

SERIAL STORY

CARIBBEAN CRISIS

BY EATON K. GOLDTHWAITE

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The Story—Four visitors arrive at a Dutch West Indian island to complete the life of Bill Talcott, who is finishing six years there as branch manager for an American chemical firm. They are Halsey, Bill's successor; an auditor, who immediately accuses Bill of a large shortage in his accounts; MacDowell, detective, brought to take Bill back to the States if any irregularity were found; and June Paterson, beautiful cousin of Bill's former roommate. At dawn two more visitors arrive, deposited by a smuggling skipper after a fight in which MacDowell is wounded and Halsey routs the skipper.

EVE OF DEPARTURE
CHAPTER IX

Inexplicably as Bill Talcott's actions might have seemed to June Paterson, they were the direct and simple result of a combination of circumstances which, in the space of half a day, had changed the course of his life. For link by link about him was being woven a chain. Twist and struggle as he might, the thing only bit deeper into his flesh, throttled his spirit, threatened not alone his freedom of movement but his mental balance as well.

Most maddening is the fight of a strong man against an adversary who will not reveal himself; a fight against that which, instead of fighting back, encircles and smothers with the sheer weight of uncertainty.

It is true that in questioning Halsey's orders and resenting his presence he had acted with ill grace, scarcely in the manner of one upon whom responsibility had rested for six long years. But therein, where lay his greatest strength was also his greatest weakness. Believe as he might that he wanted to be clear of Abas Island, wanted to put behind him its small and fith and oppressive heat, one uncompromising fact remained.

For six however long and lonely years they might have been, Bill Talcott had been monarch of a tiny kingdom. His subjects were a half-thousand natives; his chancellor Sebastian. That he had ruled fairly and justly, that he had acquitted his responsibility with honor and measurable success was no longer a matter of moment. He was being deposed. Kicked out: it was not an abdication. For him there were no banquets, no poet laureate to sing his virtues. He was being forced out under suspicion. Manufactured out of whole cloth though they might be, the circumstances were sufficient to ruin him.

Halsey was no coward and he was no fool. He had shown that clearly enough in handling the refugee smuggler. He had done so well that already black Thomas and Sebastian were looking upon him as a kind of super being; even June Paterson's eyes became stary as she inspected the rangy, lantern-jawed new manager. What were Halsey's private thoughts about the guilt or innocence of Bill Talcott? Halsey was a Federal Chemist man. His life was routine, his blood was business. To him Plant Number Six was just a job, Bill Talcott just a plant manager being relieved. In Federal Chemical the human element consisted principally in guarding the flesh with inoculations; there were always ambitious newcomers crowding along when the spirit failed.

Bill Talcott knew, as surely as he knew that there were sharks in Anegada Passage, that loss of his head would bring the end. His personal feeling must not control him; whatever cause he might have to suspect Halsey of intrigue, however much he might resent the new man's calm efficiency in supplanting him, he must fight to keep his mind clear so that his powers of observation would not be dulled. For Talcott had come to realize that only by careful watchfulness could he survive.

It was the law of the jungle; kill or be killed. It was elemental, to a certain extent similar to the laws governing the two poor, frightened passengers left on Abas pier by the refugee smuggler. It was the law whose failure of observance had caused MacDowell, the detective to be knocked unconscious twice within the same night.

Bill Talcott suddenly chuckled. No matter how badly off he might be, he was in better shape than MacDowell. "Welcome to Abas," he chuckled aloud and June Paterson, turning at his words, stared coldly.

Over this a hastily assembled breakfast, the newest arrivals relaxed somewhat. First audience by any right belonged to the woman, and after having reiterated that she was Martha Swenson, she told of her escape from Norway.

"Through Sweden, where I have friends, I went to Murmansk," Martha Swenson said in her throaty, disturbing voice with its trace of accent. "From Murmansk to Moscow and then along the route to Vladivostok. I rode the Trans-Siberian railway to Tokyo. I sold my camera in Tokyo, it was a good camera and I got a good price. With part of the money I took passage on a freighter to the Panama Canal. It was in Colon that the Captain Jackson offered to take me to Puerto Rico where I could get a boat for New York. I wanted to go to New York because I have people there."

As her voice died silence came out of the rocky barrenness of the island and settled on the terrace. It was as if the lesser beings in their fight for existence recognized and paid silent tribute to one of their number.

June Paterson's sharply indrawn breath broke the spell. "You poor dear! You must forget all that now. If you like you may travel home with me. I'll be leaving Saint Thomas Monday on the 'Blue Petrel' and I'm sure arrangements can be made."

Martha Swenson's grateful dark eyes lifted momentarily. "Thank you," she said simply. "I have money for my passage. I will not be a burden."

