

Woman's Realm / Social and Personal / Fashions / Literature

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WHAT HAPPENED AT MONTALBAN

By PETER BENEDICT

CHAPTER V

HISTORY OF THE HAPPENING

Molly looked at Mallia's photograph—a delicate oval face, eyes of an arresting lightish colour, large and lustrous, masses of shining hair falling low upon straight ivory shoulders. "So that was Mallia! What were her eyes? Pale blue?" "Hazel—more green than brown," replied Severn.

"And her hair?" "Redder than brown, and browner than red. For some reason she gave the impression of being fair, but really her hair was almost copper-brown colour. She's beautiful, isn't she?"

"Dazzlingly—even in a photograph!" He looked over her shoulder at the small and serene, and smiling with a quiet smile. "An innocent face, isn't it? Young and calm. That was a quality you didn't get in the original. She had a way of smiling that made you think of panther or a puma—something beautiful and sleek and dangerous. But calm—or even noticeable young—no, it didn't strike you she was either."

"How old was she actually when she died?" "Twenty-three, I believe." He took back the photograph from her and put it away. "Charles left that behind in his room when he went away. He took the liberty of removing it. He won't miss it now; if he does, he won't ask for it."

Molly looked up at him in a puzzled way. He was a puzzling person to her; once he had spoken in all seriousness that he himself was under consideration as a suspect, and yet here he sat calmly re-assessing Mallia Daunt instead of either removing himself from the scene altogether or taking steps to disprove in advance any accusation which might be made against him. She said impulsively: "You told me once—if you remember that the police had their eye on you as a possibility. Did you really mean it?"

"I'm not in the habit of joking about my neck." "Then why don't you get out of here? If you went away openly and helped yourself to a job somewhere else, it would be more comfortable than living with the business."

"I like it here. I like Severn tranquilly. Scotland Yard is not going to worry me out of a place where I prefer to stay. And for another thing, I don't think they have the remotest hope of obtaining a conviction against me—any more than they had against Ralph."

"Why should they think you did it? What had you here?" He said with a slow smile: "I don't know if you don't ask me if I did it or not."

"But I conclude you didn't; it doesn't make much sense if you did." "She was a fascinating woman," said Severn slyly.

"You talked about her just now rather as if she were a dangerous disease. I don't think you ever lost any sleep over her—not out of love anyhow. What is it they've got on you?"

"The obvious things—opportunity, lack of an alibi, and a vague but suggestive suspicion that I'm keeping back a good deal I could tell."

"And are you?" "He smiled. "Maybe!" "But there's no motive." "People have been killed for very little motive. I have been here a long time. I am deep in the confidence of a great many members of this family—and the beloved Charles is making a disastrous marriage. Are you to take it for granted that I didn't put the lady out of my way?—either off my own bat, and secretly, or with her connivance?"

"Yes," said Molly calmly. "But I quite see that the police can't find anything more to go upon!" "They had a very frank statement from Charles about a certain difference of opinion we had. Differences of opinion followed Mallia Daunt wherever she went, believe me. No, I wasn't immune. She had a go at me. Has anyone told you what sort of a woman she was—with men?"

"Cleone said that one wasn't enough for her! she had to have them all." "It's true enough." He smiled, a curious, narrow-eyed smile, and settled the rosebud more symmetrically in his buttonhole. "I hated her for assuming that she'd only to lift her finger to have me fall down and worship her. I hated her for making a cheap fool of Charles. The best thing in this house and she had to tie her strings on him."

"But not enough to kill her, surely?" "More than enough, only it doesn't take me that way. Then I told Charles what she was. He didn't like it. A reminiscent grimace darkened his face for a moment. "I don't think he meant to pour it out to the sergeant, exactly; but Charles is frank—the only person in this house who can't keep anything in. Come after that, I knew they were considering me. Again my room is on the third floor, and at the back; yet I was on the scene when she fell in just about the time it takes to run down from

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flat in London, and no relations to speak of.

"Well, she behaved herself pretty well that first visit, though I thought she was beginning to scintillate in directions other than Charles by the last day. She had one or two nice, private talks with his father, for one thing. Odd, that, because he's a man who doesn't usually go in for genuine companionship. However, she went, and everyone wrote her down as satisfactory."

