PLAY BY PLAY

BY PAUL DAVID PRESTON

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CHAPTER XXVIII "QUICK! Straighten things upl Oh, hurry, everybody, hurry! The dinner table—I had every-thing set. The chairs—my clothes

Nancy Hale was incoherent but she was working furiously now. Automatically the others pitched in. The living room looked like a wreck one moment and looked neat again the next. In spite of Blythe's and Duane's fight with the two detectives, things hadn't been broken. The detective called

"So that's them, eh!" he said. "I know them two. By goshi"
"I don't get it," Duane Hogan

Ed went over to the window and

began. "Do you mean to tell me, Nancy, or Bly, that you—"
Nancy looked desperate. "I tell

you we haven't time to talk now! Duane, dump those clothes back in the closet. And Scooter's toys. I've got to get an apron on and look calm! Don't you understand? Calm!"

"But how can-"

The detective spoke again. "Mrs. Hale's right. Help her go through with it. We got to have proof! Evidence, see."

Oh, Duane-you and Blythe. Come with mel" Frantically now she began to

herd all of them right back into that same clothes closet! First she pushed Duane in Then

Nancy. Next the two detectives themselves. All the while she was stage-whispering instructions to "You must be absolutely quiet!

I-they're coming around the building. They'll be careful so nobody will see them start up the stairs. You get back in the closet. Way back! It's big. They used to store gym equipment there. Back against the wall, all of youl Remember the gamblers were to hide in there, too, and they may come snooping, so you-"

"Mrs. Hale, you make 'em talk again, seel" a detective asked. "Make 'em repeat what they said to you before. Everything! And don't give 'em no chance to harm you. They'll have guns that ain't

loaded with blanks!"
"Sh-h-h-h-h!" warned Nancy. Next moment the closet door

BLYTHE could feel the utter strangeness here. For the secnd time in 15 minutes she was in this place, this time not with two but three men. She could sense their presence even if she could see nothing. She could hear Nancy tripping around outside, obviously in last-second arranging of details. Her own thumping pulse was likely to give everything away, Bly felt.

All at once, then, everything lse went still.

Nancy could be heard no more The detective named Ed was still breathing a little heavily from his exertion with Duane. But Duane himself, backed against the closet wall, was like a man of iron.

Slowly, surprisingly-and de-Slowly, surprisingly—and de-lightfully!—Blythe realized that Duane's arm was completely around her! She could feel the rise and ebb of his own slow breathing as he held her to his side. His muscles were tense. A century dragged by—it may ac-tually have been two minutes— and then she felt Duane stirring. "You all right?" he whispered, right at her ear. For answer she squeezed back

For answer she squeezed back on the hand that held hers.
"I couldn't have stood it," he whispered, "if you hadn't been. If any harm had come to you!"
Good old Duane! The best friend a girl ever had.
"Bly."
"Yes, Duane?"
"They—I don't hear them yet."
"No."
"I want to say—Bly—it seems to me the time has come for me to say what I've wanted to say, I have to ask you something."

"Nancy was innocent, Duane Don't you understand? She was! I didn't know it either for ever so long. It was horrible. But she wasn't trying to do anything mean. Instead, she wasn't "I wasn't talking about Nancy." "What?"

Nancy's footsteps again were tripping nervously around outside. One of the detectives felt back through the darkness and touched

through the darkness and touched Blythe in warning to be still. But Duane didn't know that.

"Bly," said he, whispering ever so low, right at her cheek, "You had the courage . . . to come up here alone! To try to—!"

"Sh-h-h-h!" the detective ventured just in time

tured, just in time.

ALL four of the people here in the closet were suddenly tense Nancy was opening her

front door!

"Hello," they heard Nancy say,
flat tone, "Come in."

There was quite a long pause. Those in the closet could almost see the new arrivals taking in the living room, so vivid was the drama in their minds.

"What about it?" they heard a man's voice ask. "Everything jake?"

"You wanted to see for your-self," Nancy reminded them. . Two men slowly entered her Blythe felt a stirring in front of her. She thought she heard the hammer click on a gun. "Open the door," one detective murmured to the other. "We got (To Be Continued)



"No, no, Mrs. Twiffle! You inspect their work, not their ears!"

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8TH AND MAIN

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

"Git this over, you stick with the boys downtown, kid," Hymie put in, unctuously. "Now what's the layout here?"

the layout here?"

The other one explained. "We stay in that closet. She gits the two football punks up here. Hogan and Dana. She feeds 'em. She gives 'em the sleep pills. Makes 'em lazy. We can tell in 20 minutes. She sends 'em out on an errand. We give her the grand, and then we blow. Nobody seen us come up here, nobody'll see us leave. That's the whole ticket, ain't it, kid?"

