

Abner Dart was silent a moment. "There were nine others," he said hoarsely. "Nine others. When Ella suspected that one of them believed she was a woman that one died."
"And who is Amy, Abner "

Before Abner Dart could answer Simon Judd's question the silence was broken by cries and loud noises within the house and Brennan leap-ed for the door and ran inside. For a brief period the noise continued,

came out again.

"That Maggie cook was cutting got hold of a knife and I reckon she's plum gone crazy."

from her and she promised to her the court of the court

"That Maggle cook was cutting loose," he said. "She has been drinking more but I took the stuff from her and she promised to be a good girl. Did you say who Amy was, Dart?"

"She's a Drane," Abner Dart replied. "Along during these last years Ella complained a good deal because she had never had a child. It bothered her mind. She talked to me about it. She worried because we were old and there would be no one to leave the money to, cause we were old and there would be no one to leave the money to, and I told her to adopt a child. She used to go away when she was sick; she went to Hot Springs when she had appendicitis; she couldn't let the doctors here handle her illness, of course, so she went away. She went to California on one of the trips when she thought she was going to be sick, and she heard of a Drane there and tried to find him—his name was Silas, but he had died and his wife had died and they had left this baby. So Ella adopted it. That is Amy. That is all we ever knew about Amy. She was a great comfort to Ella, these

the arm of her chair was trying to comfort her. Norbert, coughing, came to the door. He seemed to think Brennan was in charge of the

house, for he spoke to him."
"If you please, Mist. Brennan," he said, "George Firmandick has jus' gone an' died all of a sudden an' Maggle is startin' to carry on mighty bad."
"Where is she?" Brennan asked.

"She's up in his room ovan the garage," Norbert said, "an' she

all we ever knew about Amy. She all we ever knew about Amy. She was a great comfort to Ella, these years, especially these last months."

"We know it," Brennan said.

"Why did you not stay the night as

"Yes, the first," Abner Dart said so weakly that they could hardly hear him. "The first was a house-keeper she had, named Caroline Barstell. She was a sickly old thing and believed in ghosts—she thought she was a medium and had second sight but she was keen. She was keen the way fortune tellers are when they study a person and then and then tell them what their past has been and what their characters are. She told Ella right out to her face she was a woman. That night Mrs. Barstell had a fit and died."

"Yes, and that was the first. That was may a more and what started Ella getting the sick ones from the hospital—Dr. Ellessington made no trouble over the Barstell woman's death; he said she had been in danger of death at all times."

Abner Dart was silent a moment. There were nine others," he said the was some good in the woman. The composition of the compo

Dart last night?"

"No! I do not know!" the little man said, shaking his head. "If I like head I would tell you. I—"

One of the police officers interrupted this time, coming around the veranda, walking firmly on his broad soles.

"Brennan!" he said, motioning to the detective with a finger.

"Whete it it low?" Brennan saked.

"If lain't," Simon Judd.
"It is that's our case," he said.
"It is not much for us but it will be a big story for the newspapers. By the time it reaches Riverbank you ought to be quite a hero detective, Judd."

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"If I ain't, "I won't be my fault."

(The End.)

the detective with a finger.
"What is it, Joe?" Brennan asked.

"What is it, Joe?" Brennan asked.
"The cook lady, Maggie Maney her name is, had a spell and passed out up yonder in the chauffleur's room just now," the officer said. "I don't know was she right in her mind or not but she was shoutin' that the dead woman had killed the

ever."
"Dart," Brennan demanded sharply, "do you know who killed Ella
Dart last night?"
"No! I do not know!" the little
man said, shaking his head. "If I

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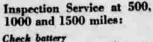
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team. He is a senior. Their daughter, Miss Anita, is a junior at Whittonian college in Walla Walla, where she has been doing fine, but is compelled to be away from her studies at present because of serious illness man in the high school department.

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