

SERIAL STORY

NEW YORK JUNGLE

BY WRAY WADE SEVERN

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YESTERDAY, Adam is dead, but Marta has only faintly lived, she tells Sidney who knows Adam is dead. Nella suggests her uncle may have slipped, inspired himself on the armchair. But there is a better hole in his shirt front. Sidney orders all of them to remain together until police arrive.

MOTIVES FOR MURDER

CHAPTER V THEY waited in the library for the police, while the storm continued in full fury. Rain beat against the windows. The heavens were a battleground of light and sound. Marta lay on the sofa, her long gown trailing to the floor, while the others tried to make conversation.

Braitwood called on each one of them for a detailed account of all actions from the moment the lights in the Jungle went out until the men returned with candles. Pat and Nella said they had covered their eyes against the lightning; Gundrum and the valet had crossed to the table for matches, neither having any in his pockets, Hugh and Sidney had remained near the door on guard. Apparently no one had been looking toward the lioness.

Pat said that Marta had become alarmed when the men remained upstairs so long. Adam had not spoken to them, and they had failed to hear Hugh suggest that he remain with them so they thought he had gone on with the rest.

Finally Marta had announced that she was going to find out what had happened. They had tried to dissuade her, but she had insisted and had left the table to grope a way through the darkness to the door.

Then, they had heard her scream.

Marta remained silent. Although Sidney had telephoned police headquarters as soon as they came upstairs, the officers did not arrive. Probably, he reasoned, the storm had made roads almost impassable. Static would hinder radio reception, if a patrol car happened to be in the vicinity.

"There's nothing to do but wait," the attorney said.

SUDDENLY Nella burst out, "I smell smoke." Hugh smiled. "Nonsense. You're always smelling smoke, Nella," he said.

"A time-honored method of destroying evidence is by fire," Sidney conceded. "I can't smell smoke myself, but Nella's senses may be keener than ours. It will do no harm to make sure. And none of us has been smoking since—since dinner."

"I look in Jungle, Mr. Braitwood. Maybe burnt match drop on animal's hair down there."

"No, Togi," Sidney said. "Gundrum, will you examine my gun? Notice that it has not been fired. Then run your hand over me and assure yourself that I'm not carrying any other weapon. Do the same with Hugh."

"My gun had but the one charge, and I fired that at the lock as the cylinders will prove," Hugh added.

Gundrum searched them. "Just as you said," he announced. "Will you do the same for Togi and me? Then if there is a fire and we have to separate we can vouch for each other." No one suggested searching the women.

"Hugh and I will look for fire together," Sidney said. "That is, if you all are satisfied that we should."

No one objected. The two men retraced their way to the Jungle below.

The same darkness enveloped the place. Only the tiny flame under the percolator indicated the table; the animals and other pieces of furniture were shut out by the wall of blindness. Hugh picked up two candles, lighted them, and handed one to Sidney. "Why should Pat have used that antiquated percolator?" Sidney asked.

"I remember using an electric contraption in the past," Hugh was puzzled.

"Odd, too," Sidney went on, "that only one fuse blew out in the entire house. You know, Hugh, if an electric percolator had been used that flame would not be there."

"Obviously, but where is the significance?" "There you have me," Sidney confessed. He groped about the room.

"ORIGINALLY the Jungle was two rooms," Hugh explained. "Adam had the partition removed. That's why the fireplace is in that brick pillar in the center of the Jungle. It may be there are two fuse boxes. There are two light switches. Adam planned to have all new wiring installed down here. But he never did. This is out of date, wires exposed. . . ."

He pressed a button in a pillar near the lioness and got no result. Then he tried the switch next the door. A flood of mellow light filled half the room.

"Togi must have turned off the lights when he started to put in fresh globes. He was just putting them in when he came down from the ladder to help Nella open the door," he said.

"Naturally, when the lights went off he would suppose the entire system had been struck," Sidney suggested. "I recall that that happened in a storm when I was visiting here last year." He hurried to inspect the room more closely.

"Nothing is burning here," Flush said. "Nella is marked by

fire. She was badly burned as a child. She often imagines she smells smoke."

HOLDING his candle high, Sidney made a tour of the windows. They were set high in the wall, all but flush with the ceiling. "Hugh!" he called. "Here's a broken pane." He pointed up at a broken window.

"A shot could have been fired through this window. It is in direct line with Adam and the coffee table. He might have been outlined."

"Adam is facing the wrong way for a hit, Sid," Hugh pointed out. "Though he may have turned."

Sidney held his candle over the block against which the dead man still leaned. "There are no marks on the waxed surface to show that he did turn around."

Stooping, he examined the gun which had lain so close to Marta's outstretched hand, though he avoided touching it.

"This gun is cocked!" he exclaimed. "Would you believe that possible?" "Adam would have cocked it in readiness," Hugh reasoned. "These guns are old. They don't handle readily. This one must have fallen in such fashion that the hammer didn't hit the floor. Seems impossible, but apparently that is what happened."

"It will be tough for all of us when the police get here, Hugh," Braitwood reminded the engineer. "Except you and me, everyone present has what a clever criminal lawyer could construe as a motive for this murder."

Hugh nodded. He looked pale and disturbed. "Marta and Gundrum, and Pat, too, may have been actuated by jealousy. Nella will inherit the estate, I suppose." "Adam's wife will inherit, too," Sidney reminded him. "But it may be that this very wealth of motives will prove a shield." "It must have been someone from the outside," Hugh said heavily. "I can't believe otherwise, Sid. I won't believe otherwise."

(To Be Continued)



Charlie Chaplin looks excited. He was talking about Hitler's policies of hatred. "Only those who do not love and are therefore unloved can hate like that," the great screen actor declared. He's pictured in New York, where he viewed the premiere of "The Great Dictator," his film satire on totalitarian rulers.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



THE ONLY LIFE FOUND IN GREAT SALT LAKE IS A SMALL BRINE SHRIMP.



THE FOLLOWING CHEMICAL ELEMENTS ARE NAMED FOR WHAT HEAVENLY BODIES: MERCURY, URANIUM, CERIUM, HELIUM.

ANSWER: Mercury and uranium, from the planets, Mercury and Uranus; cerium, from the minor planet, Ceres; helium, from the sun, whose Greek name was Helios.

A COMMONWEALTH

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers. Clues include: 1 Map of British Commonwealth, 9 Its monetary unit, 13 Scanty, 14 Luminous sun circle, 16 Sharp, 17 Possessing flavor, 19 Jester, 21 Sums up, 22 Lyric poem, 23 Let it stand, 24 Transposed (abbr.), 26 Apart, 34 Genus of slugs, 35 To happen again, 36 Butted, 38 Part of a drama, 39 Musical note (abbr.), 40 Egg-shaped, 44 Perspiration, 49 It is a great producing country, 52 100 square meters, 53 Tree, 54 Ancient, 55 Assam, 56 Imbecile, 57 Chamber, 59 Its largest city, 60 Its capital, 2 Consumed, 3 Hastened, 4 Fogs, 5 Railroad (abbr.), 6 To maintain, 7 To jump, 8 Sour-tempered, 9 Pair (abbr.), 10 Uncles, 11 Least whole number, 12 Appellation, 15 Poem, 16 Common leap-

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. WILLIAMS



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With MAJOR HOOPLE



BY FRED HARMAN



BY HAROLD GRAY



BY CRANE



BY BLOSSER



BY MARTIN



BY V. T. HAMLIN

