

Lena Hates Men

by MARGOT NEVILLE



Clarice Dodd, wealthy widow of George Dodd, lives in Sydney, Australia. Her nephew and niece, Felix and Joyce Burke, live with her. Two girls, Eileen Foster and Denise Deschamps, are house guests. Many visitors are constantly in and out. Clarice's eccentric maid, Lena, who bitterly hates men, resents all the guests. One night Clarice dies from an overdose of sleeping tablets known as second but, according to Lena, she had only one tablet in her possession that night. Inspector Grogan of the police learns that Felix recently obtained some second tablets, but Felix says he gave them to a friend, Bob Coates. Grogan gets the alleged tablets from Coates' mother and finds they are not second. Coates then says he gave his mother the wrong tablets because he didn't want her to know he had used the second, but Grogan is skeptical. Meanwhile, a mysterious intruder has been in Eileen's room, and an old picture of Clarice's wedding party has disappeared. Early that evening Lena is stabbed to death in her room. Felix's fingerprints are found on her doorknob. Felix tells Grogan that, at about the time of the murder, he saw Lena's cat scratching at her door and let it in. As Denise has said she had the cat out of the house at that time, Grogan summons her.

CHAPTER XXX

A FEW minutes after Felix went out, Denise was ushered into the room. As she sat down and faced Grogan, she was as self-possessed as ever.

"Miss Deschamps," said the inspector, "I want you to tell me exactly what you did from five minutes to seven, when you left here until ten to eight, when you returned."

"As I told you before, I took poor Lena's cat around to Dr. Stewart, the veterinary surgeon," said Denise.

"Where does he live?"

"Only a few minutes away. He saw me at once and took the cat and—whatever it was—out of the cat's ear. I left there soon after seven, but I didn't come straight home. When I got to the end of the drive, I didn't feel like coming in, so I walked down to the harbor and sat on the point. At a quarter to eight, I looked at my watch and decided to come home."

"And the cat was with you all the time, eh?" Grogan said easily.

Denise flashed a quick look at him, but she didn't hesitate for more than a second.

"No. Sooty came home before I went down to the harbor. She made such a fuss in the basket that I let her out."

"Do you mean to say you let out a valuable cat in the street? Wasn't that taking a big risk?"

"It's not valuable, not a pedigree cat, you know. It's only half Persian."

"Why didn't you tell us earlier that you let the cat come home by itself?"

"I didn't think to."

"It wasn't that you hoped no one had seen it—or you?"

"No, Inspector, it wasn't either of those things."

"All right—that's all for the moment."

WHEN Denise had left the room, Grogan turned to Sergeant Manning.

"Did she come home with the cat?"

"That's the point. Not that I care for any of their alibis. A brother and sister swear they're together. Nugent and his little ostent do the same. Rawdon—he might've slipped in that side door without you and Rath seeing him. Furst's housekeeper may have seen him come in at seven, but he could have come out again."

"It was at this point that Bob Coates made a dramatic entrance. He burst in, clamoring to see Grogan."

"I tell you I took that sleeping draught stuff. Felix tells me that you haven't taken my word for it."

Grogan tilted back his chair. "The word of a friend in a matter

like this isn't of much value, Mr. Coates."

"Then give me a blood test!"

"And what do you think that's going to do?"

"It can prove that I've taken the stuff, can't it?"

Grogan smiled. "If you'd been obliging enough to take all those tablets on one night, Mr. Coates, it might have helped us. But one night over a short period—there'd be no trace in the blood at all."

"Let me make a statement, then, a sworn statement."

"You gave your statement to Sergeant Manning a few hours ago."

When Coates had gone, Grogan looked across at Manning.

"Is he silly or is he cute? Did he think they could make a test of that kind? Or did he know they couldn't and thought it would look well for Burke for him to be ready to have it?"

Manning pondered. "Yeah..."

Grogan shrugged. "Well, go and send Burke back in here."

