THE KENNEL MURDER CASE

S. S. Van Dine

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CHAPTER I—Philo Vance, expert in solving crime mysteries, is called in to investigate the supposed suicide of Archer Coe, wealthy collector of Chinese ceramics. District Attorney Markham has learned the circumstances over the elephone from Gamble, Coe's butler. Getting no response when he had knocked on his employer's bedroom door, Gamble said he had looked through the keyhole said to said the had looked through the keyhole said he had looked through the keyhole said to said the had looked through the keyhole said he had looked through the keyhole said to said the had looked through the keyhole said to said the said to said the had looked through the to the butler in tow. CHAPTER I-Philo Vance, expert in

street shoes. Heath says it is a plain case of suicide. Vance says it is murder. CHAPTER II—Hilda Lake, Coe's niece, says Coe deserved death—that he collected ceramics through unfair means and incurred the enmity of Chinese; also that as her guardian he controlled her fortune and was parsimonious. Medical Examiner Doremus arrives and says suicide; then on being asked about ceetain mysterious features by Vance, he changes his mind. He declares Coe had been dead for hours when the bullet entered his head. It is found that Coe had been struck on the head and one of his ribs broken. Finally a small wound is found. The wound had bled internally. Vance, from a closet, brings out a coat and waistcoat, with holes coinciding with Coe's wound, showing Coe was fully dressed when he was stabbed. Gamble announces that there is something queer in the front hall.

CHAPTER III—They find a wounded Scotch terrier. Vance takes the dog to a veterinarian. Wrede, who has become engaged to Miss Lake against Coe's wishes, and Grassi, who has become engaged to Miss Lake against Coe's wishes, and Grassi, who has been coe's gueet, are briefly questioned. Vance says the Scottie should prove an important connecting link.

(Continued from last week)

"I have taken charge of the case," Markham told them. "We're handling it from headquarters but we'll."

"And there was no none but Mr. Archer Coe in the house at that the coinciding with the connecting link.

"Certainly. Sir—anything I know, sir." "Yest seen it before?"

"Yes, sir. I've seen it before?"

"Yesterday morning, sir, when I was straighterfing up the library. Mr. Coe had left a record book on the table, and when I put it away in the drawer, I saw the revolver."

Markham nodded, as is satisfied. "Who was in the house last night after dinner?"

"Yesterday morning, sir, when I was straighterfing up the library. Mr. Coe had left a record book on the table, and when I put it away in the drawer, I saw the revolver."

Markham nodded, as is satisfied. "Who was in the house last night for him

Dubois and Bellamy and the photographer had scarcely quitted the room when Commanding Officer Moran of the detective bureau, followed closely by Detectives Burke and Snitkin of the homicide bureau, came in.

Moran greeted us pleasantly and asked Markham several questions concerning the case. He seemed relieved to find Markham on the scene, and, at the district attorney's request, officially assigned Heath to the case. He left us almost immediately, manifestly glad

irke and Snitkin had come at Heath's specific request, and, after greeting the sergeant, stood by the mantelpiece awaiting orders.

Markham sat down at the desk, and made a peremptory gesture to the stood of the stoo

"Let's see what we can find out

from the people in the house, Ser-geant." He deferred to Vance. "What do you say to beginning with Gam-

Vance nodded.
"Quite. A bit of domestic gossip
to start with. And don't fail to pry

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to the movements and where-outs of brother Brisbane last

there was, however, another in-uption before the examinations k place. The front door bell g, and presently two men bear-a coffin-shaped basket entered room. They lited Coe's body in-t, and, without a word, carried regressing burden out.

to it, and, without a word, carried their gruesome burden out.

"And now let's have the windows open," ordered Markham. "And turn out those ghastly electric lights."

Snitkin and Burke leaped to obey him; he drew a deep breath and looked at his watch.

"Get Gamble up here, Sergeant," he said, leaning back in his chair. Heath sent one of the uniformed officers to the street with instructions to keep all strangers away from the house. The other he stationed in the hall outside of Coe's room. He ordered Burke to the lower hall to answer the front door. Then he disappeared down the stairs.

He then went through the same process of minute comparison with the catches on the other windows. When he was through he came to Heath.

"All the same—as far as I can see. Two of the lockplates are blurred, but they seem to match." "Yes, quite reasonable. . . Queer chap, Brisbane." Vance mused. "He's witch and the doorknob."

Dubois went to the switch and after springling the powder over it, blew upon it gently and studied it through his glass.

