

The Creeping Man

by Frances Shelley Wees

...Miss Lissy saw the creeping man... Michael briefly states that Miss Lissy said little before she died, except that Marie was flying under false colors and that Duncan's wife would be spoiled.

Chapter 39

Murder Will Out

"I CANNOT throw any light on Miss Lissy's mental state," Devoe testified. "I would suggest that you inquire from Mr. Murchison. She held rather a long conversation with him, in a very agitated manner. The subject of that conversation would probably lie at the bottom of her mental disturbance."

"Thank you for the suggestion," the coroner said, with a quick flash of his bright, little eyes. "You, too, then, are convinced that Miss Lissy had something out of the ordinary on her mind that afternoon?"

"Yes," the Commissioner did not for a moment answer. He raised his hand and rubbed his temple indecisively.

"Surely there can be no truth at all, Commissioner Davies," Devoe said with the faintest suspicion of a break in his voice. "You would have told us if such a thing were possible."

'Very Much Afraid'

DAVIES had made up his mind. "We are ver- much afraid there may be truth in it, Mr. Devoe," he said gravely.

His remark seemed to break the icy tension of the others. Mrs. McBain gave a little low moan, and her hands and lips were trembling.

No one noted his going. Mrs. Deane sat with her eyes fixed straight before her, stunned. Dr. Deane moved in his chair restlessly.

"Where is he?" she whispered. "Have they—have they found him yet?"

Her words seemed to galvanize old Mrs. Deane into life. She got up and went over to them. "Are you sure Edgar Murchison is dead?" she asked the Commissioner harshly.

"We have not found his body," he replied. "Then, you are not sure. Come, then, Marie. You must go home. Jared will bring us the news. Come!"

"She isn't fit to drive the car," Jared muttered. "I'll take her," Tuck said quietly. "I'll come back for you later, Michael."

The Deanes went, too, Mr. Deane in front with Tuck, and Mrs. Deane, for once silent, in the back seat with Marie Murchison and old Mrs. Devoe.

There was not a word spoken on the homeward journey. The three women sat like grave images staring straight before them.

As Tuck stopped the car in front of the Devoes' house, Mrs. Murchison got out, and turned to her impulsively, a hand on her arm.

"Come along, Marie," she said, took the younger woman by the arm, and led her into the house.

Tuck drove back down town for Bunny and Michael, turning over in her mind the questions and answers of the inquest; so many straightforward questions, so many strange and roundabout questions.

When she entered the coroner's office again she saw that much had transpired in her absence. Devoe's face wore a hunted, furtive expression, as though he had been through another period of unwelcome questioning.

Duncan Murchison was icy calm. The coroner and Bunny were no longer in the room.

"Bunny's in dad's office," Michael told her. "If you'll call her, Tuck, we'll be ready to go when you come down." His eyes were tired.

Bunny was sitting with her head on her arms when Tuck entered. She looked up quickly.

"It's been a horrible day, hasn't it, Tuck?" she murmured absently, as if she knew she should say something but had no words.

"It will come out all right, Bunny."

"It doesn't seem possible. After you were gone—"

"Yes?"

"After you were gone they turned on him, and almost accused him to his face of murdering his brother. I couldn't stand it. I came away."

"Michael too, Bunny?"

"Michael was pretty bad. Jared Devoe was worse. I don't understand Michael at all. He doesn't seem quite rational."

"I think he knows who's guilty," Tuck whispered under her breath. "I think he's walking on glass—and knows it, Bunny. Don't be cross with him."

Bunny looked at her.

"You think he knows who's guilty?"

"Yes. He doesn't tell me anything more, and I don't dare ask."

Continued tomorrow

On the RADIO CHAINS

STATIONS Where to Find Them on the Dial: Kes, Portland, 1180; KFI, 640 Los Angeles; KGA, 1470, Spokane; KGO, 730, San Francisco; K4W, 620, Portland; KJR, 970, Seattle; KNX, 1030, Los Angeles; KOA, 830, Denver; KOIN, 940, Portland; KOMO, 926, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1180, Salt Lake.

