KING COLE COFFEE
Your Favourite Blend

The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

Part One

It was while Victoria was waiting for Tuck to arrive that Albert's birthday gift came. She had half forgotten that he had ordered something for her that last night of his life, and the small, much stamped package was at first a surprise, although she realized almost immediately what it must be. Hazel, who had opened the door and had received the package hovered close while Victoria tore off the twine, the wrappings. Inside was a white box, and inside that, wedged with tightly stuffed tissue, was a jeweler's box. A small, humped-backed one of black velvet. She pressed the catch with her thumb and the lid sprang up. Inside was the most beautiful ring she had ever seen. A sapphire, her birthstone, square cut and of a deep, deep blue. It was set in platinum, and on either side glittered a clump of small perfect diamonds. A tiny card was bent into the rounded lid of the box. It said, not in his handwriting, "Love, Albert." The jeweler's name was in gold on the white satin of the lid. The ring had come from Tiffany's, from New York.

She slipped the slim band on the finger where her wedding ring shone. It fitted perfectly.

"Oh!" gasped Hazel. "Oh, my what a beautiful thing!"

She heard Albert's dead voice speaking in the hall. "Send to Mrs. Hime, above address." She turned her hand. The ring gleamed and glittered. "He always said I had beautiful hands," Victoria said, in a tight voice.

It was Hazel who began to cry. She fled to the kitchen as the doorbell rang. Victoria admitted Mr. Tuck. The impact of the gem which felt so strangely heavy on her hand was still with her. Tuck asked courteously, "What has happened, Mrs. Hime?"

Victoria held out her hand to him. He took the tips of her cold, slim fingers in his long, warm ones, bent his long head to peer at the ring. "Albert wired for this, for my birthday. It just came. Isn't it lovely?"

Tuck nodded his head. "It's very beautiful," he said.

And then it poured out—Sawn's serenade, hearing Albert sending the telegram, Sawn's brief vigil in the early morning; a strange conglomerate of unrelated facts.

Then she showed him the anonymous note.

"You think Harriss sent this?" Tuck asked.

"I don't know! But I do know this: He is going to come to you and tell you he thinks I killed Albert. He's going to tell you why he thinks so, specious reasons, which may sound true to you. I'm sure of that much, at least!"

Tuck looked down at the square envelope in his hands, stuffed it carefully into the inner pocket of his coat. "I think this was written by a woman," he said.

Victoria heard, yet did not hear. She said: "I'm afraid, Mr. Tuck. For the first time in my life, I'm afraid." Saying the words eased her.

"Of Captain Harriss?"

"Yes. Of him, or—of someone." Under his probing grave eyes she turned sharply away. "I sound like a fool." Then she faced him, holding out the hand with the ring. "Whatever anyone says to you, does it look as though Albert and I hated each other? Does it look as though we quarreled?"

Hazel's voice called, "Mr. Tuck!" She was standing in the kitchen doorway, a white dishtowel in her hands. With her head high, she said: "I COULD have made that mistake with the poison, Mr. Tuck. If it's that or Victoria killing him, then I did!"

Tuck looked at her long and curiously, and at the ring, and at Victoria's tense face. Then he smiled almost sadly. "You two women do me an injustice," he said, slowly and carefully. "I make guesses. I have intuitions. I am not a strictly logical man."

His long and tired brown eyes were on Victoria's when he added: "Logic tells me nothing; a guess tells me that Hazel didn't accidentally poison the sugar; an intuition, a feeling which is very bothersome tells me that you are right in being afraid, Mrs. Hime."

He had left the house and was standing on the porch as he added: "The Los Angeles Police department is more trying than most. I believe I may be getting ulcers of the stomach."