"Same here," he nodded. "I can't be sure, you understand. until get the photographic enlargements and compare 'em. But the prints look the same—the whorl type with a pronounced ridge dot and several distinctive bifurcations."

Heath smoked a while in silence. "Try that gun on the desk, wrap—

tion is in Chicago?"
"Not exactly, sir. But several times I have heard him discussing strate of some learned occiety. My impression is that he goes to Chicago to attend them."

"Yes, quite reasonable. . . Queer chap, Brisbane." Vance mused. "He's interested in all sorts of out-of-the-way subjects. . . So he made a sudden decision to migrate west after four o'clock yesterday, and devated before five. . . Most interestin'. . And now, Gamble, think carefully before you answer. Did you notice anything unusual in Mr. Brisbane Coe's manner last evening?"

The man gave a slight start. His gaze turned quickly to Vance, and he swallowed twice before answer-ing."

"The man gave a slight start. His gaze turned quickly to Vance, and he swallowed twice before answer-ing."

"I did, sir—so help me God. I

stinctive bifurcations."
Heath smoked a while in silence.
"Try that gun on the desk, wrapde in my handkerchief."
Dubois obeyed.
"Nothing here," he told the sereant after a few minutes. "The
rigger's incised and wouldn't take
a print. Looks to me as if it had
been wiped clean before the felbe seemed distracted and—and
fidgety. And he did a most peculiar
thing, sir, before he left the house:
—he shook hands with Mr. Archer.
I've never seen him shake hands
I've never seen him shake hands "It had." Vance spoke lethargiilly. "It's a waste of time to insect the gun. If there are any
arks on it, they're Coe's."

The sergeant stood glaring at ance. Finally he shrugged, and aved his hand in dismissal to Duarks, "Thanks, Cap. I guess that'll be l."

The shook hands with Mr. Archer. Lefore. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most ply, and Vance looked toward the monished severely. "Come. come, Gamble," he admonished severely. "What's on your monished severely. "What's on your monished severely. "What's on your monished severely. "Well, sir—it's really nothing; but when I went up to bed I nothe shook hands with Mr. Archer.

I've never seen him shake hands
with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer began him shake hands
with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And he said 'Good-by, brother.' And most with Mr. Archer before. And

This Week's Patterns



With white collar and jabot, this dress is available in sizes 36 to 52 bust. Size 44 calls for 5 1/4 yards of 39-inch fabric, plus 1/2 yard contrast and 1/2 yard to line collar.

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Dubois.

"Say, Cap; take the right thumbprint of the body on the bed, and see if you can check it with the prints on the window-catches and the light switch."

Dubois went to the bed. A few minutes later he returned with a piece of lardboard on which was an ink impression of Coe's thumb. "You had the right dope, Sergeant," he said. "It looks like the guy on the bed locked this window."

He then went through the same process of minute comparison with the catches on the other windows.

When I heard the cook sneak in." Vance's eyebrows went up.

"Sneak?"

"He always sneaks. sir. He's very sly and tricky and—and devious, sir.—"Probably his oriental upbring-ing." "Probably his oriental upbring-ing." remarked Vance casually. with a faint smile. "Tell me, is it usual for the servants to stay out late wednesdays?"

"About one a month, I should say, sir.—"I he always sneaks. sir. He's very sly and tricky and—and devious, sir.—"Probably his oriental upbring-ing." "Probably his oriental upbring-ing." "The butler went white. and his for the servants to stay out late went white. A looked down at him searchingly.

"He always sneaks. sir. He's very sly and tricky and—and devious, sir. "If we began to tremble. The went white. A looked down at him searchingly.

"He always sneaks. sir. He's very sly and tricky and—and devious, sir. "The butler went white. A looked down at him searchingly.

"He always sneaks. sir

Coe take a walking stick with him when he set out for Chicago?" "Yes, sir. He never goes anywhere without a stick. He's subject to f." His voice was steadier now. he Chinese cook.—" 'Ah, a Chineses cook, eh? How rheumatism—"
"So he's told me a score of times

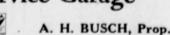
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casualty, liability,

"What's back of that remarks and the work of the Warkham demanded. "How do you know Brisbane Coe was here last Edy day day the work of the night?"
"Very simple: his ivory-headed

Bend

(By Mrs. O. H. Peterson)

Birthday Party

Little Miss Bonnie June Weller celebrated her second birthday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weller, March 2 Present were Mrs. H. L. Elsner and two children, Mrs. Ed Johnson and daughter Lucille, Mrs. Alvin North, grandmother of Bonnie June, Miss June North, Wesley North, Mr and Mrs. Andy Weller Jr. and children of Scholls, aunts, uncles and cousins of Bonnie June.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Henderson visited Mr. Henderson's brother John Henderson, and also with his cousin, John White, at Tualatin View March 1.

