

the dark ships

BY HULBERT FOOTNER

SYNOPSIS: Abducted from Baltimore on Prescott Fanning's yacht, Janet gets word to Neil, a young federal agent who loves her. He dashes to Abalom's Harbor, boards the yacht and finds in a locked cabin, Fanning shot dead and Janet in a faint, a gun beside her. Neil hides her nearby in a daisied liner, then joins Mark Boninger, keen local investigator, to keep tabs on developments. Despite Janet's disapproval, Neil thinks she shot Fanning until he finds proof a man was hiding in a closet on the yacht. Then he suspects queer little Eyster, who hated Fanning. Also in the picture are Kettering, a Baltimore lawyer down to fish, and a huge tough who has been trailing Neil.

Chapter 25 Sly Little Eyster

WHEN they went ashore, Neil, moving through the crowd, never ceased looking for a man six feet tall weighing considerably more than 200 pounds. He would be a roughly-dressed, unwashed fellow, and he had an expression that caused him to breathe noisily. Once he heard him speak, Neil would know him.

The day's mail had just been distributed and everybody was immersed in the newspapers. The many columns on the "yacht murder" and the spread of photographs gave the villagers the pleasant feeling of having become famous overnight.

Boninger went back to his work in the office, and Neil entered the hotel. He took a look into his own room on the top floor and found, as he expected, that it had been entered in his absence. He had arranged the few articles he had bought for himself, so that he would know if they were moved. He had locked the door on leaving, but the lock was of the cheapest sort and he would not have been

to go out and nail a taxi and tell him Abalom's. Seemed like a good place to sober up, see?"

This was obviously an invention and Neil disregarded it. "How did you learn so quick that Fanning was here?" he asked.

Eyster looked innocent and sly. "I didn't know Fanning was here till I got here."

"Remarkable coincidence."

"Yeah," said Eyster, "just as remarkable as you coming on the bus that afternoon."

Neil laughed. "But you said you had made arrangements to follow Fanning."

"Oh, I was just talking big then."

Neil tried another line. "You seem to like me, Eyster."

"I do, I do," he said quickly and it seemed to be genuine. "You're a dandy fellow, Wheatley! Keen as a whip! I'd do anything for you."

"Why?" said Neil.

Eyster turned sly again. "I guess you know that," he said.

"I swear I don't."

"Don't you remember what I told you in the hotel?"

"You just said you were talking big."

"I mean before that. . . I told you what my purpose in life was. Well. . . you carried it out."

Neil stared at him, wondering if he had heard right.

Eyster's lips curled back. "I've only got one thing against you, Wheatley—you killed him too quick. He didn't even see it coming. If it was me, I would have strung him up by his thumbs and tortured him slow. You know, gone back to it again and again. God! wouldn't it have been sweet to see the look in his eyes when I come back to him?"

Neil asked himself if this was madness or part of a deep game that the little man was playing.

Eyster's face fell. "But what could a poor shrimp like me do? I was afraid of him. I was afraid even to let him see me. I had to have a big fellow like you to do the job for me; a strong fellow, and

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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

BOB FITZSIMMONS
WON THE AMATEUR BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP OF NEW ZEALAND BY KNOCKING OUT 4 MEN IN A SINGLE NIGHT-- AND DEFENDED IT THE NEXT YEAR BY KNOCKING OUT 5 IN A NIGHT!

"FITZ" FOUGHT FOR 34 YEARS, AND HELD 3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



BLACK AND WHITE PEPPER COME FROM THE SAME PLANT-- PIPER NIGRUM... IT CHANGES FROM GREEN TO RED TO YELLOW IN RIPENING...

THE WITCHES' CAULDRON - SPRING NEAR CLOVEMARLE, CAL., EMITS A NOISE LIKE A STEAMBOAT WHISTLE, DUE TO ESCAPING GAS...

THERE WERE OVER TWICE AS MANY MARRIAGES IN RENO, NEVADA, LAST YEAR AS THERE WERE DIVORCES!



England Fulfills 600-Year Pledge

EDINBURGH—(AP)—England finally has fulfilled a pledge made to Scotland six centuries ago.