An hour later a mechanic returned Albert's car from the garage which had picked it up. Only after he had gone did she realize she had allowed him to leave it in the driveway where it would prevent her driving her own car to the street. Of course, there was no reason why she should not use Albert's, it was much handsomer than hers, which was of a popular make. But Albert's long black phaeton used a great deal more gasoline and was hard to park. So she backed Albert's car out to the street, parked it, drove hers out and parked it, and then drove Albert's into the depths of the deep but narrow garage. As she snapped off the ignition she realized that she had never before driven Albert's car; it seemed strange to be doing so now after he was dead. It seemed almost an intrusion.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Prairie dogs are able to live without drinking water for several months. They obtain enough moisture for their needs from a heavy fall of dew.

The stickleback fish builds its nest at the bottom of the sea from bits of grass and water-weed. When the eggs have been deposited, the male fish keeps a strict watch over them, fiercely attacking and driving away any fish that ventures to intrude within the limits of his domain. Even his mate cannot be trusted within the sacred area.

The Burrowing Barnacle attaches itself to the skins of the whale and makes a home for itself by boring a deep round hole, which sometimes penetrates as far as the blubber. Scores of these holes may be seen close together, looking as though they'd been stamped out with a sharp punch.

Rock-borers, popularly known as "shell-fish" contrive in some mysterious manner to form deep cavities in the very hardest rocks. Those who have attempted to pull its snug retreat, found that the shell was too large to pass through the opening. The question naturally arises how did it ever get there in the first place? When it first entered the rock tunnel it was a tiny fish. Then of course, it grew up. Interesting, is it not?

• • •

The Baya weaver-birds of India suspend their nests from the branches of trees which overhang a stream, and weight them with lumps of clay to prevent them from rocking about at the mercy of the wind.

Another remarkable bird of India is the tailor-bird. This amazing creature actually sews leaves together by their edges forming a little pointed bag, in which a nest of cotton-wool or other soft materials is afterwards constructed. This curious nest is built a short distance from the ground and when finished is about 2½ inches deep inside. The eggs are bluish-green with reddish brown spots.

One thousand feet above sea level in the lonely wind-swept Antarctic may be seen Scott Cross near Cape Evans, erected to the memory of Robert Falcon Scott, famed Antarctic explorer who perished at the threshold of the great unknown on Nov. 12, 1912.

Guy De Maupassant was a masterful short story writer, yet he had no theories, no doctrine, no technical method, and didn't like talking about books.

• • •

The Koatenay Plains were named for the Koatenay Indians by Daniel Thompson, Canadian explorer. Thompson also discovered the Athabaska Pass through the Rocky Mountains, was the first white man to enter the valley of the Columbia. He travelled over 50,000 miles much of which was through country never seen before. And when he died at the age of 87, he was so poor that no tombstone was erected to mark his memory.

Unique in all disaster records is the tragedy of the Tray Bridge, Scotland. On Dec. 28, 1879, a fierce gale swept away the center span together with a train of seven coaches roaring through the night with 75 persons bound for Dundee. Span, train, passengers and crew plunged into the water and were never seen again.

Believe it or not, but a shot fired at 11 A.M. on Sunday, June 28, 1914, killed ten million men. After that shot was fired the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir-presumptive to the throne of the Dual Monarchy, Austria-Hungary, lay dead—the victim of an assassin's bullet. Thus was brought about the First World War that cost the nations ten million men.

A century ago most hospitals were little more than a hot-bed of filth and disease. Sanitation and hygiene methods were unknown and sneered at.

Florence Nightingale's body would be resting in Westminster Abbey today had she not left instructions that her interment should be of the simplest. She was buried beside her parents in the little country cemetery near Embley, and on their monument was placed the inscription which she wished—the letters F. N. together with dates of birth and death—nothing more.

• • •

On February 2, 1950, at Snag, Yukon Territory, the temperature was 81 below. Last winter it was a relatively balmy 67 below. Scotch whiskey thickened in bottles, and dogs had their lungs nipped by the severe frost. These official records prove that Canada's Northland is colder than Alaska. In spite of the bitter cold, one can keep quite comfortable in the brand-new 9-pound suits which are made of Nylon and glass fibre.

