

THE MYSTERY GIRL

By CAROLYN WELLS.

(Copyright, 1922.)

"I must say it could be possible," Mrs. Bates said, "but I must have been reading Martial—for the volume was open on the desk on the penholder and on the dead man. Yes, it is exactly the size."

"And it is strong enough and sharp enough, and it is round," summed up Morton. "Now, Mr. Lockwood, make no accusation. I'm no novice, and I know there's a possibility that this might have been the weapon used, and yet it might not have been used by you. But I will say that I have much to say to you yet, and I advise you not to try to leave town."

"I've no intention of leaving town or of trying to do so," Lockwood asserted, "but," he went on, "would you mind telling me, if I killed the man I was devoted to, how I left the room locked behind me?"

"These locked rooms bore me," said Morton. "I've read lots of detective stories founded on that plot. Invariably the locked room proves to be vulnerable at some point. I haven't finished examining the doors and windows as yet."

"Proceed with your examinations, then," said Lockwood; "if you can find a secret or concealed entrance it's more than I can do."

"More than you will do, perhaps, but not necessarily more than you can do."

"Don't forget that vanished Japanese," prompted Morton. "I've small faith in orientals, and if there is a way to get in and out secretly, I'd question the Jap before I would Mr. Lockwood here."

"Lockwood here," declared the impassive secretary himself. "And another thing don't forget, Morton, after the private secretary, the next person to be suspected is the butler—that is in fiction, which I gather you take as your manual of procedure."

Lockwood's sarcasm drove Morton frantic, but he was too wise to show his annoyance.

"I shall neglect no possible suspect," he said, with dignity.

And then two men came from the police, who said they were photographers and desired to take some pictures, at the chief's orders.

Lockwood left them and went to the living room, where the household and a few neighbors were assembled.

"I'm glad to get out of that detective atmosphere," he said, relaxing in an easy chair. "It's had enough to have the man dead, without seeing and hearing those cold-blooded police bungling over their 'clues' and 'evidences.'"

"Tell me a little of the circumstances," asked Mrs. Bates, who was present. "I can bear it from you, Gordon, and I must know."

"Apparently, Dr. Waring was sitting at his desk, reading," Lockwood began, with a faraway look, as if trying to reconstruct the scene. "He

"And then, what did he do it with?" "Morton imagines a secret entrance of some sort," said Lockwood. "If there is one, the robber could have come in afterward and could have carried off the weapon—"

"Hush, Gordon," said Mrs. Bates. "That's too absurd. If it had been suicide—which it wasn't—why under heaven would a burglar come in later take away the weapon?"

"To save himself," said Lockwood, shortly. "So he wouldn't be suspected of the greater crime."

"Nonsense," said Mrs. Peyton. "I never heard such rubbish! And, in the first place, there's no secret entrance to the study. I haven't swept and dusted it, and vacuum cleaned that place all these years without knowing that! Yes, and had the room redecorated and refloored, and—oh, I know every inch of it! There's no possible chance of a secret entrance. Who built it, and when and why? Not Dr. Waring. His life's always been an open book. Never has he had any secret entrance, any callers whom I didn't know, any matters on which he was silent or uncommunicative. Until his engagement to Mrs. Bates, he hadn't a ripple in his quiet life, and that he told me about as soon as it occurred."

Mrs. Peyton looked squarely at Dr. Waring's fiancée, as if to imply a complete knowledge of the courtship, as well as an intimate knowledge of the doctor's life.

"That's true," Lockwood said. "He was a man without secrets. He was always willing I should open his mail, and there was never a letter that I did not know about."

Yet even as he spoke, the man remembered the crumpled paper he had taken from the wastebasket and he felt in his pocket, though he made no sign.

Footprints in the Snow.

"Oh, people, is my aunt here?" It was Pinky Payne, who, all excitement, came running in. "I've just heard, and I want to see Aunt Emily."

"Here I am, dear. Come here, my boy," and she drew him down beside her on the sofa.

"What do they say, Pinky? What's the talk in town?" Lockwood asked. "Oh, the place is in a turmoil. There are the wildest reports. Some say it's a—a—that he killed himself, you know, and some say—he didn't. Which was it?"

