Chateau Sinister

By
Leslie Beresford

"And you agree with her? I don't blame you. As a matter of fact, though it won't make the film as good, I think Julius is managing without the Chateau interiors we'd hoped to take. It's a pity, of course and Julius is terrible sore about it, as is only natural, for he can't see the harm in what he wants to do."

Actually and apart from feelings of sentiment, O'Hara had inwardly to agree with her, though he would not admit so much. It was clear that, counting her earlier acquaintance with him as an asset, she was trying to recruit his help even now in changing Caryl Fayne's attitude for she went on explaining that the story itself was as dignified as its old French background.

He could sense, though was unable to say so, one way in which it might be an advantage for Caryl Fayne not only to change that decision of hers, but to make use of this film-crowd. Their presence in and around the Chateau should be just the protection for her which he himself felt necessary, while he got to grips with the problem of those threatening messages.

"FAYNE WAS KILLED"?

Indeed if he had his way at this moment, he would suggest that the whole crowd, should be put up at the Chateau. Their presence would not only safeguard Caryl Fayne, while he got the Surete busy, as he meant to do; but it would also eliminate that element of embarrassment he felt in staying at the Chateau alone with her.

"I cannot of course guarantee anything," he said to Virginia West "but I'm moving up there myself right away, and — I'll have another word with Miss Fayne see if I can get her to change her mind, if that's possible I think it may be, though I won't promise."

He was a little surprised that she did not greet his change of attitude with thankful enthusiasm. Instead, she glanced up at him sharply.

"You're moving up into the Chateau right away?" she questioned as if taken aback.

"Yes . . . ." He was careful in his explanation "As I was born there, and the place once belonged to my people Miss Fayne thought I'd like to stay there in preference to the inn."

"Of course . . . ." She laughed with that low, rich huskiness of hers "And Miss Fayne's very lovely isn't she?"

Before O'Hara could say anything in response to what seemed to him an aimless linking up of two facts which really had no connection, the film-director, Rittenberg came bustling up. Virginia West repeated to him O'Hara's offer and optimistic half-promise.

Rittenberg was volubly thankful, so much so that O'Hara was glad to get away a little doubtful as to whether he should have said so much before first consulting Caryl.

Bags plied into the back of his car, he drove straight to the Chateau, where old Henri was expecting him.

"Mad'moiselle is out in the grounds," the elderly man explained in his rather piping voice, and was clearly pleased to be welcoming a guest. "There is little more for her to do. She has told me that m'sieur was born in this place and knows it well. He understands therefore, how it must be lonely for one so young as mad'moiselle to live here by herself, with only old people for company.

"A little more companionship might certainly be advisable." O'Hara agreed, wondering if the old man knew why that was imperative just now. The other left him no time in doubt.

"Madmoiselle has, we know, consulted m'sieur over the strange matter which is troubling her," he went on. "She says that you will certainly settle it quite easily and at once."

"I would scarcely be so positive as that, myself." O'Hara corrected such unbounded optimism and laughed grimly: "It may not be altogether so simple, you know."

"M'sieur speaks with both caution and wisdom," the other showed signs of relief. "Myself—not wishing to frighten mad'moiselle — I have pretended to make light of what has happened. All the same, m'sieur, I am afraid for her. These people who killed Mons. Fayne, her relative—"

"What's that?" intervened O'Hara sharply. "Who says he was killed? I was told it was a case of accidental drowning—"

"That was given out at the investigation by the police and magistrate in Biarritz," the other murmured, and shrugged: "But there are people there who say it was a queer accident and the truth never came out. More likely, they believe that Mons. Fayne was killed and thrown into the sea at the Bridge of the Virgin on that night of darkness and storm."

"There would sure to be some such gossip!" O'Hara was inclined to be impatient. "But of course, the police and the magistrate must have been satisfied that the drowning was accidental. They would have examined the dead body for any mark of assault—"

"But there never has been any body found, m'sieur!" the other said. "The sea keeps that secret still. Also, m'sieur, I would speak of another secret not yet solved. There was here at the Chateau with Mons. Fayne, his only servant and companion, an Englishman, Peter Burnaby by name. It was said that he had gone to Paris that same evening when Mons. Fayne was believed to have been drowned. Yet, although the police here and in Paris have tried to find him, he also has completely disappeared and never been seen since."

