



# THE GARDEN MURDER CASE

By S.S. VAN DINE

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### CHAPTER VI—Continued

He was a tall man, despite his stooped shoulders; and, though he was very thin, he possessed a firmness of bearing which made one feel that he had retained a great measure of the physical power that had obviously been his in youth. There was benevolence in the somewhat haggard face, but there was also shrewdness in his gaze; and the contour of his mouth indicated a latent hardness.

He bowed to us with an old-fashioned graciousness and took a few steps into the study.

"My son has just informed me," he said in a slightly querulous voice, "of the tragedy that has occurred here this afternoon. I'm sorry that I did not return home earlier, as is my wont on Saturdays, for in that event the tragedy might have been averted. I myself would have been in the study here and would probably have kept an eye on my nephew. In any event, no one could then have got possession of my revolver."

"I am not at all sure, Doctor Garden," Vance returned grimly, "that your presence here this afternoon would have averted the tragedy. It is not nearly so simple a matter as it appears at first glance."

Professor Garden sat down in a chair of antique workmanship near the door and, clasping his hands tightly, leaned forward.

"Yes, yes. So I understand. And I want to hear more about this affair." The tension in his voice was patent. "Floyd told me that Woode's death had all the appearance of suicide, but that you do not accept that conclusion. Would it be asking too much if I requested further details with regard to your attitude in this respect?"

"There can be no doubt, sir," Vance returned quietly, "that your nephew was murdered. There are too many indications that contradict the theory of suicide. But it would be inadvisable, as well as unnecessary, to go into details at the moment. Our investigation has just begun. By the by, doctor, may I ask what detained you this afternoon—I gathered from your son that you usually return home long before this time on Saturdays."

"Of course, you may," the man replied with seeming frankness; but there was a startled look in his eyes as he gazed at Vance. "I had some obscure data to look up before I could continue with an experiment I'm making; and I thought today would be an excellent time to do it, since I close the laboratory and let my assistants go on Saturday afternoons."

"And where were you, doctor," Vance went on, "between the time you left the laboratory and the time of your arrival here?"

"To be quite specific," Professor Garden answered, "I left the university at about two and went to the public library where I remained until half an hour ago. Then I took a cab and came directly home."

"You went to the library alone?" asked Vance.

"Naturally I went alone," the professor answered tartly. "I don't take assistants with me when I have research work to do."

"My dear doctor!" said Vance placatingly. "A serious crime has been committed in your home, and it is essential that we know—as a matter of routine—the whereabouts of the various persons in any way connected with the unfortunate situation."

sports—but he is entirely dependent on the allowance my wife and I give him. It's a very liberal one—too liberal, perhaps, judged by conventional standards. But I see no reason not to indulge the boy. It isn't his fault that he hasn't the temperament for a professional career, and has no flair for business."

"A very liberal attitude, Doctor," Vance murmured: "especially for one who is himself so wholeheartedly devoted to the more serious things of life as you are. . . . But what of Swift: did he have an independent income?"

"His father," the professor explained, "left him a very comfortable amount; but I imagine he squandered it or gambled most of it away."

"There's one more question," Vance continued, "that I'd like to ask you in connection with your will and Mrs. Garden's: were your son and nephew aware of the disposition of the estate?"

"I couldn't say. It's quite possible they were. Neither Mrs. Garden nor I have regarded the subject as a secret. . . . But what, may I ask, — Professor Garden gave Vance a puzzled look—"has this to do with the present terrible situation?"

"I'm sure I haven't the remotest idea," Vance admitted frankly. "I'm merely probing round in the dark, in the hope of finding some small ray of light."

Hennessey, the detective whom Heath had ordered to remain on guard below, came lumbering up the passageway to the study.

"There's a guy downstairs, Sergeant," he reported, "who says he's from the telephone company and has got to fix a bell or something. He's fussed around downstairs and couldn't find anything wrong there."

Heath shrugged and looked inquiringly at Vance.

"It's quite all right, Hennessey," Vance told the detective. "Let him come up."

Hennessey saluted half-heartedly and went out.

"You know, Markham," Vance said, "I wish this infernal buzzer hadn't gone out of order at just this time. I abominate coincidences—"

"Do you mean," Professor Garden interrupted, "that inter-communicating buzzer between here and the den downstairs? . . . It was working all right this morning—Sneed summoned me to breakfast with it as usual."

"Yes, yes," nodded Vance. "That's just it. It evidently ceased functioning after you had gone out. The nurse discovered it and reported it to Sneed who called up the telephone company."

"It's not of any importance," the professor returned with a lackadaisical gesture of his hand. "It's a convenience, however, and saves many trips up and down the stairs."

"We may as well let the man attend to it, since he's here. It won't disturb us," Vance stood up. "And I say, doctor, would you mind joining the others downstairs? We'll be down presently, too."

The professor inclined his head in silent acquiescence and, without a word, went from the room.

Presently a tall, pale, youthful man appeared at the door to the study. He carried a small black tool kit.

