



Murder Is Forgetful

By WILLIAM BOGART
(Continued)

CHAPTER II.

For just a moment she leaned close against him. Tears were in her eyes, and she said with feeling, "Father... dead, and now mother... affected like this..." She clung to him in desperation. "It seems as if my world is tottering."

"Hush, child," he whispered. He found his arm firmly around her shoulders. Her hair, gently brushing his face, was still slightly damp from their narrow escape from death in the harbor. A light behind them in the hallway revealed the reddish-gold tint where it swept back from her forehead.

He uplifted her chin with his fingers, and said, grinning, "Come on, you're a big girl now." She smiled. Her eyes were bright and shining. "Johnny," she started. "I think you're swell. I..." He had started to indicate the next door along the hallway, behind them. Kay paused, eyes questioning.

"Is that the nurse's room?" he asked. "Yes, it's Karen's. That's so she will be close to mother." She motioned to a door directly across the hall from the nurse's bedroom.

"That's mine. And Nancy has the next one down on my side. The bedroom on the far side of Karen's is a spare guest room." "Bedrooms all over the place," said Johnny.

Kay pointed to a closed door directly opposite them. Her manner had changed again, swiftly, and her eyes darkened in the way the sea can suddenly change with the overhead passing of a storm cloud.

"That was father's room," she said without expression. Johnny said nothing. His eyes did not reveal the thought that coursed through his mind. That door directly across the hall... just a plain, heavy-paneled door... yet it held a peculiar fascination. The portal to a millionaire's bedroom. A man who'd had everything money could buy.

Now he was dead—murdered. Why he had been killed... who had killed him... was still a mystery. The sound that rocked Johnny Saxon back on his heels was sharp, high-pitched, startling. A scream! It came from the bedroom behind him. He saw Kay's eyes flash wide with horror.

"Mother!" she gasped. Johnny Saxon flung open the door and was several strides inside the blue-and-white bedroom before Kay's muscles responded and she followed. Irene Smith, partly drowsed, lay half across the bed on her right side. Her soft, reddish hair spilled over her creamy shoulders, covered part of her face. She did not stir.

The girl choked, "Mother..." Johnny grasped the woman's left wrist with one hand and brushed her hair back from her face with the other. He raised an eyelid quickly. He felt a steady pulse beating against his fingers.

"She's only fainted," he said with relief. Kay was bending down over the bed. She started rubbing her mother's wrists. "You think she's all right?"

Johnny didn't take time to answer. He swung across the wide bedroom. Probably ten seconds had elapsed since they heard Irene Smith's scream. There was an impression in Johnny's mind that the latch on the balcony screen door had clicked faintly as he rushed into the room. Determination narrowed his eyes as he moved fast toward the porch door.

Outside, windows of the many bedrooms faced on the long rectangle of the balcony. Light shone from one or two windows; the others were like sighthless dark eyes in the warm night. He listened intently.

There was no sound. Then his pulse quickened as he saw a vague shadow slide past one of the open windows. He had barely seen the movement. Whether it was a man or a woman, he was not positive. The person was moving quickly toward the opposite side of the rectangle formed by the shape of the house. Down below Johnny were the gardens located behind the mansion. He didn't know whether stairs led down there or not.

He was running now. Between the amber-colored splashes of color cast upon the balcony by the lighted windows, there were deep shadows. Johnny tried to

United Church Presbytery Meets

"Christianity and Communism are contending for the souls of the people of Asia and the Christian Church is greatly challenged," said Rev. E. J. O. Fraser, D.D., veteran missionary from Korea and former minister of the Margate Pastoral Charge as he addressed the Presbytery of the United Church of Canada at its meeting in Heartz Memorial Hall, Charlottetown, on Tuesday.

Dr. Fraser expressed the hope that Korea will still hold its freedom and that Christian work will go on as before. He said that since the second world war 80 new churches had been built. He pointed out that in the 1950 election 93% of the voters voted and 20% of the members elected were Christians when only 3% of the population are Christian. He spoke of the needs of used clothing and said: "Instead of having rummage sales, send your used clothing to Korea where they are more needed." The Church needs more missionaries and more money to send them out.

Mr. W. E. Brooks gave the report of the Laymen's Association and informed the court that during the past year nine laymen assisted in 46 services and visited twenty-eight Charges in the Presbytery. He announced that plans are being made to hold the annual lay conference again this summer. Considerable discussion took place regarding the possibility of setting up an institutional chaplaincy. Presbytery expressed approval of the idea and appointed Rev. W. T. Mercer to meet with representatives from other denominations to study possibilities and report further developments.

The Christian Education Committee in its report emphasizes three C's - Church Vacation Schools, Conventions and Camps. Rev. Howard Christie, Hunter River, announced that camps are planned for Augustine Cove as follows: C.G.I.T., July 3-13; Boys, July 17-18. It is expected that a week-end camp for Young People will be held July 13-15.