"She came twice after that. On her second visit she opened out gradually—like a flower—no, more like an octopus. She began to cast her spell on Ralph. Anyone could see it. And—I think—even perhaps a little on Robert. She became natural. She set out to draw every man in this house, married or single, after her. I can't quite make out now whether it was deliberate or just a part of her nature; a little of both, I think. In a way she couldn't help it, but she took a marvellous delight in it, too. And I was her only failure."

He turned, and was disconcerted by Molly's rather derisive smile. "An inverted vanity, maybe, but nasty, due, dear nurse. Never forget it. It was everything to do with this case, unless the cocaine-seizure and the poison mused our guess. Because she had Ralph under her feet, and Robert following her round with his eyes, and even the old chap couldn't resist her. She was fascinating—she was ravishing; it so happened that I was allergic to her—or something."

"She came the third time, and you could see things coming to a head. Charles began to notice, and was jealous of his own shadow, let alone his brother's. He had that encounter with me—and the one with Ralph, Barbara was shutting herself in her room like Danae in her tower, and going, let's say, a trifle mental. And then the day—the day."

He looked up at the face of the house. "Let me see. She was occupying the best guest-room. Look along the windows of the first floor. A little to the right of the stone steps there is her room. It has two windows. She fell—she was thrown from the one on the right."

"(To be Continued)"

A Morning Smile

A man had a slight difference of opinion with his wife. But he acknowledged his error generously by saying: "You are right, and I am wrong, as you generally are. Goodbye, dear, and he hurried off to catch his train."

"So nice of him to put it like that", his wife said to herself. And then she began to think about it.

THE REAL POINT

After his first visit to London, he was telling his wife some of his most interesting experiences.

"And the bars and pubs are so large, too!" he exclaimed. "I went into one of the biggest pubs for curiosity."

"Oh!" replied his wife, who knew him. "And how much is curiosity a glass?"

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ALBANY RURAL SCHOOL

Report of Albany Rural School for the Month of April:

- Grade X-1. Florence Gamble. Grade IX-1. Kathleen Kelly. Grade VIII-1. Margaret Kelly; 2. Gerald Kelly; 3. Jennie MacDonald. Grade VII-1. Uddia MacKay; 2. Jean Boulter; 3. Annie Sherry. Grade V-Sr. 1. Lorne MacMurrin; 2. Garnet MacDonald. Grade V-Jr. 1. Dorothy MacDonald; 2. Kathleen Dawson; 3. Doris Dawson. Grade IV-1. Wendell Large; 2. Johnnie MacDonald; 3. Walter Gamble. Grade II-1. Miriam Cameron; 2. Wilbur Cameron; 3. Shirley Dawson. Grade I-No exams. Mrs. Hazel Large, Teacher

WOMEN WANTED

38 to 52 years old. Women who are restless, moody, NERVOUS—who fear hot flashes, dizzy spells—to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Pinkham's Compound is effective to help women during these "trying times" due to functional irregularities. Made in Canada. WORTH TRYING!

Your Individual HOROSCOPE

By Frances Drake

For Friday, May 9th

MARCH 21 to APRIL 20 (Aries)—You need not be allowed the free hand and full scope your quick and diversified mind and talents like but you will move forward and attain a measure of success if you follow a good and wise plan. Industriousness, amability and unselfishness will be strong supports.

APRIL 21 to MAY 20 (Taurus)—Slightly unfriendly to artistic, social and amusement interests but practical, serious and vital projects and interests are favored and will bring fine results from diligent efforts.

MAY 21 to JUNE 21 (Gemini)—Guard the emotional department and you will conquer obstacles. You engaged in finances, economic problems, brokerage, making estimates,

selling, dealing with the public and its interests are especially favored. JUNE 22 to JULY 23 (Cancer)—Your stars offer stimulating, beneficent rays. Reflect upon how far you've advanced lately; where can you improve, where can you speed up to fullest capacity? Today offers opportunities in all lines.

JULY 24 to AUGUST 22 (Leo)—A mixed, somewhat disturbing set of influences, suggesting that you handle all important matters with deliberation but don't hesitate where quick action is imperative. Put your country's needs above individual or group desires.

AUGUST 23 to SEPTEMBER 23 (Virgo)—Advancement with thought, immediate monetary returns is indicated and favored for you Virgoans. Keep gathering knowledge and apply it where it will do the most good for all.

