

The White Cockatoo

by Mignon G. Eberhart

SYNOPSIS: James Sundean cannot shake off a feeling of foreboding that assails him upon arrival at his hotel in Armenia, Southern France. Perhaps it is the howling north wind which shakes the house. Perhaps it is Lovschlem, the proprietor. Perhaps it is the poverty of guests—there are only three. Mrs. Felicia Byng of Omaha. Father Robert, a red-headed priest, and an interesting American girl named Sue Tally. Sundean is nervous but not surprised when Miss Tally bursts into his room at midnight to take refuge from an abductor. He has calmed her when there is a sudden loud crash.

Chapter 5

SUNDEAN'S ERRAND

MY FRIGHTENED visitor half rose; we were silent a moment. Then the noise recurred, and we relaxed. It was a shutter banging in the increasing wind.

"Yes, I've just come from Russia," I went on. "An old friend of mine, Jack Dunning, and I arranged to meet here for a trip through Southern Spain. I'm a week ahead of time."

The girl nodded, and after a moment asked: "What do you think of the hotel?"

"It's rather large in the winter, isn't it? The handful of guests must rattle around like so many peanuts."

"We do rather rattle around. Especially when the summer staff is dismissed. Just now there are only the cook, one porter and one maid, the manager, and Madame Lovschlem, his wife. And you and Mrs. Byng and a priest. And myself, of course. It is very quiet and lonely in the winter."

I must have looked a question, for she added: "I have been here about a year. You see—my mother was ill and died here. Madame Lovschlem and her husband have been very kind to me and to my mother."

As if she wished to change the subject, she told me about the hotel.



She held the toy sword.

from my face. It must have been more than an hour that he drove. Finally he stopped.

She stopped, too, and took a long breath. "I had planned what I would do. As he got out the front seat, I got out the back seat, on the opposite side, and ran. The wind was blowing, and it was dark, and he didn't hear me open the door, and it was a moment before he found I was not there."

"Then I saw a light, and it was the light at the entrance of the hotel. I didn't stop to think how strange it was. I just ran. The gate was locked, of course, but I knew the way in. He was after me."

Something must have come from my throat then, for she stopped, gave me a questioning look, and then went on:

"He could see me under the small light. He was so close, and there was no light in the hotel, and he, too, knew the way into the court. Then I saw your light. I ran into the shadow and up the stairway. I think he wasted time looking in the courtyard for me."

"I don't think he heard me call to you; the wind was too loud. But I'm afraid he saw me against the light. You can see your light from the court, you know, when the door is open. And that's—that's all. Except that I want you to tell no one—especially the Lovschlems."

"Who was the man?"

"I don't know."

"It wasn't Lovschlem?"

"Oh, no!" she cried. "It wasn't Lovschlem. He is so—fat, you know. This man wasn't fat."

I said that the fellow ought to be killed. I believe I said I would enjoy the job of doing it.

"I've troubled you enough," she said. "I can't thank you. Now I'm going."

"But wait. Look here. Are you sure you'll be safe? I can't let you go like this."

"I'm quite alright. I shan't go for walks on the bridge again, at night anyway. And there's no need to call Madame. I'll lock my door." An expression of consternation crossed her face. "My key," she said, "I left my key on the board in the lobby."

"I'll get it. What number is it?"

"Nineteen. But—"

"Don't leave until I return."

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Sundean stumbles, tomorrow, over a terrible object in the hallway.

FIREMAN FIREBUGS IN INDEPENDENCE

INDEPENDENCE, April 11.—(AP)—Three men connected with the local

fire department have confessed to "fire-bug" activities and will receive sentences by Judge Arlie Walker in a few days.

George Arrell, a former member of the fire department, confessed to partial responsibility for some recent fires and implicated "Cy" Graber and Harold Borg.

According to Arrell's statement he helped to fire buildings to get the

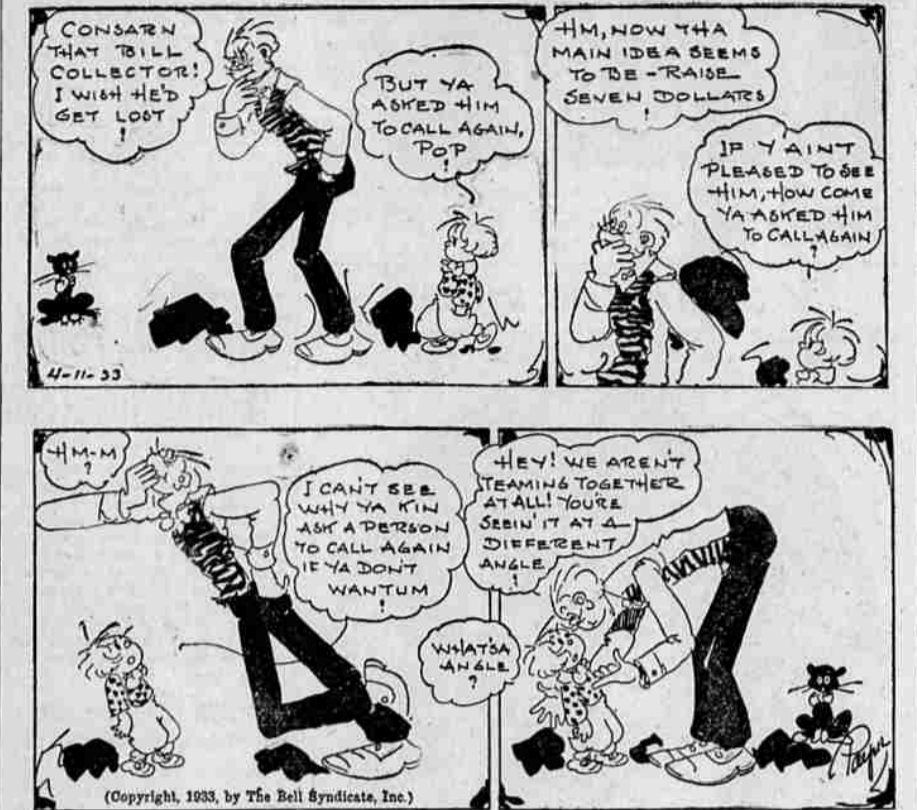
\$2 fee, which is paid firemen by the city of Independence, and induced the other two men to assist him for like reasons as they would receive the same compensation.

Ex-10 Photo for 75c. The Pesaleya, opp. Holly Theater.

Broken windows glazed by Krowbridge Cabinet Works.

S'MATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



DIFFICULT DECISIONS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



TAILSPIN TOMMY—Santiago De Cuba Now And "Yesterday!"

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



BOUND TO WIN—Now Or Never!

By EDWIN ALGER



THE NEBBS—Cheer Up!

By SOL HESS



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



LUMBER CONFERENCE CALLED AT SEATTLE

SEATTLE, April 11.—(AP)—The West Coast Lumbermen's association announced today that lumber manufacturers and wholesalers interested in the Atlantic coast lumber trade are to meet with S. M. Hauptman, newly appointed manager of the lumber bureau, United States intercoastal conference, at the Olympic hotel here at 9:30 a. m., Thursday to discuss details of shipping problems in ad-

Scio Beer Sold Only In Package

SCIO, April 11.—(AP)—Only in original packages may beer be sold in Scio, the city council here voted unanimously. Drinking the 3.2 per cent beer on the premises of the vendor, selling it to any person under 18 years of age or to sell or give it away within 400 feet of any school house were banned by the council.

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