

### The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

Part One

After the inquest, Victoria went to the mortuary at the foot of her own street. Bernice went with her. Albert looked so un-dead in his casket that it was a little horrible. The two women stood looking down at him. There were a great many flowers.

They said nothing until they were in Bernice's large closed car with its gray plush seats. Then Bernice said: "I wonder would you mind going with me while I shop for the baby's layette?"

"Isn't it a little premature?" asked Victoria.

They went to several of the big stores on Wilshire; Bernice cooed softly over ruffly pink bonnets, tiny shirts and gowns. "I LOVE babies," she said.

All through the array of soft pinks and blues, of fluffy blankets of cribs with ducks and bunnies, Victoria thought of Albert in his casket. Bernice bought a woolly white lamb which she carried home with her. Victoria held it on her lap in the car; she was to have dinner with Bernice and Walter.

Dinner was served by candle-light in the large dining room. Walter sat at the head of the table. Bernice at the foot, Vic-

torial halfway between them. Mrs. Buxton served an excellent meal in utter silence.

Bernice looked lovely. She had on a soft blue dinner gown. There was something changed in the relationship between Walter and Bernice, Victoria saw at once. Bernice was submissive, almost adoring, and she laughed immediately and warmly at all Walter's little jokes.

Over dessert Walter waxed a little loquacious. "Well, it's been a bad time for you, Victoria," he said, "but you'll weather it."

He added slowly turning the stem of his wineglass: "You care women interest me; you have a sound practicality, an ability to take care of yourself which I must say I admire. Most women are, to some degree, parasites. Not their fault, of course. Legally, they were regarded as chattels in the most civilized countries of the world until very recently." His gaze fell for a moment on Bernice, returned to Victoria. Victoria wondered for the first time if there was a streak of cruelty in Walter.

"I found the loveliest white lamb today, Walter," said Bernice from the foot of the table.

His eyes went to her fondly and tolerantly. "Did you, my dear? And what did it cost, this wonderful lamb?"

Bernice said: "Eighteen dollars. It's so sweet!"

Walter looked at Victoria. "Would YOU pay eighteen dollars for a white lamb?" he asked humorously.

"I have no particular fondness for lambs," said Victoria. "I don't think you would," said

Walter, still smiling. "But then you earn the money you spend."

The next afternoon when Victoria went out to the mailbox on the left of the adobe gateposts flanking the mouth of the driveway there was only one letter. It was for her. She noticed with idle interest that the name and address had been printed in capitals. The two lines on the heavy, gray paper inside were also printed.

IT IS NOT OVER YET. YOU ARE GOING TO SUFFER NOW.

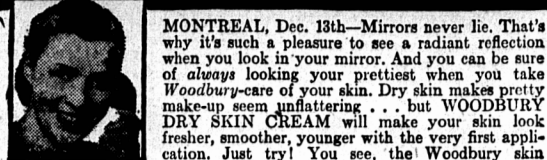
She stared down at the page in her hands. The sunlight twinkled on her platinum wedding band. A bird sang. From somewhere up the street a dog barked.

Victoria put the note carefully into its envelope. She saw from the postmark that it had been mailed late the evening before. Her mind admitted what she had not before admitted to herself. That she had never quite believed in the accident on Hazel's part. That almost from the moment she had looked down and seen Albert lying dead there had been a haunting sense of an evil behind his dying. This vague, half-knowledge had been repressed, held back, and now burst forth with double force for the withholding.

To be continued

MONTREAL — (CP) — McGill scholars may not have "bats in belfry" but they certainly have them in the Redpath Library. Coeds squealed as a bat swooped around the heads of scores of students but escaped capture.

### Barbara Brent's BUYS AND WHYS



MONTREAL, Dec. 13th—Mirrors never lie. That's why it's such a pleasure to see a radiant reflection when you look in your mirror. And you can be sure of always looking your prettiest when you take Woodbury-care of your skin. Dry skin makes pretty make-up seem unflattering... but WOODBURY DRY SKIN CREAM will make your skin look fresher, smoother, younger with the very first application. Just try! You see, the Woodbury skin scientists have worked a "miracle" with a new substance called *penaten*. This amazing ingredient carries the lanolin and 3 other special lubricating oils in Woodbury Dry Skin Cream deeper into the corneum layer of your skin. Softens and smoothes like magic. For softer, lovelier skin use Woodbury Dry Skin Cream regularly—just 23c, 45c, 75c and \$1.15.