Professor Constantine had surrounded himself with an imposing array of bottles, and already a strange assortment of pills of various colors and shapes had been chased down his throat with several glasses of water. "It's an outrage!" the odd man in the too-large clothing muttered. "That Jackson—What he did to me—I'm not well—I was in Martinique, gathering anthropological data for my studies—You know, the Martiniquian is most interesting. Different background completely—came from a different section of Africa. These island blacks, you know, are all descend-

ed from slaves. Still practice voodoo—Where was I?"

"You were in Martinique," Bill Talcott said dryly.

"The professor held the bow of his glasses, peering through the lenses at Bill Talcott as if inspecting a new and interesting specimen. "Hm—Of course," he murmured. "This man Jackson brought in some flour from Panama, and said he was going to Puerto Rico. Since it's—ah—rather difficult at the present time to get around the islands I accepted his offer of transportation. But I certainly didn't expect to be dumped at dawn in the midst of a lot of shooting! Is this town Fajardo?"

"Scarcely. You are still a good hundred and fifty miles from Puerto Rico. This is Abas Island. We'll see that you get to Saint Thomas. Under the circumstances it will be impossible for you to remain here."

"Abas! I don't want to remain here. There is no anthropology here. Whatever natives you have are imports from the other islands. That huge man on the pier, for example—probably an Amina. Interesting type but unreliable—And the professor lapsed to grumblings.

"Can't say as I blame you," June Paterson put in tartly. "I'm not any too fond of this place myself."

Halsey handed her a cigaret. "I understand there's a supply boat due tomorrow," he said. "We'll see that you're safely delivered. We've all been—" He broke off, turned to look at Struthers who was rapidly approaching along the path.

The auditor appeared not to have slept. His eyes were bloodshot and sweat poured from his puffed face. Straight on he came, avoiding Bill Talcott, to stop by Halsey's chair. "If you can big leave of your guests I'd like to complete our business," he said, and pausing, added in a significant tone, "before your return to New York."

(To Be Continued)

VITAL ORGANS REVERSED
Chicago (AP)—An X-ray examination made during a routine physical test disclosed to 16-year-old Charlene Wood of Hincley, Ill., that her heart was in her right side instead of her left and her liver and appendix also were reversed. Otherwise the girl was in perfect health.

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Pillsbury Flour
49 lbs. . \$1.89

