



The Secret Adversary by Agatha Christie

(Continued from last week.)

Jane Finn stirred and sat up, regarding the speaker with wide, astonished eyes. Springing to her feet, she cried out angrily.

CHAPTER XVII

Mr. Brown. Sir James' words came like a bombshell. Both girls looked equally puzzled. The lawyer went across to his desk, and returned with a small newspaper cutting, which he handed to Jane. Tuppence read it over her shoulder. It referred to the mysterious man found dead in New York.

"As I was saying to Miss Tuppence," resumed the lawyer, "I set to work to prove the impossible possible. The great stumbling-block was the undeniable fact that Julius Hershelmer was not an assumed name. When I came across this paragraph my problem was solved. Julius Hershelmer set out to discover what had become of his cousin. He went out West, where he obtained news of her and her photograph to aid him in his search. On the eve of his departure from New York he was set upon and murdered. His body was dressed in shabby clothes, and the face disguised to prevent identification. Mr. Brown took his place. He sailed immediately for England. Since then he had been hand and glove with those sworn to hunt him down. Every secret of theirs has been known to him. Only one did he know near disaster. Mrs. Vandemeyer knew his secret. It was no part of his plan that that huge bribe should ever be offered to her. But for Miss Tuppence's fortunate change of plan, she would have been far away from the flat when we arrived there. Exposure stared him in the face. He took a desperate step, trusting in his assumed character to avert suspicion. He nearly succeeded—but not quite.

"Now we're ready. I know better than even to suggest going without you, Miss Tuppence."

"I should think so indeed!" Sir James' car drew up at the corner of the square and they got out. A policeman produced a key. They all knew Sir James well. The three entered the house, pulling the door to behind them. Slowly they mounted the rickety stairs. At the top was the ragged curtain hiding the recess where Tommy had hidden that day. Tuppence had heard the story from Jane in her character of "Annette." She looked at the tattered velvet with interest. Even now she could almost swear it moved—as though someone was behind it. Suspecting Mr. Brown—Julius—was there waiting.

Impossible of course! She must not give way to this foolish fancying—this curious insistent feeling that Mr. Brown was in the house. Hark! What was that? A stealthy footstep on the stairs? There was someone in the house! Absurd! She was becoming hysterical.

Jane had gone straight to the picture of Marguerite. She unlocked it with a steady hand. The dust lay thick upon it, and footprints of cobwebs lay between it and the wall. Sir James handed her a pocket-knife, and she slipped away the brown paper from the back. . . . The advertisement page of a magazine fell out. Jane picked it up. Holding apart the frayed inner edges, she extracted two thin sheets covered with writing!

"No dummy this time! The real thing!" "We've got it," said Tuppence. "At last."

Sir James took it, and scrutinized it attentively. "Yes," he said quietly, "this is the ill-fated draft treaty!" "We've succeeded," said Tuppence. There was awe and an almost wondering unbelief in her voice.

Sir James echoed her words as he folded the paper carefully and put it away in his pocket-book, then he looked curiously round the dingy room.

"It was here that our young friend was confined for so long, was it not?" he said. "A truly sinister room. You notice the absence of windows, and the thickness of the close-fitting door. Whatever took place here would never be heard by the outside world."

"You feel—as we all feel—THE PRESENCE OF MR. BROWN. Yes,"—as Tuppence made a movement—"not a doubt of it—MR. BROWN IS HERE."

"In this house?" "In this room. . . . You don't understand? I AM MR. BROWN. . . . Stupefied, unbelieving, they stared at him. The very lines of his face had changed. It was a different man who stood before them. He smiled a slow cruel smile.

"Neither of you will leave this room alive! Shall I tell you how it will be? Sooner or later the police will break in, and they will find three victims of Mr. Brown—three, not two, you understand, but fortunately the third will not be dead, only wounded, and will be able to describe the attack with a wealth of detail. The treaty? It is

in the hands of Mr. Brown. So no one will think of searching the pockets of Sir James Peel Edgerton!"

"There was a faint sound behind him, but intoxicated with success, he did not turn his head.

He slipped his hand into his pocket. "Checkmate to the Young Adventurers," he said, and slowly raised a big automatic.

But, even as he did so, he felt himself seized from behind in a grip of iron. The revolver was wrenched from his hand, and the voice of Julius Hershelmer said drawlingly: "I guess you're caught redhanded with the goods on you."

The blood rushed to the K. C.'s face. bulks self-control was marvelous, as he looked from one to the other of his two captors. He looked longest at Tommy.