SEPTEMBER 24 to OCTOBER 23 (Libra)—You may need to jolt yourself out of a complacent, do-nothing attitude, especially if you are in industrial work. Mental work is likely to have less difficulty. Students, instructors on favored list.

OCTOBER 24 to NOVEMBER 22 (Scorpio)—Purposeless changes, deviation from smoothly-running machinery are out of order. Be on the constructive side of life. Any small advancement in worldly work is important.

CONGOLEUM advertisement featuring an illustration of a kitchen and a woman's portrait. Text includes: "IT'S HARD TO REALIZE IT COSTS SO LITTLE!", "Ask your dealer ABOUT 8-COAT THICKNESS", and "How to redecorate and not spend a lot of money! Really, it had us puzzled; until we discovered Congoleum and found out how to beautify and economize at the same time."

How to redecorate and not spend a lot of money! Really, it had us puzzled; until we discovered Congoleum and found out how to beautify and economize at the same time. The colourings and patterns are simply lovely and they go so well with our furnishings and drapes! Our kitchen, for instance, is a positive picture!

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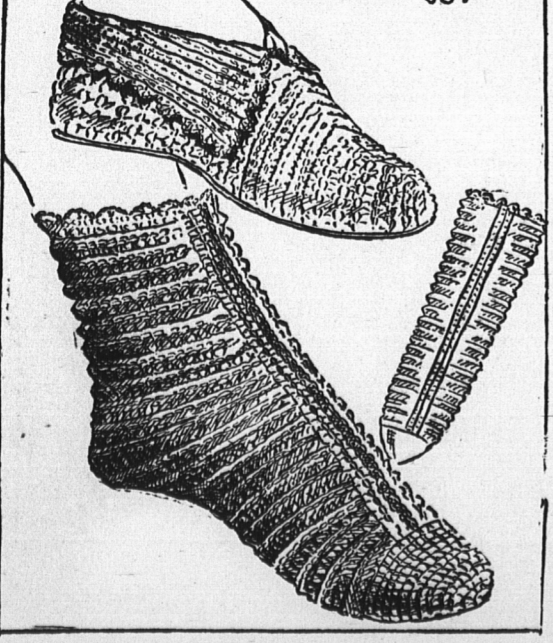
SUMMERSIDE CHARLOTTETOWN

For CONGOLEUM RUGS at LOWEST PRICES See PROWSE BROS., LTD.

As prescribed by the King of Kings. The result: At least some success here, and surely happiness hereafter. FEBRUARY 21 to MARCH 20 (Pisces)—Mental complacency will be detrimental to your production ability. Today will be fruitful if you think and act efficiently, quickly, fearlessly. Industrial and professional lines show new benefits. A CHILD BORN ON THIS DAY has many fine attributes: Courage, loyalty, deep understanding, keen mentality. This individual will be catholic and generous in thought; fond of learning; probably a talented singer or public speaker. Should specialize in its line of endeavor.

- NEW HAVEN SCHOOL Report for April: Grade X-1. Anna Docherty. Grade VIII-1. Eugene MacPhee. Grade VI-1. Alex MacNevin; 2. Wilbur Gass; 3. Melville Pollard. Grade V-1. Anita MacDougall; 2. Louis Tierney; 3. Everette Boyle. Grade IV-1. Velma Frizzell; 2. Charles Frizzell; 3. Jean Pollard. Grade III-1. Edison MacDougall; 2. Brent MacDougall; 3. Anna Cavanagh. Grade II-Sr. 1. Eileen MacNevin; 2. Joe Tierney. Grade II-Jr. 1. Bernice Gass; 2. Vivian MacPadyen. Reta J. Frizzell, Teacher (Patriot Please Copy)

CROCHET WORK THAT YOU WILL ENJOY



DESIGN NO. 857 The crocheted socks and slippers are quick and simple jobs which anyone may attempt with success. Pattern No. 857 contains list of materials needed, illustration of stitches and complete instructions for making both slippers and socks.

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Form with fields for NAME, STREET ADDRESS, CITY, and PROVINCE.

TENDER LEAF Tea Balls advertisement. Text includes: "Flavorful YOUNG tea leaves in a new tea ball that FILTERS", "18 Tea Balls", and "18 TENDER LEAF Tea Balls".