

THE CRIME IN THE DUTCH GARDEN

Jimmie's first surprise when he read the note that the maid handed him was that it came from Audrey. Evidently it had been hurriedly written:

Dear Mr. Haswell: Can you come out to see me? I am in a car in front. Do not mention my name or they will kill me in.

Audrey Winford.

Since Janet had told him a man had brought the note, it was easy for Jimmie to excuse himself without disclosing the writer. It was clear that Audrey was not alone. She was sitting at the wheel of the car, in the roadway some 30 yards from the drive entrance. Behind her were Constable Roscoe and a rough-looking stranger.

Audrey was brief. "You wanted to know whose car was on the links on the night Miss Querding was killed. It was Captain Stirling's." Her expressionless voice masked deep feeling.

"Where was he?" Jimmie asked.

"In the gardens."

"That was in keeping with Jimmie's own discovery. 'How do you know?' he asked quietly."

She introduced Willie Freeman, a caddy, who often went to the course at night to hunt for balls. She, knowing this, had inquired if he had seen anything on the night of the tragedy. Convinced his story might clear an innocent person, he had told her the story he now repeated to Jimmie.

On his way home, Freeman said, he had stopped "aside the hut that's forrest the seventh person when I seed someone gettin' over the fence o' Merrow Craig. Only one 'and 'e ad, for 't wor' Captain Stirling. Stepped into 'is car, 'e did, and drove off immediate."

He said he would stand back of the story, and Audrey was on her way home. He had to inform Richmond, hoping to let Jimmie know of the development. Jimmie said that he would go along with them, as he had information in Richmond should know.

"We'll go at once," said Audrey, eager to tell the truth she thought would clear Netherton. Then she recalled that she had forgotten to get gasoline.

"I'll ask Green for some," said Roscoe, turning into the trade entrance.

"I'd better go back and make some excuse for leaving," Jimmie decided. Then he added, "Sitting here just left. Of course, you realize the conclusion people will draw from it."

Audrey's honest eyes revealed the pain within as she told how at first she had planned to go to Stirling and disclose what she had found, then concluding that this would not be right and that she must tell Richmond. "I still think he is incapable of a mean or evil action and that there must be an explanation," he added.

As Jimmie turned toward the house, Constable Roscoe came running toward them, his usual ruddy face almost devoid of color.

"Ted Green," he gasped. "He's there—good! He killed Miss Querding. He has confessed."

Jimmie, recovering from his first shock, turned quickly toward the garage, followed by Audrey. As they hastened, Roscoe explained that he had called for Green but had not got a reply, and had then gone upstairs, since he saw a light in the room, and had called through the closed door. Still getting no reply, he had opened the door and made the tragic discovery.

The big doors to the garage were closed as the little party approached and entered the open smaller door leading to the stairs and Green's rooms. At the door of the room Jimmie's quick eye saw the chauffeur's body sprawled half on and half off a chair, his arms thrown on the table on which his head and shoulders rested. He was wearing his uniform breeches and a gray flannel shirt. On the table was an ordinary beer bottle and a glass three parts empty, a sheet of paper, a notebook, an ink bottle and a pen.

On the mantle piece there stood seven beer bottles and in a corner were four empty bottles. The uniform coat was thrown over another chair in the scantily furnished room.

At first, as Roscoe had said, Green appeared dead, but a sudden convulsive movement brought Jimmie and the others to his side. He was in kind of a stupor, beads of perspiration stood on his forehead, and it seemed as though consciousness might return. The constable pointed stantly to the sheet of paper lying by the empty bottle. Its message was brief, the writing was clear:

I killed Miss Querding. Something came over me and I did it and now I am sorry. There is a suspicion everywhere and I can't sleep and so I am taking the best way out.

That night I thought of all of a sudden I would ask the mistress to let me stay on and I went to her in the dutch garden and then I knew she would refuse and something came over me and I felt all mad with her and instead of speaking I pushed the image and it fell on her and I went away to Ben and asked for my hammer. That is all.

Edward Green.

Good bye, Janet. Forgive me. "We must get a doctor at once," Jimmie said as he left for the house with Audrey. Roscoe remaining with Green. The little party in the card-room had been waiting for Jimmie, who told them briefly what had happened and 'phoned Dr. Netherton. Meanwhile, Audrey, explaining in more detail, did not divulge why she had first called, since she felt that Ted Green's confession had made that unnecessary.

