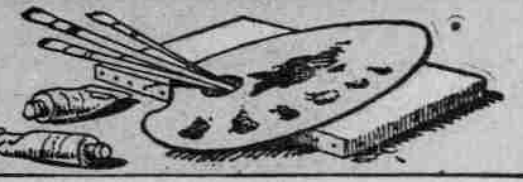


# LIFE SKETCHES

By W.E. Hill—An Artist Who Senses Spirit Of The Day



## The Mystery Play

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By The Chicago  
Tribune



"Oh, why DOESN'T she look behind her! Oh, that AWFUL man! And Jessie will clutch Harold and scream when the lights go out, and Harold will hold Jessie's hand tight and have a beautiful time."

The nervous young man who jumps at the sound of pistol shot.

The comedy relief. "Oh, gee, I got a pain in my eugenics—honest, I have!" When things get a little too tense the comedy maid or butler does some heavy relief work.



The detective "with" the big cigar, who sees right away that "some fiendish master mind is at work!"



The love scene. "Sometimes," admits Helen, the beautiful heroine of "The Man in the Suitcase," "I feel that some one is trying to frighten me!" Whereupon Gerald says it's all nonsense and not to worry, and that they'll stick it out together and see the thing through. The madman behind the couch is really a detective, as every one will see at the final curtain, when he says to the culprit, "You come with me." The old desk at the right has just swung forward, revealing a corpse in the recess behind, to the delight of all nervous ladies in the audience.



Silas Borrow, multimillionaire and skinflint, found dead in his library, found dead in his library. Strange penetrating odor throughout the room. Strange bluish light seen from without the window. All doors and windows barred. Crudely drawn skull on paper on table.

(LEFT) "I don't see how she knew the old uncle had put the dead body up the chimney—or wasn't she supposed to know that anyway?" People from the suburbs who have to leave just a few moments before the final curtain have no end of trouble figuring out the whys and wherefores.

Three jolly matinee girls trying to decide where to go. It's a tossup between "The Snarl in the Dark" and "The Creeping Thing" until Mrs. Mabel Roe remembers that her friend Mrs. Oleson told her that five women were hysterical after the second act of "The Creeping Thing." So "The Creeping Thing" it is, and, oh, what a splendid time they're going to have! You see in Act Second all the lights go out and a ghost chases the detective right down into the audience and screams and howls something awful.



The heroine. Some one is forever torturing her with questions. "Can't you SEE I know nothing whatsoever?" Whereupon she gives a gasp and faints.



The beautiful young hero, cut off in the will. Loves the heroine. Very much suspected of murdering the old man.



The scapegrace nephew. Quarreled violently with the old man and threatened his life time and time again. So very suspicious are his actions that the audience immediately decides he is innocent.



The cop, who comes in at the end with the handcuffs. "Officer, arrest that man!"



The old mother. Badly treated by Mr. Borrow, for whom she served as housekeeper. Given to sobbing and begging not to be made to tell what she knows.

### MYSTERY PLAY STANDBYS