

THE KENNEL MURDER CASE

By S. S. Van Dine

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(Continued from last week)

After Grassi, accompanied by Doctor Lobson, had departed, Vance closed the library doors and walked to the large center table.

"There it is, Markham, old dear," he said with a grim smile, pointing to the Chinese dagger before him.

The dagger lay on the library table in almost exactly the same spot where we had left it the afternoon before.

"Probably," replied Vance, "for the same reason that the person who stabbed Archer and Brisbane Coe put the dagger in the vase in this same room.

"Why leap at conclusions?" sighed Vance. "There are so many other things to be ascertained before we can reach any intelligent conclusion."

"For instance?"

"Vance arranged himself comfortably in a large chair.

"Well," he said, inhaling deeply on his cigarette. "I could endure to hear the various persons inside and outside the house chant their runes as to what they know of tonight's happenings.

"Oh, no end," Vance sauntered back and perched himself on a high stool.

"Restful—eh, what? Astonishing! And yet, Mr. Liang, while you were engaged in your literary labors, Signor Grassi was stabbed."

"There was no change of expression on the Chinaman's face as he answered: 'That is most unfortunate.'"

"Yes, yes, quite," Vance's tone was slightly irritable. "But did you, by any chance, hear anyone or see anyone enter the rear door this evening?"

"Liang shook his head slightly in a slow and indifferent negative.

"No," he said. "No one, to my knowledge, entered by the rear door."

"Perhaps the front door?"

"Many thanks for the suggestion," Vance interrupted with a shrug, "but there's been some one guarding it."

"Ah!" The Chinaman moved his eyes a little until they rested on a point somewhere above Vance's head.

"Perhaps the den window?"

"An excellent suggestion! Our gratitude, and all that, Mr. Liang," Vance murmured. "I'll have a look at the window."

"Still, Sergeant," Vance returned, "it was kind of Mr. Liang to suggest the den window. Why not take a peep at it?"

Heath hesitated, squinted, and then went swiftly across the hall into the drawing room.

"There's something d-n queer about this," he announced. "Maybe the Chink was right, after all. The den window was open—and the sofa that was in front of it was pulled out at a cockeyed angle."

"I told you, Sergeant," he insisted, "that I've been sitting on those steps since seven o'clock tonight and nothing or nobody, so much as a cockroach, has passed me, go in or come in."

"That's enough, Sergeant," said Vance mildly. "I think Sullivan is telling the truth. I have a feeling that no one came in the front door tonight."

"Sullivan was sent back to the front steps and Heath went into the hall."

"I'll find out about Burke in Coe's room," he offered.

"A moment later he appeared with Detective Burke in tow.

"Tell Mr. Markham and Mr. Vance," he ordered gruffly, "what you've been doing all night."

Plan Benefit Mountaindale

Nicolai Mathiesen Injured on a Fishing Trip

(By Miss Margaret Mathiesen) MOUNTAINDALE—A benefit party and dance will be given at the Mountaindale community hall Saturday evening.

"I think I'll take a look at the rear of the house. Would you care to stagger along?"

"The sergeant nodded sagely. 'You think the guy that stabbed the Italian got in the back way, do you, Mr. Vance?'"

"I have come to the conclusion, Sergeant," Vance returned sadly, as he went toward the door leading into the dining room.

"We followed him toward the kitchen. As he opened the door leading into the butler's pantry, I was surprised to see a rectangular line of light around the kitchen door.

"Vance halted momentarily. 'I wonder,' he murmured, as if to himself. And then: 'No, no, Grassi wouldn't have dared come near the rear of the house—he's in a blue funk.'"

"He proceeded across the pantry and pushed open the swinging door into the kitchen.

"Under the central light, seated at a large table of white pine, was Liang, fully dressed, and with a green eyeshade pulled down to the bridge of his nose.

"Vance entered the room and faced us, removing his eyeshade, smiled pleasantly and made a stiff bow.

"Good evening, Mr. Liang," Vance greeted him amiably. "You're working rather late."

"I had many things to do tonight—my work had accumulated. My monthly report to the Ta Tao Huet is overdue. I trust I have not discommoded the household."

"You have been working all night—here in the kitchen?" Vance asked, going to the porch door and trying it. (It was locked.)

"Since eight o'clock," the Chinaman returned. "May I be of any service to you?"

"Oh, no end," Vance sauntered back and perched himself on a high stool.

"Have you been aware of anything unusual in the house tonight, Mr. Liang?"

The man looked mildly surprised. "Quite the contrary. It seemed very peaceful after the excitement today."

"Restful—eh, what? Astonishing! And yet, Mr. Liang, while you were engaged in your literary labors, Signor Grassi was stabbed."

"There was no change of expression on the Chinaman's face as he answered: 'That is most unfortunate.'"

"Yes, yes, quite," Vance's tone was slightly irritable. "But did you, by any chance, hear anyone or see anyone enter the rear door this evening?"

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Rich's to practice playing and marching

They plan to play at Hillsboro during the "Happy Days" celebration.