Wednesday 8:00—Frank and Archie, KJR; Sunset Shadows, KGO; Waring's Orch., KPO, KGO, KFI.

8:30—Kelsey's Orch., KPO; We Present, KGO, KJR.

8:45—Bob Garred, KNX, KOIN; Organist, KGO, KEX; Two in the Balcony, KPO.

9:00—Beyond Reasonable Doubt, KGO, KEX, KJR; Star Theater, KSL, KOIN, KNX; Radio Guild, KOMO; Music Solos, KFI, KOW; Safety First, KPO.

9:30—Horse and Bugle Day, KGO; Hollywood Playhouse, KPO, KFI, KOW; News, KJR.

7:00—Sketch, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Kyser's Program, KPO, KOW, KFI; Shield's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX.

7:30—Burns and Allen, KEX, KOIN, KSL; Antiques in Photography, KGO, KJR.

8:00—Waring's Orch., KPO; Johnny Presents, KGO, KJR, KEX; Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL.

8:15—I Love a Mystery, KPO, KGW, KFI; Lum and Abner, KSL, KNX, KOIN.

8:30—Paul Whiteman's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Quicksilver, KGO, KJR, KEX; Avalon Time, KPO, KFI, KOW.

9:00—Al Pearce, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Allen, KPO, KGW, KFI; Marriage Club, KGO.

9:30—Noble's Orch., KGO, KEX; News, KJR.

10:00—Martin's Orch., KGO, KEX; News, KNX, KSL; News Reporter, KPO, KFI, KOW, KOIN.

10:30—Held's Orch., KGO, KEX; Ravazza's Orch., KPO, KFI, KGW.

11:00—Gray's Orch., KOIN, KSL; Nottingham's Orch., KPO, KFI; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KGW.

Thursday 5:00—Rhythm Factory, KPO, KGW; Frank and Archie, KJR; Sunset Shadows, KGO.

5:30—Strings at Sundown, KGO, KEX, KJR; Army Band, KPO, KOW.

6:00—Major Bowes, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Good News of 1940, KPO, KFI; Sketch, KGO, KEX, KJR.

7:00—Columbia Workshop, KOIN; Music Hall, KPO, KFI.

7:30—Sports Huddle, KNX, KOIN; Vicki Chase, KGO; News, KSL.

8:00—Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KFI; Clinton's Orch., KEX; Aloha Land, KGO; Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN.

8:30—Symphony Hour, KPO, KGW, KFI; Ask-H-Basket, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Drama, KGO.

9:00—Strange as it Seems, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Sketch, KGO, KJR, KEX.

9:30—Those We Love, KPO, KFI, KJR; Dance Orch., KOW; Roger's Orch., KSL; Heidi's Orch., KGO; Operetta Series, KNX, KOIN; News, KJR.

10:00—News Reporter, KPO, KGW, KFI; Foster's Orch., KGO, KJR; News, KSL, KOIN, KNX.

10:30—Ravazza's Orch., KPO, KGW, KFI; Nottingham's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; Prima's Orch., KSL, KOIN, KNX.

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11:30—Dewey Will Speak In Portland Feb. 12

Portland, Dec. 20. —(P)— Thomas E. Dewey, racket-busting New York prosecutor and Republican presidential aspirant, will speak here February 12, Fred W. Brown, Multnomah county Republican committee chairman, said last night.

Unusual Gifts Portland, Dec. 20. —(P)— A Portland boy whose name was withheld will receive perhaps the most unusual Christmas gift in the state come Yuletide morning. His present—or presents—arrived yesterday via Railway Express, a span of burros, one a jack and the other a jenny.

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STUDY MODIFICATION OF PROCESSING TAX

Washington, Dec. 20. —(P)— At President Roosevelt's direction, administration fiscal officials are studying a modification of the processing tax system to finance parity payments to farmers.

The payments, which amounted to \$225,000,000 last year, are designed to lift farm purchasing power to pre-world war levels. The supreme court invalidated a processing tax in 1934, and since then parity payments—like other farm benefits—have been paid out of general treasury revenues.

