

# Roberta Kisses It

Chapter Fifty-Five

Nothing more happened; the men did not return. He waited half an hour and then reconnoitered cautiously down the lane. Discovering no ambush and no pickets, he went on to the tavern. Hoping to learn whether anyone knew "what about that." Here he heard news that took his breath away and led him to betray himself.

The detectives had been recalled by their superior at Jaffray, the Scott girl had been found.

"Found!" Piggy ejaculated. "Where?"

"Dunno," said his informant. "I suppose it'll all come out in the papers. All I know is that they've found her."

"Well, it's about time!" the chauffeur commended, struggling back with difficulty into the character of Peter Brown. "Worryin' the life out of a poor little widow lady that never did anybody no harm! Maybe we can get away from this damn place now without a string o' sleuths trailin' us. I'll go tell Mrs. Smith."

With that he fled, more at a loss than ever, if that were possible. Obviously something had happened—but what? Had Roberta confessed to Nixon? Would they come quietly to take Celia away? How had they placated Scott and induced him to withdraw the detectives? Or had they? Had Roberta convinced some distant sentinel that she herself was Celia? Was this a ruse on her part to enable them to escape unwatched? What was expected of him in this emergency? Should he seize the moment to shake the dust of Fitzwilliam from his speeding tires, telling Celia that her sister would meet them in New York? Or should he wait here for further developments?

When Celia heard the news she executed an astounding volte-face, presenting on the instant a jubilant countenance wreathed in smiles. But she still refused to consider immediate departure. She said Roberta had done something to get the detectives away and now she could come back herself. They would wait for Roberta.

Piggy then called a mass-meeting, pointing out to the two women that conceivably something had been left to their united intelligence and that opportunity was notoriously averse to knocking twice at any door. They were still in conference, Janet, wearied of emotional upheaval, inclining toward flight while flight was possible, when they were interrupted by an audible and physical knocking at their material door.

"There she is!" Celia cried, hobbling to the head of the stairs as Janet scurried down. "That's Roberta now."

But it was only the messenger from the tavern again, this time with a telegram from Mrs. Horatio Smith, relayed by telephone from Keene, where it had been received, Fitzwilliam having no telegraph office. Piggy read it aloud.

"Meet me Springfield tonight without fail. Important business. BOB."

"Springfield! That's a bo'ut a hundred miles. We can make it!" Celia exclaimed. "Oh, hurry, Peter! Hurry!"

Piggy stood staring at the slip of paper. "It was sent from Boston this afternoon. She could not do anything about this in Boston. It may be a trick."

It was a trick and he had yet to learn that there are more devices in heaven and earth than even his elastic ingenuity had encompassed.

Half an hour later the touring car of Mrs. Horatio Smith rolled out of Fitzwilliam for the last time pausing only at the tavern to leave the key of the relinquished house and receive the proprietor's regrets that circumstances had rendered the widow's short stay so unpleasant. He said afterward to all and sundry that the poor thing seemed too broken up to talk very much, and that evidently the affair had made her very ill. Even her voice was changed.

Mrs. Smith sat alone in the tonneau, concealing radiant smiles behind her heavy crepe veil. Janet, erect and austere, respectable, was beside Peter Brown, and neither of them had difficulty in maintaining a suitable gravity. The old Scotswoman's heart was heavy for her lad, bereft of his patrimony and his father's love. She blamed herself harshly for affixing him in the madness that had brought this to pass.

Piggy's one point of relief lay in Celia's apparent safety, though even that seemed doubtful. He held a dark suspicion that they had been tolled away to enable Scott to make his capture without publicity. Only the fact that the telegram had been signed "Bob" had persuaded him that Roberta could have had any part in sending it.

He didn't see how anybody else could know his name for her.

His name—and at that the waters of March surged over and through him, his inmost being partaking of their bitterness. He had lost everything for Bob, and she had gone to Nixon—Nixon, whom she had intended from the first to marry, to whom her loyal heart was pledged. He had never had even a chance; not the slightest right to love her, even if in his lunacy he had not forever estranged her. Dad was right. He

was a fool and a failure. Celia's buoyancy, evidenced by giggles and ejaculations from the back seat, had no power to lift him. He was held to rock bottom, and from that depth he drove the hundred miles to Springfield, automatically observing the rules of the road, to stop in due time before the door of the city's principal hotel.

A heavily built, elderly man, with a large nose and a short gray mustache, who had been standing for two hours in the doorway, anxiously watching arrivals, sprang forward and caught Mrs. Smith's chauffeur by the shoulders before the preoccupied young person could open the door of the tonneau.

"Son! Boy!"

"Dad!"

Their hands met in a tight grip and the eyes of both were wet. Piggy spoke first, gaspingly.

