

Lena Hates Men

by MARGOT NEVILLE



Clarice Dodd, wealthy middle-aged widow who lives in Sydney, Australia, keeps her house filled with gay, indolent young people. Her nephew and niece, Felix and Joyce Burke, live with her. Eileen Foster and Denise Deschamps are house guests. Frequent visitors are the Bells and the Greys. Eileen, brother and sister, and their friend Michael Rawson, Felix becomes engaged to Eileen, a sweet girl quite different from the rest of the pleasure-loving crowd. That night, Eileen goes to bed. The next day, she is found dead in her room. When her eccentric maid, Lena, insists that she had only one tablet in her possession that night, Inspector Grogan of the police investigates. Suspicion falls on Felix when Lena reveals that he had a violent quarrel with Clarice that night over his decision to go away and marry Eileen. Then, Joyce suffers a collapse when Denise threatens to give the police damaging evidence against her. The next day, shortly before dinner, Lena tells Felix, Eileen and Denise that some one tried to enter her room that afternoon. A little later, as she goes into her room, she hears a slight sound behind her, feels a sharp pain in her back, and crumples to the floor.

CHAPTER XXVII
WHEN Eileen had gone into the kitchen, she'd found Nora in none too good a temper.

"I'm that put out with Lena," she had complained. "She's worse than useless, mooning around doing nothing. With Phyllis and Muriel off today, there's no one else to help me get dinner. Look at this pile of peas to be shelled. What's Lena doing? She'd like to know?"

"She'll be along presently," Eileen soothed. "I just left her in the front hall."

To pacify the cook, she herself sat down at the table and began eating her peas. She'd shelled the job took a good half hour. Then, as Lena still had not appeared, Eileen went to look for her. The door of her room was open a few inches and the light was on. Eileen tapped. "Lena, are you there?"

When there was no answer, she pushed open the door and started to enter. But she stopped short, staring in horror at what she saw. In the middle of the room, Lena was lying face down on the floor. Eileen rushed to her, and found her dead. She called frantically. "Oh, some one—come quickly!"

Nora came running from the kitchen. She peered into Lena's room, then gave a shriek that echoed through the house and out the open windows.

MICHAEL, who was still on the side of a bed, heard the shriek. Sergeant Manning, who was in the garden, watching the gardener, Rath, plant some seedlings, also heard it. In a few minutes, all three men were in the house, hurrying along the kitchen passage to where Eileen and Nora stood huddled together in the doorway of Lena's room.

Manning went in and knelt beside Lena.

"Come one ring up the doctor," he ordered.

"Dr. Nugent is upstairs," Michael told him. "At least, he went up there about half an hour ago to see Miss Burke."

Nora turned and went stumbling up the back stairs, calling, "Dr. Nugent! Dr. Nugent!" However, the doctor was already on his way down. He, too, had heard her shriek.

When he reached Lena's doorway, his professional calm seemed to give way at the sight before him. "Lena!" he gasped, then hurried over to examine her.

"Don't touch the knife—and don't move her any more than you can help," Manning cautioned. "Just tell me whether she's still alive."

Eagle Point

Eagle Point, Dec. 13.—Sincere sympathy of the community is extended the C. U. Tiede family in the loss of their only son, Tommy, missing in action on the aircraft carrier Liscome Bay, reported sunk Nov. 24 by a Japanese submarine during the battle for Tarawa Island. Tommy graduated from high school here and had many warm friends who will mourn his loss.

Mrs. Flora Prince who has been ill with a severe case of flu for several days is now improving.

Miss Leila McGraw went to Portland the first part of this week for a vacation with friends.

Mrs. Howard Short returned to her home here last week from a three weeks' visit with relatives and friends in her old home town Houston, Texas, also Leedsville, La., and other southern towns the first time for 17 years. Mrs. Short reported the weather there as balmy and warm, also that traveling facilities were very crowded.

Gerald and Harry Mitchell of Evans Creek district were business callers in Eagle Point Thursday.

