

The Creeping Thing

(Continued from page six)

rey. I sat up and listened. "There is no doubt that old Diaron telling the truth about the last part because the neighbors over at the far side of the Selwyn place declare they can vouch for the shrieks. "As I listened," the old man continued, "the creeping sound ceased suddenly, but on the heels of the noise there came hurrying across the stillness, shriek after shriek. They sounded like the keening banes of old folk tales as I have heard them in the islands. I sprang up terrified and ran to the door of the outer passage, but when I thought of my master in there all alone with that horror, I ran for my life. As I came back to the passage to the door of the narrow hall (Diaron and Meme call the octagonal room the narrow hall) I heard again the creeping thing. I resisted for very terror, and then summoning all my will power, I knocked heavily on the door of the room. There was no answer. The creeping noise had suddenly ceased abruptly as it had begun. I turned the knob, expecting to find the door locked, but it gave freely. "Meme had joined me and stood

peeping fearfully over my shoulder. She was the first to see the master in the dimness—there is no way of lighting the room, it seems, except by candle light—she screamed, when she saw him. My eyes followed hers, and we saw him lying there right under the high hall windows. "There are only three small windows high up on the side facing the garden and opposite the door. There are no other openings in the room. He must have been in bed, for when we went in to examine his body, (old Diaron and Meme had left everything just as they found it) it was still lying tangled in the bed clothes as though the old fellow had been dragged from the bed in his sleep and clutched at them to save himself. "Well, we left him just as we found him, for the coroner. I rushed home to write you the details because I know how interested you are in that old Selwyn place, and this puts it on the map as weird as well as interesting."

The letter ended here. I was sitting musing over its contents when a sudden loud rapping came at the door. A special delivery boy was there with a letter for me. I signed for it with some surprise. I did not usually receive special delivery letters on my vacation trips. I was doubly surprised when I saw the address was in the same hand writing as the letter I had just read. Hurriedly, and with a premonitory eagerness, I ripped the envelope open. "Old Scout," it began abruptly: "come on in, the mystery deepens. When we went up with the coroner to examine the body a few minutes ago, body, bedclothing and all had disappeared. A guard whom we left stationed at the end of the narrow hall swears that he heard the same horrible sounds of a huge creeping body. He was afraid to investigate, but by his trembling fear-filled eyes, I should say there is no question but that he heard something. There is

no trace of anything connected with the murder of old Ezra Selwyn in that eerie octagonal room. That I swear. And there are no entrances or exits, except those three tiny windows and that door with its slit of a transom. If you can explain

this mystery, you're better than I think you are, but I'll bet you'll take a go at it."

boarded the train for home and the Selwyn house mystery. (End of first installment) To be continued next week.

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The Paris Pepper-Pot

(Continued from page five)

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