

# The HOUSE on LILAC STREET

by FRED BAYARD

### Chapter 29

The tall lights of the cab standing in front of number eight Lilac street glowed dully red in the darkness as Haid came to a stop behind it. Shutting off his motor, he slid from behind the back of the car. In the darkness, he had caught a glimpse of Holway standing on the sidewalk.

Holway saw him and led the way up the steps. Switching on the hall lights, he took Haid's coat. There was no sign of any of the servants; the house was as silent as a tomb.

"Any new developments?" he asked as Holway led the way to the study.

"Nothing much. That's why I wanted to talk to you tonight."

"What's on your mind?" Haid finally asked as he seated himself in the chair beside the desk. A little to the left of Holway, Haid didn't answer immediately, but eyed the other speculatively.

Haid fought down a vague uneasiness. There was something about Holway tonight that worried him.

"Were you ever any good at nursery rhymes, Haid?" came the sudden question.

"Why?" Haid countered with mounting tension.

"I believe there was one about a spider and a fly," the other replied softly. "Maybe you remember it?"

"You should have known better, Haid," than to try a double game with me. You're not smart enough." Holway's tone was mocking now.

With a sudden motion Haid started to rise from his chair. Holway's hand made a quick darting movement toward the half open drawer of the desk. When he withdrew it, he held an ugly-looking .38. There was not the slightest tremor as he pointed it at Haid.

"I said once before, get to the point," Haid spoke coldly. "Don't carry this joke too far."

"I'm afraid you don't quite understand your position," Holway's tone matched his expressionless features. "You're a butcher, Haid, and a fool, and unfortunately for you, you'll never have an opportunity to correct your mistakes. I admit that for a while you had me fooled. With the recommendation from Chicago that you brought me, it was practically a lead-pipe cinch that I'd take you on. You covered up your back trail all right, but you weren't quite careful enough. He laughed mirthlessly. "You've got the Martin girl to thank for that! She thought she was being so clever, pretending not to have met you before that day in the bar, and then later running to me with her suspicions. She practically warned me against you. He shook his head. "You should never have taken her to Connecticut, Haid. That tipped your hand. No one else in the gang would have dared to do that, or would have had any reason to do."

Haid made no answer, and Holway continued.

"Probably it's given you some satisfaction that you've wrecked the organization. By tomorrow I'll be a long way from here—but I keep forgetting. Tonight I balance the books, and what I do tomorrow can't possibly be of interest to you."

"Holway—" Haid's voice was very quiet—why was Cherry killed?"

A flash of emotion crossed the other's features, causing the hard mask to drop for a second.

"Did you kill her?" Haid pursued relentlessly. "Or was it done on orders from higher up?"

Holway looked at him strangely.

"No, I didn't kill her. If I ever thought of her, she seemed suddenly afraid of what he had almost said. He went on hurriedly.

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"I think you do, Holway," Haid continued. "I'd give it some thought if I were you. I think you'll find it file."

Haid had accomplished what he had hoped for. He had put a doubt in the other's mind. Holway was no longer so sure of himself. The gun still pointed in Haid's direction, but Holway's mind was no longer occupied solely with the target.

Slowly and carefully Haid began to gather himself together. There was no use in waiting any longer. He realized that he had less than one chance in ten to jump the gun, but at least it was a chance.

For the fraction of an instant, Holway was off guard. At the same time Haid lunged forward. As Holway saw him coming, he jerked the saw and fired point-blank. Nothing happened. It triggered! Frantically he jerked the trigger again. The roar of the gun going off filled the room, but it was too late. The full force of Haid's body struck Holway, throwing him off balance. They went down in a heap of twisting, tearing arms and legs. The force of his elbow striking the floor jerked the gun out of Holway's hand.

Something glinted in Holway's hand. Haid could see the wicked curve of the paper knife that he had previously noticed on the desk. Doubling his arm in a short stabbing movement, he aimed it at Haid. There was a ripping sound as it tore through the cloth of a pocket.

Before Holway could untangle it, Haid, with a terrific wrench, pulled his hand free. Holway's body almost touched the muzzle of the gun as Haid fired. With a ludicrous look of surprise on his face, Holway remained standing. Then, as if in slow motion, he sank to the floor.

"Got anything to tell me, Holway?" Haid bent closer. "You haven't got long."

"I think you were right about Cherry," Holway managed with an effort. "He played me for a fool—like all the rest." A spasm of coughing seized him.

"He'll be at Jake's, Haid," he whispered, clutching at the other's arm. "It's up to you, now. Mark it 'account rendered' for me."

Gravely Haid stood up for a moment looking down at the dead man. Then, picking up the phone from the desk, he dialed a number.