The boy's lips quivered as he looked about at the silent people.

"Tell him, Gordon," begged Mrs. Bates, and Lockwood told the principal details of the mystery.

"Never a suicide! Never!" Pinky Payne declared. "I knew Doc Waring too well for that. Suicide means a coward—and he was never that! No, Aunt Emily, it was murder. Oh, how terrible!" and the boy almost lost control of himself. "You were at the bottom of it, and vacuum cleaned that place all these years without knowing that! Yes, and had the room redecorated and refloored, and—oh, I know every inch of it! There's no possible chance of a secret entrance. Who built it, and when and why? Not Dr. Waring. His life's always been an open book. Never has he had any secret entrance, any callers whom I didn't know, any matters on which he was silent or uncommunicative. Until his engagement to Mrs. Bates, he hadn't a ripple in his quiet life, and that he told me about as soon as it occurred."

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either. I tell you, Gordon, I know a lot about detective work—"

"Cut it out, Pink," said Helen, and her words seemed to have an effect on the irrespressible youth. "To read detective stories is one thing—it solve a real, live mystery is quite another."

"That's right, Helen," and Lockwood nodded approval. "Many a person thinks he has a bit of detective instinct, when all he has is curiosity and imagination."

Helen, pleased at this appreciation, went on to lay down the law for Pinkney Payne.

"She was interrupted by the entrance of Morton, who wanted to learn more of the departed Japanese. Nogi."

"What other servants are there?" he asked Mrs. Peyton.

"Only the two Japanese," she replied. "They do all the cooking and serving at table, all the cleaning of the house, and the rest, my daughter and myself attend to."

"There is a chauffeur?"

"Yes, but the garage is a few blocks away, and the chauffeur lives at home."

"You had Nogi but a short time?"

"Only a few days."

"He came well recommended?"

"He had very fine written recommendations, but from people I did not know, and too far away to inquire of. I took him on trial."

(To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

Parents' Problems

How can a boy of 10 be taught to have a place for everything and to keep everything in its place? A boy of 10 should be given a place for everything and be required to keep everything in its place. If no one "picks up" after him a few experiences of the inconveniences of disorder will make him more orderly. Sometimes it is a good species of discipline to confiscate all things found out of place, for a time.

See Want Ads produce results.

When you eat Bran for constipation be certain that it is ALL BRAN!

There is no time to fuss away trying to find out just what some mixed-up cereal with a small bran content can do to ward off the grave illness that constantly hovers over constipation sufferers. What your system demands is ALL BRAN! You must have ALL BRAN to give permanent relief! Anything less than ALL BRAN does not have the bulk that gives results! Your physician will recommend Kellogg's Bran because it is ALL BRAN! Kellogg's will do the work; it will give you permanent relief; it will remake your health if you will eat it regularly—because it is ALL BRAN! Kellogg's Bran, cooked and krumbed, is wonderful for health. It sweeps, cleans and purifies, ridding the system of the dangerous toxins.

All grocers sell Kellogg's Bran.

Uncle Sam Says

Vegetable Cookbook.

This booklet, which is issued by the Federal Office of Experiment Stations, is in reality a vegetable cookbook. It tells about the structure and composition of vegetables, the changes which take place in cooking, discusses the principles underlying cooking vegetables and contains about 30 pages of vegetable receipts.

Readers of The Omaha Bee may obtain a copy of this booklet free, as long as the application lasts, by writing to the Division of Publications, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., asking for "F. B. 256."

