

THE MYSTERY GIRL

By CAROLYN WELLS. (Copyright, 1922.)

(Continued from Yesterday.)

"And you reached home—when?" Waring's secretary is most loyal and devoted. "I am sure." "Something after 11. It's but a few steps over to the Adams house, where I live."

"Now," summed up the detective, "there's the case. You, Mr. Lockwood, are not sure Dr. Waring responded to your good night. You did not see or hear him when Nogi took in the water tray?"

"No; I did not."

"Mrs. Peyton did not see him then, either—though she imagined she heard a paper rustle. Nogi is gone—he cannot be questioned. So, Mr. Lockwood, the last person whom we know definitely to have seen John Waring alive is yourself when, as you say, you left him at about—er—what time?"

"About 9:30 or 9," said Lockwood, carelessly.

"Yes; you left him and sat in the hall window. Now, we have no positive evidence that he was alive after that."

"What?" Lockwood stared at him.

"No positive evidence, I say. Nogi went in, but no one knows what Nogi saw in there."

"Come now, Detective Morton. Lockwood said, coldly, "you're romancing. Do you suppose for a minute, that if there had been anything wrong with Dr. Waring when Nogi went in with the water, he would not have raised an alarm?"

"I suppose that might have easily been the case. The Japanese are afraid of death. Their one wish is to know definitely to have seen a servant had seen his master dead, he would have decamped, just as he did do."

"But Nogi was here when I went home. He handed me my coat and hat and quite with his usual calm demeanor."

"You must remember, Mr. Lockwood, we have only your word for that."

Gordon Lockwood looked at the detective.

"I will not pretend to misunderstand your meaning," he said, slowly and with hauteur. "Nor shall I say a word, at present, in self-defense. Your implication is so absurd, so really ridiculous, there is nothing to be said."

"That's right," and Morton nodded.

"Don't say anything until you get counsel. Now, Mrs. Bates—I'm mighty sorry to bother you—but I must ask you a few questions. Are you sure you're right, you'll be glad to tell anything you can to help discover the truth. That so?"

"Yes," she returned, "yes—of course. Mr. Morton, but I can't tell you seem to suspect Mr. Lockwood of wrongdoing without a protest! Dr.

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Uncle Sam Says

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The booklet is especially valuable for children to teach them the names of the common birds.

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