IT WAS late when Felix left the dining room.

As he went upstairs, Manning came along the kitchen passage towards Grogan.

"Weren't you looking for a photograph, sir? Perhaps you'd better step along to Lena's room."

Grogan followed the sergeant to the little room. Lena's body had been removed. A small table had been pulled into the middle of the room and a naked electric light beat down on a litter of snapshots and photographs spread out there.

The inspector sat down at the table.

"Well, what's all this?" he asked.

There were snapshots of almost everyone who had been at Rockwater in the last dozen years or so of Clarice and George Dodd and his squatter friends, of Felix and Joyce at various ages. And there were more recent pictures of Bill and Brenda and Michael and Denise and Hurst and Nugent.

The women's pictures were intact, but there wasn't a man who had escaped Lena's hate.

It wasn't at all nice what she had done with a pair of scissors. Bodies had been sliced away from faces, ears hacked away from heads. Here was Felix rising in all his youth and vigor to serve a tennis ball, but both his feet had been chopped off.

Lena had kept her collection, and all the pieces, too, in a candy box. Hate! Lena's hate shut up here alone with her in this room. Snip, snip, hack and cut! There—take that!

GROGAN started to assemble some of the bits.

"This is the wedding group," he said at last. He remembered what Eileen had told him about the picture.

The figures were all cut out in silhouettes—the men, of course hacked as well. It was like outlining together the parts of a jigsaw puzzle. Patiently, Grogan went on searching and fitting the pieces into place.

"Is this all she wanted it for?" he said. "It's this she was after last evening in Eileen Foster's room."

"Then why did she scream and run away and make out she'd gone in for a milk glass?" Manning asked.

"There was somebody else interested in this photo. It's my guess that they met by chance in the dark, both looking for it, and Lena got a fright and ran out screaming and told the first story that came into her head because she was feeling guilty. The somebody else came back in the night. But Lena got it today."

The picture was taking shape. Grogan put together the two halves of George Dodd's figure.

Suddenly, his face lit up. He took up a piece and fitted it into its place.

"Look," he said.

Manning leaned over his shoulder and stared a moment. Then he gave a long, low whistle.

"To be continued!"

(The characters in this serial are fictitious.)

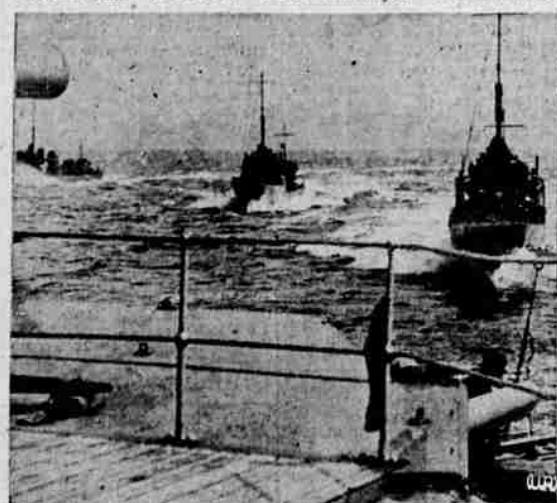
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Liscome Bay Survivors Return



Two survivors of the U. S. S. Liscome Bay, only warship lost in the recent Gilbert Island invasion, are shown on their return to San Francisco. They are Ship's Clerk T. A. McCaskill, Winters, Calif., left, and Lt. (jg) L. E. DeRosa, Concord, Calif. Official U. S. Navy photo.

Danish Fleet Commits Suicide



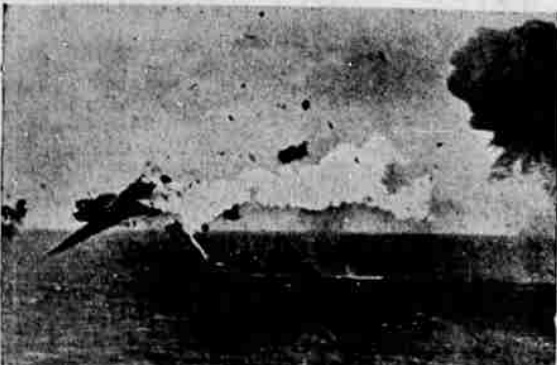
Rather than submit to Nazi control, Danish scamen scuttled their ships in the Copenhagen harbor.

