

WHERE'S EMILY?

by Carolyn Wells

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

The implication that Emily would surely be found and the wedding surely take place was as balm to the soul of Rodney Sayre. "We hadn't quite decided that," he said. "We proposed to go abroad for a time and make our future plans at leisure."

"Then perhaps some day this house will be in the market," Stone said, smiling.

The library, like all the other rooms was simple in design, but of fine woods and well placed book cases. The ceiling was slightly vaulted, giving the room dignity, and there were well-arranged chairs and table for convenient and comfortable reading.

"I shall adopt this room while I'm here," Stone said, "but that does not mean exile for the rest of you. Come in and out as you choose. I'm not fussy in my habits, and no lover of solitude, except when necessary to my work, and then I'll retire to my own quarters."

"Do you tell what you're doing as you go along?" asked Pete. "In the story books, the detective is above all secretive."

"I must uphold the traditions," Stone said, with a slight twinkle in his deep gray eyes. "But, the truth is simple. If I learn anything that I feel free to tell you, I shall certainly do so. But if I discover any facts or get any hints that it seems to me unwise to pass on at once, I must keep them to myself for the time being."

"Fair enough," Rodney said, who was more than willing to leave the whole matter in the detective's hands. If he would only find Emily and bring her home, he was at liberty to keep his secrets to himself now and forever, in Rodney's mind.

"I should like," Stone went on, "to visit Miss Duane's rooms. This is in no sense a search, but I want to get any possible mental picture of her that I can. And nothing is so suggestive as the rooms where one lives when alone."

"The police searched her rooms," Pete began, but Stone interrupted him.

"As I said, I'm not searching. You must all understand that this is not like a mystery a detective is usually asked to solve. There is no known criminal, no witnesses, no clues, no corpus delicti, no evidence, so far, of any importance. It may be, Miss Duane went away on her own volition. I do not think so, but we have no real proof to the contrary."

"Do you connect the death of Mrs. Pennington in any way with the disappearance of Emily?" Pete asked. Since the detective was so obligingly talkative, Gibby determined to learn all he could of his opinions.

"Impossible to say, as yet," Stone told him. "There are three plausible explanations of Mrs. Pennington's death: accident, suicide and murder. It seems to me that in the course of inquiry some facts must turn up to make one of those three seem more true than the others. Until we know that, we can predicate little about the possible connection of the two tragedies. The finding of Miss Duane's fur and diamonds with Mrs. Pennington's body, may or may not imply that the two were together when Mrs. Pennington went over the rail of the bridge. That she did go over is the one solid fact we have to work on."

"From whom are you going to make inquiries?"

"That's where I want the help of you young people. I would like to question everybody in Hilldale, but as that is hardly possible, I'll take the most prominent or likely people. I thought if we visited a few houses this morning, and if Miss Bailey or Mr. Gibby, or both, accompanied me, I might get some information."

"Glad to go," Betty responded, quickly, "but don't think you'll get anything out of the Hilldale folks. They're the tightest-lipped people I ever saw. I don't know why, I'm sure, but they won't tell a thing, whether they know it or not."

"All the more reason for worming it out of them," said Stone. "Can we walk and take the nearby houses first?"

Betty and Pete set off in company with the detective, and Aunt Judy confessed to Rodney that she was a bit disappointed in Mr. Stone.

"I thought," she said, "that he would look over Emily's things, maybe her letters, and then announce where she is and how to get her back."

"You've been reading detective stories," Rodney told her, smiling at her dissatisfied expression.

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Here's a simple way to get rid of that corpulent and quickly feel in both body and mind the joy of living.

It's the safe way, too—for every day you continue this easy method of losing unwanted and unneeded flesh you'll gain in energy, vigor and endurance.

Nine times in ten obesity means inactivity—it means that your blood is starving for the six vital salts your internal organs need to keep you youthful, active, ambitious and keen in mind.

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Start taking Kruschen Salts—that's the commonsense way to reduce—but don't take them with the qualities in themselves.

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"They work like that in books but not in real life. But I have confidence in them, and I'm going to believe that he'll find our girl for us. You feel like that, Aunt Judy, and you'll be happier."

So Aunt Judy braced up, for Sayre's hopeful attitude was infectious, and she went about her household affairs with renewed belief in Mr. Fleming Stone.

The walking trio passed down the roadway and along the foot path till they came to the first bridge.

"This is the big ravine," Pete informed; it's much deeper and wider than the little ravine. Otherwise they're the same sort."

Stone went to the railing and looked over. It was a big gorge, nearly a hundred feet in depth, and lined entirely with trees, shrubs and tangled undergrowth.

"Very beautiful," Stone said, after a prolonged study. "But a bit dangerous, I should think, in spite of the strong railings."

"Yet they say Mrs. Pennington's was the first accident ever known in either of the ravines," Pete told him.

"Well, people are naturally careful, and the railings are certainly high enough. Also, there is so much underbrush, a person falling over could catch onto some branch or tree trunk, I should say."

They went on, and Stone inquired whose was the house they were passing.

"That's the Miller house," Betty told him. "They're abroad, and the place is all shut up. That's where the letter said to come to meet the kidnapper, you know."

"And a good trying place, too. The house is nearly hidden in the trees, and passers-by would not see the conspirators. Let's go in a bit."

They walked up the short path, for the Miller house was nearer the road than most, but Stone's interest soon gave out, and he turned back to the road.