The assistant keeper of the London public record office has returned nine documents which should have been

returned under the treaty of Northampton in 1328. They include: The marriage contract between Eric, King of Norway, and Margaret, daughter of Alexander III, King of Scots; and Papal bulls recognizing the independence of Scotland from England in ecclesiastical matters.

Canada leads the world in the transportation of freight by air. In the last year, commercial transport companies operating chiefly in the mining areas of the north carried 2,947,000 pounds of freight consisting largely of machinery, fuel oil and supplies.

NEW DEAL

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



MATTER OF

By C M PAYNE



The villagers felt they had become famous overnight.

surprised to learn that the same key would open all the doors. It was no great matter, because there was nothing in the room that could betray him.

He knocked on the door of number 15 adjoining. No answer. The door was locked. He knocked again and a sleepy voice asked:

"Who is it?"

"Wheatley."

"Oh, you!" said the voice with a pleased note, and bare feet pattered to the door.

Eyster in his underclothes, gray-faced and wasted, looked like the caricature of a man. His hair was standing on end. Having admitted Neil, he hopped back into the bed and pulled the sheet over his legs.

"Certainly very friendly of you to stop in," he said.

"Well, I owe you something," said Neil. He took a seat at the foot of the bed.

"That's a nasty bruise you got," remarked Eyster.

"Well, I feel thankful that I am here at all."

"That's right! That's right!" There was a pause. Each was waiting for the other to speak.

'Good Place To Sober Up'

FINALLY Neil said offhandedly:

"When did you get down to Abalom's?"

Eyster saw through it and grinned. "Noon on Tuesday."

"How did you come?"

"By taxicab."

"Taxicab! That must have set you back something."

"Twenty dollars. It was too much, but I was tight."

"Tight?"

"Fact is, I was tight off and on all the time I was in Baltimore. Eyster went on, grinning. "Didn't you notice it? Tuesday morning I hear a guy talking about Abalom's Point, what good air it was down here and good fishing and all, and I was just drunk enough

afraid of nothing. . . Let me feel your muscle, Wheatley."

"Ah, the hell with it!" growled Neil. He was thrown back into confusion again. The psychology of the sly, lying, tormented little man baffled him.

'Good Pickings Aboard'

"I WISH I could do something to show my appreciation," Eyster went on. "I reckon you want money. Young fellows always want money. And mine's about gone. Not that it matters to me. But I haven't anything to give you."

"Don't want it," muttered Neil.

"Did you pick up anything on the yacht?" he asked eagerly.

"Not a thing."

"There ought to have been good pickings aboard. Fanning pulled off some kind of a dirty deal in Baltimore, and naturally if he was making his getaway on the yacht, you'd think he'd carry the proceeds with him. Somebody else thought so, too."

Neil fixed him with his glance. "Do you know who that somebody was?" he asked.

A look of fright came into Eyster's face and his eyes shifted away. "No," he said.

"You're not playing the part of a friend now," said Neil.

Eyster broke into a flood of details and protestations and Neil saw that he could get nothing out of him by direct questioning. He made believe to fall for the suggestion of the loot.

"If I knew what Fanning had been doing in Baltimore, I might get a line on it."

"I can't help you there," said Eyster. "I couldn't follow his financial operations."

"But you can give me some clue, can't you? Think back."

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Neil calls on a rich old lady in Baltimore, tomorrow.

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TAILSPIN TOMMY—Betty Turns on the Personality!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Jason Jones



THE NEBBS—Seeking Advice



BREAD AND BEANS MAY BE ROAD TO LONGEVITY

BELOGRADE—(AP)—Bread, beans, and cheese may be the road to longevity.

Paul Skrup, a young Czech doctor who has spent two years studying the reasons for the long lives of peasants and shepherds of a Balkan district, came to the preliminary conclusion it had to do with uniform diets that for generations seem to have been especially suited to the people.

In most cases, bread and beans were the most important foods. Little meat was eaten, and then only in winter.

Cheese was found to be an im-

Maps Of Spain In Increased Demand

PARIS—(AP)—The civil war has boomed the market here for maps of Spain.

One which formerly sold for 25 cents now brings from 80 cents to \$1. Dealers ask \$4 for an up-to-date map of Madrid. The demand is greater than the supply.

Before the non-intervention committee tried to isolate the war, volunteers en route to Spain stocked up with maps in Paris. There has been no letup in the demand among newspaper readers.