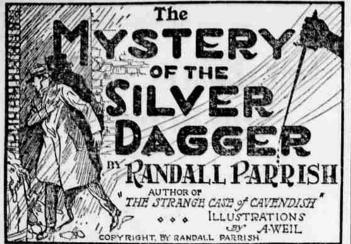
## THE BEND BULLETIN, DAILY EDITION, BEND, OREGON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1922.



The grin on Hairis' face muddened me. "Well," I said coldly, "It was a stall, was it? What is the idea?" He laughed, without changing his

attitude. "This happens to be our turn to play, Daly," he returned, apparently well satisfied with his smariness.

"Then you have nothing to tell me?"

"Oh, yes, I have; I've got a h-1 of a lot to tell you. But first of all you are going to tell me a few things. Push back your right sleeve to the elbow, shirt and all.'

"What's that for." "Never you mind what it's for; you

do what I say, if you know what is best for yourself."

I looked at the faces of the others, but they were hard as flint. My hesi-tancy caused Harris to lower his feet, and sit up angrily.

"Push up that sleeve, you, or I'll have Waldron do it for you. We've got you foul, you fool?"

I stripped back my sleeve, exposing my right forearm, yet never remov-Ing my eyes from their faces. Harris and Costigan bent forward, intent on the operation, but Waldron never shifted his position. Harris slapped a hand on the desk, and gave utterance to an oath.

"By G-d, Dan, we're right. This bird's not Daly !" "Not in a thousand years he ain't, He's sure a dead-ringer, though."

Harris straightened up, the same hateful grin still exposing his teeth.

"We've got your number this time, son," he announced. "Harry Daly has a tattooed anchor on his right arm. I didn't know it, but Dan did. Fil tell you what made us wise. In the shin-dig over at Perond's tonight, a cardcase was jarred loose from your pocket. There was only one kind of card inside, and that wasn't Daly by a d-n sight. I told Dan about it, and he was for getting a squint at that right arm. Said for me to call you up at the number you gave me, believing that if I threw in 'con' enough you'd come over here. Insked for 'G 145.' the operator there named yer, and it was the same name what was on them cards. So now we know yer're a dirty liar and spy, Mister Philip Severn."

"You called me Daly yourself, Har-rls," I said quietly, realizing the game was up, but not yet sure of their in-tentions. "I merely let it go," "Sure: but what was the game? You

ain't no fly-cop?" "Nothing of the kind."

"Then you was after the dough, That's what I thought: you and the girl are in caboots. Well, what did you do with it?" I shook my head, but this only an-

gered Costigan.

"Ah, stow that," he broke in rough-"we know you never got it, but she did. There ain't no other way it could have been done. The dame left with Alva. George here saw her go out with him. Then the next morning the guy was found dead, his pockets rifled, and the bag of cash gone. How was he cronked-do you know? Punctured from behind with some sorter sharp instrument, no bigger than a hat-pin. It looked like a womthe discovery. "You slashed open my vallse, and found it." "Exactly; that's what I did," evi-dently proud of himself, "It was an

"It was an easy enough trick. Just as soon as I got eyes on this pretty plaything I knew I'd got the sticker that put Alva out of business-an' I knew where it couse from." "Where?"

"Oh, h-11 do you think I min't got any eyes? That skirt wore it in her when she aud Alva went out to gether."

"Oh, did she? This same pin, was it? Say, Harris, I wish I could be as bright as you think you are. And did you happen to observe also that the iady's but was held in place by ex-actly the same pin tonight when she was in Perond's? Well, it was; now how could it be in your pocket and in her hat at the same time?" He stared at me, his mouth wide

open, and I was equally amused at the expression upon the faces of the other two. I realized fully the peril I was in, and that these men would besitate at nothing to obtain their end. Yet. in spite of all this, I was inexpressibly happy. I spiked their big gun with a single blow; moreover, I had learned the truth about her, and my faith in her innocence came back in a flood. Harris had done too much boasting; he had ruined his own case. He had placed the very weapon in my grasp which I most desired to have-ab-solute assurance that the girl herself was innocent. The fellow felt, and realized, the change.

"That's easy," he sneered, "She bought herself another. That proves nothing, except that she is smart enough to play safe. Neither one of you can get away on that sort of dope.

"Perhaps not; but it clears her of the murder charge."

"Oh, does it? That remains to be seen. We know who she is, and that is more than you do. Oh, h-I, I got outo that over the wire; the only thing that interested you into coming here was to learn who the dame real That's part of her play, as I ly was, figure it. Severn. She won't give herself away, but is just using you. When she's good and ready she means to fade, an' she'll take the dough along with her. You will have sold out for a few cheap kisses, an' that's all." He a few cheap areas laughed coarsely. "She is strang-for a fool. Come now, wake up, on' let's all get "She is stringing before it is too late, an' let's all get a hand in the pot; what'de yer say?" "You still think I am that kind? One of your class?" I questioned, thor-

"One of my class? I should say not; you are the rawest kind of a mutt, but so far you've been in luckthat's all. Now your luck has changed, and yer up against it."

"What do you want me to do?" "Blow her; tell us all you know, We'll play the game for you, and divide square.

"You will let me out of here?" "Sure, once you give us the right steer." "And if I refuse?"

He laughed contemptuously,

that she went away alone with Alva from that factory over there; that he had the bag with bim, and that the two got into the auto together. That makes one h-1 of a straight case don't it?"

"The way you put it-yes. But what good will it do you fellows to have her pluched? Where do you gain anything?