Marjorie Russell spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith.

Samuel Olds is ill at his home with pneumonia.

Ray Stoffer, who was ill at St. Vincent's hospital, came home last Wednesday.

Edward Smith sprained his back while working on the road last week.

Mrs. Scruggs Honored Mrs. Hubert Scruggs was given a surprise birthday dinner at her home last Sunday by a group of relatives.

Mrs. Bertha Morton of Corvallis, who had been visiting a few days with Mrs. Arthur Wiseman, left last Wednesday to attend the fair at San Diego, Cal.

Louisa Smith spent last week with her grandmother, Mrs. Greig of Parkrose.

Earl Genzer Has Large Yield of Strawberries

Earl Genzer of Buxton reports a record yield of Oregon strawberries this season.

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On the fourth picking alone, he got 1950 pounds.

Hillsboro Argus contains all the news of Hillsboro and the surrounding communities.

Read it and keep informed on what is happening at home.

Kinton Plans School Work

Pomeroy Appointed Leader of Church Classes

(By Mrs. E. L. Cox) KINTON—School board directors met at the school house last Wednesday evening to make plans for building improvements in the near future.

Preaching service by the pastor, Rev. Virgil Speece, Sunday, 9:45 a. m.; to be followed by Bible school. Everybody invited to be present.

Between the berry and cherry harvesting and haying operations, also potato planting, these are pretty busy times for the men, while the housewives are kept busy in the house doing the canning of the various crops.

Melvyn Vandermost has built a new fence around his place on Pleasant Valley road.

First quarterly conference of the Episcopal churches in this district was held Monday evening at the church at Mountain Home.

Kinton Ladies' Aid society met Thursday afternoon at the home of the vice-president, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, with a good attendance.

Next meeting, August 1, will be with Mrs. Josephine Cox.

Mrs. Aten Hostess Mrs. Gladys Aten entertained her

Handy Bros started picking berries on their farm

Handy Bros started picking berries on their farm this week. Red raspberries will be short due to frost and lack of moisture.

C. W. Struthers had three goats killed the past week by dogs.

A business meeting of the church will be held the last Tuesday evening of each month, followed by a prayer meeting, which will be held at the different homes in the community.

Benefit Social July 26 The Ladies' Aid will sponsor a home-made ice cream social at the church on the evening of July 26.

The proceeds are to be devoted to the expenses of the church and general up-keep, preacher's salary, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Cox went to Portland Sunday, attending services at Hinson Memorial church. They were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander of Sellwood.

Hiteon (By Mrs. Zell G. Struthers) Mr. and Mrs. Lester Robinson, Mrs. A. C. Robinson, the Misses Ruth Fulgham and Elizabeth Struthers and Harold Fulgham of Portland visited Monday evening at the Struthers home.

Messrs. Doyle and Morris Ferris were home for the week-end from the CCC camp.

Rebekah club members entertained their husbands and families

Argus classified ads get results. YOUNG'S Funeral Home "Thoughtful, Sympathetic Service" Phone 972 Hillsboro. Beauty Speaks for Itself... Some Brakes Do! Why Not a PLYMOUTH for your next car with Lockhead Hydraulic Brakes and an All Steel Body? CADY MOTOR CO. 149 S. Third Ave. Oregon Hillsboro

THOUSANDS WANT TO BUY. IVE STOCK AND PETS. REAL ESTATE FOR SALE. WANTED—Rooms or Board. THOUSANDS WANT TO BUY. EMPLOYE OPPORTUNITIES. THINGS YOU WANT TO SELL. Turn things you no longer want into ready cash, or exchange them for things you do want—and need. It is equally true that many people want to sell things you would be interested in buying. Even when you don't have occasion to place an ad in our Classified Columns—read them weekly—it's a habit that pays! Hillsboro Argus "The Great Market Place of Washington County"

SCHOLLS TILE CO. YARD. Our materials are as good as the best and prices as low as the lowest. Plant at Scholls, Oregon. Our Motto—"Friendly Service . . . Fair Prices" Hillsboro

Funeral Services Tuesday for Youth Clell Wilkison, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wilkison of North Plains, died Sunday afternoon after an illness of more than four months. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Donelson and Sewell chapel and interment was in Tualatin Plains Presbyterian church cemetery.

HE THAT TOOTETH Not his own horn the same shall not be tooted.—That's an old one, but true—On account of our many years in actual construction of both Masonry and Concrete work of all kinds. We believe we can save you many dollars by bringing your problems to us.

SYSTEMATIC GREASING. BUSCH'S ONE-STOP SUPER SERVICE. Features a thorough, painstaking job of greasing your car. We guarantee our work. Busch's Service Garage 126 S. Third Ave. Busch's Super Service Station Corner Third and Baseline Phone 501 A. H. Busch, Prop.

TO BE CAUGHT UP. Right on through good times and depression, you married men never quit, you still go on planning and working and giving yourself to the big job of making the girl of the honeymoon days the happy wife of your fireside.