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Murder In Duplicate

CHAPTER TWO
Continued

"What you need for that cold," she said, "is a drink. I'll get it for you."

She went out of the room. Jim looked at the little man. The little man looked at Jim. Minutes went by.

Mary came back, holding a glass. There was brandy in it, and water. It gleamed amber under the light.

Mary, Jim noticed, was wearing one of her plain dresses, with a white lace collar. She looked, with her smooth black hair, like a school-girl. She was at peace.

She held the glass out to the little man "Drink it," she said. Her voice was commanding. The room was lit by a flash of lightning and the thunder pealed again.

The little man took the glass. Jim clenched his hands, quite

suddenly he had an insane desire to shout: "Don't drink it! Make an excuse! Put it down — anything." But he said nothing. Afterwards, he was to remember that he said nothing.

The little man raised the glass to his lips. With an unaccountable gesture, he said: "Here's health." He drank.

He seemed to move all in one place, like a jerked puppet. He contracted, with his hands clutched to his stomach and his lips drawn back in an agonised grin. The glass shattered at his feet. Next he was on the floor, rolling. He twisted on his back and his eyes glared at Mary. They were still glaring when the light went out of them.

CHAPTER THREE

Mary put a hand to her mouth, and bit on a knuckle. It stopped her screaming, but only just in time.

"Is he — is he — ?"

Jim was on his knees beside the twisted figure. He did not look up. "I think so," he said. He paused. "Yes. He's dead. Poor devil."

The little man who called himself Smith had looked insignificant in life. He gained no dignity with death. He was like a doll that a child has broken and thrown away. But now he was dead, a vast machinery would take up his affairs. Weeks might pass, or months; but in the end — if the machinery worked efficiently — another person would pay...

Kneeling beside the contorted body, Jim remembered Whitcombe's words.

"A poisoner who's got away with it once always tries again. The next time it may be some other foolish old woman, or rival, or a lover. But she won't be able to resist the temptation to try the little white crystals on someone. I'm looking out for her. I read all the poison cases."

Jim rose. Automatically, he dusted his hands. The storm seemed to have gone, and the air was cooler. Suddenly his head was very clear.

Mary took her hand away from her mouth. She did not look at him. Since the thing had happened, they had not once looked at each other, as if by an unspoken agreement. She continued to stare at the body. Whatever thoughts lurked behind the wide-spaced grey eyes, the eyes themselves gave little clue to them.

She said: "But we ought to get a doctor — and call the police..."

"No," Jim shook his head. At last she looked at him, in astonishment. Gently, he took both her hands in his.

"Listen, Mary," he spoke quickly. There was little time. "This is bad — very bad. We've got to be sure of what we're doing. There's not much doubt of what happened to him." He glanced down briefly at the body. "He's been poison-

ed — murdered in front of our eyes — and your aunt was poisoned —"

She flinched. There was no doubting the expression in her eyes now — it was fear.

"Jim! You don't think I — ?"

"No, I don't," He spoke the words with assurance. "I'll tell you why. It couldn't happen twice."

She stared at him, puzzled. "I don't —"

"Someone," said Jim, "has been diabolically clever. Here you are, a girl who was once suspected of having poisoned an old woman. You were acquitted, but that sort of thing sticks — otherwise why did you change your name? Now this fellow turns up, claiming to have new evidence about that old affair. And he's found dead in your flat — poisoned! Don't you realize what the police will be bound to think?"

Mary shook her head. She was still bewildered. "But it's so absurd!" she protested. "You heard what he said, before he — before it happened to him. He saw my aunt take her medicine. Then she collapsed. That's just what Frank Welles proved had happened! She forgot to shake the bottle. There was strychnine in it —"

For a moment, Jim's newfound faith in her wavered. He stared at her.

"That's what you think he was trying to tell us?"

"But of course!"

He hesitated.

"The fact remains," he insisted, "that the police are only too likely to jump to conclusions: especially —" He abandoned that ugly line of thought, for the moment; it raised too difficult problems. "Only," he declared, "it's too pat altogether; far too neat to be believed. The whole thing has been planned to throw suspicion on you, and we've got to prove it. We've got to find the real murderer!"

To be continued

Catholic Bible Week Preparations

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 — Some 50,000 Bible posters are being sent out to all parts of the United States, Canada, Latin America and South Africa in preparation for Catholic Bible Week, September 28 to October 5.

They are being sent along with 25,000 booklets, "Suggestions for Bible Week," by the National Center of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine here.

Observance of Bible Week marks the 500th anniversary of the appearance of the Gutenberg Bible, the first printed book.

Every rectory, Confraternity director, Catholic school superintendent, college and major seminary in the country will receive a copy of the booklet. They are also being sent to all Catholic libraries, book stores and information centers.

