

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Coxe

Chapter 23 To The Rendezvous

DELLA sat up, wondering what time it was, her nerves still vibrating from the insistence of the bell. With an effort she struggled to her feet. She groped her way across the room, trying to remember what had happened and why she was there. The answer came with sudden clarity and something cold clamped about her heart.

Still not knowing what time it was but only that she had been waiting for this call since early afternoon, she fumbled for the telephone and picked it up.

"Yes?"

"The guy that spoke to you about that envelope," it was a ready, drawing voice, barely loud enough to be distinct.

"Yes, I—you said you'd call this noon."

"I changed my mind. I'm calling now. . . . You got it?"

For a second or two fear closed her throat. Why hadn't she brought the envelope here? She knew even as she thought that they had decided to leave it with Joyce so that it would be safe regardless of any further attempts to find it here. But what should she say?

"Well," the voice demanded.

"Yes," Della said, "Yes, I have it."

"Then listen, I want you to bring it to this address. Memorize it. Two seven three Morton Street. Room twenty-four. I'm going to give you twenty minutes."

"Oh, please," she was trembling now, and panicky lest she forget. "Can't you talk a little louder? Two seventy-three what street?"

"Morton."

"Yes."

"In twenty minutes."

"That's not time enough," she was grasping at straws now because she had to get to Joyce.

"I'm not dressed," she waited, afraid to press the point and yet knowing twenty minutes was not enough.

"Okay," the voice said. "A half hour; no longer. And get this. No tricks. Come alone. . . . Understand?"

"I'm to come alone."

"If you don't, if you stall me, I call the cops."

"I'll be there," Della said; then stopped, aware that she was talking over a dead wire.

A half hour. Twenty-nine minutes now.

Hysteria

SHE left the motor of her car running, sped up the two flights of stairs without waiting for the elevator, and thumped on the door. When she saw the knob turn she said, half aloud: "Oh, thank God!" and then the door was open and Joyce was there.

She rushed past, hearing the door close behind her, turning, finding Joyce in front of her again.

"The envelope, Joyce! Oh, I'm so glad you're here."

"You got the call?"

Della wanted to scream. Would she stand there forever? Couldn't she see what it meant?

"Oh, darling, hurry!" she pleaded. "Give it to me. If I'm not there by thirteen minutes after ten he may be gone."

Joyce started to protest, but stepped quickly to the desk and opened the drawer.

"But can't you tell me?" she said. "Have you called Jack Fenner? Where are you going?"

"Morton Street."

"Alone? But you can't."

"I have to."

"You haven't called Jack Fenner. Joyce said sharply. "And you've got to, Della. He's got to go with you."

"There isn't time. And the man said I must come alone or—"

She broke off, seized the envelope and thrust it in her coat pocket. She had started for the

door before Joyce could take her arm.

"I'm going with you," Joyce said, and opened the closet door. Della stamped her foot in exasperation and tried to pull Joyce aside. "I won't have it, I tell you. You're not going." Tears of vexation brimmed in her eyes and then Joyce opened the door and was talking fast, her chin firm and eyes resolute.

"I'm going, Della. I won't even get out of the car. You can meet him by yourself, but I'll drive you there. . . . We should hurry, shouldn't we? There can't be much time."

In the car Della said: "I'm sorry I lost my temper."

"You didn't really," Joyce said. "But I had to come."

Della fell silent and watched the panoramas of lights slide past the car windows. The city was taking on new character now. Gradually the welter of little neon signs became more widely spaced until there were none at all save those on all-night drug stores and greasy-looking sandwich shops that posed as restaurants. Presently Joyce turned right and then they were in a street where even the drugstores could not flourish.

"We're nearly there," Joyce said. "This is Morton Street."

Della sat up. Even by daylight the street must have been a discouraging prospect; at night it had become an avenue of emptiness and shadows, where three- and four-story brick buildings matched along in unbroken ranks and the street lamps on the corners served only to make the middle of the block more obscure.

The Number

"It's the next block, I think," Joyce said. "See if you can find a number on one of those stores."

The car was throttled down as far as it would go now, and when they crossed the intersection, Joyce shifted into second so that they might move even slower.

"Yes," she said. "This is it. I just saw number 223."

"Park anywhere," Della said. "Not too close, Joyce."

The car nosed in toward the curb and came to a stop in the middle of the block.

She looked at her watch. It was five minutes after ten.

Joyce cut the ignition and switched off the lights. For a few seconds they sat there without a word, and Della could look down along the empty sidewalk to the next corner.

"Well," she said, and reached for the door handle. "It shouldn't take me long."

