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**DAILY DOUBLE**

### The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis

#### CHAPTER TEN

As they drove back home in her open car with the wind of their passage whipping their faces, Victoria told Albert of Sawm's return. He showed only mild interest.

"It's the darndest thing," she said, "to see a face that was your sun and sky ten years ago and feel nothing of the old emotion."

"I know what you mean," Albert said. "I saw Della a few years ago. To get to something relevant, Moira says you don't think much of her as Ina."

"I don't."  
"Leighman seems rather taken with her. He and I dropped past her apartment tonight after we left the studio. She and her agent were just leaving for dinner. We had coffee with them, and I thought Leighman seemed rather taken."

"He won't be after I talk with him."

"Are you sure you can handle Leighman?"

"I'm certain of it."

Albert sighed. "I wish I knew definitely," he said irritably, "about producing Ina."

"George always wavers like mad before making an important decision. Anyway, he's not the final word. There's always the vice president over him."

"It seems that the studio's leaving the matter of the producer entirely up to Leighman." He added grumpily. "Why don't we eat out tonight? I don't want to meet any ex-husbands the way I feel right now."

"The casseroles are in the oven," said Victoria. She added, thinking of Sawm: "All right, I'll take them out and we'll go down to Chasen's."

"You're a darling."

"Correct, me if I'm wrong. It seems to me that you've got pretty interested in the career of this Hastings gal. I'm nothing if not broadminded, but I like to know where things stand."

"Remember what I said once about pretty little things?" Albert asked. "I haven't changed my mind."

The first thing Victoria saw when they entered the house was that Sawm's cap was gone from the chair by the door. She went swiftly to the balcony. The light shone down on empty chairs. She called Sawm's name. There was no answer. Albert was standing beside the dining table rubbing his temples and watching her. "You have the queerest look on your face."

"He's gone," she said. "So we don't have to go to Chasen's after all."

"All right," said Albert, and went into the bathroom to wash. She went to the kitchen, and at once saw the cup and saucer on the drainboard by the sink. A little coffee was pooled in the bottom. "Damn," she said aloud. That left only two cups in the Silex. She decided not to mention this to Albert. He might feel that it provided a good reason to go to Chasen's after all. She thought of a sleek cafe, the waiting for a table, the wait for food. "We can go tomorrow night," she thought, to celebrate his birthday.

Before they sat down to dinner, Albert kissed her. With her arms around him she could feel below each shoulder blade a deep crease in the excellent wool of his gray-checked sport jacket. He had slumped in the padding of his beautiful coat, it no longer fitted him as it had in the morning.

While they ate she told him about her play. He seemed delighted. They had finished their casseroles and she had poured their coffee from the silver pot when the telephone rang. "I'll get it," she said.

Bernice's small tear-stained voice said: "Vicky?"

"Yes, darling."

"Stan made a dreadful fuss, but he never once suggested that I should leave Walter and marry him."

"I thought he wouldn't."

"Have you eaten dinner?"

"Yes."

"Oh, well, I just wanted to tell you how things went."

"Are you with him now?"

"He's waiting for me at the table."

"If you were really smart you'd leave him waiting."

"Oh, I couldn't do that."

"Remember, that it has to be a clean break."

Bernice's voice was almost passionate. "Is any break clean?"

Haven't you ever heard the saying, 'To say goodbye is to die a little'?" She added, rather unnecessarily, Victoria thought, and with considerable dislike in her tone. "But then I suppose that it was never like that for you. You feel with your head instead of your heart."

"You think with your emotions."

"If it doesn't work out the way you think it will, I've lost out every way," moaned Bernice.

"You haven't lost much in Stan."

Bernice slammed up the receiver.

When Victoria returned to the table Albert was looking down into his empty coffee cup. He was frowning.

"That was Bernice. Walter found out about Stan."

He looked up, interested. "Oh?"

"He wants a divorce. I can't say I blame him."

"No, you can't blame him."

"The telephone rang again."

"That thing hasn't been still for five minutes at a stretch all day."

Victoria commented, "I'm thinking of having it jerked out and relying entirely on carrier pigeons."

Albert smiled slightly as he stood up. "My turn."

#### CHELTON W. I.

The regular meeting of the Chelton Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Wilbert Wright on October 2nd. Roll call was answered by seven members and the vice-president, Mrs. Roy Campbell, opened the meeting with the "Collect" repeated in unison.

Minutes were read and approved. The committees gave their reports, one reporting there were no sick in the district. It was moved by Mrs. Wilbert Wright and seconded by Mrs. Waldo Gardiner that the secretary send for more Oleum capsules for the school children.

The correspondence included a letter from the Adult Education Branch re "Island Folk School Course", also letters from the supervisor and Mrs. Julian Herring on "Citizenship" and "Institute Radio Broadcasts" respectively.

It was decided to send for two copies of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights". It was moved and seconded that the meeting also send for the topic "Winter Meals for the Family" to study during the next four months. The Institute News was distributed.

After much discussion on new business it was moved and seconded that a pantry sale and bazaar be held at Holman's. It was decided to take all baking and other articles to Mrs. Fred Clark's for pricing.

It being 25 years since the Institute was organized, it was decided to celebrate the anniversary with a "Dinner Party" on Oct. 20. It was also decided to send a congratulatory card to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gardiner on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, Mrs. Gardiner having been a faithful member of the group for many years.

The annual meeting will be held at Mrs. Roy Campbell's with Mrs. Waldo Gardiner in charge of pro-

grams. Collection was 50c.

A delicious lunch was served by the hostess after which the aprons made during the month were displayed and admired.

#### BIG LOBSTER REVENUE

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. — (CP) — Although the catch was lower than previous years, Newfoundland shipped 631,120 pounds of lobster to the United States last season, according to reports at a meeting of

several lobster fishermen's societies. In the last 10 years a total of 8,230,671 pounds of live lobsters were shipped.

#### FEWER TOURISTS

OSLO — (CP) — Preliminary estimates made by the Central Bureau of Statistics reveal that for the first eight months of 1951 persons visiting Norway from other countries totalled 396,387 compared with 413,849 in the corresponding period last year.

### The Neighbors

By George Clark



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