Mrs. Lars Kaarhus and young son, Harold, of Portland will return to their home Monday. They have been here for a week with Mrs. Kaarhus' mother, Mrs. Annie Clave, and sister, Yetta. She has taken care of Yetta who is convalescing nicely from a recent operation.

"She's dead," the doctor announced, after a moment.

Manning turned to Rath. "Go over to the Wheatleys house and get the inspector. He's over there questioning the servants."

As Rath hurried from the house, he met Bill and Brenda coming up from the tennis court. He stammered out the news to them, then ran on.

They joined the group gathered in and around Lena's room. Even Joyce, with a dressing gown slung over her shoulders, came downstairs. They all stood staring, as though stupefied.

WHEN Grogan came back with Rath, he was grim and business-like. He learned the circumstances of the finding of the body, then turned to Dr. Nugent.

"Can you say how long she had been dead, doctor, at the time she was found?"

"A very short while," Nugent replied. "Less than half an hour."

"How long ago was that?" the inspector asked.

When Manning had left the room, Grogan looked around at those gathered there.

"Where's Miss Deschamps?" he asked.

"She went to the vet's with Lena's cat," Eileen told him.

"And Mr. Burke?"

Brenda answered. "He's having a shower. I think. He and my brother and I were playing tennis, but he came in ahead of us."

"How long ago was that?"

"Oh, I don't know. About ten minutes before we came in and heard about Lena. You see, we lost two balls and we went into the garden to look for them. When he came back to the court, he said he didn't feel like playing any more and was going in to take a shower. He'd scratched his hand on a rose bush while he was looking for the balls, and there was blood on his shirt."

Brenda's voice faded away.

"Okay—that'll do for the present," Grogan turned to Manning, who had just come back from the telephone. "Close up this room till the boys from headquarters get here. Keep every one in the dining room till I come."

HE RAN up the back staircase and strode along the hall to the closed door of the bathroom. From within, came the sound of running water.

He hammered on the door and shouted. "Mr. Burke! It's Grogan! Get in here!"

The noise in the water ceased suddenly. A minute later, the door was wrenched open, and Felix, in his dressing gown, stood in the doorway.

"What do you want?" he demanded furiously. "Can't I even have a shower in peace?"

Grogan pushed past him into the room. "Where's the shirt you were wearing?"

He looked around the room and then bent over the bathtub. There lay the shirt in a sudden heap. He lifted up the dripping garment and straightened it out. On the right sleeve was the remains of a mark that might once have been blood.

Flinging the shirt back into the tub, he stooped close to Felix.

"You washed it, eh? Why?"

Felix bristled. "I scratched my hand and got blood on the shirt."

"Do you usually wash your clothes when they get dirty?"

"I didn't wash it. I just chucked it in the tub while I was having a shower. Felix's face was scarlet. "What's all about anyway? Get out of here! If you want to talk to me you can wait till I'm dressed. Get out!"

Grogan caught hold of his wrist. "Why did you murder Lena?"

"All the fight suddenly went out of Felix.

"What? Lena? She... she isn't dead. I saw her... only a little while ago."

"I'll bet you did!" Grogan said grimly. "And now she's lying down there in her room with a knife in her back."

(To be continued)
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15-Year-Old Boy Held in Murder

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 13.—(U.P.)—David Filgas, 15-year-old high school student, was placed under technical arrest today and authorities said a copper wire drawn tightly about the neck of pretty Patricia Winters 17, indicated that she had been murdered after indulging in intimacies with the youth.

The girl's body burned almost beyond recognition, was found Saturday in the charred wreck of the boy's automobile.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 8:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember.

6,000 VEHICLES TO BE WITHDRAWN IN 9TH SERVICE AREA

Camp White—Some 6,000 motor vehicles are going out of action in the eight Western states of the Ninth Service Command under an order from Major General David McCoach, Jr., commanding general of the Command, Army Service Forces, to all posts, camps and stations for a 25 per cent reduction of administrative automotive equipment.

"Motor" vehicles do not entirely describe the reduction order which is sweeping enough to include bicycles.

