

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Coxe

Chapter 16 Raeburn

THE stranger remained where he was, a curious half-smiling look on his face.

Joyce watched him as the butler cleaned up the drink. Suddenly it burst upon her and she knew. She had seen the man before—and where the Sergeant had said: on the back terrace. He was the man who had talked with Perry Clarke the evening before while she stood beside the hedge.

She remembered it all now. The way they had walked towards her, the last few words that were spoken. And that movement in the shadows at the corner of the house—had that been the maid who had just now identified the man in the other room?

"Anyone know him?" Bacon asked.

There was no answer. "This is Mr. Raeburn," he added by way of introduction. "Or so he says. . . . What's the story, Malloy?"

The plain-clothes man coughed. "I was waiting in the apartment and he knocked and tried the door. Said he was looking for Clarke. When I found out who he was I called you."

"Good work. What did you want with him, Raeburn?" "I wanted to see him."

"About the twenty-five thousand?"

Raeburn tipped his head slightly, looked, and said nothing. Bacon grunted and showed him the slip of paper.

"What's your name doing down there?"

"I haven't any idea." Raeburn's voice was smooth and untroubled, with the perfection of cadence that comes with the command of a language not one's own. Bacon didn't like the reaction; not a bit.

"Oh, you haven't, huh? You don't know a thing? But you knew Clarke, and you went out of your way to come up here and see him last night—the maid saw you from the service wing so I guess you won't deny that."

Suddenly Raeburn smiled and Joyce gave an inward gasp at the transformation in his appearance. His dark face was handsome now and his teeth were so perfect they fascinated her.

"No, I don't deny it," he said. "I knew Clarke, and I had some business with him. That's why I came to see him this morning."

"You didn't know he was dead?"

"Isn't that obvious?" "Is it? You didn't come back this morning to search the place, thinking that nobody'd be watching?"

"No."

"And you won't tell us what the twenty-five thousand was for, or why he was blackmailing you?"

"He wasn't blackmailing me."

Arrest

"All right," Bacon's lips dipped and he gathered up his papers on the desk. "I guess that's all. Thanks a lot for coming here. He glanced at the others in the room. "I may have to question you again; I'll let you know. . . . And now, Mr. Raeburn, since no one seems to know you, and you don't feel like talking, I think you'd better come along with me until we can find out more about you."

Raeburn's smile faded. "You're arresting me?"

"You can call it that."

"On what charge?"

"Oh, we'll think of something by the time we get there. . . . Later, Joyce spoke to Kent in the adjoining room. "You can take the car. I'll ride with Della. See you for dinner?"

"Hope so."

Hester came up to him in the hall as he was putting on his coat.

They were alone at the time and she stood close to him, one hand on his arm.

"I've got to see you, Kent."

"All right."

"Can you come tonight?"

He hesitated, eyes touching the golden waves of her hair and coming down to meet her glance. Her lashes were wide and there was a look of concern in her smile. Her full lips were moist and red and there was about her some fragrance that brought a glow of warmth to his body and quickened his pulse.

"It's about Ward Allen."

"All right," he said, feeling the slight tingling of his skin as her eyes continued to search his face. "I'll call you."

And when he went down the steps he knew that having committed himself, he had really wanted to see her all along.

Now What?

AFTER she had stepped on the starter, Della Stewart left the motor idle and leaned back with a long sigh of relief.

"Well," she said, "I am glad that's over with."

"It wasn't too bad, was it?" Joyce asked.

"No. Except for that one ghastly moment when I nearly fainted it. I just couldn't help it. Joyce, listening to that man making up those monstrous lies about Ward, saying he'd never delivered the bonds until afterwards, and then had shot him after the receipt was signed. It was all quite mad, I dare say, and I tried not to say anything but something happened to me and—there I was mucking things up."

"You did very well," Joyce said. "That was a nice recovery."

"Thanks to Ward," Della smiled her first in a long time. "Nuts," he said. And just as I was about to go off the deep end."

She shifted gears and got the car under way. By the time she had swung into Beacon Street and taken her place in the traffic line her face was sober.

"Suppose I had said something," she said. "But I didn't—actually."

"But if I had."

"Must you think about it?" Joyce said. "You nearly spoiled it, and I know you scared me stiff, but you didn't. Everything's all right."

Traffic was getting heavier and piling up in front of the Square, and Della was content for the next few minutes to give her attention to her driving. It was not until they had come out of the ramp under the avenue that she spoke again.

"Now what will happen? I mean with the police?"

Joyce considered this. With the exception of the introduction of Raeburn, there had been no real developments, and at the moment there was very little she could say.

"I suppose they'll keep on with their investigation until they have some definite clue."

"Will they question us again?"

"Probably."

"And Ward?"

"I should imagine so—unless they solve the case meanwhile. . . . She made her voice confident. "Nothing has happened yet that's so terrible. They haven't found out anything about Ward that we don't already know. The only thing they are actually sure of is that he put his car away about eleven thirty. There's certainly nothing to worry about yet."

"I do worry, though," Della said. "I keep thinking what might happen if someone else saw his car—or perhaps even saw him come out of the building. Then what could we do?"

Joyce gave her a covert glance and decided such brooding had gone far enough.

"I know what we're going to do now," she said. "Find some lunch. I'm starved."