"That's what you said," Nancy answered.

answered.

By William Ferguson

Little Orphon Annie

LIKE THAT, HE MUST LOVE YOU, MILLIE! WHY DON'T YOU MARRY HIM?

Freckles and His Friends



NEXT: Looking for birds of happiness.

SWEET SINGER

Answer to Previous Puzzle 1, 5 Pictured singer. 9 Game played on horses. 10 Age. Ceremony. 13 Toll.

14 Parent. 15 Behold! 17 Glen. FRANCIS WARREN 19 Rodent.
20 Tumuit.
22 Governor (abbr.).
23 Either.
24 Males.
25 Heart (Egypt).
45 Aged.
27 3.1416.
47 Disease.
28 Nut.
51 Meadow.
52 Fruit. PERSHIN 62 Exalt. VERTICAL

28 Nut. 51 Meado 30 Small mallet. 52 Fruit. 32 Near. 54 Perform 32 Near. 54 Perform.
33 South America 55 Proceed.
(abbr.). 56 Breathe with (abbr.). 34 She is a -

PLANTS, THEY ONLY GET THE EGGS, NOT THE PLANTS,"

HORIZONTAL

songs. 41 Him. 42 Golf peg.

1 Animal 2 Sick. 3 Negative. 4 12 months. effort. actress. 57 Disfigure.
38 She — sweet 59 Native metal.

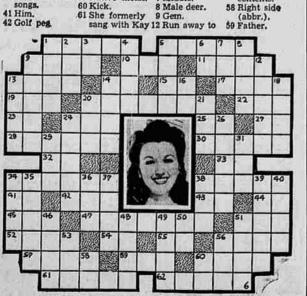
5 Market. 6 Written form of Mister. 7 Middle. 60 Kick. 61 She formerly 8 Male deer. sang with Kay 12 Run away to

29 Spoil. 31 Moving vehicle, 34 Store. 35 Prison rooms, 36 Long fish, 37 Require. 37 Require. 38 Speak. 39 Gravel. 40 Break short. 46 Water fowl. 48 Impoverished. 49 Molding. 50 Therefore, 51 Path. 53 Fifth month.

contents.

marry, 13 Type of canoe, 14 Repair, 16 Upon, 18 Wicked, 20 Marsh land, 21 Child's game,

anthem. 26 Water vessel.







I'VE SAID MY GOOD-BYES
TO MRS. SLEET AND TO
DOC BLUNT AND THE RESTWE'LL BE SAILING WITH
THE TIDE -- GOT TO HUSTLEHM-M-I MAY BE SEEING
TADDY WARBUCKS BEFORE
LONG -- ANY MESSAGE?

PAPER !



YOUNGER!



YOU KNOW

THE MESSAGE, SHANGHAI! IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME

AND IT ALWAYS

YOU WERE





HAD TO RUN AWAY
THAT TIME--GOOD BYE, SHANGHAIL
THE BEST OF
LUCK AND COME
BACK-SAFE!

BUT GOOD HEAVENG, MARTHA! THAT #250 CHECK IS MY OWN HARD-EARNED MONEY!

GPUTT-TT! AFTER YEARS OF PAINFUL SEARCHING I DIG UP A FOOTBALL NUGGET LIKE MEFLUG AS BRASHLY AS CAPTAIN KIDD SEIZING A MERCHANTMAN

- FAP!

Our Boarding House With Major Hoople

By Fred Harman

TLL DO THAT

ANNIE - SOME DAY - AND, IF I

MAROLD GRA'I

By Harold Gray

WELL ONE OF US 15 GET GOIN

THAT "ROBBERY" ROAR

OF YOURS IS WORN OUT

FOR JUNK! --- JUST

TO ME, AND YOU'LL STILL OWE ME \$346.75 IN QUARTERS AND HALF-DOLLARS YOU'VE

BORROWED!

THERE'S A PEN IN

I'M NOT MOVIN'!

THE DESK, MAJOR =

INDORSE THIS CHECK

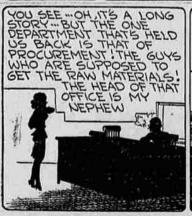
THE ESCAPED PRIS-ONERS ARE BELIEVED TO BE WEARING GERMAN UNIFORMS. YOU WILL WATCH THE ROAD WITH CARE. WE ARE SURE TO SEE ANY WHO ATTEMPT TO CROSS IT

HIM?









STRING YOU UP? WELL, YOU AIN'T GONNA GET OFF

THAT EASY. WE'RE GONNA SEND YOU RIGHT OVER TO EENY AND HER MOOZY ! MOB!

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