Tremendous savings in critical tires gasoline and parts will result from the order. In addition, there will be less drain on diminishing completed automobile stocks.

Vehicles withdrawn from posts, camps and stations will, in some cases, be turned over to other governmental agencies, saving the need of issuing a new vehicle. Some will replace those worn out in training where reductions cannot be made with out jeopardizing important operations. Others will go into storage until needed; some will furnish necessary parts for other equipment.

To further conserve automotive equipment, vehicles which have outlived their usefulness in training with tactical units are being converted into equipment which will have many hundred useful miles in administrative or maintenance work.

Gold Hill

Gold Hill, Dec. 13.—(Spl.)—Wallace Iverson, who is attending officer's candidate school at Miami Beach, Fla., came Tuesday and is visiting his mother, Mrs. Cal Dusenberry and family of this city. He was called here by the death of his father, George Iverson of Medford.

Recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hayes and family was Mrs. Ella Moore of Canyonville, Ore., sister of Mr. Hayes.

The annual Odd Fellows Christmas tree and program is scheduled for Friday, Christmas eve, at 8 p. m. The program is in charge of the Rebekah lodge and many children will take part in the program.

Sgt. Clarence Kell, stationed with a medical corps at Camp Carson, Colo., came Thursday to spend a few days furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Kell and family.

Mrs. Tom Smith, who underwent a major operation at Sacred Heart hospital on Dec. 9, is reported improving.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Furry and daughter, Mrs. June Blair and small son, former residents of Central Point, are staying at the home of Mrs. Anita Blair for awhile.

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alva Walker were Mrs. Stanley Hott and daughter of Vancouver, Wash.

Mrs. Hazel Holderness is substituting for Mrs. Harriet Eltemiller as teacher of the seventh grade until the Christmas vacation while Mrs. Eltemiller is transacting business in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Dale Clement returned here Dec. 10 after visiting her husband, petty officer of the Seabees at Gulfport, Miss., for several weeks.

Evelyn and Robert Bates, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bates of Dad's creek, near Riddle, Ore., visited friends here Saturday. The Bates family resided here, formerly while Mr. Bates was section foreman.

Paul Holderness is visiting his wife and family after several months spent at Pasco, Wash., employed in defense work.

Dr. and Mrs. E. G. Simons left Dec. 11 to spend the winter at their home in Oakland, Calif.

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

FRED PERLEY, COMING HOME EARLY TO DRESS FOR THE SALESMEN'S DINNER AT WHICH HE WAS TO SPEAK, WORKED HIMSELF INTO A STATE TRYING TO GET HIS DRESS-SHIRT DRAWER OPEN, BEFORE HE REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD LOCKED HIS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS IN THERE AND THAT HE HADN'T THE FANTEST IDEA WHAT HE HAD DONE WITH THE KEY.

Mrs. Albert Pankey received word Thursday of the death of her half-brother, William Cox of Shasta City, Calif., and a resident of this city many years ago when he owned and operated a grain and feed store. He was born near Gold Hill in the old Dardanelle district and will be remembered by old timers as the partner of George Lyman, when the two owned the Cox and Lyman mine, later known as the Sylvanite mine.

Barbara and Johnnie Rains of Central Point visited from Tuesday until Thursday with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Dorman.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gail of the Gail Market entertained a group of friends at their home north of Gold Hill, Thursday evening. Present from here were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson and Cpl. and Mrs. Jack Haskins, formerly of Alabama.

Past Noble Grand club met Dec. 9 at the home of Mrs. Etta Carter on Garden Row. Mrs. Mildred Newnam presented readings for entertainment. Next meeting will be the annual Christmas tree and gift exchange to be held at the home of Mrs. Viola Moore on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 8 p. m. Mrs. Carter held a chicken tamale sale among members, the proceeds being donated to the club treasury.

Members of the W. R. C. held their annual Christmas gift exchange at the regular meeting, Dec. 8, in their hall. Following the business meeting and gift exchange, refreshments were served.