This was something quite new to O'Hara who stared at the old servant with a newly-awakened interest. The latter pursued with animation a subject which clearly had long been weighing on his mind.

"If that Peter Burnaby, who had been so many years with Mons. Fayne that people said they were like brothers if — I say — he had nothing to hide why should he not have come forward in Paris when he must have read in the papers of his master's death?"

HENRI PROVES CORRECT

Old Henri's very natural suggestion certainly demanded some answer, though O'Hara felt sure there must be a perfectly good one, or the police would not have let matters slide so easily as apparently they had done.

Before O'Hara could express this opinion the door opened disclosing the agitated figure of Caryl.

"Can you come downstairs right away, Mr. O'Hara?" she asked breathlessly, "An official from the Surete has just called to see me. It's about my uncle's death, and—"

Her fluttering fingers indicated eloquently her inability to pursue the matter in words. O'Hara, who was in his shirt-sleeves slipped back into his sports-jacket.

"I'm with you," he said, making for the door.

The police official was waiting in the salon the floor of which he was impatiently pacing as O'Hara opened the door for Caryl and followed her in. An elderly, white-haired man of a military type, he turned and stared at O'Hara then took a step towards him, clearly puzzled in mind.

"I should surely know you, m'sieur?" he suggested.

"I should say so my dear Carnot!" O'Hara laughed. "You were sergeant-de-ville in Biarritz, last time I was around this way about nine years ago. Dont you remember that Carnival—the one when I pulled your leg so beautifully —?"

"Do I not?" Carnot jumped to recognition. He laughed too, then explained his lapse.

"When mad'moiselle told me she wanted me to see a Mr. O'Hara I must be excused not having remembering who you might be." he said. "Don't I mostly think of you as a de Brissac? It is difficult to realize that you and yours are not living here still—"

He paused embarrassed, seeing how badly his tongue had slipped as he glanced at Caryl Fayne's crimsoning little face. He was instantly penitent.

(To Be Continued)

CLOVER LEAF
Salmon

PERFECTION IN SEAFOODS
CD-18

CLAVERING, Essex, England — (CP) — Villagers are discussing how to shift gypsies encamped nearby. Farmers complain of damage to crops and poaching, and publicans refuse to serve them, but the gypsies are law abiding — and will not leave.

BRITONS BUY PYTHONS FOR HOUSEHOLD PETS

LONDON Nov 30 — (CP) — Pythons at £5 ($20) a foot are popular garden pets with Britons and demand far exceeds supply, says Mrs. Ellen Stone, a Chiswick London livestock dealer.

Best customers for her reptiles, are mostly "bright young things" says Mrs. Stone, "and if it wasn't for the strict government import restrictions the country's python population would soon increase by several hundred per cent."

The pet crzze is not only for pythons, but for crocodiles monkeys, and bears. Mrs. Stone who has been a livestock dealer for 16 years imports livestock ranging from elephants to birds so small that 1,000 of them are transported by air from the East in crates measuring three feet by one foot.

During the year she has imported two elephants, 27 bears, 1,000 monkeys, many of which she sells to zoos and to showmen, and hundreds of birds which find a ready sale in Belgium and Holland.

"FULL BOARD" OUT

DUNOON, Scotland, Nov 30 — (CP) — British hotel and boarding-house owners agreed to drop the term "full board" and to tell residents the exact number, of meals to be provided daily.

RACOONS ARE SOBER ONTARIO MAN FINDS

KINGSTON, Ont., Nov. 29—(CP) —Racoons are teetotallers, says a settler at nearby Deadman's Bay.

When two racoons dropped into his cottage one evening, he gave them sardines. They ate the fish, some bread and peanuts.

The settler offered the racoons a saucer of milk. The milk quickly vanished.

"One for the road," said the settler, hospitably, filling the saucer with beer. Two noses sniffed briefly and the little animals strode back into the forest.

Tailless Twin-Jet Fighter Passes Tests

With Capt. F. M. Trapnell left, Navy test pilot from Elizabeth, N. J., at the controls, the Navy's newest jet fighter has successfully completed its initial flight tests at Patuxent River, Md., Naval Air Test Center. The Chance Vought XF7U1, right, is designed for shipboard operation. In reality a flying wing, it is rated in the "over-600-mile-an-hour class," with twin jet engines. Tailless, it has swept-back wings, which have no landing flaps. (Plane photo by U. S. Navy from NEA.)