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49 lbs. . . \$1.89

Swansdown Flour
49 lbs. . \$1.89
PONDEROSA FLOUR
49 lbs. . \$1.39

Swift's Corned Beef 2 cans 49c

Morning Star Coffee lb. 27c—2 lbs. 53c

Cocoa—(Baker's or Hershey's) lb. can 17c

Egg Noodles—(O-So-Good) 2 pkgs. 29c

Marshmallows lb. cello 12c

Corn or Gloss Starch 4 pkgs. 29c

Staley's Waffle Syrup 5 lb. can 45c

ERICKSON'S FOOD MARKET
FREE DELIVERY
PHONES 660 & 661

Diced Carrots 3 cans 27c
Diamond A—No. 2 Cans

Tomatoes 2 cans 25c
Burke's—No. 2 1/2 Cans

All Green Asparagus 3 cans 33c
Raycroft—Center Cuts—No. 1 Tall Cans

Whole Kernel Corn 2 cans 27c
Three Sisters—No. 2 Cans

Cream Style Corn 3 cans 29c
Ida Dell

Cream Style Corn 2 cans 29c
Evans Fancy Yellow Bantam—No. 2 Cans

String Beans 2 cans 25c
Otterbrook—No. 2 Cans

Peas 3 cans 29c
Overlook—No. 303 Cans

Whopper Peas 2 cans 25c
Large Sweet Peas from Walls Walls

Butter Beans 2 cans 25c
Dodge or Seaside

Red Kidney Beans 2 cans 25c
Van Camp's

Red Kidney Beans 3 cans 29c
Joan of Arc

Beet Greens 2 cans 29c
Diamond A—No. 2 1/2 Cans

Dessert Peaches can 21c
Yacht Club—No. 2 1/2 Cans

Whole Peaches can 18c
Dundee—In Syrup—No. 2 1/2 Cans

Bartlett Pears can 19c
Silver Grill—No. 2 1/2 Cans

Pineapple 2 cans 45c
Dundee—Broken Slice—No. 2 1/2 Cans

Fruit Cocktail 2 cans 29c
H-B—No. 1 Tall Cans

Whole Apricots can 19c
Dodge—In Syrup—No. 2 1/2 Cans

Facialette Facial Tissue pkg. 21c
500 Sheets to Each Package

Campbell's Tomato Soup 3 cans 25c

Rancho Assorted Soups 2 cans 15c

C. H. B. Catsup 14-oz. bot. 17c

Pimentos—Sunshine can 12c

Garden Catsup bottle 12c

Peanut Butter—Garden 2 lb. jar 37c

Mustard quart jar 17c

Haleys Beef Stew 2 cans 19c

Haleys Browned Beef Cubes can 29c

Try-It Lunch Meat can 33c

Haleys Beef Broth 3 cans 29c

FRUIT JUICES

Tomato Juice . . . 3 cans 23c
Campbell's

Orange Juice . . . 2 cans 25c
Dr. Phillips—No. 2 Cans

Grapefruit Jce. . . 3 cans 29c
Smith's—No. 2 Cans

Grapefruit Juice . . can 21c
Orchard Texas—47 Ounce Cans
(Dr. Phillips—47-oz. can 25c)

V-8 Cocktail . . . 3 cans 29c
Tall Cans

Apple Juice . . . 2 cans 15c
Hood River—12 Ounce Cans

Prunes 3 lbs. 29c
Italian

Beans 3 lbs. 19c
Red Mexican

Macaroni 3 lbs. 19c
Curve Cut

White Beans . . . 3 lbs. 19c
Great Northern

CANNED FISH

Salmon 2 cans 35c
Cello—Pound Cans

Salmon can 21c
Sewanee—Alaska Pink—No. 1 Tall Cans

Salmon can 45c
Libby's—Alaska Red—No. 1 Tall Cans
(No. 1/2 Flat Can—24c)

Oysters 2 cans 29c
Best for Soup

Fancy Oysters . . . can 19c
Welgand's—10 Ounce Cans

Minced Clams can 21c
Pioneer—Fancy Razor Clams

Crab Meat can 37c
Pearl Reef—No. 1/2 Flat Cans

Toasted Tuna can 21c
For Salads and Sandwiches

Shredded Tuna can 35c
Del Monte—No. 1/2 Flat Cans

Shrimp can 19c
Dundee—Wet or Dry

Chocolate Bakers
Pound 23c

Superior Assorted
Pound 23c

Floral Cookies
2 lbs. 39c

PAY-DAY FOOD BARGAINS—FRIDAY, SATURDAY, PAY-DAY

Salad-Aid Salad Dressing qt. 39c

Salad Dressing or Sandwich Spread qt. 35c
Dinner Bell

Milk 4 cans 31c
Nestle's—Morning—Mt. Vernon

Jell Powder pkg. 5c
Assorted Flavor

Durkee's Certified
Mayonnaise
Pint Jar 29c
Quart Jar 49c

Durkee's SANDWICH
SPREAD
Pint Jar 29c
Quart Jar 49c

COFFEE

Monarch
Pound 29c
3 Pounds 85c

CRISCO
For Cakes, Pastry and Frying
3 Lb. Can 69c

DUZ
THE NEW GRANULATED SOAP
Large Package 23c
Giant 55c

IVORY SOAP
Medium . . . 4 bars 23c
Giant 3 bars 29c

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Here's to the Finer Seagram's "5"
The smoothest of the blends—
A whiskey famed from Coast to Coast,
A bottle smartly named the "HOST",
A pleasant way to drink a toast—
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Prime Quality Meats

Chuck Roast lb. 27c
Delicious Cuts of Steer Beef

Cocktail Steaks lb. 39c
Try This New One for a Change

Polish Sausage lb. 29c
Fresh—Home Style

Swedish Potato Sausage . . . lb. 29c
A Home Product

Bockwursts lb. 29c
Can Be Boiled or Fried

Beef Short Ribs lb. 21c
Economize With These Delicious Cuts

Bacon lb. 37c
Swift's Oriole—By the Piece

Sliced Bacon lb. 32c
Morrell's Palace

Pigs Feet 2 lbs. 29c
Pickled—In Bulk

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AERO-WAX
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Pint can 25c

Quart can 39c

1/2 gallon 69c

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Cleanser Pads 18c
Pad-O-Magic—Large Size

Holly Cleanser . . . 3 cans 14c
Large Cans

Silverware Polish 9c
Johnson's Shinyup

Brooms—Economy . . . ea. 43c

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Thrift Size 32c

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

FRIDAY ONLY

Grapefruit doz. 25c

Oranges 1/2 case \$1.35
(Case \$2.49)

Bananas 3 lbs. 29c

Asparagus 2 lbs. 17c

Lemons doz. 15c
(2 Dozen—25c)

Fresh Tomatoes . . . 5 lb. basket 45c

Wax Onions 3 lbs. 25c

Turnips 3 bunches 14c
Large Bunches

Vigoro lb. 3 1/2c
(In 100 Pound Bags)—No Extra Charge for Use of Spreader