

On Murder's Skirts

By TERRY ADLER

Chapter 29

Two hours later they were having coffee in Ellen's apartment. Raft had pulled the couch up to the fireplace and a blazing fire warmed them.

"Well," he said, "as I was saying, if I hadn't cluttered my mind up with unimportant details such as thoughts about your shapely legs, I would have figured out the minute you told me about the fire on Wednesday."

"But I still don't see how," she protested. "It was such a small thing. In fact, the only reason anyone paid any attention to it was because Dr. Hubbard woke up so mad, and then was so mean to Bill Griffith."

"That's right. The fire didn't do any damage. But you see, it did offer an excuse to get some water sprayed around that room. That's something I should have thought about immediately."

"But why?"

"He had to destroy the phosgene afterwards. And water will do it. Don't you see? It's so simple, I could kick myself for not having figured it out before."

"I'm sorry, but I don't see. Would you mind explaining at the very beginning?" she asked.

"Okay. To begin with, he planned the murder of Hubbard about two weeks ago. That was when the original copy of the program for his arrival. The copy we found last night was a second one the publishers sent after Hubbard had written to say that the manuscript was over-erudite and hadn't been received yet. You must remember now what sort of person Worden is. He has a brilliant mind. There's no doubt about that. But at the same time he had the conviction that people were out to take advantage of him, that they thought he was nothing but a fool. So at last, with the publishing of his thesis, the world would know, would have proof of his brilliance. Imagine how he felt when he looked at the manuscript and found that it wasn't Eddie Worden's name that appeared as author, but Jasper Hubbard's! And he, Worden, the real brains behind the research, the one who had planned it and done all the work, to be given a one-line credit in a footnote! No wonder he went off half-cooked.

"Then you mean that for two weeks Eddie was planning to murder the chief?" Ellen asked incredulously.

"That's right. The first thing he did was to order a package of those Egyptian cigarettes at the smoke shop on the campus. It wasn't hard to check on that, Hubbard was the only person on the campus who ever smoked them. That was the one spot in the whole scheme where Worden slipped up. He didn't know that Hubbard had given up smoking. And it was when Bill Griffith, the cigarette stub that it made him suspicious of the wastebasket fire."

"Sure," Ellen said sarcastically; "it's clear as mud to me."

"Well, look, honey, it's simple. Raft explained patiently. Worden knew Hubbard took a nap every afternoon and he was a sound sleeper. He also knew that Hubbard kept the electric heater going all the time in that room. All he had to do was to go in there and tip the bottle of chemicals so that the drops would fall on the red hot wires. He could hold his breath while he did that and he wouldn't breathe any of it himself. Then all he had to do would be to go for about ten minutes. He could then come back and put the bottle back in its place and enough gas would be generated to kill a horse. But then there would be the problem of all that poison gas in the room. However, Worden realized that water, pure simple H₂O, would destroy the gas."

"So that's why he made such a mess with that water?"

"What he did was to balance a lighted cigarette on the edge of the wastebasket. He crumbled a lot of carbon paper in the basket, and you know how inflammable that is. When the cigarette burned to the spot where it was balanced—and this took about ten minutes—it fell into the basket and set the paper blazing. Of course, Worden was waiting just outside by the water faucet."



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RADIO PROGRAMS

ALL PROGRAMS PACIFIC STANDARD TIME

MONDAY—P.M.

