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The Gibson Robbery

A Smart Piece of Detective Work

By CLARISSA MACKIE

"Mr. Harley?" inquired the white haired, elderly man, stepping into the private office of the junior member of the law firm.

"I am Rogers," said that young man courteously. "My partner, Mr. Harley, has not yet returned from lunch. Did you wish to see him particularly?"

"No. Either one will do," returned the other hastily. "I was directed here by my friend Dr. Brown. He gave me to understand that your firm did a little detective work now and then."

"Hardly that," returned Rogers, placing a chair for his client and regaining his own seat, "but in the course of our practice we have chanced upon a number of curious cases that were fortunate enough to unravel. As a matter of fact, we are rather fond of that sort of thing, although it is not a branch of our business."

The visitor frowned thoughtfully for a moment and then looked sharply at the young lawyer.

"In spite of what you say perhaps I can prevail upon you to undertake a delicate matter for me. It is in the line of detective work, but it requires unusual tact, something that the average detective does not possess. This is not the mere shadowing of a suspected party. It is an endeavor to find a thief among a group of people none of whom could possibly be guilty of theft." He leaned back and smiled at Rogers' look of dismay.

"Tough proposition, eh?"

"Rather. It sounds interesting. Without consulting my partner I'll say that we will take it up as a recreation after business hours."

"Done!" returned the visitor heartily. Drawing a cardcase from his pocket, he laid a bit of pasteboard on Rogers' desk and leaned back in his chair.

"My name is Gibson—James Addison Gibson," he said, nodding toward the card, "and my house was robbed last evening of \$10,000 worth of jewels."

Rogers sat up in his chair and listened intently.

"It happened at my country home at Shorecliffe. My wife and I were entertaining six friends from Manhattan, all people of refinement and impeccable honesty."

"During the evening Mrs. Gibson mentioned that she had just received a necklace of diamonds as a birthday gift from me, and she brought out the jewel case and displayed the necklace to her friends. It was greatly admired, and I was about to close the case and replace it in my safe in the library when both my wife and myself were summoned to the telephone by an urgent message."

"Was the message really an urgent one?"

"It proved to be an error. There was some mistake about the number, and the Mr. and Mrs. Gibson called for were really my brother and his wife, who lived over on the East road."

"So your absence from the room was really unnecessary?"

"So it appears."

"Did any one enter or leave the room during your absence?"

"I cannot find that any one remembers. I have questioned the servants, and all are unanimous in the protest that they had not entered the room that evening."

"Who brought the message from the telephone?"

"Pun Shah, my Hindu butler."

Rogers was silent for a long time, and then he asked one more question. "Did Pun Shah enter the room when he called you and Mrs. Gibson outside, or did he stand in the doorway?"

"He merely stood in the doorway and gave the message."

"May I have the names of the six guests who were present that evening?"

Mr. Gibson nodded.

Rogers drew forth a pencil and notebook. "Please give a brief description of each one as you mention the name, not forgetting to give me the chief characteristics that mark each individual."

"First, there was Rodney Stone, the poet, a dreamy young chap, with his lovely wife, who is quite content to shine in the reflection of his glory."

"Then came Dr. Latimer, a brilliant physician, now driven to death with an immense practice. If he keeps on his present pace without cessation from work he will end in a madhouse. Besides Dr. Latimer, there was Mrs. Finell, the prima donna, who, as you no doubt have heard, possesses an emotional temperament as well as a wonderful voice. Last of all were the Huxfords, father and son, busy Wall street men, almost too fagged out to recollect what the necklace looked like five minutes after my wife had displayed it."

"Those were the six who were alone with the jewels?"

"Yes."

"And they are all unanimous in saying that not one person entered the room during your absence?"

"Yes, although it is singular that Mrs. Finell and Mrs. Rodney Stone both declare that Pun Shah stood in the doorway for a moment and regarded the company rather strangely for a few seconds. Mrs. Finell resented the impertinence and made a ges-

ture of dismissal. After that the man vanished. As a matter of fact, Mr. Rogers, not one of my six guests can recollect the topic they were discussing when I entered the room and discovered that the diamonds were missing.

"Now, what am I to do? The case is a singular one, and I do not care to call the police into the matter, although the loss is greater one than I can afford to withstand. The gift to my wife was rather an important matter financially." He smiled ruefully.

Mr. Rogers put up his notebook and donned his hat.

"Where is Pun Shah now, Mr. Gibson?" he asked.

"Down at Shorecliffe, I presume. He was there at noon when I motored up to town."

"Can you take me to Shorecliffe at once?"

"Certainly; my car is at the door."

Rogers dictated a brief message for his partner and left the office with Mr. Gibson. In five minutes they were spinning toward the Thirty-fourth street ferry to Long Island City.