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| Quart cans Mazola Oil, 24¢ | Assorted Campbell's Soup, 10¢ |
| Goch's Flour, 48 lb. sk. \$1.65 | Tail cans Pet Milk, 10¢ |
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| 2 lb. can Heinz' Mince Meat 50¢ | Can Lobsters for 48¢ |
| 1 lb. can Heinz' Plum or Fig Pudding for 43¢ | Can Shrimps for 15¢ |
| Shredded Wheat, pkg., 10¢ | Can Pimientos 10¢ |
| Post Bran, per pkg., 12 1/2¢ | No. 3 cans Ainsley's Fruit Salad for 48¢ |
| Simms' Malt of Wheat, 30¢ | Pure White Tuna Fish, can 35¢ |
| Asparagus Tips, per can, 35¢ | No. 3 cans Sliced Pineapple 3 cans for 35¢ |
| 3 cans for \$1.00 | No. 3 can Broken Sliced Pineapple, at 30¢ |
| Del Monte Tall Cans Asparagus, each 34¢ | No. 3 cans Apricots and Peaches, per can, 23¢ |
| 3 cans for \$1.00 | Sweet Wrinkle Peas, can 12 1/2¢ |
| Quart Jars Windmill Brand Queen Olives, 39¢ | Advo Extra Sifted Poss., Per dozen \$2.50 |
| Advo Pumpkin, per can, 15¢ | |
| Ripe Olives, per can, 12 1/2¢ | |

FRUITS—VEGETABLES—NUTS

For Your Christmas Dinner.

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| Extra Fancy Head Lettuce, each, 12 1/2¢ and 15¢ |
| Cauliflower, per lb., 17 1/2¢ |
| Extra Fancy Pascal Celery, per dozen, 75¢ |
| Delicious Apples, per dozen, 50¢ |
| New Carrots, per bunch, 47 1/2¢ |
| New Green Onions, per bunch, 7 1/2¢ |
| New Turnips, per bunch, 7 1/2¢ |
| Extra Fancy Jonathan Apples, box, \$1.95 |
| Fancy Delicious Apples, per box, \$3.50 |
| Large size Atwood Grapefruit, each 10¢ |
| Oranges, per dozen 30¢ |
| Cranberries, per lb., 15¢ |
| Jersey Sweet Potatoes, 6 lbs. for 25¢ |
| Fancy Dates, per lb., 15¢ |

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| Our Central Special Coffee, per lb., 30¢ |
| 3 lbs. for 85¢ |
| Our Fancy Santos Coffee, per lb., 20¢ |
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McCombs' Home-made Delicious Pecan Roll, fine for Christmas Gifts, Saturday, per lb. 89¢

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| Central Extra Quality Creamery pkg. Butter, per lb., 54 1/2¢ |
| Fancy Country Butter in rolls, about 2 lbs., per lb., 47 1/2¢ |
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| Bakelite Cigar and Cigarette holders, each, 29¢, 39¢, 49¢, 59¢, 69¢ | Leather Bill Folds, each, 35¢ and 49¢ |
| Genuine Fresh Briar Pipes, each 25¢, 50¢, 75¢ and \$1.00 | Horse Hide Bill Folds, Special value 95¢ |
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| Fancy Iceberg Head Lettuce, each 12¢ and 15¢ | Fresh Spinach, per lb., 18¢ | Brussell-Sprouts, per lb., 25¢ | New Carrots, large bunches, 2 for 25¢ | Pascal Celery, bunches running each, 25¢, 50¢, 75¢ and \$1.00. | Extra Fancy Cranberries, per lb., 18¢ | Fresh Green Beans, lb., 35¢ | Extra large Navel Oranges for your Christmas table, per doz., 58¢ | Fancy fresh Strawberries, per quart \$1.45 | Budded English Walnuts, per lb., 38¢ | No. 1 Soft Shelled, per lb., 35¢ | No. 2 grade, per lb., 28¢ | Greenfield's assorted Brazil Nuts in cream, maple walnuts, cocoanut in cream, and sponge chocolates, per lb., \$1.98 | Per 5 lbs., \$9.95 | Pure White Clover Strained Honey, per gallon, \$1.95 | Genuine imported Italian Vermouth, non-alcoholic, per qt. bottle \$2.33 | Gruyere Cheese, six portions, each 85¢ | Solid, each 75¢ | Morrell's Mince Meat, 2 1/2-lb. jar for 79¢ | Gordon and Dilworth's Plum Pudding, no better made. Per can 25¢ and up | Meadow Gold, Wedgewood, Seward, and Better Butter, lb., 59¢ | Best Hams, half or whole, per lb., 26¢ | Choice Pork Loin Roast, per lb., 18¢ |
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French Endive, per lb., 65¢

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Large Artichokes, each, 25¢

Southern Yam Sweet Potatoes, 4 lbs., 25¢

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