"You," he said beneath his breath. "You! I might have known."

Seeing that he was disposed to offer no resistance, their grip slackened.

Quick as a Flash His Left Hand, the Hand Which Bore the Big Signet Ring, Was Raised to His Lips.

Quick as a flash his left hand, the hand which bore the big signet ring, was raised to his lips.

"Ave, Caesar! te morituri salutant," he said, still looking at Tommy. Then his face changed, and with a long convulsive shudder he fell forward in a crumpled heap, whilst an odor of bitter almonds filled the air.

CHAPTER XVIII A Supper Party at the "Savoy."

The supper party given by Mr. Julius Hershelmer to a few friends on the evening of the 20th will long be remembered in catering circles. It took place in a private room, and Mr. Hershelmer's orders were brief and forcible. He gave carte blanche—and when a millionaire gives carte blanche he usually gets it!

The list of guests was small and select. The American ambassador, Mr. Carter, who had taken the liberty, he said, of bringing an old friend, Sir William Beresford, with him. Archdeacon Cowley, Dr. Hall, those two youthful adventurers, Miss Prudence Cowley and Mr. Thomas Beresford, and last, but not least, as guest of honor, Miss Jane Finn.

To most people the 20th, the much-heralded "Labor Day," had passed much as any other day. Speeches were made in the Park and Trafalgar square. Straggling processions, singing the "Red Flag," wandered through the streets in a more or less aimless manner. Newspapers which had hinted at a general strike, and the inauguration of a reign of terror, were forced to hide their diminished heads. The bold and more astute among them sought to prove that peace had been effected by following their counsels. In the Sunday papers a brief notice of the sudden death of Sir James Peel Edgerton, the famous K. C., had appeared. Monday's paper dealt appreciatively with the dead man's career. The exact manner of his sudden death was never made public.

Tommy had been right in his forecast of the situation. It had been a one-man show. Deprived of their chief, the organization fell to pieces. Kramenin had made a precipitate return to Russia, leaving England early on Sunday morning. The gang had fled from Astley Priory in a panic, leaving behind, in their haste, various damaging documents which compromised them hopelessly. With these proofs of conspiracy in their hands, aided further by a small brown diary taken from the pocket of the dead man which had contained a full and damning resume of the whole plot, the government had called an eleventh-hour conference. The labor leaders were forced to recognize that they had been used as a cat's-paw. Certain concessions were made by the government, and were eagerly accepted. It was to be Peace, not War!

He had entered the squibs room to find that great man, the friend of a lifetime, dead—betrayed out of his own mouth. From the dead man's pocket-book he had retrieved the ill-omened draft treaty, and then and there, in the presence of the other three, it had been reduced to ashes.

England was saved! And now, on the evening of the 20th, in a private room at the Savoy, Mr. Julius P. Hershelmer was receiving his guests.

Soon the supper party was in full swing, and with one accord Tommy was called upon for a full and complete explanation.

"Tommy's been the goods this trip! And, instead of sitting there as dumb as a fish, let him blanch his blushes, and tell us all about it."

"Hear! hear!" "There's nothing to tell," said Tommy, acutely uncomfortable. "I was an awful mug—right up to the time I found that photograph of Annette, and realized that she was Jane Finn. Then I remembered how persistently she had shouted out that word 'Marguerite'—and I thought of the pictures, and—well, that's that. Then of course I went over the whole thing to see where I'd made an ass of myself."

"Go on," said Mr. Carter, as Tommy showed signs of taking refuge in silence once more.

(Continued next week.)

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Washington County, Oregon will hold the regular examination of applicants for State Certificates at the Court House in Hillsboro as follows: Commencing Wednesday, June 11, 1924, at 9:00 o'clock A. M., and continuing until Saturday, June 14, 1924, at 4:00 o'clock P. M.

Wednesday Forenoon U. S. History, Writing (Penmanship), Music, Drawing. Wednesday Afternoon Physiology, Reading, Manual Training, Composition, Domestic Science, Methods in Reading, Course of Study for Drawing, Methods in Arithmetic.

Thursday Forenoon Arithmetic, History of Education, Psychology, Methods in Geography, Mechanical Drawing, Domestic Art, Course of Study for Domestic Art. Thursday Afternoon Grammar, Geography, Stenography, American Literature, Physics, Typewriting, Methods in Language, Thesis for Primary Certificate.

Friday Forenoon Theory and Practice, Orthography (Spelling), Physical Geography, English Literature, Chemistry. Friday Afternoon School Law, Geology, Algebra, Civil Government.