Mailed as part of a Bible Week kit, the 32-page booklet in four colors contains information and practical suggestions for Bible Week observance. Fact sheets present data on the place of the Bible in the Church, the history of the Bible, its translations into English and American versions, including the publication of a new translation of the first eight books of the Old Testament scheduled for Bible Week. The new translation has been sponsored by the Episcopal Committee of the C. C. D.

A biographical article on Johann Gutenberg, his invention of printing and contribution to Bible reading gives the location of the 12 Gutenberg Bibles in the United States.

Another section of the booklet lists source materials for Bible Week participants, including selected Bible pamphlets from six publishers. It also presents 20 suggested topics for speakers and panels, such as Family Life in the Bible, Women in the Bible and The Prophets of the Bible and the Atomic Age.

Catholic Bible Week is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Committee of the C. C. D. The Catholic Bible Association and the National Center of the C. C. D. are handling details of promotion together with nine publishers of Bibles and New Testaments.

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Farewell Party For Salvation Army Cadet

Deep gratitude for her evidence of stifling salvationism, and sorrow for her departure, were the mingled feelings of the congregations gathered in the Salvation Army Citadel on Sunday last, as Cadet Joyce Haynes took part in farewell services prior to her entering The Training College, Toronto, Ontario.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Haynes of Upper Hillsborough St., Charlottetown, the Cadet has showed qualities of leadership which will stand her in good stead as she takes up a nine month course in Theology, public speaking, Bible study and intensive field training. Charlottetown is known from coast to coast in Salvation Army circles as a centre that has given again and again down through its colourful history to the cause of the Kingdom of Our Lord and Saviour. Once again the blood stream of the salvation war is being enriched by a transfusion from the Island. Cadet Haynes filled a number of positions, all of them with sincerity and dexterity. As Corps pianist, Wolf Cub leader, Youth Group President, Bandmember and Songster, also teacher of a class of boys, she leaves a gap in the ranks which will be hard to fill. Born and educated in Charlottetown Cadet Haynes has for the past two years worked for S. A. MacDonalds, a group of the girls from this store met together and gave her a send-off party last week. Over seventy friends gathered in the Y. P. Hall of the Citadel and a miscellaneous shower followed. This was convened by Mrs. S. Crockett, Miss B. White expressed the sentiments of the gathering in a speech of farewell. Mrs. Captain Titcombe closed the gathering in a prayer of dedication.

A solemnity filled the Citadel on Sunday night as the Cadet stood under the colours and the Corps Officer called upon the congregation to rise and sing in unison "Where He leads me, I will follow." Sr. Major M. Wheeler gave a speech of farewell which was followed by Cadet Haynes' reply. In a few well chosen words she thanked one and all for their interest in her as she grew up through the Junior Corps, for influence that had led her to the place of committal and consecration to full-time service.

Cadet Haynes leaves Charlottetown on Thursday next to spend a few days with friends in Saint John before proceeding to Toronto Training College by September 30th, to join with seventy other young men and women from all walks of life who have dedicated their lives to God and a democratic way of life.

PEACE AND DEFENCE

OSLO — (CP) — Pledged to support development of an international police force to repel aggression, the Norwegian Association for International Peace has launched a nation-wide stamp sale to raise money for its activities. Its members include Foreign Minister Halvard Lange.

PIONEER INDUSTRY

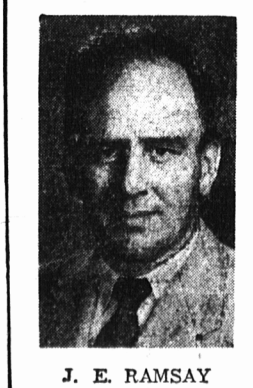
Making of clothes in the pioneer days was a household industry, linked with spinning and weaving.

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PACIFIC PARLIAMENT

The New Zealand House of Representatives has 80 members, including four Maoris (natives) elected by Maori voters.

TORONTO, Sept. 23 — (CP) — Ontario's fall wheat crop this year produced an average of 51.8 bushels an acre, compared with 28.0 bushels an acre last year, the Ontario Department of Agriculture said today. Nearly 1,000,000 more bushels were harvested this year despite reduction of about 55,000 acres in area planted, the report said. The crop totalled 20,670,000 bushels.

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This completes a 15 week record breaking tour of packed audiences throughout Canada. Thousands were turned away in the last two weeks of shows in Newfoundland due to inadequate space. This show has been acclaimed by the press and radio as the greatest show of its kind. Complete with comedy, variety and real down to earth entertainment. It is leaving for Australia and New Zealand in November. Fun for everyone from 6 to 60. You'll be SORRY if you miss it.