INTRODUCTORY 1¢ SALE

Get one package FAB for 1¢ when you buy one package at dealer's regular price!

This tremendous bargain offer made by Colgate-Palmolive-Peet to introduce you to its FABulous new washing discovery!

ACT NOW : : : if you want to save practically the full price of a box of FAB in this thrilling introductory 1c sale! Offer ends in a few days!

Save money while you get acquainted with the FABulous washing miracles of FAB with SUPER-WETTING ACTION! We're so sure you'll find FAB better than any soap or suds you've ever used that we'll give you double your money back if you don't agree! Buy your FAB with *Super-Wetting Action* in this introductory 1c sale now! Remember . . . double your money back if you don't think it's better than any soap or suds you've ever used! Time is limited on this offer.

DOUBLE-YOUR-MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

Buy two packages of FAB in this special introductory offer (one at your dealer's regular price; one for 1c). Use one package. If you don't agree that FAB is better than any soap or suds you've ever used, mail the unopened package to us; and we will refund to you double your dealer's regular price of one package of FAB, plus postage. This offer good for a limited time only.

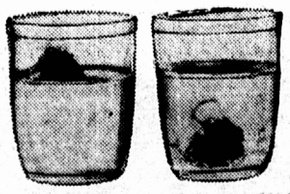
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE-PEET CO., LTD., 44 NATALIE ST., TORONTO, ONT.

New scientific washing preparation by Colgate-Palmolive-Peet is a FABulous work saver for the dirtiest overalls, work shirts, children's clothes, towels, shirts... everything that's extra dirty!

NEW WASHING DISCOVERY FAB WITH SUPER-WETTING ACTION

washes everything FASTER, CLEANER, EASIER than any soap on earth!

WHAT IS SUPER-WETTING ACTION?

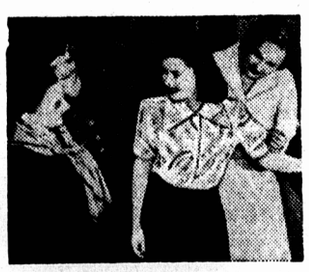


Here's the easiest way to see for yourself. Go to your sewing basket. Take a length of cotton sewing thread. Roll it into a ball. Drop it into a glass of water. It floats; does not become completely wet for a long time.

Now drop another little ball of thread into a glass of water and FAB. It sinks, becomes completely soaked *at once*. This simple home test illustrates how FAB makes water wetter . . . *instantly* penetrates *all* washable materials faster and more thoroughly . . . *pushes* dirt *out!* That's FAB's *fabulous Super-Wetting Action* . . . something no soap on earth has!

FAB WASHES DIRTIEST CLOTHES CLEANER THAN ANY SOAP

FAB with *Super-Wetting Action* instantly penetrates materials; *pushes* out dirt. Washes grimiest overalls *faster* than soap! Makes tough dirt like the "line" on shirt collars disappear like magic! FAB leaves *no* soap scum to "gray" or "yellow" white wash . . . Wash is *whiter, cleaner* when washed with FAB!



FAB BRIGHTENS SOAP-DULLED COLORS!

Soap-dulled washables look FABulously brighter, fresher, and newer after being washed with FAB. That's because anything you've washed with soap is made duller and grayer looking by soap scum . . . FAB with *Super-Wetting Action* removes that soap scum . . . leaves no film or scum of its own even in hardest water.

FAB WASHES CHEAPER . . . IN HARDEST WATER

Laboratory tests prove that cup for cup, in hard water, FAB washes up to twice as much family wash as soap. This economy is another FABulous miracle. Yes . . . FAB with *Super-Wetting Action* is up to twice as economical as soap in hard water. You'll notice that all of FAB washes . . . Nothing is wasted in soap scum!

FAB WASHES DISHES TWICE AS FAST!

No need to wipe dishes. Just wash with FAB, and rinse. FAB leaves no soap scum or film to polish away. Even glassware sparkles! FAB with *Super-Wetting Action* slashes through grease as no soap can do! Dishwater never feels greasy. Pots and pans get clean with almost no scouring. No dishpan ring. FAB is *mild* to hands!