Mrs. Lucille Scott and son North Mrs. And Mrs. Henderson's brother John Henderson, and also with his cousin, John White, at Tualatin View March 1.

Mrs. Lucille Scott and son North Mrs. Are Belefit Scottal Hone school.

Mountain Home Ladies' Aid met with Mrs. W. E. Simpson. It was also a shower for Mrs. Elwin Lorenzen. Twenty-seven ladies were present. Next meeting will be held with Mrs. Saunders.

Mrs. J. Boger, Mrs. Charles Young of Sherwood. Mrs. H. P. Strickler and Mrs. Sheppard spent Tuesday quilting at the home of Mrs. S. S. Stearns, Mrs. William Edwards of Sherwood and Mrs. Joseph Stretcher of Scholls, quilted for Mrs. Stearns all-day Thursday. Fred Birkmier and son George of Misaukie visited Mr. and Mrs. Harold Aebischer Sunday afternoon.

John Henderson, and also with his cousin. John White, at Tualatin View March I.

Mrs. Lucille Scott and son Norman of Tualatin spent several days last week with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Meyer, and family. Mrs. Joe Borovicka and baby daughter Betty spent the past week visiting at Myrtle Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scott spent the past week in Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deverell visited Mr. Deverell's brother, Oscar Deverell, who is ill at the Good Samaritan hospital in Portland. and also at the home of Mrs. Olive Kercher and daughter Pearl in Portland last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Cross and son Gleorge of Milwaukie visited Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Werre and son Glen of near Hillsboro visited at the Werre homes Sunday.

Miss Jessie Hibschman of Portland and Elmer Peterson of Sioux City, Iowa, were guests Thursday of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Weber.

The family of Hancel Myers has moved into the old Edy home.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bagley, whose home was destroyed by fire last New Year's Eve, were in the district Thursday making arrangements for the construction of a new house. The Bagleys have been living in Portland the last two months,

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scott.

Birthday Celebrated

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Weber enter-

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Saturday evening honoring Mrs. Weber on her birthday anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Krebs and Fred Krebs of Six Corners visited the Walter Spath family Thursday night.

Evelyn Hesse and Armour Reynolds of Scholls, Mrs. Grace Jack and Gilbert Jack of Tigard were

est to God, I didn't! I would have told you if I had."

Vance shrugged and turned away. "Still, he was here last night."

"What's back of that remark?"

At Laurel R

at Laurel Ridge

LAUREL RIDGE—Mrs. W. C. Edy was hostess at dinner Sunday in honor of the birthday and niversaries of Mr. Edy and his nephew, Scott Haynes. Present were Messrs, and Mesdames H. P. Stickler home Sunday evening. A small deputation from Pacific college at Newberg presented a play, "The Churchless World," at the Mountain Home church Sunday evening to a large audience.

Haynes, Helen Asbahr, and Scott Haynes and Donald Edy.

Several people in the district of the several people in the several people in the district of the several people in the several peop

Mrs. Alvin Maly and baby daugher Betty Jean returned to their ome March 3 after spending seval weeks with Mrs. Maly's parants, Mr. and Mrs. Herd. near armington.

Mr. and Mrs. VanJessell and Mrs. VanJessell and Mrs. Depole in the district have been suffering from attacks of the grippe. Richard Strickler, and Mrs. D. Werre. Anna Myers and George Rogers were forced to remain out of school. Farmington.

Mr. and Mrs. VanJessell and children from near Troutdale visited Monday with Mrs. VanJessell's aunt. Mrs. O. J. Tollefson, and family, where their little daughter Elaine is spending several weeks.

Birthday Party

forced to remain out of school.

The young married people's class of Mountain Home Sunday school met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Aebischer Friday night. The meeting was changed from March 15, as announced, because of the benefit social to be held at Mountain Home school.

Mountain Home Ladies' Aid met

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Weber enter-tained a party of friends at an oyster supper Saturday evening oyster supper Saturday evening honoring Mrs. Weber on her birth-

guests at the John Strickler home If you change your address kind-sunday.



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