

THE SACRED DAGGER

by Rita Mohr Norton

Chapter 32 Death

THEY were all brought out of their sleep the next morning by one of Philip Oliver's rages. He had risen and knocked down a Nagara servant who stumbled over him on his way to enliven the fire.

The boy lay whimpering, the others had sat up dazedly with the exception of Sherwood, who rose to his feet as alert as a cat. Oliver chose to take the move as an intended attack and backed away snarling.

"You're the cause of all our trouble," he shouted, and added epithets to Sherwood's name. "You came between Anne and me. You're trying to make a fool of Diana. You interfered with the Chinese governor. You set the Nagaras against us. You're trying to wreck our expedition. You—"

and his tirade branched off into profanity. Sherwood stepped forward angrily. "You can't talk to me like that, Oliver."

Philip retreated another step still snarling and his shoulder struck Anne's Nagara belt. "I'll talk to you as I—"

suddenly he whirled and seized the dagger, drew it from the sheath, and turned on Sherwood in maniacal rage. The others were on their feet now.

And then everything happened so quickly that no two could agree on what they had seen. Except they were sure that Philip Oliver had tripped on the belt and fallen with all the force of his lunge, half-risen and pulled the dripping knife from his side, before he sank again.

The doctor sprang forward. "Don't touch that knife," Anne cried in terror. "I don't intend to," he answered grimly. Presently he stood up. Philip Oliver is dead. Miss Willard, remove the knife from his hand.

"I can't," moaned Anne, appalled. "Do you wish me to?" asked Sherwood in a low voice. "No, no," said Anne. The doctor interfered. "Just a moment. Did it look to you folks as if Philip deliberately turned the knife blade in on himself as he went down?"

"Maybe when he tripped," suggested Sherwood, "it dropped in such a way that the blade came uppermost and he fell on it." Larry shook his head. "Oliver suddenly cracked up and did it deliberately. We've seen it coming."

"Call it insanity if you wish," agreed the doctor. "Philip was in a high-strung psychic state. He intended to kill Sherwood. We saw that at least." Several Nagaras had come in and remained near the door. "Be careful!" warned Sherwood urgently. "We're being watched."

The doctor went on in his dry voice. "If you, Sherwood, wish to remove the knife—"

"No!" cried Anne again. She bent down, snatching herself to the ordeal, opened the lax fingers and took the knife by the handle, the only part free from blood. She rose and fumbled for the belt in which to sheath the weapon.

THEY continued the journey that day, the Nagaras inexorable. The only concession made was that Philip Oliver's body should be left lying in the tent for future burial plans, a guard keeping watch against wolves.

"In case the rest of us come out of this alive," said Dr. Martine. It was a hard, cold ride across the steppe. In mid-afternoon they stopped near a water hole for rest and lunch, Diana continually bewailing the day that had brought her father in contact with Dr. Willard and the promotion of this expedition.

pulled back the blanket curtain to leave the enclosure. It was a note to Blaze signed by Diana and Anne made no effort to reread it unread.

"Are you avoiding me because Anne watches us?" she began. "Don't you know that she hates you and seems to think Philip was a little tin god on wheels?"

It happens Philip was breaking his neck to get Dr. Willard's job away from him. Am I speaking evil of the dead? Sorry. How would you like to be made head of the expedition? Diana.

Anne sat down quickly on the ledge. She had once scoffed at Beth's statement that Diana came to Asia because Blaze was here. Now she wondered. How well the two could work together to despoil the Willards. Sherwood had vowed he would stop at nothing.

Now he had put himself into a position to use Diana. Beth and Larry came looking for her. "Have you fainted?" called Beth from beyond the blanket screen.

"I'm coming," answered Anne, hastily folding the note and thrusting it in her pocket. "My bath next, you know," Larry called.

"Help yourself," she said and passed them before Beth could turn and walk back with her. In an alcove with a natural chimney not far from the yurt a big brush fire had been built up and drew one with its light and warmth.

Anne slipped into the tent, first, thinking she would be alone. But Sherwood bent over his duffel bag drawing out a book. With a sudden resolve she stepped over and handed him the note.

"I found this by the pool," she said. "It seems to belong to you." He held the paper close to the glowing coals and perused it. Then he straightened and asked impassively:

"Have you read it?" "Yes," she admitted. He folded the paper slowly as if taking time to formulate a statement. But before he could speak Diana darted into the tent and saw the miniature in his hand.

"Oh, you found it," she said with a little sigh of relief. "Yours?" he asked, reaching it out to her. She drew back. "Haven't you read it?"

"No," he lied, and threw the paper on the live coals. "Oh, why did you do that?" she cried. "I thought you meant me to. What was in it?"

She gave Anne a sidelong glance. "Nothing," she said. Who does Blaze think he's putting on this scene for, Anne wondered disdainfully, and turned to leave the tent to them, but Sherwood slipped out ahead of her.

Temple NEXT day they were conducted by Nagara torchmen through the seemingly interminable labyrinth, continually descending as they followed the river, going from cavern to cavern, some chambers so tall that they reached into the void, others so low that they had to be crawled through.

Finally they left the water's edge and entered a branching tunnel which took them through a small mouth into a vast stone temple that halted them spell-bound.