Other Reports

Rev. K. G. Sullivan, Summerside, gave the report of the Committee on Education and Students. Mr. Nathan Mair of Georgetown who recently graduated from Emmanuel Theological College, Toronto, is to be licensed to preach and was recommended for ordination. Mr. Alex MacDowell of Charlottetown and Mr. Theo. Crozier are to be received as candidates for the ministry.

In the report of the Committee on Evangelism and Social Service, given by Rev. John Douglas, York, the matter of religious instruction in the public schools was considered. Mr. J. A. MacKenzie, Kensington, spoke of the importance of children learning the Bible and suggested some ways in which some basic Bible knowledge might be given. The committee announced that Mr. Elmer Crockett, evangelist, would be on the Island during July and August holding

avoid stumbling over any porch furniture. Ahead, on the far L of the rectangle, a door slammed. The screen door at the end of the hall outside Johnny's own room! That meant there were no stairs leading down from this porch. The marauder was being forced to escape through the house.

Johnny reached the screen door, yanked it open and slid down the hall. His quarry must be familiar with the house. The hall lights had been switched off!

Johnny Saxon went swiftly forward in the darkness, feeling his way, hand slipping quietly along the wall in search of a light button. He wondered if the marauder was hidden somewhere in the darkness waiting.

(To be continued)

special services, also that Rev. John Linton, secretary of the Canadian Temperance Federation would be on the Island the latter part of May to address gatherings in various centres, opening his itinerary with a banquet meeting in the Baptist Church Hall, Charlottetown, on May 25.

Mr. P. W. Turner, Charlottetown, was asked to make a study of the insurance on church property in the Presbytery and give a report of his findings. Many churches were found to have inadequate insurance. Said Mr. Turner: "At least 80% of the replacement value should be put on all church property."

In the hope that more intensive work might be done generally,

Presbytery voted to ask Conference to divide the Presbytery into two parts. In the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee it was announced that a call was extended to Rev. James Cross, Malpeque, from Blackville, N. B., and another from Georgetown to Rev. W. A. Patterson, Lockport, N. S. Both calls were approved. Rev. Blair Colborne, West Cape, asked for a change of pastoral relations that he might become a secretary of the Students' Christian Movement at Dalhousie University.

The following report of the nominating committee was accepted: Chairman, Rev. W. T. Mercer; sec'y, Rev. W. B. Crowe; treasurer, Rev. A. S. Weir. Conveners of committees are as follows: Arch-

ives, Rev. John MacKay; Christian Education, Rev. Howard Christie; church property, Rev. T. A. Wilson; evangelism and social service, Rev. J. T. Irwin; education and students, Rev. K. G. Sullivan; missionary education and overseas missions, Rev. R. L. Bacon; home missions, Rev. W. E. MacPhail; missionary and maintenance, Rev. H. E. D. Ashford; pastoral relations, Rev. George Gough; pensions, Rev. J. M. Sheen; publications, Rev. L. S. Woolfrey; records, Rev. W. B. Crowe; statistics, Rev. John Douglas; representative on camp committee, Rev. Howard Christie; representative of the United Churchman, Rev. W. T. Mercer; representative on Conference Fund, Rev. D. W. MacPherson.

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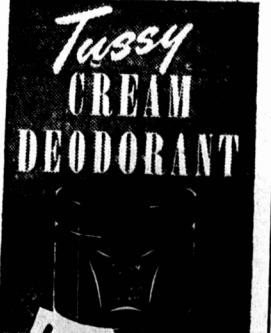
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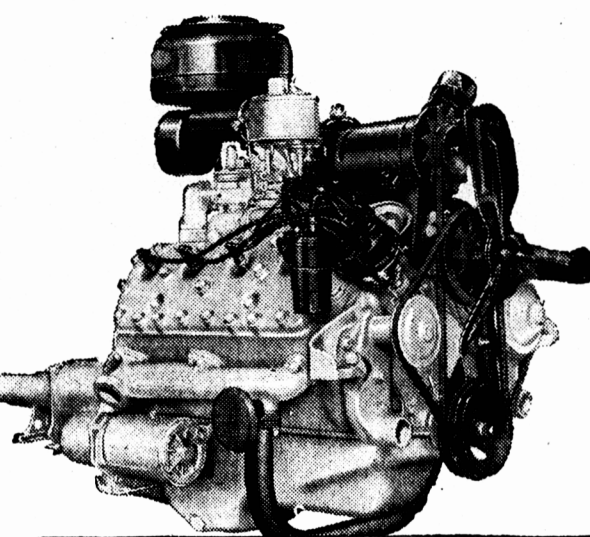
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