Seems Logical Topeka, Kans.—(P)—The usual penalty for declining to testify in court is a stretch in jail or a fine. But, recently, a non-talking witness who came into Judge Warren Shaw's court got away with it. He was a convict, "borrowed" from state prison, "You can't send a man to county jail for contempt when he comes from the penitentiary," ruled the judge.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



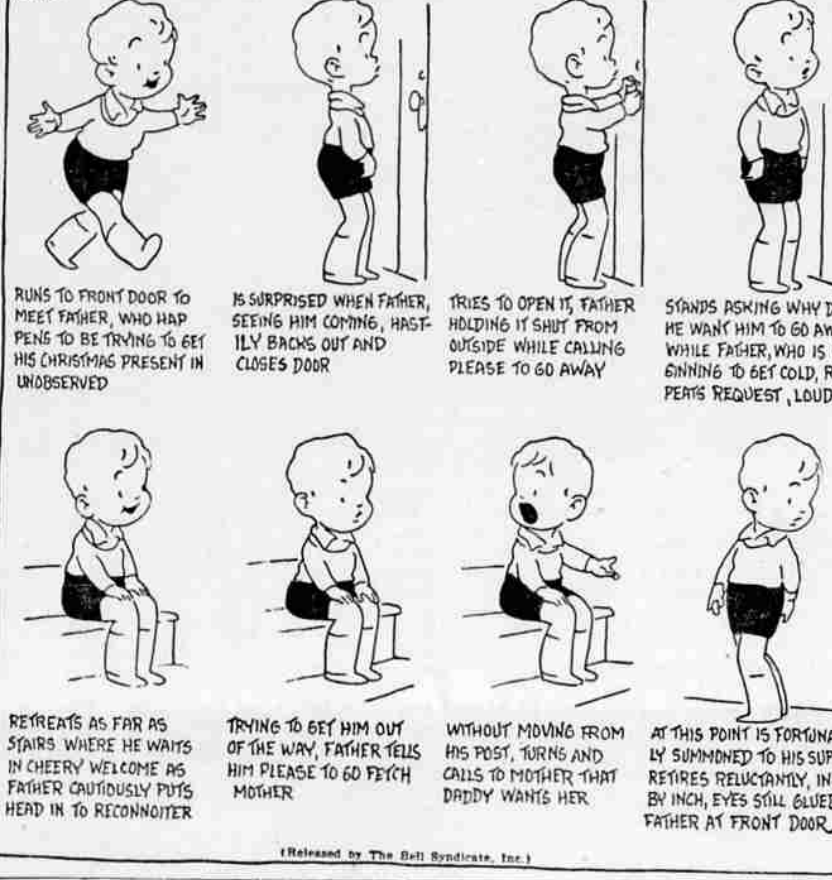
NOSTRADAMUS Called the greatest prophet of his age, Michel de Notredame (Nostradamus), 16th century French physician and astrologer, in 1555 published an amazing book of prophecies which accurately foretold, among other things, his own death 11 years later.

Receiving attention of Catherine de Medici with his prophetic book, which he called "The Centuries," at her order he cast the horoscope of her three sons, foretelling their succession to the French throne. It was so accurate he won the post of court physician. Also, he predicted that Henry II would be blinded in one eye. This, too happened. Nostradamus' amazing predictions covered a period from 1555 to 3997 A. D. and forecast for October, 1939, an Asiatic air invasion of Paris.

TOMORROW: The Ghost Engineer.

GREETER

12-15



By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Tommy's Plan Goes Haywire!

12-11-39



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Grandma Walters Reports!



By EDWIN ALGER

THE NEBBS—Memories

12-15



By SOL HESS

DROUGHT THREATENS WINTER WHEAT CROP

Washington, Dec. 20. —(P)— The worst fall drought in the half-century history of the weather bureau threatens to reduce drastically the production of 1940 winter wheat, agriculture department officials said today.

Mine Reaches Japan

Tokyo, Dec. 20. —(P)—Domei Japanese news agency, in a dispatch from Sakata, said today a mine of undetermined nationality had been washed ashore in Yamagata prefecture on the Japan sea. The Domei dispatch linked the mine with reports that unidentified submarines had been sighted near Japan.