'WHERE'S EMILY?'
by Carolyn Wells

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

Emily Duane and her friend, Pauline Pennington, disappear on Emily's wedding rehearsal day. Emily had gone to visit the hospital, but never arrived there. After leaving the Duane home, Pauline also vanishes. Later, Pauline's body is found in the ravine, and, close by, Emily's scarf and six diamonds from the necklace her fiance, Rodney Sayre, had given her. At the inquest, Jim Pennington testifies that his wife had threatened suicide, but suspicion points to Emily because of the findings.

Now Go on With the Story.

CHAPTER XXIV.

"Not intentionally, but she could have given her a push in anger. Emily wouldn't strike her, of course, but all her life, from a child, when angry, she would push out blindly at anyone who had roused her wrath. She had honestly tried to overcome this habit, but it may have overtaken her. Then, if Pauline was standing insecurely or too near the rail, she might have gone over from the impact, grabbing at Emily as she went. Hush—hear me out. If something like this did happen, Emily would go away and never return. I know her character and temperament better than you do, Rod, and I know, if she had done this thing, she would crawl away to die alone, rather than face us all."

"Dear Aunt Judy, I'm willing to grant this as a possibility, though I can't believe it at all."

"But what other theory, however vague, however far-fetched, can you suggest?"

"I've told you what I think——"

"Yes, but that was before you knew about the diamonds. Emily isn't going to run away to tease you, and then come back to the bridge for an interview with Pauline."

"Well, you're all wrong, anyway. Then, it comes back to the bandit who attacked the two girls, flung Pauline over, or she fell over, and made off with Emily, diamonds and all. Of course, the diamonds you tell of—six, was it?—are but a small portion of the whole. There are sixty-seven stones in the necklace."

"Is it very valuable, Rodney?"

"The best I could get. I didn't want great big stones of inferior degree, so I chose smaller ones that were perfect. Though none is less than a carat."

"The child shouldn't have worn it out in the dusk, alone."

"Of course, she shouldn't. But, she was Emily."

"Yes, she was Emily."

Aunt Judy sighed, as if they had agreed on some discovery of prime importance.

"Well, never mind all that," Sayre said, after a pause. "We must get busy now, deciding on our stand."

"What do you mean?"

"I'm not sure, myself, but I think I mean what they call a line of defense. You see, if the police feel about this as you think they do, they will soon be here, and want to search Emily's room and all that."

"Good gracious! What for?"

"Oh, they always do. Is there anything you want to put away beforehand?"

"Mercy, yes, crowds of things!"

"Such as what?"

"Oh, all her little personal matters. Souvenirs, letters, pictures, love notes, her diary, her locked boxes—oh, heaps of things."

"Heavens, Aunt Judy, you talk as if she were a movie queen!"

"Well, she has had lots of admirers, you know, Rod; and you know what young people are nowadays."

"I'm one myself, madam."

"Of course, you are, and so you know about this sort of thing. You've been through it all, but probably you destroyed more as you went along. Emily has saved everything, from the days she first went to school. She says she means to write her confessions some time."

"She can tell her confessions to me."

"Oh, she will. There isn't a breath of wrongdoing or wrong thinking in our Emily. She isn't the necking sort and she abhors petting parties."

"You know a lot, Aunt Judy," and Rodney laughed.

"I do know a lot. I learned it so I might be in Emily's confidence and take care of her properly. Well, never mind all that—only I want to you to understand that though you may be a Bostonian, though you may be the whole public library, you've nothing on Emily for purity and sweetness of soul——"

"Now, Aunty Judy, don't you think I know all that? Now, let's get down to brass tacks. What shall I do about my revered parents? After this morning, this whole business will be in the papers of course. Lord knows what the reporters will make of it! But we have to do the best we can. And I don't fancy my family on the spot. I've a Pilgrim father and a Plymouth Rock mother, and something tells me that for them there's no place like home."

"I think so too, Rod. Telegraph or telephone them not to come here until further notice. I'm going to hold everything in readiness until after the hour set for the wedding. Then—if Emily isn't here—we can make further plans. No guests will come, unless they know Emily is here, and they'll know it if she is. And if some should come, it would do no especial harm. I think the presents should be sent to the bank, at least the more valuable ones, but I don't care. There's a competent protection agency in charge."

Sayre looked at her in real admiration, for he knew her heart was breaking with agony of suspense, yet these details of household management must be attended to, and Aunt Judy was right on the job.

"You're a brick!" he declared, "a real gold brick. Now, come along to lunch; and look here, Aunt Judy, if you and I are on the forefront of the campaign or whatever it turns out to be, let's do our best to keep up the morale of the whole kit and boodle of 'em."

"Rod, you're a darling," and Aunt Judy threw her arms around his neck and kissed him soundly.

Luncheon, as it often was at Knollwood, was a continuous performance. Family and guests dropped in as and when they chose and Prall's efficiency and general oversight was never found wanting.

Aunt Judy sat in Emily's place at the head of the table, and Rod at the other end.

Abel Collins was there, and he and Gibby were in deep discussion.

The Swami had drifted in, as he acquired most of his meals in such fashion, and the Knollwood menus pleased him.