#### Trim The Tree—Wrap Those Gifts

Christmas—sing 'til your throat is weary. It's all the best fun in the world—but pretty tiring! That's when friends and family and you will enjoy pep-PEP JELLY POWDER & SANBORN COFFEE! M-mmm! ... just wait 'til you taste this instant coffee! It's so-o-o good! The flavour's there—and the body—and the lift! That's because it's the instant coffee backed by over 85 years coffee experience. Yes, the Chase & Sanborn folks know how to make their instant a treat you'll love at any time of day. So easy to make! Simply add hot water — coffee's made. And it's just as easy to make ten cups as one... no waste!

#### Only A Few Shopping Days 'Til Christmas

Christmas—yet time enough to be sure of a Christmas delivery of a new FRIGIDAIRE REFRIGERATOR or FRIGIDAIRE ELECTRIC RANGE. I'd advise you to stop in at your nearby Frigidaire dealer's right now and look over their grand display of models. This is surely the year for "practical" gifts—and nothing is so practical as a Frigidaire Refrigerator or Frigidaire Electric Range. They save time, work and money on food buying, on food keeping and on meal preparation. They're one of the most valuable gifts you can give wife or mother to help her combat the high cost of living. Your Frigidaire dealer will arrange a fine deal on your old appliance — and you can take all next year to pay!

#### Not Much Time For Meal-Getting

these busy, Christmas-shopping days? And yet it's important for you and your family to eat regularly and well in this cold weather. That's when a plate of HEINZ COOKED SPAGHETTI or a delicious dish of HEINZ OVEN-BAKED BEANS is the perfect answer. They're cooked as they come from the tin and take just a minute or two to heat and serve. What's more, they're wonderfully kind to deflated December budgets... make truly economical meals, taking the place of heavier, more expensive foods. So for busy, busy days — stock up now on Heinz Oven-Baked Beans and Heinz Cooked Spaghetti. You know they're good because they're Heinz!

#### Ever Noticed how many of the good things you buy are packed in aluminum?

The dairy and candy industries have "taken a tip" from us home-makers—who've used aluminum kitchen utensils for three generations—and loved 'em! Yes, these industries prefer aluminum for the same reasons that we women do... because it's light and durable—because it protects food purity and flavour and assures cleanliness. All reasons why aluminum is ideal for milk bottle caps, butter wrappers and candy wrappers. And, in the kitchen, aluminum has these additional advantages—that it distributes heat evenly and quickly—therefore economically... and looks bright and smart... always.

#### What An Unusual Gift!

—That's the way it struck me when I saw those Face-Elle Christmas packages on display. "Unusual" because here is a really practical yet luxurious gift that can be bought with little strain on the Christmas-list budget... and that's something that's hard to find. FACE-ELLE EN PASTELS tissues made up into one big package in gay and colourful Christmas wrapping. The distinctive two-texture design of the individual boxes adds a further note of de-luxe gift quality in keeping with the tissues themselves. These are, I understand, Canada's only 3-ply, coloured tissues and that's important in a gift that expresses the thought: "Only the best is good enough". So get several packages to round out your gift list.

#### B-rrr! Cold Out, Isn't It?

This is the kind of weather that "Peter Pan" thrives in. He strikes suddenly in head and chest colds — spoiling what should be the merriest month of the year. That's why I know you'll agree it's wise to be prepared for him! Keep a supply of BEN-GAY (Baume Bengué) always handy in your medicine cabinet. For when Ben-Gay is rubbed in — "Peter Pan" is rubbed out... quickly! Yes, the soothing warmth of Ben-Gay gives relief, wink-quick. What a relief! It chases away head and chest cold discomforts — helps to break up congestion — makes breathing easier. Better buy Ben-Gay!