"Why—why, dad?"

"Steady, Boy," said his father. "Hello, Janet! There's a room engaged for you." Turning to the amazed Celia, he added: "Your sister's waiting for you up stairs. Son, run your car down there and leave it. Hurry up! Get a move on!"

Dazed, Piggy obeyed, his parent keeping alongside as if afraid to let him get out of reach. The women were left to the ministrations of a bell-boy.

When he had parked the car, Piggy stepped out and stood still, looking at the other.

"What—how on earth—"

"Boy, I've been an infernal old fool, and it took that little spitfire to make me see it. Are you—will you—" Voice failing, he held out his hand and again his son gripped it.

"Sure. That—that's all right, dad. But I don't—How do you come—"

"Tell you all about that upstairs. Long story. Bring your bag up to my room and get out of that damned livery."

For once in his life Percival Galahad was too bewildered to act. Brazenose grasped his arm, steering him through the doorway into the hotel office, where he recovered sufficient presence of mind to identify his bags. Silently, side by side, they stood in the elevator, the father's hand resting on the shoulders of his only son, who had been lost and was found again. In silence they walked down the hall to a door, which the elder unlocked and threw open.

Piggy closed it and backed up against it, feeling curiously shaky.

"Dad, for Heaven's sake—"

"Sit down, Boy. You look tired. Want a drink?"

Boy nodded, and his father produced a flask, from which he poured two generous portions.

"Here's to our get-better acquaintance," he proposed, with an attempted facetiousness interrupted by a choke purely emotional in its source.

"Now tell me," said Piggy, setting down his glass.

"It was all that little whippet of a girl—Roberta Scott. She humped me up in Boston."

"How'd she get there?"

"Sneaked out of the house in the dark and across lots to some back road. Flipped a train. It takes more than a couple of detectives to hold that young woman."

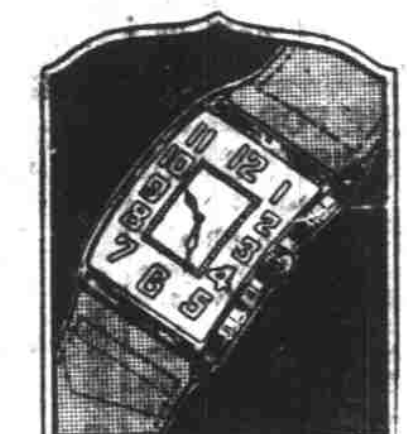
Piggy nodded. "All right. Go on."

"Well, she found me. And then she told me in words of one syllable where to 'get off and—well—I got off there. That's all."

(To be continued.)

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# BURNETT'S Annual Sale of WATCHES



**Men's Strap Watches**  
Reduced to \$19.50

Gold-filled cases in the best looking styles we have ever had to offer. And 15-jeweled guaranteed movements. They will do all that the forty dollar watches will do and are guaranteed in the same way. One to a buyer at \$19.50, and on the Budget Plan.

Take one for a dollar bill—Pay for it a dollar a week



**Elgin Strap Watch**  
Reduced to \$26.65

With the famous Elgin guaranteed movement. These are the models beloved by golfers and sportsmen generally. Hard to get, so great is the demand. Offered in this sale at the lowest price we have ever named—Twenty-Six Sixty-Five! And best of all

Take one for a dollar bill—Pay for it a dollar a week



**Waltham "Premier" Extra Special \$32.50**

This is the finest timekeeper the great Waltham Watch Works has ever produced. A 17-jeweled movement with adjustments that make its performance almost unchangeable. Gold-filled cases. Featured at Thirty-Two Fifty and sold on the Burnett Budget Plan.

Take one for a dollar bill—Pay for it a dollar a week

**Facts in a "Nutshell"**

All the famous watches of the world are included in this annual sale.

All are sold with the famous Burnett "Money-back" guarantee.

Excepting for a few "contract" lines, all are offered at savings ranging from 10 to 50 per cent.

All are sold on the Burnett Budget Plan.

Take any watch in the show for a payment of a dollar. Pay the balance as you are paid. A dollar a week will do. There are no extras of any kind, and whether you pay cash or pay on the Burnett Budget Plan, the price is the same.

The sale starts tomorrow—the best and biggest we ever planned!

**Any Railroad Watch For a Dollar Down**

Hamilton at \$60—Bunn Special at \$60—Elgin at \$55—any one at the cash price but on the Burnett Budget Plan.

Note: Due to existing contracts—and because we have no desire to injure small jewelers—the Railroad watches are NOT reduced.