Sinatra Classed 4-F in Draft



Frank Sinatra, the swoon-crooner, is shown arriving at the Newark, N. J., Induction Center, where he was examined and classified 4-F in the draft. He was rejected for military service because of a punctured ear drum.

Bingo! Jap Plane Gets Heat Treatment



A low-flying Jap torpedo planes goes to pieces in a sheet of flame and "ink" as fire from an American aircraft carrier hits the enemy during the Dec. 4 U. S. task force raid on enemy-held Marshall Islands during which 72 Jap planes were shot down. This particular ship was one of six which attacked a carrier, but all were bagged. Official U. S. Navy photo.

SHOWING OFF

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



SHOWING THE BABY OFF TO VISITORS AND TRYING UNCONVINCINGLY TO ASSURE THEM THAT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, HE REALLY NEVER CRIES, WHILE THEY, EQUALLY UNCONVINCINGLY, TRY TO ASSURE YOU THAT HE IS A DEAR AND A DARLING; AND THROUGH IT ALL THE BABY ASSURES EVERYONE, WITH UTTER CONVICTION, THAT HE IS WRETCHED AND MISERABLE AND DOESN'T LIKE BEING SHOWN OFF.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KALE (MBS) 1230, Portland
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1190, Portland
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco
KOW (NBC-Red) 830, Portland
KJR (NBC-Red) 1000, Seattle
KXN (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles
KOA (NBC-Red) 830, Denver
KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland
KOMO (NBC-Red) 950, Seattle
KPO (NBC-Red) 800, San Francisco
KSL (CBS) 1190, Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PWT.

Friday
5:30 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN.
Galen Drake, CBS.
5:15 p. m.—Dick Tracy, BN; Superman, MBS.
5:30 p. m.—Jack Armstrong, BN.

5:45 p. m.—Louis P. Lochner, NBC; Capt. Midnight, BN.
5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, CBS.
6:00 p. m.—Waltz Time, NBC; Three Romances, BN; Gabriel Heatter, MBS.
6:15 p. m.—Grace Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—People Are Funny, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; That Brewster Boy, CBS; Double or Nothing, MBS.
6:55 p. m.—News, BN.
7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, NBC; Durand and Moore, CBS; John Gunther, commentator, BN.
7:15 p. m.—Pulton Courier, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—Bill Stern Sports Newsreel, NBC; Stage Door Canteen, CBS; Lone Ranger, MBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; Love & Mystery, CBS.
8:15 p. m.—Fleetwood Lawton, commentator, NBC; The Parker Family, BN.
8:30 p. m.—All-Time Hit Parade, NBC; Gang Busters, BN; Playhouse, CBS; Name That Song, MBS.
9:00 p. m.—Purloined Fun, NBC; Meet Your Navy, BN; Kate Smith Hour, CBS; News, MBS.

9:30 p. m.—General Barrows, MBS; Hollywood Theater, NBC.
9:45 p. m.—Pulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Football Forecasts, MBS.
10:30 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.
10:30 p. m.—Wile Club, BN.
10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Cafe Orch., BN; Henry King Orch., MBS.
11:00 p. m.—Hotel Baltimore Orch., NBC; This Moving World, BN.