Mrs. Bertha McCollum of Portland and Mrs. Ethel Bailey of Roseburg, president and vice president of the Rebekah Assembly of Oregon, were overnight guests at the Leon Wise home Friday when Mrs. McCollum made her official visit to Amethyst Rebekah lodge. Following the meeting, a program of singing and whistling solos was presented by Mrs. Elbow Mae Gail, after which refreshments were served.

Prohi Candidate Denied Air Seat

Los Angeles, Dec. 13.—(U.P.)—Claude A. Watson, lawyer, minister and prohibition party nominee for president, said today a presidential candidate had as much right to air-travel priorities as a president's wife.

When he applied for air-travel priority, he said, Col. R. W. Ireland, army agent for such matters, told him plane space was reserved for persons contributing directly to the war effort.

Closing time for Sunday Too Late to Classify 8:30 Saturday afternoon—Please remember

9:30 TONIGHT

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Time shown is PWT

Monday
5:00 p. m.—H. V. Kaitenborn, news, NBC; Glen Drake, CBS.
5:15 p. m.—Superman, MBS.
5:30 p. m.—Voice of Firestone, NBC; Harry Flannery, news, CBS.

5:45 p. m.—News, CBS.
6:30 p. m.—Telephone Hour, NBC; Radio Theater, CBS; Gabriel Heatter, MBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Spotlight Bands, BN.
7:00 p. m.—Contented Hour, NBC; Screen Guild Players, CBS; Raymond Clapper, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—Information Please, NBC; Blondie, CBS; Lone Ranger, MBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.
8:15 p. m.—Raymond Gram Swing, NBC; Ed Sullivan, CBS; Lem and Abner, BN.
8:30 p. m.—Cavalade of America; Gay Nineties, CBS; Point Sublime, MBS.
8:55 p. m.—Joseph C. Hensch, CBS.
9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, NBC; Blind Date, BN.
9:30 p. m.—Hawthorne House, NBC; Vox Pop, CBS; Lowell Thomas, BN.
9:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Army Air Force, MBS.
10:30 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH—Every Camel for Himself!



BLONDIE—Gone With the Wind.



HAR ROYER, Washington Correspondent—oil



L'L ABNER—When Yokums Tremble



THE NEBBES—Strange Interludes



10:30 p. m.—R. V. Kaitenborn, news, NBC; Paul Martin Orch., CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Here's Mexico, MBS.
11:00 p. m.—Yankee House Party, MBS.

Tuesday
5:00 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN; Glen Drake, CBS.
5:15 p. m.—Dale Cross Orch., NBC; Dick Tracy, BN; Superman, CBS.
5:30 p. m.—Horace Heidt Treasure Chest, NBC; Jack Armstrong, BN; Harry Flannery, news, CBS.
5:45 p. m.—Capt. Midnight, BN; News, CBS.
5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, news, CBS.
6:00 p. m.—Mystery Theater, NBC; Three Romances, BN; Gabriel Heatter, MBS; Burns and Allen, CBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Fibber McGee and Molly, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; Forum of the Air, MBS; Report to Nation, CBS.
7:00 p. m.—Bob Hope, NBC; Raymond Gram Swing, BN.
7:15 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
7:30 p. m.—Red Skelton, NBC; Red Ryder, BN; Joy Orch., MBS; Congress Speaks, CBS.
7:45 p. m.—Guy Lombardo Orch., CBS.

10:30 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Fleetwood Lawton, NBC; Bar Towl, CBS.
11:00 p. m.—Salute to Youth, NBC; News, MBS; Judy Canova, CBS.
11:30 p. m.—Joseph C. Hensch, CBS.
11:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
12:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Henry King Orch., MBS.
12:30 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.
12:45 p. m.—Edwin C. Hill, CBS.
1:00 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Ted Powell Orch., CBS.
1:15 p. m.—Biltmore Hotel Orch.; NBC; This Moving World, BN; Sintonetta, MBS; Henri Busse Orch., CBS.

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