#### Are We In A Tizzy with only 10 shopping days left?

Not me, anyway, and you won't be either if you take advantage of a wonderful new Christmas-shopping secret I've just found — the BANK OF MONTREAL'S Seasonal Services. The B of M's Money Orders now come wrapped in the dearest little Christmas envelopes — they look so gay and friendly on the Christmas tree... and they're magic presents that turn themselves into the very things your friends really want. And the small-ry? For them there's a special treat — B of M Savings Accounts of their very own, to give them a real grown-up feeling... with special Christmassy passbook-covers adding a cheery touch to this educational gift. Even the B of M's cheques have taken on a holly-happy look — so appropriate for Christmas gifts. And look what you gain for yourself—the extra time and trouble saved by doing your Christmas shopping at the B of M—and the pleasure of giving presents as welcome as a white Christmas.

#### Earl of Hillsborough I. O. D. E.

The December meeting of the Earl of Hillsborough Chapter, I. O. D. E. was held at the home of Mrs. Gordon Rayner, December 4, with the Regent, Miss Marjorie Stewart in the chair.

It was decided to contribute to the National Chapter fund for British and European Relief and Seaman's Amenities. Money was also voted to assist in the Christmas party for new Canadians which is being organized by the Canadian Citizenship Committee, and to the Charlottetown Free Dispensary.

Mrs. George Barter, Library convener, reported on the work being done at the Library in the Provincial Sanatorium, and asked for the continued cooperation of Chapter members. Subscriptions for magazines have been renewed for the veterans in the Sanatorium. Mrs. J. S. MacDonald read two acknowledgements for food parcels sent to England.

#### Trinity Evening Auxiliary

The Mary Miller Auxiliary met on Monday evening, Dec. 3rd, with twenty-two members in attendance. Matters of business were taken up at the first of the meeting. The Sanatorium visiting committees appointed were: Mrs. W. E. Bentley and Mrs. John Simpson, Miss Isobel Rogerson and Mrs. Willard Coffin.

The Prince Edward Island Presbyterial is to be held on January 22nd and 23rd in Trinity Church. A committee was appointed to prepare treats for the Mission Band

party to be held on Dec. 17th. The worship was in the form of a Christmas Carol and candle lighting service and was conducted by Miss Morson and several of the members.

The following slate of officers was chosen for next year: President, Miss Enid Morson; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Stanley Thompson; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. John Kirby; treasurer, Miss Emma Holmes;

assistant treasurer, Miss Isobel Rogerson; recording secretary, Miss Edith Anderson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. E. Bentley; Christian Stewardship secretary, Miss Dorothy Auld; supply, Mrs. Harry Craaswell; convenors, Mrs. Arthur Coffin and Miss Ruth Cudmore; Christian Citizenship and Temperance, Mrs. George Cairns; Community Friendship, Mrs. John Simpson, Mrs. Louis Simmons,

Mrs. Leigh Kennedy, Mrs. Vernon Burke and Miss Isabel Olawson; Missionary Monthly and Literature Secretary, Miss Marion Martin; press, Miss Margaret Mallett; pianist, Mrs. Fulton Coffin.

Social committee, Mrs. D. W. Matheson, Mrs. Gerald Bowness, Mrs. Gordon MacCallum, Mrs. Gordon Holmes, Mrs. George Adams.

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Nylon tricot shirts will outwear ordinary shirts several times over. And that's not all — laundering is no problem; you just dunk 'em... wait a while... and wear 'em. You'll save the price of the shirt in laundry bills alone.

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Meets the demand for a modern, popular-priced washer, thorough in its cleaning action.

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# Sovely Gifts

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You'll find loads and loads of beautiful gifts at our store... congenial and experienced clerks will help make your Christmas shopping easier... Our winter-wise fashions combine fine fabrics and high style... You will be sure to make a hit with "Her" when you say "Merry Christmas" with a gift from our store! Special attention given to male shoppers.

HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

Lounging PYJAMAS	GLOVES
say Merry Christmas in such pretty way.	in Wool, Kid and Fabric.
BED JACKETS	HOUSE COATS
In Snuggle Down, Silk, etc.	in Satin, Wool and Chenille.
NIGHTIES	UMBRELLAS
for loveliest woman	SCARVES
BAGS	SLIPS
HOSIERY	PANTIES
by Phantom and Orient in eye catching colors.	SWEATERS
PYJAMAS	in Wool and Cashmere.
in flannel, snuggle down.	BLOUSES
HOUSE DRESSES	in Nylon, Crepe, Satin and Sheers.
	DRESSES
	in all Styles and Shades.

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