The place showed evidence that time and earthquakes had left their marks. The room itself was set with columns and the bases of broken columns were thick as ancient trees in a virgin forest.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Where to find them on the dial:
KEX, 1190, Portland; KFL, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1510, Spokane; KGO, 810, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 1000, Seattle; KNX, 1070, Los Angeles; KOA, 850, Denver; KOIN, 970, Portland; KOMO, 950, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time Shown is PST

Tuesday.
5:00 p. m.—Speaking of Glamour. KGW, Streamline Journal, KGO, KJR, Waita With Us, KPO, Second Husband, KNX, KOIN; Silken Swing, KEX; Arboretum Talk, KOMO; Bible Quiz, KSL.
5:30 p. m.—Drama Behind the News, KGO, KEX, KJR; Fibber McGee, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Lewishohn Stadium Concert, KSL, KNX, KOIN.
6:00 p. m.—New American Music, KGO, KEX; Glenn Miller's Orch., KOIN, KNX, KSL; Scandinavian Reporter, KJR.
6:30 p. m.—Uncle Jim's Question Bee, KGO, KJR, KE; College Humor, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Juan Arvizu, KOIN, KSL.
7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Grand Central Station, KGO, KEX, KJR.
7:30 p. m.—Johnny Presents, KPO.

KOMO, KOW; Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR; Court of Missing Heirs, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:00 p. m.—We, the People, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Easy Aces, KGO, KJR, KEX; Sammy Kaye's Orch., KOW, KOMO; Richard Himber's Orch., KPO.
8:30 p. m.—Musical History Book, KGO, KJR; Battle of the Sexes, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Hollywood Showcase, KNX, KOIN; Baseball Game, KEX; Richard Himber's Orch., KSL.
9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KOIN; Phil Harris' Orch., KGO, KEX; Abe Lyman's Orch., KOMO; Barrel of Fun, KPO; Faithful Stradivari, KGW; Saltair Orch., KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Bill Henry, KNX, KOIN. This is Judy Jones, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Concert Orch., KGO; News, KJR, KSL.
10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KOMO; Neil Bondshu's Orch., KGO, KJR; Dick Jurgens' Orch., KNX; News, KOW, KOIN; Freddie Nagel's Orch., KSL.
10:30 p. m.—Larry's Star's Orch., KOW, KOMO; Gordon Jenkins' Orch., KGO, KJR; Behind the Headlines, KEX; Masterworks of Music, KNX; Soldiers of the Air, KOIN.
11:00 p. m.—News, KGO, KGW; Bob Saunders' Orch., KPO, KOMO; Kenneth Stevens, KOIN, KSL; This Moving World, KEX; Fishing News, KJR; Knox Manning, KNX.
Wednesday
5:00 p. m.—Reid Tanner's Orch.,

KOIN, KSL; Southernaires, KGO, KJR; Summer Serenade, KEX; Elliot Wright, KGW; Boulevard Interviewer, KNX; Playground News, KOMO.
5:30 p. m.—Concert Favorites, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Big Town, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Concert Music, KGW.
6:00 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Author's Playhouse, KGO, KEX; Ray Kjer's Musical Quiz, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Scandinavian News, KJR.
6:30 p. m.—National Eucharistic Congress, KJR; Juan Arvizu, KNX, KSL; Etchings in Brass, KGO; Allen Roth's Orch., KEX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.
7:00 p. m.—Quiz Kids, KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Tony Martin, KPO, KOMO, KGW.
7:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Dr. Christian, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX.
8:00 p. m.—Time to Smile, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJR; Star Theater, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
8:30 p. m.—Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Chuck Foster's Orch., KGO, KJR; Baseball Game, KEX.
9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KOIN; Music in the Night, KGO, KJR; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KOW, KOMO; Sunnyside Folks, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Don Kaye's Orch., KGO; Five Edwards, KPO, KOW, KOMO; News, KJR, KSL; Defense Bond Program, KOIN.

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



RECENTLY MARRIED COUPLE WATCHING A VISITOR SCANNING THE APARTMENT FOR HER WEDDING PRESENT WHICH IS AT THE MOMENT IN A DARK CORNER OF THE STOREROOM BECAUSE IT COULDN'T BE EXCHANGED AND GAVE PEOPLE NIGHTMARES

LIL ABNER—The Good Neighbor Policy



TAILSPIN TOMMY—Captain Panther Voices a Warning!



THE NEBBS—Just a Mistake



Trapped Boy Dies in Flaming Home



Uncle Rudy! So Jolly Well Know You Anyplace on Earth!! You're So Like My Daddy Steve!!



LOUIS STARR NEW V.F.W. PRESIDENT

Bend, June 24.—(P)—Election of Louis E. Starr, Portland, as president of the Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars closed the annual convention here Saturday.

Herman F. Lafky, Salem, was elected senior vice-commander, and George H. Watts, Portland, junior vice-commander. The 1942 convention was voted to Klamath Falls. Mrs. Ethel Keck, Seaside, was named president, and Mrs. Edith Mudd, Salem, senior vice-president, of the auxiliary. California has been producing olive oil for 20 years.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



After 20 years of successful practice, William Weiss became crippled with paralysis. He started his legal clinic and in cases where he believes more than \$1 should be charged he lets the client set his own fee, not to exceed \$10!

RATTLESNAKE HAVEN

In 1937 while hunting on the prairie near Olney Springs, Colorado, Floyd and Wallace Hungaker found a one acre plot teeming with rattlers. Although this plot was alive with the reptiles, strangely, there were few in the surrounding district!

TOMORROW: Bug with Nine Lives!

By AL CAPP

By HAL FORREST

By SOL HESS

Portland, June 24.—(P)—The Oregon Shipbuilding corporation has awarded contracts of

WHEN... Summer comes, live comfortably in one of the new Palm Beach Suits. \$17.75

Barkers Store for Men

more than \$4,000,000 to the George H. Buckler company, Portland, for woodwork, furniture and hardware in 43 ships.

Trapped Boy Dies in Flaming Home

Portland, June 24.—(P)—James McFeron, 22, was trapped in his home and burned to death Monday by a fire of undetermined origin.

Douglas McFeron, father of the dead youth, and Mrs. O. L. Adams, housekeeper, escaped, the latter racing down a hallway with the flames so near that her hair was singed.