After Netherton had promised to come, Jimmie telephoned Richmond, who said he would await the doctor's report, ordering Roscoe meanwhile to remain by Green's side. With Roscoe's help, Jimmie placed the body on the bed. Another convulsive movement indicated life, though the stupor continued.

Leaving Green's bed room, Jimmie returned to the other room and re-read the confession, written on a sheet of paper similar to that in the chauffeur's daily mileage book, which his employer required him to keep. The record was entered up to the very last day, even to the note for that afternoon—"Mr. Vincent F. Bochner, and rooming in Netherton." Near the end of the book he found the place from where the sheet had been torn.

To most of those in the card room, now discussing the startling occurrence, the confession came as a relief. Vincent recalled that on the drive he had taken that afternoon Green had seemed his usual self, and none seemed to have hard things to say concerning the chauffeur, although Evelyn mentioned his uncertain temper. "One good thing," Vincent commented, "it will help old Morgan to get a move on. No one can suspect Green had anything to do with the will."

Dr. Netherton found Jimmie and Roscoe waiting beside Green when he arrived. The stupor continued, with occasional convulsive spasms. Jimmie had a suggestion.

"Do you want a nurse?" Audrey Winford is in the house."

Netherton shot a quick glance at him. "Not at present," he said leisurely.

He looked at the small quantity of beer left in the glass. In color it was normal. He put a spot on his tongue and spat it out again.

"Very bitter," he said. "Poison, of course, something uncommon—I cannot say what. I think we had better get him to the hospital."

"Will you speak to Richmond?" Jimmie asked. "He is waiting to know."

Before Netherton could reply there was another movement from the figure on the bed. Green's eyes opened and his lips moved as if to speak.

(To be Continued)

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

Still Hope

By Harold Gray

Panel 1: "I CAN'T EVEN GET BY THE FRONT OFFICES - SECRETARIES AND OFFICE BOYS TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND TELL ME THERE'S NO OPENING -"

Panel 2: "IT'S MY APPEARANCE THAT'S AGAINST ME - I NEED NEW CLOTHES - BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN THE PRICE OF A CLEAN COLLAR TO SPARE - THEY SAY CLOTHES DON'T MAKE THE MAN, BUT THEY CAN SURE MAKE HIM LOOK AND FEEL LOTS MORE LIKE A MAN -"

Panel 3: "COMON, 'DADDY' - EAT FORE THINGS GET COLD - IT'LL MAKE EVER' THING SEEM BETTER - AND BESIDES, IF YOU DON'T EAT I'LL THINK YOU DON'T LIKE MY COOKING -"

Panel 4: "OH, I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T EXPECT TO LAND A GOOD JOB THE FIRST WEEK - THINGS THAT ARE WORTH WHILE AREN'T FOUND IN A DAY -" "SURE - YOU'LL GET A SWELL JOB NEXT WEEK - AND WEVE GOT MONEY ENOUGH TO GO A FEW DAYS MORE IF WERE CAREFUL -"

REG'LAR FELLERS

A Windy Time

By Gene Byrnes

Panel 1: "IT LOOKS LIKE RAIN!"

Panel 2: "I HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN CATS 'N DOGS!"

Panel 3: "I HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN PITCHFORKS CAUSE THAT'S THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN ON A RAINY DAY!"

Panel 4: "NO TAIN'T! HAILIN' TAXICABS IS!"

TAILSPIN TOMMY

Martini Proves His Nerve

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST

Panel 1: "MARTINI'S PIRATE CREW HAS MUTINIED! BLOCKED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ESCAPE THRU THE TORPEDO TUBE'S THE MEN REFUSED TO VOLUNTEER AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE IMPRISONED SUBMARINE BY THE ONLY METHOD POSSIBLE..."

Panel 2: "YOU JUST KEEP PUMPING AIR TO ME I'LL DO THE REST!"

Panel 3: "...THAT OF DONNING A DIVER'S SUIT, TAKING A HACK SAW AND GOING OUT THROUGH..."

Panel 4: "...THE AIR-COMPRESSED CHAMBERS AND THENCE THROUGH THE TRAP-DOOR..."

Panel 5: "...INTO THE DARK AND MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS OF..."

Panel 6: "HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! WE'RE DOOMED!" "HE'S WILLING TO DIE TRYING! AND I'LL GIVE HIM A CHEER AND A PRAYER FOR THAT!"