But afterward he and Nell had gone for a stroll, and Lamb and Betty were off somewhere.

"It seems to me," said Collins, "that about the emptiest phrase that falls from human lips is the one so frequently spoken to folks in trouble when really well-meaning friends say, 'Now, if there's anything in the world I can do, let me know, won't you?' It always makes me mad."

"It needn't," commented Aunt Judyq. "That line is all right, Abel. It's because they are willing enough, but they don't know what to do."

"Then they're fools. They ought to know what to do. Now, as a friend of this house, I'm making a few suggesions. Let's divide the business that most surely lies ahead of us. As a starter, suppose I take care of the police when they come. They're bound to come, or if they don't—then I get off easy. You, young Gibby, look after the reporters. They are a foxy lot, but you're foxier, and you have a cheerio manner about you that can swing the job, I'm sure. I think the two young ladies can see the callers who come, except those Mrs. Bell wants to see herself. And with her housekeeping cares, that's all Mrs. Bell need look after."

The kindly blue eyes beamed about, seeming to seek approval, which was readily granted.

"And me?" said Rodney.

"You're the general who sits on his horse in a gold-lace cap——"

"I'd love to see a horse in a gold-lace cap!" exclaimed Betty, coming in with Lamb just then.

They slipped into their chairs, and cast furtive glances at Sayre to see how he was getting on.

"I'm planning plans," Collins resumed, including the newcomers in his glance. "You see the search for Emily is being put through properly and thoroughly. It is in the hands of skilful organizers and helpers, and they will explore every foot of country for miles around for our girl."

The blue eyes looked troubled, but Abel Collins went on.

"Emily is my godchild, and I shall spare no effort to find her. I have no theories as to her going away. I have nothing to base theories on. So, I can only wait and hope. But there are minor matters that should occupy our attention. Here is one. The funeral service of Mrs. Pennington will be held tomorrow afternoon in Hilldale church. Already a lot of young friends of the Penningtons are arranging palms and flowers under the management of the funeral director——"

Betty stared, then suddenly choked with stifled laughter, and cried:

"You don't mean Spinks!!"

"Certainly I do, why not?"

But though the redoubtable Spinks was so familiar to Hilldale people as to seem standardized, to Betty he was still the cause for wildest hilarity.

But she restrained her mirth, and went on with her luncheon and Abel resumed his talk.

"What I'm getting at is this," he said. "I don't believe one of you has realized that flowers should be sent from this house, as they will be from nearly every home in Hilldale."

"My sakes!" cried Aunt Judy, "I should say so! You angel, Abel, to think of it! Why, Emily would never forgive me if I neglected a thing like that!"

Human habit is so strong with most of us that Aunt Judy noted no incongruity in her words, if indeed there was any.

"And I appoint you, Betty Bailey and Lamb Burton, or whatever his name is, to go and select proper flowers and have them duly sent to the church at the proper time."

"Yes, sir," said Betty, dutifully, not overjoyed at the prospect, but willing to do whatever she was asked.

And then the bomb fell.

Prall announced that Detective Lawlor had arrived and wished to see some representative of the family.

"I'll see him," and Abel Collins rose and quietly left the room.

The whole atmosphere changed. Emily's absence was hard enough to bear; the dreadful suspense, the blank wonder, the fearful imaginings.

But this was worse. This was a living horror, a black, fearsome serpent coiled, waiting to strike.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow)

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PRUNE INDUSTRY AIDS PLANNED AT EUGENE MEETING

Growers Favor Arbitration Board, Establishing of Standards, Methods of Advertising.

If plans evolved at the meeting of prune growers and packers held in Eugene Saturday are put into operation, a decided improvement in the industry may be expected, according to Arthur Marsh, president of the Douglas County Prune Growers Cooperative association, who was one of the several growers of the county present at the meeting. Plans were made for a board of arbitration to settle disputes between packers and growers, steps were taken to develop prune standards, factors to improve quality were considered and discussion was held regarding advertising methods.

Formation of a board of arbitration in each important prune growing district, serving to adjust disputes between packers and growers was recommended by a committee appointed by Howard S. Merriam, who presided at the meeting.

The committee, representing both phases of the prune industry recommended that a list of prune growers and prune packers be selected in each district. From this list one growers and one packer will be named by the secretary of the Dried Fruits association to act as mediators in any controversy arising between a packer and a grower regarding any fruit tendered for delivery. If these two representatives are unable to agree, they will be authorized to select a third party to settle the controversy.

As to Defective Quality

The proposed new dried fruit contract will contain a clause providing that where fruit tendered is of a defective quality the packer may accept with an allowance. If the parties are unable to agree on the amount, it shall be determined by the arbitration board.

This recommendation and two others offered by the special committee were endorsed by the assembled fruit men.

The second recommendation was that a packer-grower committee be appointed to meet with Prof. Ernest H. Wiegand of Oregon State college to consider and recommend to fruit growers the necessary steps to be taken by them to improve sanitation of drying plants and to improve the quality of Oregon prunes. This committee will determine, among other things, the extent to which the Wiegant flotation process for determining maturity of prunes shall be employed in the drying process.

