

The Wrong Murderer

By HUGH CLEVELY

SYNOPSIS: By the amazing ruse of putting everybody to sleep with drugged champagne, Terence Mahony has given the police a great amount of evidence about Lawson's doings and kidnapping ring, and has captured Lawson himself. Lawson has killed a man, Mahony is suspected of the murder. More pressing is the plight of Ruth Fraser whom Lawson has hidden away. Terence has had Polly Bennett take some impressions of all Lawson's doings.

Chapter 22 LAWSON DELIVERS

IN A few seconds Lawson stirred feebly and opened his eyes. For a moment he stared at Mahony stupidly, as if he could not understand where he was or how he got there. Then understanding came to him, and his dark eyes blazed at Mahony with a passion of rage and hatred.

"You—you—!" He spat an unmentionable word. "By God, you'll pay for this," he said.

Mahony wasted no time beating about the bush.

"I want to know where Ruth Fraser is," he said.

Lawson's swollen lips drew back from his teeth in a horrible sneering grin of defiance.

"I dare say you do," he said jeeringly. "But do you think I'm going to tell you?"

"If you don't I shall kill you," replied Mahony in a matter-of-fact tone that left no doubt that he meant exactly what he said.

Lawson laughed.

"I've no doubt that it would give you great pleasure to do that," he said sarcastically. "But I don't think you'll do it, and I'll tell you why. If you kill me tonight, you'll never see Miss Fraser again. Also, as soon as I'm dead, certain evidence will be forthcoming which will give the whole game away so far as your late friend Billy Ross is concerned. And you'll hang. If I'm killed tonight, I've arranged that the police will find absolutely damning evidence that you did kill old Little."

"What evidence?" demanded Mahony.

Lawson grinned. His expression was absolutely satanic.

"My evidence against Ross is in his handwriting; it shows quite clearly that he was engaged with me in my criminal activities," he said. "My evidence against you is in my handwriting. To be exact, it takes the form of a diary."

"In it I relate how Ross introduced you to me as a promising recruit to my organization, how we quarrelled over a question of money, and that instead of kidnapping Miss Little properly as we had planned, you double-crossed me by taking her back to her own house."

"There her uncle recognized you, and you had to kill him to get away. After that the entries are all quite true; I simply relate your various efforts to fight me, and my efforts to fight you—quite a simple story of criminals falling out among themselves."

"Naturally, when the police find that diary, they'll know that I was the power behind all the dope and blackmailing activity, but that won't worry me if I'm dead. They'll also be quite sure that you are a crook and a murderer. It would be amusing, wouldn't it, if you were to kill me, and then be hanged for killing old Little?"

"Terribly amusing," agreed Mahony impressively. "But diary or no diary, I'm going to kill you tonight unless Ruth Fraser is restored to me safe and unharmed."

Lawson shrugged his shoulders slightly.

"I'm not particularly anxious to die tonight," he admitted. "In the circumstances I suggest that we should strike a bargain. You let me go and I'll have Miss Fraser brought to you here. After all, it will only be a matter of time before I have my hands on her, and you, again."

Mahony had never underrated Lawson's courage; he had anticipated that some such bargain would have to be struck between them.

"You have Miss Fraser brought to me here, and I'll let you go," he agreed. "You can go after she's safely here."

"It seems that you don't trust me," remarked Lawson in a tone of ironic surprise. "But you expect me to trust you. Well, I'll take your word for it that when Miss Fraser is safe here you'll let me go. I shall have to telephone."

"You can telephone, but don't try any funny business," Mahony warned him. "If a car-load of your toughs turns up here instead of Miss Fraser, you'll be the first person to go west."

"If a car-load of 'is toughs' comes along, they're likely to get more than they bargain for," put in Bassett. "I've got about a dozen blokes 'langing about this garage and them as 'asn't got guns as got blackjacks. You don't need to worry about no car-load of toughs turnin' up, Mister."

"That's all right, then," said Mahony. "Here you are."

He held the telephone close to Lawson so that he could speak. Lawson called a number, and when he was in touch with the man he wanted, he gave a few curt directions in German. Then he turned to Mahony.

"What is the address of this place?" he asked.

"Whitcher's garage, Dale Street, Canning Town," answered Mahony. Lawson repeated this address through the telephone, and nodded as a sign that the conversation was ended.

"She's being brought here at once; one man is bringing her in a car," he said.

"That will be all right," said Mahony.

"Twenty minutes passed; then there came the sound of a car driving up outside the garage. Mahony went to the door of his office and looked out. From the car descended a man and a girl. In the light that shone through the office doorway he had no difficulty in recognizing Ruth.