"There's a street opposite," he mentioned.

"Yes," said Pete, "an apology for a street. The residents over here don't want any real streets to spoil their woody effect. But that little street is just to hold Wallace's, which is a necessary institution."

"Let's go and see it," Stone said, and they all crossed the road and went to Wallace's.

Able to get Mr. Wallace to themselves a moment, Stone went straight to the point.

"I'm looking into the mystery of the disappearance of Miss Duane," he said, "and that more or less includes the mystery of Mrs. Pennington's death. Can you give me a bit of information?"

"As to what point?" asked Wallace, with true Hilldale reticence.

"Just this. When Mr. Pennington was in here buying cigarettes that afternoon—about five-thirty, wasn't it?—was any other customer in the shop at the moment?"

"It wasn't five-thirty, it was just a few minutes after five, and there was no other customer in the shop at the moment."

"How do you know the time so accurately?"

"First, because some dozen or more people have asked me about it, and, second, because the postman was just cleaning out my letter-box, and he always comes at five."

"And the postman goes where, next?"

"On down the street, to the post office."

"Is this a branch post office?"

"Oh, no. I just have a letter-box for the convenience of the neighborhood. That's all this place is, just a convenience to the Ravine crowd."

Stone looked around and noted the high-class stock, comprising the Frenchest cosmetics, a large glass case of notheuse jewelry, and a well-stocked tobacco department.

There were also some trinkets, evidently meant for bridge prizes, some expensive stationery, and all the things that might provide for an emergency in the houses of the well-to-do residents of the Ravine district.

"I see," murmured Stone, "and I think more than ever I'd like to live here."

"Thinking of settling?" asked Wallace.

"I can recommend one or two fine sites."

"Not yet, not yet," Stone said, "and with an airy wave of his hand relegated the question to the indefinite future."

Then he bought some cigarettes and was ready to leave.

"Find out anything there?" asked

Pete, whose ebullient curiosity could not be kept down.

"The merest straw," Stone returned. "Dunno whether it will show which way the wind blows or not. Now, back to our trail."

They retraced their steps to the ravine road, and going on, came at once to the little ravine.

In this Stone was, naturally, greatly interested.

He leaned over the rail, a rail slightly lower than on the other bridge, and looked down into the chasm.

(To Be Continued Tomorrow)

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of C. W. McAllister, deceased, by order of the County Court of Douglas County, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, which is June 8, 1930.

C. W. McALLISTER.

Administrator of the estate of C. W. McAllister, deceased.

SUMMONS

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County.

Clara White and Dora White, Plaintiffs, vs.

William Sloan, The Oregon and California Railroad Co., a corporation, also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein. Defendants.

William Sloan and all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein.

In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled court and cause within four weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to do so, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded.

Complaint, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded. The complaint, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded.

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County, Oregon, has been fixed as the time and place for hearing objections, if any there be, to said final account, and for the settlement thereof.

Dated this 19th day of June, 1930. A. N. ORCUTT, Administrator.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of W. N. Sponaugle, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County, and the Hon. W. S. Hamilton, Judge of said court, has appointed Monday, the 4th day of August, 1930, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, in the county courtroom in the courthouse in Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections, if any, to said final account, and the settlement thereof.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to file their objections, if any, to said final account, or before the time appointed for hearing as aforesaid.

Dated this 19th day of June, 1930. W. N. Sponaugle, deceased.

Administrator of the estate of W. N. Sponaugle, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of J. G. Gilman, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County, and the Hon. W. S. Hamilton, Judge of said court, has appointed Monday, the 4th day of August, 1930, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, in the county courtroom in the courthouse in Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections, if any, to said final account, and the settlement thereof.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to file their objections, if any, to said final account, or before the time appointed for hearing as aforesaid.

Dated this 19th day of June, 1930. J. G. Gilman, deceased.

Administrator of the estate of J. G. Gilman, deceased.

SUMMONS

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County.

Plaintiffs, vs.

William Sloan, The Oregon and California Railroad Co., a corporation, also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein. Defendants.

William Sloan and all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein.

In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled court and cause within four weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to do so, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded.

Complaint, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded. The complaint, for want thereof, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded.

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NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Executrices of the above entitled estate, did on June 18th, 1930, file in the above entitled Court and cause their Final Account made and entered an order fixing Saturday, July 13th, 1930, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, as the time and place for hearing objections to said Final Account. Therefore, all persons interested in said estate are hereby notified and directed to file any and all objections in the above entitled Court and cause prior to said date and time, and all such objections, if any, will be heard and determined at said time and place. Dated and first published June 13, 1930.

FLANNICE M. STANTON and THELMA E. PERRY, Executrices.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of J. G. Gilman, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County, and the Hon. W. S. Hamilton, Judge of said court, has appointed Monday, the 4th day of August, 1930, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, in the county courtroom in the courthouse in Roseburg, Douglas County, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections, if any, to said final account, and the settlement thereof.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified to file their objections, if any, to said final account, or before the time appointed for hearing as aforesaid.

Dated this 19th day of June, 1930. J. G. Gilman, deceased.

Administrator of the estate of J. G. Gilman, deceased.

SUMMONS

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Douglas County.

Bert Wells, Plaintiff, vs.

Maurice Abraham and Madge Abraham, his wife, and all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein. Defendants.

In the name of the State of Oregon you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled court and cause within four weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons, and if you fail to do so, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded.

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