taking out parties to seamy places, to opium dens, to the Chinese quarters and the sampans on the river. She is in with the gambling dens, and gets a commission for every customer she brings to them.

One of these dens is an eerie atmosphere, although it has the appearance of being gay and although many people are about, one feels that should one be left alone in a passage or in any part of the café, even sitting alone while others are dancing, something dreadful is going to happen to him.

Yen Hi's place paid [?] to higher ups of the corrupted party politics and felt securely protected to conduct their concerns in a means, not commensurate with honest business. Ugly rumors went around the habitués of the nightclubs that persons had disappeared and had never been seen or heard of since. It was always dangerous for a white Russian, should he be a little flush to patronize Yen Hi's, especially if he became obstreperous over his losses and accused the house of crookedness. Having no consulate or national protection other than the Chinese government, little concern or through was taken by them when it discovered that he had mysteriously disappeared.

Yen Hi's place was the nadir of all underworld activities. Its power corrupted the local politics in the Chinese section and engendered fear in the hearts of those whom it would focus its attentions on. This, of course, was only among the Chinese and Russians who had no other protection but the Chinese government. If it were known that a white Russian was successful in a business enterprise, he was visited by an agent of Yen Hi and was firmly told that they wished to precipitate a partnership in his business. If he refused, he would find his place burgled or ransacked and being a white Russian, would find no recourse in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

with this power, the agents of Yen Hi were able to tyrannize all those who came under the local government. Few victims were able to appeal to the higher Chinese court.