Saturday Forenoon Geometry, Botany. Saturday Afternoon General History, Bookkeeping, Emma Bryant, Wash. Co. School Superintendent Adv c 26-27

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Household Dept. VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD RECIPES AND SUGGESTIONS

Philadelphia Ice-Cream—scald one quart of thin cream with 1 scant cup of sugar; or use one cup of milk with three cups of thick cream. When cold flavor to taste, and freeze in three parts ice and one part salt. Very thick cream will not freeze readily. Scalding give a firm, rich velvety texture, not found in uncooked cream.

Grape Fruit Frappe—One and one-half cups each of grape fruit and orange juice, and one-half cup of lemon-juice; one quart of water and one pint of sugar boiled fifteen minutes. Strain, freeze to a mass, and serve in the grape fruit skins.

Coffee Ice-Cream—Steep one-fourth cup of ground coffee in one cup of milk ten minutes. Strain it and add to the cream or custard recipe; or add one-fourth cup of black coffee.

Endive Salad—Take a head of endive, wash it and dry it well and put it in a salad bowl. Pour over it three tablespoons of good olive oil. Mix one tablespoon of honey, one of vinegar, and salt and pepper in a cup, and pour over the salad just before serving.

ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE Young people who desire to do progressive things in their home towns are sometimes discouraged by those who throw difficulties in their way and represent that it would be impossible for them to attain perfection or anything like it. A group of young folks may desire to get up a play, for instance. But some one may tell them they could not possibly compete with professional actors or trained amateurs and that if they put on a play their effort would seem thin and feeble compared with what people could see by going to nearby cities. As a result of such disparaging comments many young people will give up such attempts.

Many efforts to start singing societies or bands or orchestras in country towns have been discouraged because the young people were told it would be hard for them to produce a strictly first class result.

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BEAVERTON BARBER SHOP First-class Work Bath in Connection An Up-to-date Sanitary Shop C. J. Stevens, Prop. BEAVERTON, ORE.

In these times people attend fine musical and dramatic performances in cities and then are ashamed to try to do anything themselves. They are about like the country town flute player who had always enjoyed his instrument and had given much pleasure with it in rural entertainments. But one day he went to a concert in a great city, where he heard one of the country's best flute players. He was enraptured by the fine music but so disgusted him with his own performance that he went home and threw his flute into the swill-pail, as he announced, and never played much after that. It would have been better if he had never heard that great player.

The young folks in country towns should take hold and do their best in these forms of expression. If they make a sincere and earnest effort their productions will give pleasure to their neighborhood, and they will add to their own powers.

FARM REMINDERS When powdery mildew is troublesome in Oregon orchards the use of a spreader with the lime-sulfur is highly desirable. The spreader wets up the mildew and penetrates into the clusters of unfolding leaves. Many mildew

tips make spraying difficult and pruning wherever practical will lessen the spread of the mildew.

Long-tailed lambs and bucky lambs will be heavily docked this year in the Portland markets, is the word that has been received. Although most satisfactory when the lambs are young, docking and castrating can be performed when they are older if proper

precautions are observed. Searing the wounds with a hot iron will eliminate danger from bleeding.

SULPHUR CLEARS A PIMPLY SKIN Apply Sulphur as Told When Your Skin Breaks Out

Any breaking out of the skin on face, neck, arms or body is overcome quickly by applying Mentho-Sulphur. The pimples seem to dry right up and go away, declares a noted skin specialist.

Nothing has ever been found to take the place of sulphur as a pimple remover. It is harmless and inexpensive. Just ask any druggist for a small jar of Rowles Mentho-Sulphur and use it like cold cream.

Stop "dosing" Rheumatism. It's pain only; not one case in fifty requires internal treatment. Rub soothing, penetrating "St. Jacobs Oil" right on the "tender spot," and by the time you say Jack Robinson—out comes the rheumatic pain and distress. "St. Jacobs Oil" is a harmless rheumatism liniment which never disappears and doesn't burn the skin. It takes pain, soreness and stiffness from aching joints, muscles and bones; stops sciatica, lumbago, backache and neuralgia.

Limber up! Get a small trial bottle of old-time, honest "St. Jacobs Oil" from any drug store, and in a moment, you'll be free from pains, aches and stiffness. Don't suffer! Rub rheumatism away.

Rub Rheumatic Pain From Aching Joints

Rub Pain right out with small trial bottle of old "St. Jacobs Oil."

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