Panel 7: "THE SEA IN AN EFFORT TO SAW THRU THE ANCHOR CHAIN WHICH HOLDS THE SUB IN A VICE-LIKE EMBRACE! MARTINI, WITH NO EXPERIENCE AS A DIVER, HAS VOLUNTEERED TO DO THE DANGEROUS TASK!"

DUMB DORA

An Eye To Business

By Paul Funn

Panel 1: "WE CAN'T GET ANY MORE PEANUTS ON CREDIT" "AND WE HAVEN'T ANY MONEY!" "OH, THERE'S THE BELL!"

Panel 2: "SO I'VE DECIDED TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES - YOU MUST ALL JOIN MRS MIDAS AND MYSELF AS OUR GUESTS FOR THE WINTER IN FLORIDA!"

Panel 3: "MR. MIDAS, THAT'S WONDERFUL!" "GOOD OLD DAD!" "OH - THIS IS GRAND!"

Panel 4: "CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THIS - GEE! WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUY PEANUTS PRETTY REASONABLE IN FLORIDA!"

BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus

Panel 1: "WHY DIDN'T YOU PUT SILK LINING IN THIS COAT OF MINE WHEN YOU WUZ REPAIRIN' IT?" "I WAS GOIN' TO - BUT YOUR WIFE PHONED AN 'SAD COTTON LININ' WOULD DO - SHE SAID YOU HAD TO CUT DOWN EXPENSES -"

Panel 2: "MAGGIE IS RIGHT - I'M GLAD SHE REALIZES THAT MONEY IS PRETTY SCARCE THESE DAYS -"

Panel 3: "BY GOLLY! SOMETIMES MAGGIE ACTS AS IF SHE HAD GOOD SENSE - BUT NOT OFTEN -"

Panel 4: "HELLO! IS THIS YOU MISS TALLOT? DO COME RIGHT OVER - I WANT YOU TO SEE THE DARLING ERMINE COAT I HAD MADE FOR MY PET - 'FI-FI' -"

MUTT AND JEFF

The Living Sphinx Speaks

By Bud Fisher

Panel 1: "MUTT AIN'T TALKED ALL WEEK! HE'S SO STUBBORN ABOUT IT I DON'T THINK HE WOULD EVEN YELL 'HELP' IF HE WAS DROWNING!" "THE JUDGE TURNED HIM LOOSE! MUTT'S SILENCE GOT ALL OUR GOATS."

Panel 2: "MUTT, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL WEEK?" "IT'S MRS. MUTT'S VOICE!"

Panel 3: "MUTT, ANSWER MY QUESTION - OR -"

Panel 4: "OUCH! NIX-NIX WITH M'LOVE! NOT WITH THAT ROLLING PIN! OUCH! USE DISCRETION! NIX, NIX, NIX!" "AH, HE'S TALKING AT LAST!"

ACROSS

1. Fruit
2. Cut
3. Age
4. Smooth and glossy
5. Light
6. Flaky material
7. Come into view
8. Arise
9. Slight wall
10. Herod's
11. Response
12. The Spanish
13. Appeal
14. Principal artery
15. Sheet of a sheep
16. Mine entrance
17. Undermine
18. Block of maps
19. Quantity per unit of time
20. Concentric
21. Action
22. Averred
23. Lively dance
24. City in New York state
25. German cry of surprise

DOWN

1. One with a dead disease
2. Placed out
3. Counters
4. Metal-bearing
5. Jaws
6. Merry
7. Air comb
8. Focus
9. Hagions
10. Exclude
11. Put up
12. Arabid chaf-
13. Tains
14. Lane
15. Bound with fabric
16. Aroused to a sense of danger
17. Tea tent
18. Toward
19. God of love
20. Having wings
21. Emblem
22. Thoroughly
23. Outlet
24. Top card
25. Put up
26. Dexterity
27. Attempt
28. Myster

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

SLAW ADITS PURE
 AMAR MEDAL ASAR
 PAR ENATE TERN
 SADDENS SECEDES
 EATER KAN
 STENTS EDENTATA
 ERASE EVES SLAP
 DIS NOVELTY DUO
 ACES REINE UPEND
 NESTLING SLANTS
 RIG EELER
 FANATIC MISSEND
 AVON NOTED OMAR
 REND ALONE NINA
 ORES LANDS STAY

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