The fibre glass is quilted in small squares on Nylon mesh and inserted between the outer shell and the inner lining of a parka.

Some countries laundry up their soiled and worn banknotes and put them in circulation. Not so with the Bank of England. When their notes grow thin and bleary, the note is cancelled by tearing off the Chief Cashier's signature, and filed for five years. When the dead line is reached the bills are burned in weekly batches.

Incidentally, the average life, in circulation, of a bill, is between 70 and 90 days.

Shoot that fly, Mrs. Housewife! Yep, that's the idea. You pull a trigger and a bit of wire screen pops out of the pistol and smacks Mr. Fly. It's a double-action gadget, the swatter recoiling into position for another shot. The new "flyshooter" may be on the market this year.

VETERAN CYCLIST

POLEGATE, Sussex, England—(CP)—George Jeffries, 79, oldest member of a local cycling club, rides a lightweight machine with dropped handlebars. He still rides with youngsters and makes regular 70-mile visits to a sister at Ealing, a London suburb.

MILLAR'S STORE

KENSINGTON P.E.I.

One Week Of Specials & Clearance Lines

DEC. 12th. to DEC. 19th.

Ladies' Winter COATS—Sizes 11½ to 19½. Reg. $42.00 to $49.50—Clearing **$35.00**
Ladies' HANDBAGS—Colors grey, wine, navy, brown, black. Reg. $5.95—Special **$4.75**
20% Discount on all Ladies' and Children's Sweaters
Penguin Sock YARN—4 oz. skein **95c**
Quilt PATCHES, 1 lb. **$1.20**, or 2 lbs. **$2.30**
2 Only—Men's SUITS—Sizes 38 and 40. Regular $65.00—Clearing **$40.00**
20% Discount on all Men's Station Wagon Coats, Parkas and Jackets.
20% Discount on all Boys' Parkas and Jackets.
2 Only—Men's Sheepskin Lined COATS—Sizes 36 and 38—Special **$16.00**
Assortment of Women's Leather FLIGHT BOOTS—Sizes 6, 7, 8. Reg. $10.50 and $12.50—Clearing at **$8.50**
SKATES—Clearing at **Reduced Prices**
Women's sizes 3, 4, 5—Clearing **$7.95**
Men's Sizes 6, 11—Clearing **$9.50**
Boys' sizes 5—Clearing **$7.95**
Youths' Sizes 11, 12, 13—Clearing **$5.95**
Misses' Sizes 12, 13, 1—Clearing **$6.95**

Special Discount on all Toys, Christmas Cards and Christmas Decorations as we are clearing them out.

NOW IN STOCK FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Ladies' Nylon Hose, Slips, Nightgowns, Pyjamas, Panties, Head Squares and Blouses; Ladies' and Children's Wool Gloves; Men's Ties, Socks, Belts, Braces, Arm Bands, Garters, Gloves, Sweaters, Caps & Hats; Men's and Women's Flight Boots.

—ALSO—

FOOTWEAR—For All The Family.
Prices Right for the Quality.

MILLAR'S STORE
KENSINGTON P.E.I.

POULTRY SHIPPERS ATTENTION

I AM BUYING LIVE POULTRY FOR THE LAST TIME THIS YEAR ON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18th.
8 A.M. to 12 NOON

Suggest you get all your live birds marketed at this time so that marketing of dressed poultry for Christmas can be handled.

S. R. PENDLETON
Kensington, P. E. I.

SAVING MONEY ON TRACTORS

Price increases on Tractors are just around the corner. Our prepayment plan guarantees to the farmer no increase in price, plus 5 per cent interest on the down payment.

Those planning to purchase a Tractor "in the spring" will save money by calling on us today.

ELLIOT AND WEBSTER

SALES — MASSEY-HARRIS PARTS — SERVICE
Kensington **Phone 59**

GLADIOLI BULBS

HAVE YOU A GARDEN? YOUR WIFE A LOVER OF FLOWERS.