Shorecliffe was a handsome estate on the north shore of the sound, and Mr. Gibson and the young lawyer reached the gates within an hour after leaving Rogers' office.

A grave eyed Hindu in snowy turban admitted them to the house, and Rogers was conscious of a peculiar sensation along his spinal column as he met the man's piercing glance.

He felt in that moment that Pun Shah knew the reason for his coming as well as many other things that he would not divulge.

He followed his host into the library and listened intently while Mr. Gibson pointed out the table where the jewels had lain during his absence at the telephone. The table was between two French windows that opened upon the front veranda.

"Were the windows open last evening?" asked Rogers.

"They were both closed. It was chilly and we were enjoying a fire on the hearth."

Rogers was silent for a long time. His eyes wandered from one spot to another. Once they glimpsed the corner of Pun Shah's snowy turban outside the door, and again he was sure that the man's jetty eyes were regarding him from a heavily beaded curtain that separated the library from a smaller adjoining study.

"Well, Mr. Rogers, I am wondering if you exonerate all my friends. My theory does not permit of suspicion pointing to one of them," remarked Mr. Gibson at last.

"My theory, Mr. Gibson, is that all your six guests were accessory to the deed."

"What? My dear sir!"

"Wait a moment, sir. I did say that they were accessories to the deed, but it was quite unconsciously so on their part. Have you several strong men on the place, men whom you can trust?"

"Yes. There is Baker, the gardener, with his assistants, besides my chauffeur and the second man, four altogether. Why, may I ask?"

"Please summon them to this room, and after that," continued Rogers in a low tone, "have the man, Pun Shah, sent in."

Mr. Gibson smiled grimly. "So that's it, is it? I couldn't see how the rascal had a chance. Excuse me, if you please, while I send for the men."

He left the room and Rogers waited there alone. Presently he heard a stealthy footstep behind his chair and a hot breath on his neck. He jumped just in time to escape the wicked knife of Pun Shah, whose dark face was convulsed with anger.

Rogers had whipped out a revolver, and so the two were standing facing each other when Mr. Gibson returned with his four servants.

"What is this, Pun Shah?" demanded his master quickly, but the man only bowed his head in silence.

"Your man was about to kill me," said Rogers coolly, "because I have discovered that he is the one who stole your diamonds."

"Is it possible? Pun Shah, what have you to say?"

The Hindu fastened a look of deadly hatred on the young lawyer and, snatching off his turban, drew from its folds the string of diamonds that had so mysteriously disappeared. He flung the ornaments on the floor at his master's feet and with a swift, gliding movement vanished from the room.

No one made a movement to follow, and an instant later they saw the flicker of his white turban as he disappeared down the driveway.

Mr. Gibson dismissed his servants with a gesture, dropped the string of diamonds in his coat pocket, and faced Rogers.

"How did you fasten the crime upon Pun Shah so quickly? I had evidence that no one saw him enter the room, and"

Rogers put up a hand. "It is easily explained. Your butler possesses unusual hypnotic powers. He simply hypnotized the six guests in your drawing room, took the diamonds from beneath their noses and disappeared. They might have been puzzled by the incident which made them accomplices in his crime, but they were quite innocent of any wrongdoing. In fact, they didn't know what had happened after he left the room."

Mr. Gibson sat down and drew his check book toward him.

"This is such a gratifying exhibition of your cleverness, Mr. Rogers, that I must show my appreciation in a substantial way. Here is a check for \$1,000. Shall I make it out to you personally or to your firm?"

"To Harley & Rogers," said the junior partner dizzily. "Harley ought to have something to make up for losing the fun of this job."

Marriage license was granted Tuesday afternoon by Judge Grant to Wm. E. Hudson age 22, and Miss Bessie France age 22, both residents of Hershey.

Mrs. C. O. Dobner returned to her home in Elm Creek Tuesday evening, after visiting with Mrs. B. F. Sailer for several days.

Local and Personal.

Miss Katie Spies has accepted a position in the ten cent store.

Mrs. Florin Muchlinski spent Wednesday in Hershey with friends.

Arthur Yates, of Sutherland, transacted business in this city Wednesday.

Archie Blair will leave Sunday for Kearney to visit several days with friends.

Dan Abbott leaves Sunday morning for Kearney where he will visit several days.

Jack Stafford will go to Lexington Sunday where he has accepted employment.

Louis Tobin returned the first of the week from a short visit in Denver with relatives.

John Spies left Wednesday morning for Oshkosh where he will transact business several days.

Mrs. James Bennett, of Ogalala, arrived Wednesday morning to attend the funeral of the late Mr. Reed.

Miss LaVaughn Carroll leaves Sunday for Fremont and Omaha to spend a week with relatives.

Miss Ethel McWilliams returned home the first of this week from Omaha after a few days' visit there.