(To be continued)

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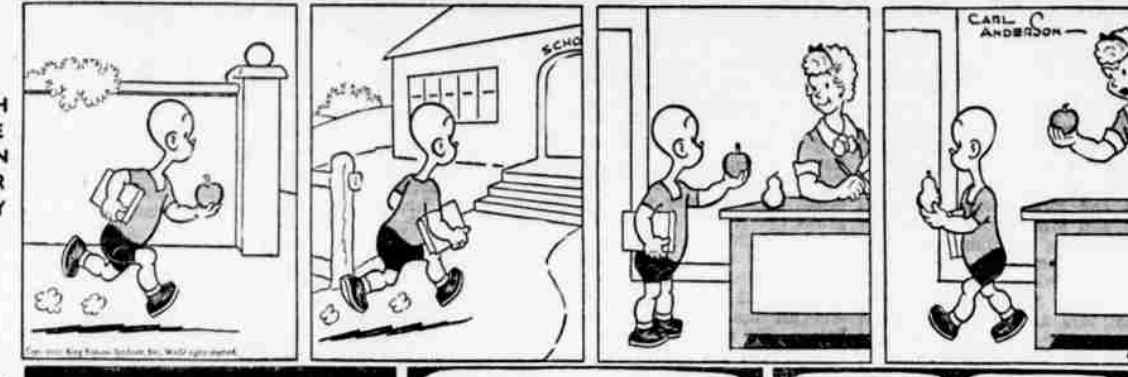
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RADIO PROGRAMS			
THURSDAY--P.M.			
KSJM	1290 AM	KGW	820 AM
5	5:30	6:00	6:30
6	6:45	7:15	7:45
7	8:00	8:30	9:00
8	9:15	9:45	10:15
9	10:30	11:00	11:30
10	12:00	12:30	1:00
11	1:15	1:45	2:15
12	2:30	3:00	3:30

FRIDAY--6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.			
7	7:30	8:00	8:30
8	8:45	9:15	9:45
9	10:00	10:30	11:00
10	11:15	11:45	12:15
11	12:30	1:00	1:30
12	1:45	2:15	2:45
1	3:00	3:30	4:00
2	4:15	4:45	

**DIAL LISTINGS:** KEX, 1190; KOAC, 550  
KEX Thursday 5:30-6:30, Keeping Up With Sports; 6:15, Home Edition; 6:30, Modern Romances; 7:00, Readers; 7:30, 7:45, News; 8:00, 8:15, Drama; 8:30, 8:45, Music; 9:00, 9:15, News; 9:30, 9:45, Music; 10:00, 10:15, News; 10:30, 10:45, Music; 11:00, 11:15, News; 11:30, 11:45, Music; 12:00, 12:15, News; 12:30, 12:45, Music; 1:00, 1:15, News; 1:30, 1:45, Music; 2:00, 2:15, News; 2:30, 2:45, Music; 3:00, 3:15, News; 3:30, 3:45, Music; 4:00, 4:15, News; 4:30, 4:45, Music.

**Crossword Puzzle**

ACROSS: 1. Paragon; 2. Snow runner; 3. Brown boy; 4. Bull pup; 5. Fox; 6. Rubber tree; 7. Wire tender; 8. Small surrounding area; 9. Present; 10. Consumable; 11. Portable shelter; 12. Come nearer; 13. Likely; 14. Air; 15. Fortification; 16. Sound of Peter Pan; 17. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 18. Present; 19. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 20. Sound of Peter Pan; 21. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 22. Sound of Peter Pan; 23. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 24. Sound of Peter Pan; 25. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 26. Sound of Peter Pan; 27. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 28. Sound of Peter Pan; 29. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 30. Sound of Peter Pan; 31. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 32. Sound of Peter Pan; 33. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 34. Sound of Peter Pan; 35. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 36. Sound of Peter Pan; 37. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 38. Sound of Peter Pan; 39. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 40. Sound of Peter Pan; 41. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 42. Sound of Peter Pan; 43. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 44. Sound of Peter Pan; 45. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 46. Sound of Peter Pan; 47. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 48. Sound of Peter Pan; 49. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 50. Sound of Peter Pan; 51. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 52. Sound of Peter Pan; 53. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 54. Sound of Peter Pan; 55. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 56. Sound of Peter Pan; 57. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 58. Sound of Peter Pan; 59. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 60. Sound of Peter Pan; 61. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 62. Sound of Peter Pan; 63. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 64. Sound of Peter Pan; 65. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 66. Sound of Peter Pan; 67. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 68. Sound of Peter Pan; 69. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 70. Sound of Peter Pan; 71. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 72. Sound of Peter Pan; 73. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 74. Sound of Peter Pan; 75. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 76. Sound of Peter Pan; 77. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 78. Sound of Peter Pan; 79. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 80. Sound of Peter Pan; 81. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 82. Sound of Peter Pan; 83. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 84. Sound of Peter Pan; 85. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 86. Sound of Peter Pan; 87. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 88. Sound of Peter Pan; 89. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 90. Sound of Peter Pan; 91. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 92. Sound of Peter Pan; 93. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 94. Sound of Peter Pan; 95. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 96. Sound of Peter Pan; 97. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 98. Sound of Peter Pan; 99. Author of 'The Wind in the Willows'; 100. Sound of Peter Pan.

**ROOM AND BOARD** . . . . . By Gene Ahern

I'M PACKED UP AND CATCHING THE 6 O'CLOCK BUS FOR HOME!

I WON'T GET THERE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, BUT AT LEAST I'LL GET A NIGHT'S REST ON THE PACKING EXCELLOS. I'M USED TO IT—I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE ON THAT PROVING ROUND FOR NIGHTMARES I'VE BEEN SLEEPING IN, HERE!

I'LL PACK UP AND GO WITH YOU! THEY'RE SERVING BEAN PASTE, BEANS AND MYSTERY CROQUETTES AGAIN TONIGHT!

