

# Heart of Happiness

by PEGGY O'MORE

AP Newsfeatures

(Chapter 9)

"Now what have I said?" cried Mrs. Cotsen.

Arleta turned to her. "You said my father was murdered. What did you mean? I read the newspaper account of his death. He was killed while hunting."

"And another man was killed at the same time. Accident? Of course they called it an accident in the newspapers, because they couldn't prove anything; they couldn't even prove which man shot first. But there isn't a person who knew the two who didn't call it murder. Some say your father shot Allen."

"Allen?" Arleta, her voice thick with shock, broke in. "That wasn't the name!"

"It was so—Allen Lane." Arleta said. "Allen Lane, Allen Lane. That girl at the store who says Allen shot your father first. In all probability they both shot at the same time."

The voice, in an attempt to erase the shock, went on soothingly. "Must have been both died instantly."

No wonder Allen Lane had hated her, if Arleta felt her father had shot him. It must have been Lane who had fired first. Of course it was for her, Arleta, to hate the other girl, if there was to be hatred.

All afternoon Arleta held this fresh knowledge in her mind as she directed the work, held it, to bring it forth for scrutiny when she had a moment alone. It could be no more than gossip.

And then a fresh thought came. Cal. He'd talked to some hunters. That strange look he'd given her, that searching scrutiny. Had those hunters told him of a hunting accident which had been called murder? Had he thought her father—"No," she denied, "he couldn't have believed."

"I must know," she said, as she walked out to the car, "but who would give me an unprejudiced answer?"

How Kelly! Somehow she felt he would tell her without sparing her. She'd noticed an arrow nailed to a pine at the mouth of a roadway across the bridge, his name painted thereon.

As she neared the house a collier came from the rear porch to approach her with the dignity of age to sniff of her hand, then fall into step beside her. And together they approached the rear door.

Arleta reached the door and rapped several times before a figure, half engulfed by an apron, a long fork in his hand appeared.

"Come in. But what are you doing here?"

Arleta looked at the apron and fork and caught a savory aroma. "I came to thank your mother."

"My mother?" He looked at her blankly a moment. "Oh, you mean my mother. Why, she went back to town the next morning. I drove her in."

"I see. Then that was your astral body driving me up to River City?"

"Okay," he gave up. "I used the idea of her to get you out of that house. It didn't work. But what brings you back here? Or say, didn't you leave?"

"Your meat's burning."

He wheeled for the stove. "Go in and sit down. Duchess, where are your manners?"

Arleta found her hand taken gently by the collier's teeth and she was led to a deep couch before the rock fireplace. "Don't want to interrupt," she called back, "but I've no choice."

"Not when she has you in hand. You'll stay for dinner."

"Sorry, I was—"

"Like Duchess. When I have a guest in hand, they stay. And I'm a good cook. Uncle Sam saw to that."

Duchess spread herself at Arleta's feet, and when she sought to rise there was the faintest of growls, so she continued to sit, to stare at the big room and marvel at its untidy comfort.

Slowly, gradually, she relaxed, setting back in the comfort of the divan. Dimly she heard dishes clattering in the next room, heard silverware, and then heard no more. When she opened her eyes she saw How Kelly in a big chair before the fireplace, dreamily nursing a long pipe.

"Oh my goodness," she cried, sitting up.

"All tucked out, weren't you?"

he inquired calmly, as he held his pipe off, admiring it. "Been tilting at windmills?"

"I guess I've been working all night, after a fashion. But I can't solve the mysteries my mind conjures up for me."

"Okay, Chips, get it off your chest and then I'll feed you. I thought you needed that nap more than food. I played the perfect host. I didn't wait. Now what's your mystery?"

"My Kelly—oh, all right. How—was my father murdered?"

"The nod of his head was the nod of a man who'd expected the question. As far as the coroner's jury could ascertain, shots were fired simultaneously, and believe me, if they could have established that one preceded the other, they'd have done so. Pressure from both sides was terrific."

"What do you think," she demanded.

"I don't," he replied abruptly. "Nothing can lead you as far astray as conjecture. No one knows what happened. Let's leave it at that."

"I can't!" the words burst from her. "It's not knowing."

Kelly moved restlessly. "Chips, why didn't you go on home? Look what you'd have saved yourself. Have you ever lived in a small community where the people have nothing to do but gossip? Gossip's a snowball rolling downhill; it picks up anything in its way. The longer the hill the bigger the snowball. You're going to find yourself surrounded by snowballs of gossip, and how you'll ever wear the truth out of them I don't know."

She gasped at this. Mrs. Cotsen's tale could have been no more than gossip. Ah, what a relief. The estate left to vandals because her father's attorney had passed away. Another snowball. Everything had its logical explanation.

(To Be Continued)



3083  
SIZES  
12-40

Easy to Make—Good lines in a jumper, so simply cut that it has just four principal seams. Big patch pockets stamp it with one of the season's most important details; and the very becoming blouse is included in the pattern.

No. 3083 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40. Size 16 requires 2 1/2 yds. 54-in. for jumper; 2 1/2 yds. 39-in. for blouse.

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Address: Capital Journal, 214 Mission St., San Francisco 5, Calif.

Flower-of-the-month—Delicately etched Cosmos the flower of the month for October and brilliantly colored Chrysanthemums, for November are effectively embroidered in simple stitches.

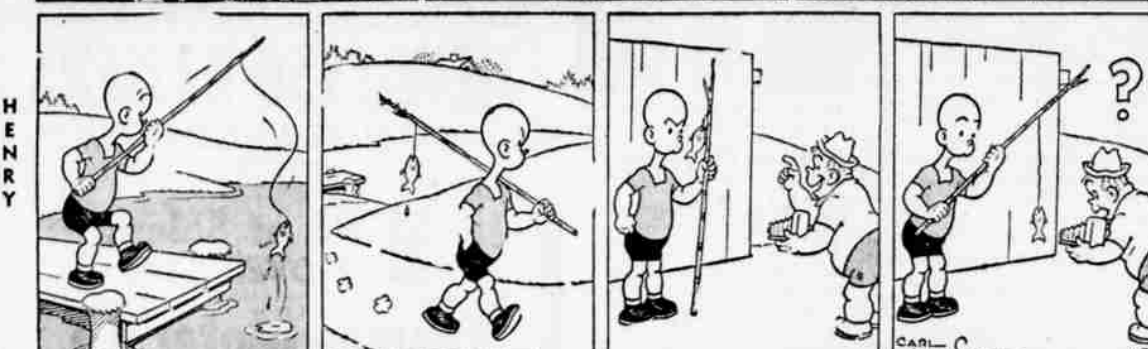
Pattern Envelope No. R2893 contains hot iron transfer of 15 motifs, measuring from 8 by 8 1/2 inches to 4 1/2 by 4 inches, color charts, stitch illustrations and complete embroidery directions.

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### RADIO PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY—P.M.

| KGW            | KOIN           | KEX            | KSLM           | KOCO           |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 620 NBC        | 970 CBS        | 1180 ABC       | 1280 NBC       | 1400 Kc.       |
| 8:00 News      | 8:00 News      | 8:00 News      | 8:00 News      | 8:00 News      |
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### THURSDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

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### DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Wednesday P.M.—5:00, Children's Theater; 5:15, On the Beach; 5:30, 5:50 Sports Club; 6:00, News; 6:15, Piano Parlor; 6:30, Friends; 6:45, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45, 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00, 12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 2:45, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45, 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00, 12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 2:45, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8:00, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45, 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00, 12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 2:45, 3:00, 3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 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