"I don't know, Markham. It's dashed mystifyin'. But I have a notion that the same person who fired the shot we heard disconnected those wires. . . ."

Suddenly he stepped to one side behind the draperies and crouched down, his eyes peering out cautiously into the garden. He raised a warning hand to us to keep back out of sight.

"Deuced queer," he said tensely. "That gate in the far end of the fence is slowly opening. . . . Oh, my aunt!" And he swung swiftly into the passageway leading to the garden, beckoning to us to follow.

Vance ran past the covered body of Swift on the settee, and crossed to the garden gate. As he reached it he was confronted by the haughty and majestic figure of Madge Weatherby. Evidently her intention was to step into the garden, but she drew back abruptly when she saw us. Our presence, however, seemed neither to surprise nor to embarrass her.

"Charmin' of you to come up, Miss Weatherby," said Vance. "But

"I couldn't say. It's quite possible they were. Neither Mrs. Garden nor I have regarded the subject as a secret. . . . But what, may I ask, — Professor Garden gave Vance a puzzled look—"has this to do with the present terrible situation?"

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### HOW ARE YOU TODAY

DR. JAMES W. BARTON  
Talks About

Getting Rid of Fat. IT IS hard for some of our overweight friends to understand why fat can cause any harm to the body. To them it is simply a layer of fat lying under the skin which gives the body a nice roundness instead of having bony parts stand out too prominently.

What they forget is that all the fat is not deposited under the skin or even around the organs—kidneys, heart and others—but some fat is actually deposited right within the cells of an organ—not between the cells—and so interferes with the action of the organ.

Now it is not hard to understand that if fat tissue—which does no work—gets into the cell substance it is bound to interfere with the work of the cell.

So if overweights want to keep young in appearance and feeling they would be wise to cut down gradually on their food intake, because every overweight can get rid of some weight (fat and water) if he or she has the will power to cut down on certain kinds of food—fats, starches, and liquids.

It isn't easy to cut down on fat building foods because they are the foods usually liked most. Also it is discouraging to cut down on foods for a week or two and not see much reduction (if any) in weight.

This failing to greatly reduce weight after "starving" themselves one or two weeks has confused and discouraged many overweights who have faithfully followed the reducing diet prescribed by their physician. However, "careful studies have established that water may be retained to an extent that will keep the body weight constant or at the same level when the individual has cut down his food intake by as much as one-third to one-half for as long as sixteen days."

The Water Balance. Weight, day by day, will give no sign that reduction is being accomplished. This is because what is called the water balance must be established. At the end of the sixteen day period the individual may suddenly lose sufficient water to reduce his weight by the amount expected as judged by the amount of food eaten. This instead of losing 2 to 3 pounds each week—the usual rate of loss—there is no loss for sixteen days and then 5 to 7 pounds is lost within a few hours.

Others will cut down on all kinds of foods, fail to eat enough meat or eggs to sustain their strength, and will feel so weak in a few days that they give up the reducing diet in despair.

There are others who would like to try "short cuts" to reduce weight—dinitrophenol, thyroid extract, pituitary extract—which if not taken under proper supervision, often bring misery and ill health. The proper method is to be examined by the family physician and if pronounced "fit" to undergo the diet outlined, then follow it faithfully, reporting at regular intervals to the physician.

Whether it is because "misery loves company" or that seeing others as fat or fatter than oneself faithfully following rules and regulations, it is a fact that in sanitariums, spas, or "watering places" many overweights get better results than can be obtained by themselves. The thought then is that when the overweight has difficulty working alone, finds it hard to "stick" to the reduced diet, feels very weak at times, going to a spa or similar institution and seeing others courageously fighting their battle may give him or her the needed courage to fight their battle also. Because it is a battle.

Foods That Cause Distress. One of the points one suffering with indigestion must remember is that because a food disagrees with him it doesn't mean that it is not a good food. There is nothing wrong with the food but there is something wrong with the individual.

Dr. Albert H. Rowe, San Francisco, in Southern Medical Journal reports an analysis of 2,000 students at University of California, and also his results in private patients during a period of fifteen years.

Of 270 patients showing stomach and intestine disturbances due to certain foods, 30 per cent were male and 70 per cent female. Of this 270 cases, 232, more than 85 per cent, had food dislikes or disagreements, 80 per cent had stomach disturbances, 60 per cent had pain or soreness and 43 per cent had constipation.

To find out what foods are causing the disturbances may take months or even years and much patience on the part of the physician and the patient. By gradually leaving out these disturbing foods, and getting the patient free from symptoms, the foods known to be the cause are gradually eaten again in very small amounts so that the patient develops a tolerance (ability to eat them without disturbance) for them.

Earliest Paints. It is unknown who first mixed and used paints since paint has been employed from a very early period. White lead was mentioned by Theophrastus, Pliny and Vitruvius, who described its manufacture from lead and vinegar. Yellow ochre was used by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. Pots of it were found in Pompeii. Naples yellow has been found in the yellow enamel of Babylonian bricks. Verdigris was familiar to the Romans. Indigo has been employed by the East Indians and Egyptians from an ancient time.

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