"You're sure you don't want me to?"

"Quite. The rest should be easy. Room twenty-four, he said. She felt a hand press hard on her arm and for just an instant her determination wavered; then the moment passed and she was all right again. She put her hand on Joyce's and pressed it, and found herself on the pavement. "I'm glad you came," she said. "I needed you."

"And if you're not back in five minutes."

"Ten, Joyce. Make it ten."

"All right," Joyce said. "And then you'd better call the police. You're not to follow me, no matter what you think."

She shut the door and went along the empty sidewalk, snuggling her coat more tightly about her, telling herself she was silly, melodramatic, talking about the police, and what to do if she did not come back within ten minutes. There was no sense in that. The man wanted the envelope, not her.

Above a doorway she saw the figures 264 and realized that the numbers did not run consecutively, but jumped ahead at will. Stepping from the curb, she started diagonally across the pavement, her shoes clicking loudly in the surrounding quiet.

The number she sought was stamped in stone above a narrow doorway.

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (MUS) 1330, Portland.
KKA (NBC-Blue) 1100, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & MUS) 1310, Spokane.
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco.
KOW (NBC-Red) 620, Portland.
KJR (NBC-Blue) 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.—Lewiston Stadium Concert. KSL, K. V. Kaitenborn.

KPO, KGO, KJR: Flying Patrol. KEX, KGO, KJR: Stars of Today.

KGO: Afternoon Dance, KEX.

5:30 p. m.—Bill Sabersky, KOMO: News, KOMO: News, KGO: Harry W. Flannery, KEX, KOIN: America Sings.

KGO: Folk Music from Many Lands. KJR: Passing Parade, KPO.

6:00 p. m.—Waltz Time, KPO, KOMO, KGO: Listen America, KEX, KGO: Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KSL, KSL: Serenade, KJR: Leon P. Drews, KOIN.

6:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO, KGO, KOMO: That Brewster Boy, KEX, KSL, KOIN: Dinah Shore, KGO, KEX.

7:00 p. m.—Meet Your Navy, KGO, KEX: Lanny Ross, KSL, KOIN: Aloha Land, KJR.

7:30 p. m.—Tent Show Tonight, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Lightning Jim, KEX, KSL, KOIN: The Star.

8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Earl Godwin, KEX, KJR: Amos 'n' Andy, KEX, KSL, KOIN.

8:15 p. m.—Dear John, KEX, KSL, KOIN: Melody Magic, KGO, KOMO: On Our Bandstand, KPO.

8:30 p. m.—Songs My Brother Taught Me, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Gang Busters, KEX, KJR: Playhouse, KEX, KOIN, KSL: Remar Bally, KGO.

9:00 p. m.—Richard Himber, KPO, KGO, KOMO: News, Ray Kinney's, KEX, KOIN: News Here and Abroad, KGO: Down Memory Lane, KEX: Meet Your Navy, KJR: Roth Siring Quartet, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Teddy Powell's Orch., KGO, KOMO, KPO: Raffles, KEX, KOIN: News, KSL, KJR: Moonlight Sonata, KEX: Charlie Harper, KGO.

10:00 p. m.—Hollywood Legion Stadium Fight, KGO: Reporter News, KPO, KGO, KOMO: News, KEX: Studio Party, KEX: Popular Potpourri: Five Star Final, KOIN: Masterworks of Music, KSL.

10:30 p. m.—Sports, KEX, KSL: Ocean Music, KGO: Betty Martin, KOMO: Broadway Bandwagon, KEX: Moonlight Sonata, KJR: War Time Women, KOIN: Radio Derby, KPO.

11:00 p. m.—Harry Owens' Hawaiian, KGO: This Moving World, KEX: Folk Music, KJR: News, KEX: Danah Ore, KOIN: Reveries, KOMO.

Saturday

5:00 p. m.—Little Blue Playhouse, KGO, KEX: Harry Owens' Hawaiian, KGO, KJR: Studio Party, KEX: KOIN: Dance Time, KJR: Traffic.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

Quiz, KOIN.

5:30 p. m.—Velvet Music, KPO, KGO: Swap Night, KGO, KJR, KEX: News Review, KEX, KOIN.

6:00 p. m.—Your Hit Parade, KSL: Summer Symphony Concert, KEX: Barn Dance, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Commonwealth Club Luncheon, KGO: On With the Dance, KJR.

6:30 p. m.—Hollywood Whispers, KEX: Summer Symphony Concert, KEX: Grant Park Concert, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Serenade, KJR: Leon Drews, KOIN: Gilbert and Sullivan, KGO: News, KEX.