**Pay for Any One a Dollar a Week Nothing Extra to Pay**

**Illinois Strap Watch Reduced to \$39.95**

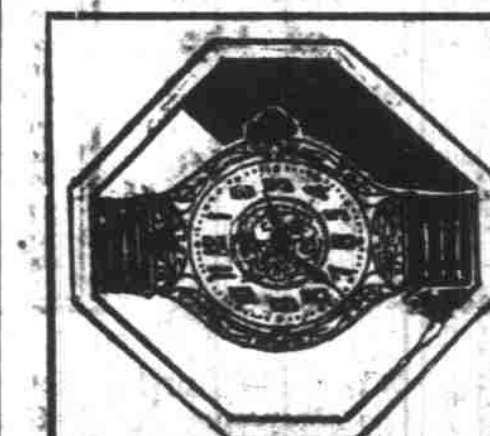
A splendid watch with a seventeen jeweled movement—a genuine prize even at the full price. Think of it—seventeen jewels! Featured at \$39.95 and sold on the Burnett Budget Plan.

**Take One for a Dollar Bill Pay for It—a Dollar a Week**

**Benrus Strap Watches Sale Price \$26.65**

Choice of a number of smart models in these two nationally known and nationally respected lines. All have fifteen jewels and all are guaranteed. Choice at \$26.65. Cash or Budget Plan.

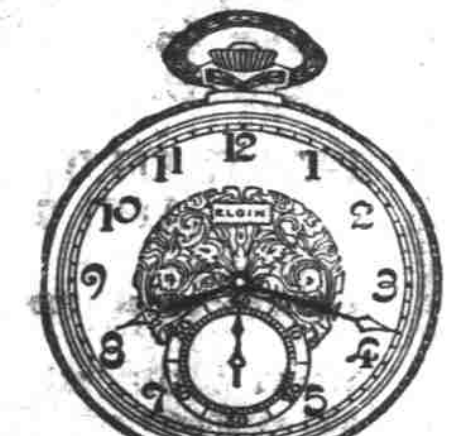
**Take One for a Dollar Bill Pay for It—a Dollar a Week**



**Ladies' Bracelet Watch**  
Reduced to \$12.45

One of the styles sketched is shown in the picture. A white gold filled case with a fifteen jeweled guaranteed movement—Offered in the Annual Sale at \$12.45 and sold on the Budget Plan at the sale price

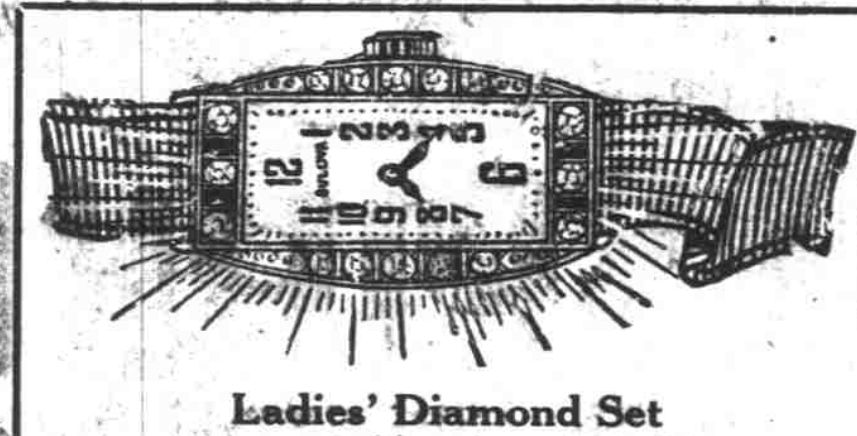
Take one for a dollar bill Pay for it a dollar a week



**Elgin Watch**  
Reduced to \$17.55

The best looking and the best time-keeping watch we have ever met with for so small a price. Choice of either white or green gold-filled cases at this sale price, \$17.55.

Take one for a dollar Pay a dollar a week



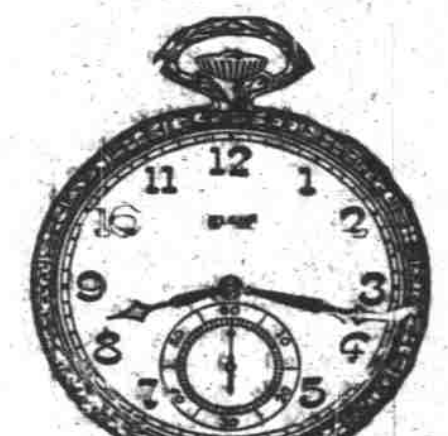
**Ladies' Diamond Set**  
Bracelet Watches \$48.50

All are set with diamonds and sapphires—all are of solid white gold and all have 15-jeweled movements. These will be in the sale tomorrow.