Saturday

5:00 p. m.—Peluso Orch., NBC; Busse Orch., CBS; Cisco Kid, MBS.
5:15 p. m.—Boston Symphony Orch., BN.
5:45 p. m.—Louis P. Lochner, NBC; Norman Nesbitt, MBS.
6:00 p. m.—National Barn Dance, NBC; Dorothy Allen, songs, CBS; Theatre of the Air, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Cat On Top, Top Hat, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; Beauty Talk, CBS.
6:45 p. m.—Saturday Serenade, CBS.
6:55 p. m.—Harry Wilson, sports, BN.
7:00 p. m.—Million Dollar Band, NBC; John Gunther, commentator, BN; John B. Hughes, MBS.

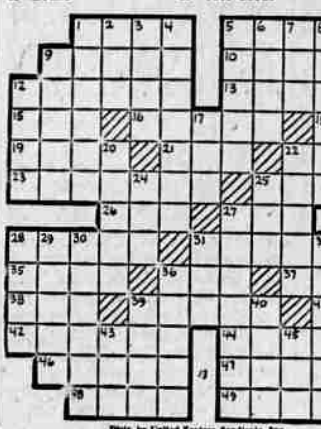
7:15 p. m.—Remember, BN.
7:30 p. m.—Grand Ol' Opry, NBC; Red Ryder, BN.
7:45 p. m.—Deane Dickason, news, CBS.
8:00 p. m.—Truth or Consequences, NBC; Thanks to Yanks, CBS.
8:15 p. m.—Edw. Jorgensen, commentator, BN.
8:30 p. m.—Abley, BN.
8:30 p. m.—Leon Henderson, news, BN; Inner Sanctum, CBS; Let's Go, MBS.
8:45 p. m.—Orch., BN.
9:00 p. m.—Cowboy Hit Review, BN; Hit Parade, CBS; News, MBS.
9:30 p. m.—Curtain Call, NBC.
9:45 p. m.—Don't You Believe It, CBS; Shep Fields Orch., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Bridge to Dreamland, BN.
10:15 p. m.—Henry King Orch., MBS.
10:30 p. m.—Hotel St. Francis Orch., NBC; Barn Dance, CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Gus Arnheim, MBS.
11:00 p. m.—Hotel Baltimore Orch., NBC; This Moving World, BN; Bandwagon, MBS.

Principal industry at the Oregon State Penitentiary is the flax plant, started in 1915.

Crossword Puzzle

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1—Staff of office
2—Bastille
3—Strength
4—Proves
5—Shooting star
6—Block
7—Stray
8—Work
9—Time of respect
10—Seaweed
11—Small bird
12—Great writer
13—Bounce
14—Peel
15—Indian tribe
16—Beetle
17—Fruited
18—Fruited
19—18th of March
20—Front of army
21—Vegetary
22—Study
23—Letter E
24—Fruited
25—Like silver
26—Smile
27—Narrow streak
28—Upstairs
29—Wider region
30—Veer about



DOWN

1—Heart valve
2—Epoch
3—Frigid
4—Irregular
5—Wooden shoe
6—Affirm
7—Spread for drying
8—Bract
9—Household
10—Honey liqueur
11—Small tail
12—Piece
13—Goes up
14—Revealed
15—Habit
16—Beds crink
17—Entertainers
18—Priorities
19—Smell
20—Dissolve
21—Feine
22—Type of bird
23—Indian tribe (pl)
24—Precious
25—Latin to life
26—Indigo
27—Crest
28—Sooner than
29—French note

BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH—Neck and Neck!



BLONDIE—Catechism of Matrimony!



L'L ABNER—Lay That Pistol Down, Abel!



HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Errand Boy



THE NEBBS—Unhappy Thought



By CHIC YOUNG



Edited by DREW PEARSON



By AL CAPPA



By HESS



Jap Plane Goes Up in Smoke



A tall column of smoke marks the watery grave of a Japanese torpedo plane, which was shot down while attempting to attack a U. S. aircraft carrier during the Dec. 4 attack on the enemy-held Marshall Islands during which 72 enemy aircraft were downed. An American destroyer escorting the carrier, which bagged the Jap, is shown at left of the smoke. Official U. S. Navy photo.