HE WENT forward quickly to meet her. At that moment he was only conscious of one thing—a feeling of tremendous relief and thankfulness that she was saved.

"Ruth!" he exclaimed.

She stopped, looked at him for a moment, gave a little gasp of astonishment. Her face looked pale and tired, and there were dark lines beneath her eyes. But at the sound of Mahony's voice her face seemed to light up; her drooping figure straightened. For a moment she stared at him; then, with a little exclamation of happiness she stepped forward quickly, holding out both her hands.

"Oh, Terence, it is you, isn't it? Terence, I knew you'd help me, I didn't see how you could, but I knew you would somehow. Terence—"

He took both her hands in his and pressed them hard. The sight of her pale, tired face, in contrast with the happiness shining in her eyes, the accents of complete and utter trust in him in her voice, affected him strangely. At that moment he had no thought for Elsa Little or anybody except Ruth.

Deep in his heart he knew that, though he might search the whole world, he could never find anybody else who would stand by him more loyally, trust him more completely, be a better friend and companion for him than she would. Nothing mattered just then except that she was safely with him again.

As if it were the most natural action in the world he drew her close, put one arm round her, and held her close to him. She sighed, and let her head rest for a moment on his shoulder.

"I'm so tired... and so glad to be with you again," she said.

"I'm glad, too," said Mahony. "There were dozens of things that he wanted to say, but he could find no words to say them. There was no need to say them. The grip of his arm encircling her, the expression in his eyes as they looked down into hers, were all she wanted at that moment. She smiled.

"I'm in an awful mess," she said happily. "Most likely the police are after me—I expect you know all about that. But I don't care. I don't mind what happens now."

"All this is very pretty and touching, but, if you remember, you promised to let me go when Miss Fraser was restored to you," came Lawson's cold, sneering voice from the office behind them. "At the risk of interrupting this charming scene, may I ask you to keep your promise."

NOME GOLD YIELD FOR YEAR HEAVY

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Nov. 16—(AP)—Four million dollars in gold was produced from mines in the Nome area this year, O. D. Cochran, territorial senator and Nome attorney, said today upon arriving here by airplane.

He said many new mining projects were being developed and forecast a substantial increase in production on the Seward peninsula next year.

B. A. Robbins, president of the Arctic Exploration company of Canada, and George Hellerich, mining engineer of Teller, accompanied Cochran. All three were bound for Juneau, intending to board the first Canadian ship for Vancouver and continue by train to Seattle.

Germany Balks
BERLIN, Nov. 16—(AP)—Germany repudiated part XII of the treaty of Versailles today, assuming full sovereignty over all her inland waterways—including the strategically important Kiel canal.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



MYSTERY WHEEL—
WHEN THE 12 IS ADDED EACH CIRCLE AND EACH RADII TOTALS 360. THE NUMBER OF DEGREES IN A CIRCLE.

B. E. HUTCHINSON, Chicago Ill.
INTERCEPTED A FORWARD PASS AND CARRIED IT 105 YARDS TO A TOUCHDOWN vs. Northwestern, Oct. 25, 1919

BICYCLE OF MATCHES!
MADE BY FRED SPINDEN, Abingdon, Ill., FROM 1400 SAFETY MATCHES. THIS 22-INCH-LONG BICYCLE MODEL HAS ALL WORKING PARTS!!

ITALIAN AMERICA—

ALTHOUGH THE NEW WORLD AND BOTH OF ITS CONTINENTS WERE DISCOVERED BY ITALIANS AND NAMED FOR AN ITALIAN, NO PART OF THE AMERICAS HAS EVER BEEN OWNED BY ITALY... YET 8 OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE POSSESSED AMERICAN COLONIES!

Italy, the well-beloved John Cabot, citizen of Venice... full and free authority, leave and power to seek out, discover and find whatsoever isles, countries, regions or provinces of the heathen and infidels, which before this time have been unknown to all Christians... setting sail, May 2, 1497, from Bristol, Cabot embarked on a journey that is credited with having discovered the mainland of North America, claimed in the name of the King of England.

Following the reports of the successful voyage of Columbus, King Henry VII granted to an Italian, the

LITTLE HELPER

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

MOTHER CALLS FROM DOWNSTAIRS TO BRING A GLASS OF WATER DOWN FOR AUNT ELSIE

URNS WATER OFF TO HEAR WHAT MOTHER IS CALLING. SHE IS SAYING TO BE SURE TO LET WATER RUN COLD

URNS WATER ON, SHOOTING HE WAS LETTING IT RUN COLD. TURNING IT OFF AGAIN SO SHE CAN HEAR.