Some high-class gladioli bulbs would make an appropriate gift, affording hours of happiness and pride of possession.

One of nature's masterpieces. The prince of flowers—GLADIOLI.

You will thank me later for this suggestion.

Priced Ten Cents per bulb.

S. R. PENDLETON
KENSINGTON, P. E. I.

Women No Slouches In Calgary Voting

CALGARY, Dec. 14—(CP)—Women do so vote! That was clear after Calgary's civic election.

Out of nearly 34,000 votes cast, there were only 30 fewer women voters than men.

Normally the number of men voters as compared with women is not tabulated, but Carl B. Cummer, assistant city clerk, decided to have the figures broken down.

The result was 16,990 men, 16960 women. At almost every poll, the figures were about even.

HARD ON CLOTHES

The daler, a Swedish coin issued in 1663, was a copper slab weighing 31 pounds, measuring 12 by 24 inches

gifts from HOLMAN'S are opened first!

Sparkling Blue Bird

GLASSWARE

This semi-crystal, hand blown glass stemware will make a superb Christmas gift. Lovely Blue Bird design is cut on spray shapes. It is most attractive, but is reasonably priced.

Goblets and Sherbets priced each ..... **90¢**
Footed Juice Tumblers and Cocktails priced each .. **75¢**
Wine Glasses priced each .. **70¢**
Sherbet Plates priced each .. **65¢**

There are very complete stocks of many other stunning, hand cut patterns of glass stemware. Fiesta, Sunflower, Maple Leaf and Wheat—to name a few. These are open stock and may be purchased a piece at a time or in a complete set.

Gifts From The China

That Are Sure To Please

The China Departments are brimming with wonderful gifts for your selection . . . Beautiful gleaming silver plated holloware, Silver plated tableware in all the popular patterns, chests of 26 and 34 pieces. Gorgeous Denton flower pieces, Dainty cups and saucers from the famous English potteries.

ONLY 8 MORE SHOPPING DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

PYREX Flameware DOUBLE BOILERS

A gift that is practical and will be much used—each section may be utilized as a separate sauce pan. The crystal clarity of the Pyrex Glass makes it easy to see the food cooking. 48 ounce size.

A Nice Gift at 4.95

COMPLETE STOCK PYREX

Flameware Teapots, Coffee Percolators, and covered Sauce Pans. Ovenware in smart colors—Ramekins, open Bowls, Covered Casseroles and nested Mixing Bowls—any of which makes a grand gift for Christmas

She Loves Doulton Figures

A new shipment of these glorious Doulton Figurines has just been received. Delicate, rich coloring point out the beautiful modeling of each figure. An heirloom for tomorrow!

5.00 to 30.50

Christmas Gift SPECIAL!

"Devon" DINNERWARE

On Sale Until Christmas Eve

English porcelain Burleighware in a lovely floral design . . . Colorful bouquets on a gleaming background. This is an underglaze pattern. Give "Devon" Dinnerware this Christmas and save on the Special Prices.

28 piece set—places for 4, regular 13.85—SPECIAL **9.45**
42 piece set—places for 6, regular 20.75—SPECIAL **14.35**
56 piece set—places for 8, regular 27.75—SPECIAL **18.75**

For Homes Without Electricity

Aladdin Lamps

Make an unexcelled gift at Christmas. These Kerosene Mantle Lamps give sight saving white light. Available in table, hanging and floor lamp models. . . . May be purchased either with or without the parchment shade and holder.

Moderately Priced

9.65 to 24.10

English Dinnerware

From England's Finest Potteries

Choose from the Open Stock patterns of Spode, Royal Doulton, Royal Albert and Aynsley. All are imported direct from the famous English Potteries.

HOLMAN'S 2 BIG STORES
SUMMERSIDE & CHARLOTTETOWN

"Where Old Friends Meet Santa"