Miss Mable Hayes, of Cozad, arrived Wednesday morning to be the guest of friends for a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Singer, of Broadwater, arrived Wednesday morning to attend the funeral of the late Mr. Reed.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Lew Farrington was held Thursday afternoon at 2:30 from the Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McGovern returned Tuesday afternoon from their two weeks' honeymoon trip in Denver.

Mrs. Florence Geer arrived Tuesday evening from Illinois to attend the funeral of her aunt, the late Mrs. Farrington.

Homer Mandley returned Wednesday morning to Lodgepole after attending to business connected with his confectionery store.

The remains of the late Mr. Reed, of Denver, father of Mrs. Frank Lawrence of this city, arrived Wednesday morning accompanied by relatives.

C. E. Phillips and wife returned the first of this week to their home in Glenrose, Neb., after visiting friends several days in this city.

Mrs. Frank Johnston, of Perry, Ia., who has been visiting for the past week with Mr. and Mrs. John Grant, left the first of the week for Denver to spend several days with friends.

A marriage license was granted the first of this week by Judge Grant to Miss Sophie Dunker age 19, and Neils Jensen age 26, both residents of Arnold. They were married the same afternoon by Judge Grant.

Rooms Wanted

Junior Short Course Week will be held in our city for five days beginning November 17th, and there will be some fifty boys and girls from the county in attendance for whom rooms and board are desired. Those having rooms to rent kindly notify M. E. Crosby, Secretary Chamber of Commerce, phone black 413, not later than Saturday, November 15th.

Grandest of All.

"What is the grandest thing in the universe?" asks Victor Hugo. "A storm at sea," he answers and continues: "And what is grander than a storm at sea?" "The unclouded heavens on a starry, moonless night." "And what is grander than these midnight skies?" "The soul of man"—a spectacular climax such as Hugo loved and still, with all its dramatic effects, the picturesque statement of a vast and sublime and mighty truth.

Unfortunate.

"What are you crying for, Peperl?" "Because I am so unfortunate." "How do you mean unfortunate?" "The teacher told us that there were 1,500,000,000 people in the world, and he said I was the most stupid of them all."—Fliegende Blätter.

Put Out.

"I saw Jinks just now, and he seemed much put out." "He is. His landlord is just after dispossessing him."—Jndice.

Beyond Hope.

Louise—Troubled with loss of appetite, isn't she? Julia—She doesn't even want to eat the things that the doctors forbid.—Life.

Many of the misfortunes of life, like hyenas, flee if you courageously meet them.

Say They Qualified.

The stories to the effect that Marvin Trutch and Arthur Stromberg, who drew No. 1 and No. 2 respectively in the land drawing are disqualified from filing, are denied by both men. Both say that they will be at Hyannis next Monday to make their selections.

Millinery Below Cost.

Desirous of cleaning up fall stock before leaving on a vacation, will make very low prices.

Mrs. B. F. Sailer, The Leader.

Depot to be Removed.

Attorney W. V. Hoagland has received word that the railroad commission has rendered a decision to the effect that the Union Pacific depot must be moved from its present location to a site within the corporate limits of the town of Gering, a distance of twelve hundred yards. The fight for and against the removal has been very bitter. Mr. Hoagland represented the faction asking for the removal of the depot.

Tomorrow Evening's Attraction.

After having been the dramatic sensation for three years in the theatrical centers of the east, "The Thief" by Henry Bernstein, with Miss Janet Allyn in the leading role, will be seen in this city at the Keith tomorrow evening. "The Thief" has a record of two years' run in New York, six months in Chicago and six months in Boston and is considered one of the biggest successes in the theatrical history.

Arthur Brisbane, in an editorial in the New York Journal said, "Women whose husbands find a good deal of money to spend with others and very little to spend on their wives may well take their husbands to see this play. Many husbands might do well to go there on their own account; they might learn things to their advantage. We sincerely hope that C. S. Primrose will parade this play, 'Thief', all over the United States in all cities and towns and compel as many husbands as possible to see it."

The story of the play is well known. It tells the tale of the great love of a woman. A love so overwhelming that she becomes a criminal in order that she might deck herself in laces and gowns which she thinks will please her husband.

It is a play that will undoubtedly be one of the most notable theatrical events of the season and one of the biggest successes that has ever visited this city.

Final Notice to Bicycle Riders.

In regard to Act 5, Section 288 on sidewalks. Penalty: "It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to ride any bicycle, or tandem, upon any of the sidewalks within the corporate limits of the city of North Platte. And every person found guilty of the violation of any of the provisions of this section shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than ten dollars for each offense, and stand committed until the fine and costs are paid." This ordinance shall be enforced to the letter.

84-6 J. Frazier, Chief.

Keith Theatre

Saturday, Nov. 15th.

The Dramatic Sensation

"The Thief"

WITH

JANET ALLYN

And the Original Cast

A Truly Great Performance

