

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Coxe

Chapter 22

Hector Talks

"His name was on that slip of paper," Murdock said. "And so was Raeburn's to the tune of twenty-five thousand. It looks to me as if Clarke was trying to clean up all around."

He finished his drink and leaned forward, accenting his words. "By the way, who exactly is this Raeburn?"

"You know him, of course. I was looking right at you when he walked in here this morning."

"Oh," Hector said and her voice was like a sigh.

"You recognized him; that's why you dropped the glass."

"All right," Hector said, her eyes good-natured. "You win. I'll tell you about it, but I can't talk clear across the room." She indicated a spot on the divan. "We might have a drink first, though," she said, and waited until he returned with fresh ones.

"Now?" she said, her eyes mocking him over her glass.

"Now."

"Well," she sighed—"Don Raeburn is my stepson."

Murdock turned so quickly that some of his drink spilled on his hand.

"Your what?"

"But he is," Hector said calmly. Murdock stared at her. He took a drink. Finally he leaned back.

"All right," he said wearily. "You tell it."

"I'm not so sure that I want to."

"The police have been hammering away at him all day. They'll get the story eventually and then I'll get it from them."

"You would," said Hector. "Well, it's like this. His real name is Don Losado, Miguel's only son."

"Then why?"

"Because he hated me. Raeburn was his mother's name and he took it when his father re-married. Whether he hated me personally or whether it was just the idea of his father marrying a nightclub entertainer, I don't know. I've never seen such a proud and arrogant man. The family is very old, and smug and patriotic and apparently the son had no intention of accepting me. At first I was furious, and then I thought perhaps he'd get over it. But he never did. I simply didn't exist for him."

"Suspicion"

AS SHE went on, Murdock's mind began to revolve around certain possibilities that had not before occurred to him. In spite of himself he began to wonder if Hector was quite all that she seemed, if behind her apparent frankness there was something that might connect her with the murder of Perry Clarke.

"—and now, of course, she was saying, 'he hates me more than ever because I have something he wants.'"

"Why was Raeburn's name on that list?"

"I don't know," she said. "And why did Raeburn follow you here?"

"That I know."

"He thought you had too big a slice of his father's estate and was trying to—"

"On the contrary," Hector said. "I inherited only a very small portion. Miguel was very wealthy but that wealth was in the country itself. He had three plantations—I don't know how many thousands of acres—and the town place. There were some foreign investments—European mostly and of no great value now—and not much cash. That was I got; that and the town place."

She asked for a cigarette and waited for a light.

To be continued

"What?"

"Perry Clarke and that hundred thousand you gave him."

She smiled. "All right, then. I will. I did because he once did something for me and if it hadn't been for him I might still be singing in nightclubs. . . . I'm not going into detail about our marriage. I thought we had been unhappy—you and I—but it was nothing like it was with Perry. You were never mean or deliberately nasty and you stayed sober. But Perry—"

"What?"

"Herring died of six stab wounds within an hour of the unexplained knifing with a weapon fashioned from a prison weapon."

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Alcatraz Prisoner

Stabbed to Death

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On the Radio Chains

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (NBC-Blue) 1330, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & NBC) 1510.
Spokane: KGO (NBC-Blue) 810.
San Francisco: KGO (NBC-Red) 830, Portland.
KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle.
KXN (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

Friday

5:00 p. m.—Lewisohn Stadium Concert, KSL: H. V. Kallenborn, KPO.

KGO, KOMO: Flying Patrol, KEX.

KGO, KJR: Stars of Today, KGO.

Afternoon Dances, KXN.

5:30 p. m.—Bill Sabransky, KOMO.

News, KGO, Harry W. Plasmory, KXN, KOIN: America Sings, KGW.

Folk Music From Many Lands, KJR.

Passing Parade, KPO.

6:00 p. m.—Waltz Time, KPO.

KGO, KOMO: Wilbur Hatch's Orch.

9:30 p. m.—Teddy Powell's Orch.

9:30 p. m.—Lightning Jim, KGO.

KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, KPO.

KOMO, KGW: Earl Bodwin, KEX.

Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KSL, KOIN.

Speaking of Sports, KGO.

8:15 p. m.—Dear John, KXN, KSL.

KOIN: Melody Magic, KPO, KGW.

KOMO.

8:30 p. m.—Songs My Brother Taught Me, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

Gang Buster, KEX, KJR: Playhouse, KXN, KOIN, KSL: Remar Rally, KGO.

9:00 p. m.—News, KPO, KGW.

KOMO: Abe Lyman's Orch. KXN.

KOIN: News Here and Abroad, KGO.

Down Memory Lane, KEX: Meet Your Navy, KJR: Roth String Quartet, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Teddy Powell's Orch.

9:30 p. m.—Serenade, KJR: Leon P. Drews, KOIN.

6:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO.

KGO, KOMO: That Brewster Boy, KXN, KSL, KOIN: Dinah Shore, KGO, KEX.

7:00 p. m.—Meet Your Navy, KGO, KEX, KJR: Lanny Rom, KXN.

KSL, KOIN: People Are Funny, KPO.

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