"Time; it blocks the get-away with the swag. That's all we want. See here, Severn, we know where the stuff is planted; at least we've got an idea, but we've got to work slow and caubut we've got to work snow and chu-tions in order to lift it. If it wasn't for that we wouldn't care if she skipped. If you'll help us to get outek action, we'll let the girl go, and give you a share. Take my word for it, that's a d-n sight more than you'll work as the staying with her." ever get by staying with her." "But if she finds out that I have turned her down?"

"She won't never find it out ; we'll keep mum. Besides, you're doin' her a good turn, keepin' her out of the electric chair. Well, there's the proposition-you can leave it, or take it, Serious as the situation was, I could not fail to see its absurdity. This was no threat to frighten me; the fellows menut what they suid, although 1 doubted if they really possessed the knowledge claimed so glibly. But they evidently meant to go on; they were not bluffing, for they really had an ugly case, and could undoubtedly make trouble. The evidence against the girl was strong, almost convincing; it even shook my own confidence in her inocence. The absurdity of the situation lay in my absolute ignorance, 1 knew even less than they pretended to know. What should I do? Pretend, manufacture some story? I had no faith it would work. These fellows were criminals, suspicious and unscrupulous; they would only believe what I could prove. If they caught me in a deliberate lie, as they probably would, that would instantly end everything. I might, then, just as well fight It out with them now as later. I set my teeth, ready for what I felt sure vas coming.

"You fellows have sized me up wrong," I said quietly, but firmly. am not the kind to squeal because of a threat. You'll find I'll protect the lady, but I'll do it in my own waynot yours. The honest truth is, 1 haven't anything to tell. You won't where that, but it is so. I know less than you claim to know. I have no knowledge of where the money is, or who got it. I do not know who killed Alva; even now I haven't any susplclons worth mentioning. But I will say this plainly-I do not believe this girl did it, or that she had any hand in the robbery. I am going to stay with her till h-l freezes over, if that is what you want to know. That's my answer, Harris, and it is all I've got to give you.'

"You d-d cur! we'll show you something?"

CLIPPING

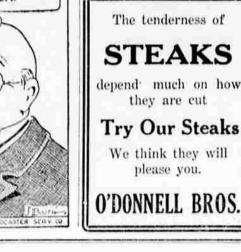
lieve the injury was a serious one. 1 could use my limbs. Satisfied on this point, and assured that I was alone, braced myself on one arm, and, in a diting posture, endeavored to survey ny surroundings, I was resting on the floor of a bare

room of ordinary size, containing no vestige of furniture. The place was cold, with that indescribable chill pecaliar to unused apartments, and through the one window, which was unshaded by a curtain, poured the direct light of an almost full moon. In this silvery light every bit of that interior stood revealed in its hideous bareness, the roughly finished walls, the patches of plaster scaled off, the dirty floor, the single door and window, the rags amid which I rested. It was a hopeless cene

I staggered to my feet reeling moment like a drunken man, and then finally found my way along the side wall to the window. My strength in censed as I advanced, and courage ens been with it-1 was not dead; 1 might baffle those villains yet. They must have felt that I was safe enough in this place; that, even if I regained consciousness, no escape was possible, for they had left no guard. A ginnes vithout revealed the reason for such confidence. I was four storles up, sheer brick wall below, and, at the bottom, a concrete walk. There was nothing between to cling to unless it might be the narrow coping of stone just beneath the window sill. I stared at this, almost hopefully, for an in stant; then turned my eyes away with a shudder; it was scarcely as broad as the sole of my shoe and to think of creeping along there was merely the dream of a madman. The bright moonlight flooded everything about, yet I saw nothing familiar; I was evidently at the back end of a house, with others closely set on either side, and an alley beyond a small, enclosed







Office Slogans



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ARTHUR H. MEYERS MANAGER

and the second se



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an's job, but she got away clean. And what then? The next night she turns up with you over at Perond's blowing in the coin, and the two of yer havin' In the loss much the two of yer mayin h h--l of a time. That proves yer were together, don't it?" "We're not going to blow this to the police," broke in Harris, as Dan

paused for breath. "That ain't the idea at all. But we want, a share of that dough. You come across, and there won't be no more trouble."

"But suppose I don't? Suppose I tell you I haven't the slightest idea where that money is, or who got it? What then?

Harris' grin was more malicious and hateful than never, but he waited and deliberately lit his stump of a cigar.

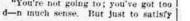
"What then?" he echood finally, "Well, in the first place, we've got you, haven't we? You'll squeal, believe me, before you ever get out of our hands. See here, Severn, I ain't got any direct proof that'll put you in the chair at Sing-Sing; that's true enough, but, unless the two of you cough up liberal, I'll turn something over to the police of this town what will give you term in the jug, as accessory, and fix that fly dame of yours for all time.'

"You are bluffing; you have no such proof.'

"Oh, haven't I? Look here, you fool; do you know where I got that?"

He whipped something from out the concealment of an inner coat pocket, and flung it fully revealed onto the desk-an ornamental dagger, glittering in the light, which I as instantly recognized.

"Ever see that baby weapon before?" "Yes," and I felt a sudden relief at





## "And If | Refuse?"

cour curlosity I'll tell you. We've got the girl spotted; we can my our hands on her in an hour; and, believe me, we've got the goods on the young lady, Here's the sticker that did the basiness, and I found it right where you had hidden it away. I can find three men-they are keeping out of sight, hat I can stir them up-who'll swear

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