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1130, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510, Spokane.
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco.
KJW (NBC-Red) 630, Portland.
KJL (NBC-Blue) 1070, Seattle.
KJN (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles.
KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver.
KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland.
KOMO (NBC-Red) 850, Seattle.
KPO (NBC-Red) 680, San Francisco.
KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PST

Monday
5:00 p. m.—Floyd Wright, KPO.
Vox Pop, KSL, KOIN, KJN: Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR: Stars of Today, KGW.

5:30 p. m.—News, KGO, Voice, KPO, KJW, KJN: Here Comes the Band, KEX: Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR: Melodies Modern, KSL.

6:00 p. m.—Radio Theater, KJN, KOIN, KSL: Minstrel Melodies, KPO, KJW, KJL: Minstrel Melodies, KJR: J. Victory Army, KGO: Oregon On Guard, KGW.

6:30 p. m.—Your Blind Date, KGO; Dr. I. Q. Jim McClain, KPO, KJW, KJN, KEX: Greater Washington Hour, KJR.

7:00 p. m.—Major Hoople, KGO, KJR, KEX: Contested Hour, KPO, KJW, KJN: Freddy Martin's Orch., KJN, KOIN, KSL.

7:30 p. m.—Vaughn Monroe's Orch., KJN, KSL, KOIN: Cavalcade of America, KPO, KJW, KJL: Lightning Jim, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KJN, KOIN, KSL: Fred Waring, KPO, KJW, KJL: Morgan Beatty, KGO, KJR, KEX.

8:15 p. m.—Mable Lyman's Orch., KOIN, Lull and Abner, KGO, KEX, KJR: News, KSL: Time Out for Melody, KJN.

8:30 p. m.—Jimmie Fidler, KGO, KEX, KJR: Hawthorne House, KPO, KJW, KJN: Gay Nineties Revue, KJN, KSL, KOIN.

9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, KPO, KJW, KJN: News Here and Abroad, KGO: I Was There, KJN, KOIN: Down Memory Lane, KEX: Treasury Star Parade, KJR: Sports, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Hollywood Showcases, KJN, KOIN: Unlimited Horizons, KGO, KEX, KJR, KEX: Your Mayor Speaks, KGO: Toast to American Allies, KPO.

10:00 p. m.—Nat'l. Radio Forum, KGO, KEX, KJR: Reporter News, KPO, KJW, KJN: Masterworks of Music, KSL: News, KJN: Five Star Final, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Henderson La Vera, KGO, KJR: Sports, KJN, KSL: Broadway Bandwagon, KEX: Moonlight Sonata, KGW: War Time Women, KOIN: Ice Pollies, KPO.

11:00 p. m.—Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KSL, KOIN: Music and Moonlight, KPO: This Moving World, KEX: KJR: News, KGO, KJN: Reveries, KJW, KJL.

Tuesday
5:00 p. m.—Ray Harrington's Orch., KPO, KJW: Are You a Missing Heir.

COURT HOUSE NEWS

Marriage Licenses
Elmer James McBride and Arlene Anderson.

Berthol Blair Keown and Elsie M. Cumming.

Eugene Joseph Carothers and Dorothy Mildred Knoll.

Clive Leland Davidson and Nora Marie Parrish.

Roy Fugard Stockman and Elizabeth Louise Martin Becker.

Amel B. Gunter and Delores Smets.

Walter Lewis Miller, Jr., and Ada Jewell Cook.

Alton Fredrick Herrmann and Lois Alice McManama.

Jack Miller and Phyllis Mae Beaulieu.

Vernon Tatham and Dora Rose.

Leonard Franklin Reed and Virginia Lee Stevenson.

Edward C. Evanson and Doris R. Custard.

Divorces Filed
Bernice J. Dixon vs. A. A. Dixon.

Probate Court
Estate of Raymond Walker Garrett, deceased.

Estate of Lawrence C. Olsen, a missing person.

Estate of Daisy Paul, deceased.

Estate of Chancy M. Dowd, deceased.

Estate of John R. Moody, deceased.

Estate of Joseph J. Duhamel, deceased.

Estate of Fred Draheim, deceased.

Estate of Elvis Offenbacher and LeRoy Offenbacher, minors.

Deaths
Thomas L. Edsall to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

C. L. McKinstry to F. A. Flint, Quitclaim Deed.

Shell Oil Company, Incorporated to Otto E. Hecker, Quitclaim Deed.

Swells B. Fox to H. A. Hogan, Warranty Deed.

Herbert Jirachele to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

Carl J. Schmidt to Marie L. Schmidt, Quitclaim Deed.

F. A. Spitzmuller to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

Otto C. Dimick to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

John E. Bertolotto to Chester L. Whitney, Warranty Deed.

George L. Murphy to the California Oregon Power Company, Right of Way.

Harvey W. Wood to the California Oregon Power Company, Right of Way.

Floyd P. Dickey and Susie I. Kervin, to Nellie Dickey, Quitclaim Deed.

Camilla E. Owen and Mino P. Baylas to William Lindsay, Quitclaim Deed.

F. J. Spalding to William Lindsay, Quitclaim Deed.

Brick P. Wells to William Lindsay, Warranty Deed.

A. J. Buffington to John L. McCollum, Warranty Deed.

Beale H. Anderson to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

Frank R. Myers to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

Charles O. Oswald to the United States of America, Warranty Deed.

John E. Bertolotto to Chester L. Whitney, Warranty Deed.

Frank Nygren to Highway Commission, Warranty Deed.

Otto H. Bohmert to Joe Koenig, Warranty Deed.

City of Medford to E. R. Davis, Warranty Deed.

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