Other Meetings Ahead

In that connection the committee further recommended that meetings of prune growers shall be called in each prune growing district to hear the explanation of the recommendations of the committee.

The third item brought in and approved was the strong recommendation of the committee for the elimination of lye in the prune drying process.

TODAY'S MARKETS

(Associated Press Leased Wire)

PORTLAND, June 10.—Butter and egg prices were unchanged today, with butter showing a firm undertone. Receipts of the latter have been lighter than heretofore.

Reviewing the fruit and vegetable situation, the Portland bureau of the U. S. department of agriculture says:

"Green peas are the feature of Portland's wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Outside demand for green peas is very active, and shippers are paying as high as 8 and 9c per lb. for all peas grading 8[illegible] percent No. 1, or better. The local market has been forced upward, accordingly. Shipments are leaving Portland by motor truck and in mixed cars, by freight.

"Apple dealers report slower demand, and jobbing prices are a shade lower. Dealers anticipate very limited additional receipts of Washington apples; present storage supplies probably being adequate for the remainder of the season.

"The market is oversupplied with Imperial valley cantaloupes, with about 30 carloads on track. Demand is fairly good, but the market is barely steady as a result of the over supply. Quality ranges from poor to very good.

"California's new potato market is firm, with slight price increases almost daily. Yakima shippers report loading of some 17 cars of old potatoes from that district, all of which had been previously stored in transit. This reduces Yakima storage holdings to 69-75 cars."

Quotations

Eggs: Prices to retailers: Fresh extras, 24c; standards, 23c; fresh mediums, 22c. Prices to wholesalers 2c under price to retailers.

Butter: Cubes: Extras, 33c; standards, 32c; prime firsts, 31c; firsts, 30c. Creamery prices: Prints, 2c over cube standards.

Milk: Raw milk (4 per cent) $2.30 @2.40 cwt., delivered Portland, less 1 per cent; grade B milk, $2.65. Butterfat, station, 28c; track, 30c; delivered in Portland, 31c.

Poultry: (Buying prices): Alive, heavy hens over 4½ lbs., 23c; medium hens, 3½ to 4½ lbs., 20c; light hens, 17c; broilers, 1½ to 2½ lbs., Leghorns, 17c; colored, 26@28c; Pekin ducks, 4 lbs. and over, 25@28c; old, 15@18c; colored ducks, 18@20c.

Country meats: (Buying prices)—Choice veal, 14@16c; pork, 14@15½c; choice lambs, 18@20c; mutton, 5@7c.

Flour: (City delivery prices) — Family patents, 49s, $7.00; whole wheat, 49s, $6.15; graham, 49s, $5.90; bakers' hard wheat, 98s, $6.20; bakers' bluestem patents, 98s, $6.50; pastry flour, 49s, $6.50.

Sugar (sacked basis): cane, fruit or berry, $4.70 per cwt. Beet sugar $4.55 cwt.

Onions: Steady, Oregon, $1.15@$1.75.

Potatoes: Gems, No. 1 grade, $2.75@3.00. Net potatoes: Florida, 4@4½c pound.

Wool: Eastern Oregon, 13@18c lb.; valley, 24c. Mohair, new clip: Kid hair, 35c per pound; staple 25c per lb.

Nuts: Steady; walnuts, Oregon, 25@30c; almonds, 21@23c; peanuts, 9½@10½c; pecans, 25@27c; filberts, 17@18c.

Hay: Wholesale buying prices, delivered Portland, eastern Oregon timothy, $22.50@23.50; Jo valley, $19.00@19.50; alfalfa, $16.00@20.00; clover, $16; oat hay, $16; straw, $7@8 ton; selling prices, $1 to $2 more.

Livestock

Cattle: Steers 1000-1300 lbs. $10.75@11.75, good $11.00@11.75, medium $10.00@11.00, common $8.50@10.00. Heifers, good $9.50@10.00, common to medium $7.50@9.50. Cows, good $8.50@9.00, common to medium $6.75@8.50. Two cutter to cutter $8.50@6.75. Bulls (yearlings excluded) 7.50@8.00, cutter to medium $6.00@7.50. Calves $7.50@9.00, cull to medium $5.00@7.50. Vealers, milk fed $10.00@10.50, medium $8.50@10.00, cull to common $6.00@8.50.

Hogs: Heavyweight $9.25@10.75, Medium weight $9.75@11.25. Light weight $11.00@11.25. Light lights $10.25@11.25. Packing sows, $8.00@9.00. Slaughter pigs $9.50@10.50. Feeder and stocker pigs $11.50@13.50. (Soft or oily hogs and roasting pigs excluded in above quotations.)

Sheep: (Quotations except on lambs on shorn basis). Lambs $8.00@9.00, medium $7.00@8.00, all weights common $6.00@7.00. Yearling wethers $5.75@6.50. Ewes $2.75@3.50, medium to choice $2.50@4.25, all weights, common $1.00@2.50.

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"I had suffered with indigestion for years, my circulation was poor, there were nearly always severe pains in the region of my gall

MRS. MAY E. RENLAND

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