

'WHERE'S EMILY?'

by Carolyn Wells

WHAT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE

Just before the rehearsal of her marriage to Rodney Sayre, Emily Duane leaves her exclusive Hillside Park home to visit the hospital. She does not return and Rod and the guests become concerned. They are more perplexed when Jim Pennington, husband of Emily's best friend, Pauline, informs them that his wife, with whom he left the rehearsal about the same time as Emily, has also disappeared. Upon phoning the hospital, it is learned Emily never reached there.

Now Go on With the Story

CHAPTER IX.

And then the crowd from the drawing-room came back to the lounge.

"Where's Emily?" said most of the voices as the two men were seen there alone.

"I don't know," Sayre returned, but his smile was a little forced.

"You don't know, sir?" The rehearsal stepped up to him with a decided scowl on his face. "Allow me to inform you, mister, that though I have conducted many wedding rehearsals, never have I been so insulted as at this one!"

Called to take charge of a large and fashionable wedding and finding no bride and no bridegroom at hand! What sort of game is this? Why are the principals absent? I think there will be no wedding! But I have done my part and I shall expect my pay. I will not come again; no, not though you beg me to, I will not step foot in the place. But I expect my pay."

"Good Lord, man, you'll get your pay," exclaimed Lamb. "Now run along home, for mercy's sake. I give you my word your bill shall be paid. Clear out."

Lamb paused to light a cigarette and then turned to Rodney.

"Where's Emily?" he said.

"I don't know, Burt," and now Sayre spoke very soberly. "She told me she was going to the hospital."

"To kiss the new baby," broke in Betty Bailey. "Then she's there yet. I'll go and call her."

"No, Betty," Sayre deterred her. "We've called—Mr. Pennington called, and they haven't been there."

"Who's they?" demanded Lamb.

"Who's with her?"

"We don't know for certain," Pennington volunteered, "but my wife isn't at home, or she wasn't when I left, and we think the two may be together."

"They haven't been to the hospital!" exclaimed Betty, her eyes opening wide. "Then something has happened to them—"

"Don't make a scene, Betty," Nell Harding said scornfully. "They're all right, of course. Emily went over to Mrs. Pennington's house and is waiting for her to dress."

"That may be," Pennington said. "Emily wasn't there when I left, but she may have come in since. I'll telephone over and see."

He went to the booth, and Pete Gibby went and sat down by Rodney, who was still on the sofa.

"Emily said she was going to the hospital!" he asked.

"Yes," said Sayre.

"And the hospital people say she didn't come there?"

"That's what they say."

"Then we must go out and look for her. Good heavens, man, we must do something! Suppose she fell and sprained her ankle—the roads around here are steep and stony enough. How can you sit still not knowing where she is?"

"She told me to stay here till she came back," Sayre said, and even as he spoke, he realized how silly he sounded! To be sure, Emily's word was law to him, but to the crowd he must appear like a driveling idiot to sit there, saying, "She told me not to budge."

Just then Pennington returned.

"Polly isn't at home," he said, and now he looked concerned.

"Rosa, that's my maid, says she hasn't been home at all."

"Then," said Betty, who was a quick thinker, "she met Emily, and Emily told her about the baby, and they went to the hospital to get her."

"But they haven't been to the hospital."

"I mean, they started for there, and then—"

"And then?" Lamb prompted her.

"And then, either Emily had one of her wild, impulsive schemes to go somewhere else, or else—something has happened."

"What could happen?" asked Nell, scornfully. "Emily is too used to these steep and stony roads to turn her ankle. She's been racing over them all her life."

"It might happen," said Gibby. "Oh, of course, it might," Nell agreed. "And a bear might come out of the woods and eat her up! But I don't believe either of those things. And, too, if Polly Pennington was with her, and Emily met with any accident, Polly would come and tell us. I can't think they both sprained their ankles!"

"Speculation won't get us any where," said Lamb. "As I'm attending to all the wedding arrangements, it's up to me to find the missing bride. So, I'll set about it. Want to go along, Rod?"

"No," said Sayre, after a moment's pause. "I'll stay here. Not only because Emily told me to stay here till she came back, but because Pete will go with you, and if there has been an accident, which I don't for a minute believe, you two can bring her home."

"I'm going along," cried Betty, and flinging a cape around her she stood by Pete Gibby.

Pennington rose to go, as a matter of course, and Betty's quick sympathy sensed that he was anxious about his wife as Rod was about Emily.

"They're all right, you know, Mr. Pennington," she smiled at him. "They're together, I'm sure, and that makes it safe for both. I suppose Emily took a notion to run down to New York."

"Betty! How absurd!" cried Aunt Judy. "Why should the child go to New York at seven o'clock at night?"

But the three men and Betty had already started on their quest.

Mr. Gardner, seeing an opportunity, took his cue.

"My dear Mrs. Bell," he said with his most funeral intonation, "keep up your courage—"

"It hasn't gone down yet," she snapped back at him. "Anybody would think Emily was in danger of wild beasts or bandits or something! Did you ever hear of marauders of any sort at Hillside Park?"

"No, I never did," and the Reverend Gardner seemed to begrudge his acquiescence.

Nell Harding had ensconced herself on the sofa beside Sayre, and proceeded to comfort him.

This was about as acceptable to Rodney as the minister's sympathy had been to Aunt Judy, but he couldn't retort as he would have liked.

"Oh, Emily's all right, Nell, of course," he said pleasantly. "I just don't understand it, that's all."

"You don't understand Emily," Nell cooed with a gentle smile.

"Well, she understands me, and that must do for the pair of us," he returned, a little shortly.

Nell said nothing, but sat a little closer to him, and offered him a cigarette and then lit it for him, until Rod said to himself, if she didn't let up on her coddling, he'd pitch her head-first out of the window.

However, Nell couldn't read his thoughts and she saw nothing of them in his face, so she kept on coddling.

"My dear sir," the minister began on him next, and then Rod had to turn his attention to the prevention of laying hands on the sacred person of Mr. Gardner.

"Excuse me, please," he said, frowning not rudely, but as one in deep absorption of thought.

"Come in, will you, Pearl?"

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

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OWNERS RETAINING TIMBERLESS LANDS UNDER NEW PLAN

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

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TIMBER CONCERNS DEFAULT IN WAGES, GRAM'S ASSERTION

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Gram has not yet totaled his figures to show how much was lost by the workers during 1929, but says that proportionately they fared worse than during the two-year period 1927 and 1928 when they lost a total of \$141,959.08, and collected on claims that were disputed by the employers only \$59,174.22. Unsuccessful claims totaled 2573.

Gram brands the treatment of the workers by the employers as "highway robbery," and says 50 percent of the alleged offenders are engaged in the timber industries. He declares that so many workers have no hope of collecting that he doubts if 50 percent of those who lose their wages make complaint to his office.

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