7:00 p. m.—Sports Newsweek, KPO, KOMO, KGO: Tune Out Time, KGO, KEX, KJR.

7:30 p. m.—Grand Ole Opry, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Red Hydrant, KJR, KEX: Ellen Farrell, KOIN: Accents on Rhythm, KSL: Ninth Corps Quartermaster, KEX.

8:00 p. m.—News of the World, KEX, KSL, News, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Earl Godwin, KGO, KJR, KEX: Melody Hour, KOIN.

8:15 p. m.—Claude Thornhill's Orch., KEX, KOIN, KSL: Olmsted's Story, KEX, KPO, KGO, KOMO: Letters to a Lieutenant, KGO.

8:30 p. m.—Hospitality Time, KPO, KOMO, KGO: Dick Jurgens' Orch., KEX, KOIN: Dr. Cab Calloway's Quizzical, KGO, KJR, KEX: Charles Dant's Orch., KPO: Arthur Gath, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—News, Richard Himber's Orch., KOMO: Robert Ripley, KGO, KEX, KJR: Your Hit Parade, KEX, KOIN: Dance Orch., KGO: Music for a Nickel, KPO: Dance Tempoo, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Bay Noble's Orch., KGO: Teddy Powell's Orch., KGO, News, KSL, KJR, KEX: Sports Scripts, KOMO.

10:00 p. m.—Jance Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR: Erwin Yeo, KSL: News, KOIN, KGO, KOMO, KPO, KEX.

10:30 p. m.—Freddie Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR: Harry Owens' Hawaiian, KGO, KGO, KOMO: Sports, KEX, KSL, KOIN: The Quiet Hour, KEX: String Quartet, KSL.

11:00 p. m.—Organ Music, KPO, KJR: Martha Mears, KSL, KOIN: This Moving World, KJR, KEX: News, KGO, KEX: Evening Reveries, KOMO.

JOAN FONTAINE

LIKES TO COOK

Eugene, Ore., July 24.—(AP)—If Joan Fontaine's fans don't know it already, the film star is a typical American girl, only she really likes to cook.

You have Mrs. E. G. Bottorff's word for it, and she isn't grudging publicity axes for anyone—save possibly herself. She's the manager of a resort near Vida where Miss Fontaine and her actor husband, Brian Aherne are spending a 10-day vacation fishing for M-Kerzie river trout.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

CONE IN CAR

(Chosen by The Best Services, Inc.)

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

SITS ON BACK SEAT OF CAR, BETWEEN MOTHER AND AUNT ELLA, HAPPILY LICKING ICE CREAM CONE, TRYING TO MAKE IT LAST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

LICKS WRIST WHERE MELTING ICE CREAM HAS RUN DOWN, MOTHER CRYING TO LOOK OUT, IT'S DRIPPING INTO HIS LAP.

SUBMITS TO BEING HOPPED UP AND IS TOLD NOT TO DILLY-DALLY OVER HIS CONE ANY LONGER.

MOTHER BREAKS OFF HER SCOLDING AS SHE DISCOVERS THAT WHILE HOPPING HIM UP THE CONE WAS DRIPPING ON HER.

AUNT ELLA ATTEMPTS TO TAKE CHARGE OF CONE UNTIL HE'S READY TO EAT IT, CONE STARTING TO COME APART, CHIEFLY ON HER DRESS.

DECIDES DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART, ETC., AND FINISHES CONE HASTILY, PRACTICALLY IN ONE BITE.

Solution Of Yesterday's Puzzle

1. Land measure 2. Land measure 3. Land measure 4. Land measure 5. Land measure 6. Land measure 7. Land measure 8. Land measure 9. Land measure 10. Land measure 11. Land measure 12. Land measure 13. Land measure 14. Land measure 15. Land measure 16. Land measure 17. Land measure 18. Land measure 19. Land measure 20. Land measure 21. Land measure 22. Land measure 23. Land measure 24. Land measure 25. Land measure 26. Land measure 27. Land measure 28. Land measure 29. Land measure 30. Land measure 31. Land measure 32. Land measure 33. Land measure 34. Land measure 35. Land measure 36. Land measure 37. Land measure 38. Land measure 39. Land measure 40. Land measure 41. Land measure 42. Land measure 43. Land measure 44. Land measure 45. Land measure 46. Land measure 47. Land measure 48. Land measure 49. Land measure 50. Land measure 51. Land measure 52. Land measure 53. Land measure 54. Land measure 55. Land measure 56. Land measure 57. Land measure 58. Land measure 59. Land measure 60. 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