KSLM 1290	KGW 430	KOCO 1480	KOIN 570
MBC	NBC	AM	AM
5:00 Superman	Musical Cocktail	Sleepy Joe	Knox Manning
5:15 Superman	Musical Cocktail	Rayburn Beach	Clayton
5:30 Soap Melodrama	Voice of Firestone	Bob Crosby	Clayton
5:45 Soap Melodrama	Voice of Firestone	Sport Paw	Clayton
6:00 Gabriel Heatter	Telephone Hour	Melody by	Radio Theatre
6:15 News	Telephone Hour	Candlelight	Radio Theatre
6:30 Fishing - Hunting	Dr. J. Q.	Week in Sports	Radio Theatre
6:45 Fishing - Hunting	Dr. J. Q.	Week in Sports	Radio Theatre
7:00 American Forum	Contented Hour	Here's to You	Mr. Friend Irma
7:15 of the Air	Contented Hour	Eddie Lehner	My Friend Irma
7:30 Clegg Kid	Contented Hour	Baschall	Bob Hawk Show
7:45 Clegg Kid	Contented Hour	Baschall	Bob Hawk Show
8:00 Let George Do It	Supper Club	Duxton Dope	Lewell Thomas
8:15 Let George Do It	Supper Club	News of World	Jack Smith Show
8:30 Sherlock Holmes	Cavalcade of America	Baseball	Talent Scouts
8:45 Sherlock Holmes	Cavalcade of America	Baseball	Talent Scouts
9:00 News	Supper Club	Baseball	Five Star Final
9:15 T. B. A.	Supper Club	Baseball	Inner Sanctum
9:30 T. B. A.	Supper Club	Baseball	Inner Sanctum
9:45 T. B. A.	Supper Club	Baseball	Inner Sanctum
10:00 News	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
10:15 Local News, Jr.	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
10:30 Local News	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
10:45 Mutual Newsrel	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
11:00 The Shadow	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
11:15 The Shadow	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
11:30 The Shadow	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
11:45 The Shadow	Sam Hayes	Baseball	Serenade
12:00 Sign Off	Sign Off	Sign Off	Sign Off

TUESDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

6:00 News	News Watcher	KOIN Kiosk
6:15 News	News Watcher	News
6:30 March Time	The Old Songs	Fred Beck
6:45 News	The Old Songs	Fred Beck
7:00 News	Jack Warner	Tom Hitter
7:15 Breakfast Gang	Jack Warner	Tom Hitter
7:30 Breakfast Gang	Jack Warner	Tom Hitter
7:45 Breakfast Gang	Jack Warner	Tom Hitter
8:00 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
8:15 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
8:30 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
8:45 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
9:00 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
9:15 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
9:30 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
9:45 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
10:00 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
10:15 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
10:30 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
10:45 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
11:00 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
11:15 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
11:30 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
11:45 News	Tommy Dorsey	News
12:00 News	Tommy Dorsey	News

DIAL LISTINGS: KEX, 1190; KOAC, 550

KEX Monday P. M.—5:00, Keeping Up with Sports; 5:15, Ed; 5:30, Challenge of Yakini; 6:00, Edwin C. Hill; 6:15, Elmer Davis; 6:30, Mr. President; 7:00, Lone Ranger; 7:30, Dream Girl; 7:45, Arthur Gaeth; 8:00, Railroad Hour; 8:30, Sila Mae Morse; 8:45, Heinz Taylor; 9:00, Bigfield Reporter; 9:15, 9:30, Concert Hour; 10:30, Merle to Tomorrow; 11:00, Xtra Hour; 12:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Tuesday a.m. to 6:45 p.m.: 6:15, Tourist; 6:30, Sports; 6:50, News; 7:00, Paraphrase of Pater; 7:15, Music School of the Air; 7:30, Concert Hall; 7:45, News; 8:15, News; 8:30, News; 8:45, News; 9:00, News; 9:15, News; 9:30, News; 9:45, News; 10:00, News; 10:15, News; 10:30, News; 10:45, News; 11:00, News; 11:15, News; 11:30, News; 11:45, News; 12:00, News; 12:15, News; 12:30, News; 12:45, News; 1:00, News; 1:15, News; 1:30, News; 1:45, News; 2:00, News; 2:15, News; 2:30, News; 2:45, News; 3:00, News; 3:15, News; 3:30, News; 3:45, News; 4:00, News; 4:15, News; 4:30, News; 4:45, News; 5:00, News; 5:15, News; 5:30, News; 5:45, News; 6:00, News; 6:15, News; 6:30, News; 6:45, News; 7:00, News; 7:15, News; 7:30, News; 7:45, News; 8:00, News; 8:15, News; 8:30, News; 8:45, News; 9:00, News; 9:15, News; 9:30, News; 9:45, News; 10:00, News; 10:15, News; 10:30, News; 10:45, News; 11:00, News; 11:15, News; 11:30, News; 11:45, News; 12:00, News; 12:15, News; 12:30, News; 12:45, News; 1:00, News; 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