

Noted gangsters rented mansions and remained inside them like creatures afraid of the sunlight. International jewel thieves operated by night, and I learned why Carl had never wanted me to wear jewels. One house after another was robbed, and one night at The Shadows, during a party, I entered my room to find clothing tossed about the floor and every drawer and closet ransacked. The men built fires on the lawn to see if the robber was hiding on the roof.

That was before I owned jewels. Later, after buying my collection in Paris, I was chloroformed through my bedroom window and robbed while I slept.

The rich newcomers poured money into Miami Beach. They bought land, built palaces, spent like mad people. I know of one dinner party that cost twenty-eight thousand dollars. The beautiful new city, in fact all Florida, was like a mighty vacuum sucking in all the loose money in the world. On that onrush of gold came new unscrupulous characters of a kind unknown before, spawned by the onrushing boom.

These were the land speculators who would be responsible for the greatest land boom in history, and the women who were camp followers and professional homebreakers, ready for blackmail, enticement or treachery. Carl recognized these people as enemies of the city.

Unimpressed by the social activities, Carl nevertheless was afraid of the high spending. He had always spent lavishly, but toward definite ends—for building, development, or lavish living in homes that were not only a refuge for his friends, but salesrooms in which he carried on his business affairs. Now he fumed at the influx of the undesirables.

The golddiggers infuriated him. He said, "Women make more trouble in Miami Beach than the land sharks." To offset their activities, Carl introduced hostesses in Miami Beach, girls of "nice families" to meet the lone male visitor, welcome him, dance with him, make him feel at home. However, they were most unwelcome to me. I was not old enough to recognize their value to Carl's business plans.

There was one in particular whom I found especially annoy-