



S. S. Van Dine ~ WNU SERVICE

CHAPTER I

The Bolted Bedroom. IT WAS exactly three months after the startling termination of the Scarab murder case that Philo Vance was drawn into the subtlest and the most perplexing of all the criminal problems that came his way during the four years of John F. X. Markham's incumbency as district attorney of New York county.

"Go ahead with your chores, Van Dine," he said, with a perfunctory nod. "I'll rout out the sybarite myself." He seemed a trifle perturbed as he disappeared into Vance's bedroom, which was just off the library.

PHILO VANCE has had many difficult assignments but never have the great detective's powers of deduction been given so severe a test as when he is called upon to clear away the mystery surrounding

The Kennel Murder Case

Through a maze of conflicting evidence, pointing to half a dozen persons as possible culprits, Vance moves with unerring accuracy and finally finds the clew which enables him to dispose of the most baffling problem ever presented to him.

Read this first installment of S. S. Van Dine's greatest, most absorbing murder mystery story and join Philo Vance in a thrilling manhunt for one of the shrewdest murderers on record.

Curiously enough, however, it was the very excess of ardor on the part of the murderer when attempting to divert suspicion, that created a minute hole in the wall of mystery, through which Vance was able to see a glimmer of light.

That which led Vance to another important phase of the truth was his knowledge of Chinese ceramics. He possessed a small but remarkable collection of Chinese antiques—museum pieces he had acquired in his extensive travels.

It was shortly after half-past eight on the morning of October 11, that Vance's doorman rang; and Currie, his old English valet and majordomo, ushered Markham into the library. I was temporarily installed in Vance's duplex roof-gar-

den apartment at the time. For years, almost since our Harvard days, I had been Vance's legal adviser and monetary steward (a post which included as much of friendship as of business and his affairs kept me fairly busy.

setting himself in a large Queen Anne chair and lighting one of his favorite cigarettes. "What did you mean, Vance," Markham asked, "by Coe's suicide being stranger than murder?"

when Wrede arrived he advised Gamble to phone direct to you, knowing that you knew Coe. And you, knowing that I had visited Coe on various occasions, thought you'd pick me up and make it a conclave of acquaintances.

pany him. As he had admitted, something was in the back of his head. "Very well," he acquiesced. "Shortly after eight this morning Coe's butler—the obsequious Gamble—phoned me at my home. He informed me, with many hems and haws, that Archer Coe had shot himself, and asked me if I would come to the house at once.



Then He Kneelt Down and Looked Through the Keyhole.

subservience. "It's very terrible, sir. And I really didn't know just what I should do—"

Two men came forward to greet us. The one in advance I recognized immediately as Raymond Wrede. He, I knew, was a close friend of the Coe family, and particularly of Hilda Lake, Archer Coe's niece. He was a studious man in his late thirties, slightly gray, with an ascetic, calm face of the chevaline type.

"Signor Grassi. . . Mr. Grassi has been a house guest of Mr. Coe's for several days. He represents an Italian museum of Oriental antiquities at Milan."

"It was obvious"—Wrede took up the story—"that poor Coe was dead, and I thought it best to leave everything intact for the authorities. I didn't want to insist on having the door broken in."

"Coe," Vance continued, "wasn't exactly the suicidal type—was he?" "No-o," Wrede's eyes did not shift.

Varieties of Duck Stuffing

Those Fond of This Delicious Fowl Can Have Choice of at Least Two Standard Preparations; Look to Oven Temperature.

"Can you come out to dinner tomorrow? We are going to have duck!" asks a friend over the telephone. She knew that duck is one of my favorite dinner dishes, especially the way she cooks it, a mistress of the culinary art writes.

thick. There should be no salad dressing with this sandwich, but a tart jelly or orange marmalade may be put at the side. If you happen to have stuffed the duck, the stuffing will add to flavor and make the meat go further.

Today I am going to give you some French recipes for the preparation of duck just as they come from a cook book in my collection. I am also printing my favorite recipe for fruit stuffing, which is good with duck—or duckling.

- Fruit Stuffing. 3 cups chopped apples 1 cup seedless raisins 1 chopped onion 1 teaspoon salt Paprika

Mix all ingredients thoroughly.

- Orange Sauce. 1 cup boiling water Juice and grated rind of 1 orange 1/4 cup sugar 1 tablespoon flour 1 tablespoon butter 1/2 cup seedless raisins

Mix the dry ingredients, add boiling water and cook until clear. Add the orange juice and rind, the raisins and the butter. Stir until well blended.

- Roast Duckling. Cut off neck and wash the duckling. Fill cavity with fruit stuffing. Fasten opening with skewers. Bake in a hot oven for fifteen minutes.

Up in Cape Cod one of the specialties which rival lobster rolls and clam cake is the duck sandwich. It is really delicious when made with fresh bread, buttered and cut rather

Recent Finds Confute Biblical Exodus Date

Recent finds of pottery by an expedition into southern Transjordan places the date of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt in the Thirteenth century B. C., instead of the Fifteenth, as has previously been held by many Bible students, according to Prof. Nelson Glueck, head of the expedition and professor of Bible at Hebrew Union college in Cincinnati.

In addition, the expedition found rich deposits of copper and iron ore which they believe were one of the sources of the vast wealth of King Solomon. A copper mine was discovered which showed extensive working. It ran back into a cliff for more than 150 feet and veins of copper ore were discernible in the pillars of rock which had been left for support—Pathfinder Magazine.

Eruptions on Scalp Itched and Burned

Healed by Cuticura

"My sister's skin became itchy and, before long, sore eruptions began to appear on her face and scalp. They were red and soon began to weep. We thought she would have to have her hair cut and be bald. Her scalp itched and burned, causing her to irritate it by scratching."



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Comic strip panel 2: Two women talking. "WHY HELEN, YOU DON'T MEAN TO TELL ME YOU'RE STILL RUBBING AND SCRUBBING CLOTHES? THAT'S POSITIVELY OLD-FASHIONED."

Comic strip panel 3: A woman washing clothes. "15 MINUTES! JANE, DON'T YOU DARE PUT THAT SOAP ON MY CLOTHES! I'LL BET IT'S TWICE AS STRONG AS WHAT I'M USING NOW—I TRUSTED IT WITH MY COLORED THINGS JUST ONCE AND—"

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