One Was \$100 One Was \$93.50  
One Was \$98.50 One Was \$75  
One Was \$67.50

Choice of the six is offered at Forty-eight Fifty and on the Burnett Budget Plan—take any one for a dollar bill—

**Pay a Dollar a Week**



**Elgin Watch**  
Reduced to \$23.85

The famous Elgin watch in a gold-filled case and with a fifteen-jewel movement—offered at the lowest sale price we can ever remember and on the Budget Plan at that!

Take one for a dollar bill Pay for it a dollar a week



**Ladies' Bracelet Watches**  
Reduced to \$26.65

In the smart style shown in the sketch—a rectangular model 14-karat white gold-filled case with a 15-jeweled guaranteed movement. In the Annual Sale at \$26.65 and sold on the Budget Plan besides.

Take One for a Dollar Bill—Pay for it a Dollar a Week



**Illinois Watches**  
Reduced to \$37.95

One of the world's finest timekeepers—guaranteed. If it fails—bring it back and get another instantly and without a whimper! Gold filled cases in new and handsome styles—small and exquisite. Seventeen jewels. Sale price \$37.95—best of all you may—

**Take One for a Dollar Bill Pay for It—A Dollar a Week**



**Men's Pocket Knives**  
on Sale at 95c

Gold-filled Pocket Knives, made to sell for \$2 to \$3. Fifty in the sale, starting tomorrow at Ninety-Five Cents apiece.

Note—We reserve the right to limit the number sold to any one person.



**Illinois Watches**  
Reduced to \$44.66

Here is a heavy duty watch—sixteen size. The movement has twenty-one jewels—and is guaranteed without qualification. The cases are extra heavy and are gold filled. Sale price, \$44.65. Cash or Budget plan the price is the same.

**Take One for a Dollar Pay for It—A Dollar a Week**

**LISTEN IN**

**SUNDAY MORNING**  
10:55-12:00—KGW (491), Church services.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**  
12:00-1:00—KGW, Orchestra.  
12:30-1:30—KTBR (283), Pipe organ concert.  
2:00-3:00—KXK (400), Music.  
3:00-5:00—KEX (447), Concert orchestra.  
3:00-4:00—KTBR, Orchestra.  
4:00-5:00—KXK, Instrumental trio and vocalists.  
4:00-6:00—KGW, Orchestra.  
5:00-6:00—KEX, Church services.

**SUNDAY EVENING**  
6:00-7:00—KXK (419), Organ concert.  
6:00-8:00—KFWV (212), Orchestra.  
6:00-8:00—KXK, Orchestra, from KQ40, Seattle.  
6:30-8:30—KEX, Dinner music.  
7:00-8:00—KTBR, Orchestra.  
7:30-8:00—KGW, Church services.  
7:50-9:00—KXK, Church services.  
8:00-9:00—KTBR, Orchestra, light opera and popular music.  
8:30-9:00—KEX, Studio program and time signals.  
9:00-11:00—KFWV, Studio program.  
9:00-10:00—KXK, Orchestra.  
9:00-10:00—KEX, Studio program.  
10:30-12:00—KEX, Frolic.

**OUTSIDE STATIONS**  
KGO—Oakland (361), 6:30, 7:30, 7:55.  
KPSG—Los Angeles (275), 6:30, 8, 10.  
KPKZ—Hollywood (224), 8, 9.  
KPF—Los Angeles (487), 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.  
KMTB—Hollywood (370), 6, 6:30, 8, 8:30.  
KNX—Hollywood (387), 8:30, 7, 8, 9.  
KOA—San Francisco (428), 6, 6:30, 6:55, 7:25, 10.  
KOA—Denver (322), 5:30, 6:45.  
KHQ—Spokane (394), 6, 7:30, 9.  
KNIC—Santa Monica (328), 6:15, 7, 8, 9.  
KTAB—Oakland (305), 7:45.  
KPNB—Los Angeles (232), 6, 6:30, 6:55, 7, 7:45, 9.  
KIL—Los Angeles (405), 7, 8.  
KFWV—San Diego (211), 6, 6:30, 8.  
KFWV—Oakland (324), 7:30.  
KQBF—Los Angeles (517), 7:15, 9, 10.  
KTLJ—Los Angeles (234), 6, 7:15.  
KYA—San Francisco (400), 6, 7:30.  
KFWI—San Francisco (350), 6:30, 7:30.

KFPC—Pasadena (232), 7:30.  
KPSD—San Diego (245), 6:15, 6:30, 7, 8, 9.  
KXK—Seattle (394), 8, 8:15, 7:45, 9.  
KFWB—Hollywood (252), 9.

**MONDAY MORNING**  
7:15-7:30—KGW, (491), Setting up exercises.  
10:00-11:30—KGW, Town Crier, music, broadcast later.

Bates, The Eye Man—Glasses That Fit—Easy Terms

# Burnett Bros.

457 STATE STREET