GOES BACK TO HIS BUILDING OPERATIONS WHILE WAITING FOR WATER TO GET COLD

RETURNS TO BATHROOM AFTER A WHILE. FINDS PLUG WAS IN DRAIN. AMUSES HIMSELF SWISHING WATER INTO OVERFLOW DRAIN

SOME TIME LATER GOES DOWN TO SAY THERE ARE FLOWERS IN THE BATHROOM GLASS, SO WHAT SHALL HE DO?

FINDS AUNT ELSIE HAS GOT A DRINK FROM KITCHEN AND RETIRES, FEELING HIS EFFORTS TO HELP AREN'T APPRECIATED

8 MATTER POP—

By O. M. PAYNE

BE SURE TO PEEL YOUR APPLE BEFORE YOU EAT IT

YES, POP!

Tomorrow: The Famous Blowing Rock!

TAILSPIN TOMMY—The Boys Take Off

TOMMY... AND SKEETS ARE READY TO FLY TO SAN DIEGO TO TAKE TESTS TO QUALIFY FOR PILOTS' RATINGS FOR SHIPS OVER 7000 POUNDS. IF THEY PASS THE TESTS THEY WILL BE PROMOTED TO THE BIG TRANSPORTS.

HOW'S EVERYTHING, MOE?

MOTOR SOUNDS LIKE A KITFEN PURRIN'...

IT'LL HAPTA ROAR LIKE A LION... IF WE WANTA GIT TO SAN DIEGO ON TIME.

GOOD LUCK, BOYS! I'LL FLY DOWN TO SAN DIEGO LATER AND WATCH THE TESTS...

GEE!... THAT'LL BE GREAT, CHIEF!

THEY WON'T GIT FAR!

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Keeping a Secret

GEE, PERCY, I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM ANYTHING— DON'T TELL ANYBODY ANYTHING—

DON'T WORRY, BEN! PERCY PETTY AIN'T TALKIN' HIMSELF OUT O' THIS JOB!

AND, OF COURSE, WE WANT TO LOOK UP OLD DR. BOUTWELL YOU REMEMBER, HE'S THE MAN WHO ATTENDED GERALD KINLEY AND HIS MOTHER AT THE HOSPITAL—

PERCY, I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET WHY I'M TRYING TO FIND GERALD KINLEY—

YOU HAVEN'T AND YOU'RE NOT GOIN' TO, BEN— LEAST NOW— NOT NOW—

TWO PERSONS CAN KEEP A SECRET, BUT IT'S JUST TWICE AS HARD AS JUST ONE KEEPIN' IT— AN' LACKIN' BLABBIN' MATERIAL, I CAN'T BLAB!

WELL, WE'LL SEE, PERCE—

THE NEBBS—A Great Disappointment

OH, BOY, I GUESS I'M GETTING LUCKY— I TOSSED A STONE INTO A FLOCK OF BIRDS AND THIS ONE STAYED ON THE GROUND!

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE I EAT. MY STOMACH IS RUBBING AGAINST MY BACK AND THAT AIRPLANE DIRECTOR ISN'T GOING TO GET A SMELL

THIS IS AS TENDER AND JUICY AS A PIECE OF FLINT— WHEN I THREW THAT STONE INTO THAT FLOCK OF BIRDS I MUST HAVE KNOCKED OVER THE DECOY— I WISH TO GRABBED HIM IN THE MOUNTING SEASON— TAKING OFF HIS FEATHERS WAS LIKE PULLING UP TREES

High School News

by STUDENT REPORTERS

By Virginia Goodman
An assembly was called Friday at 10:30 to present a typing demonstration by the international champion typist.

Before the demonstration Mr. Smith made a few announcements to students driving cars to school cautioning them against speedy driving, overloading cars, riding with more than three in the front seat. Anyone caught offending these rules going to and from school will be punished by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith then introduced Mr. Peterson who in turn introduced the international champion typist, Mr. Soucek. Mr. Soucek talked to the students a few minutes before starting the demonstration about the essentials in gaining speed, namely accuracy, concentration, rhythm, correct form, elimination of lost time.

Mr. Soucek typed at several different speeds for the students, the fastest being 117 words per 30 seconds.

Hepner Gets Mission
HEPPNER, Ore., Nov. 16—(AP)—A city-wide, three-day preaching mission, in which the All Saints Episcopal, Methodist and Christian churches will co-operate, will begin here Nov. 16-18.

Weather
Northern California: Generally fair and mild tonight and Tuesday but cloudy north portion at times and fog on north coast; gentle variable wind.

Oregon: Increasing cloudiness tonight and Tuesday, becoming unsettled west portion, with pains north-west portion and on coast; normal temperature; increasing southerly wind off coast.

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