







Drawn for The Omaha Bee by Sidney Smith

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THEY SAY PRICES ARE COMING DOWN-IF THEY ARE IT'S ON SOMETHING I NEUER BOUGHT - MAYBE STEAM ENGINES, BATTLESHIPS OR SUSPENSION BRIDGES - BUT NOTHING A POOR GUY NEEDS





THE MYSTERY GIRL

SNOPSIS.

Jehn Waring, gentleman and scholar has Just won the hotty contested ejection with the property of th

(Continued from Yesterday.) "Then, if you did, do you want his name stained, his memory blotted by an act that is, to say the least, questionable?" tionable? But he did give them to me."

"Unless you can say more clearly why he did so I'm not sure I can believe you. Did you ask for them?"

disclaimer sounded true, but Stone began to think she was a con-summate little actress as well as a clever falsifier. Well," he said, after a short pause

'I may as well tell you, Miss Austin, that I am here to solve this mystery. That I am not at all satisfied that you are telling me the truth; that therefore, I shall have to seek the truth elsewhere. I will tell you, too, that I don't want to implicate you, that I should prefer to keep your name out of it all, but that you leave me no choice but to go ahead with my ADVERTISEMENT.

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(Copyright, 1922.)

There are no footprints in the show but your own. There was no other way into the room. Therefore, you are may go. What was Doctor Waring doing when you came in?"

There are no footprints in the show but your own. Therefore, you are responsible for his death or—you know who is."

"Must I—must I be convicted?"

"Must I—must I be convicted?"

"No, but its being so makes me say

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younger, too.

"No, but its being so makes me say it."

Her tone was heartbroken, her strained little face piteous in its appeal. But Stone did not believe in her. He had concluded she was entirely capable of pulling wool over her questioners' eyes, and he watched ner keenly.

"No, but its being so makes me say it."

The Net Closes About Miss Mystery. Gordon Lockwood came in, his face full of anxiety.

"I'm so glad to see you alone for a moment, Mr. Stone," he said. "I saw Trask taking Miss Austin home. Now, the said. "I saw Trask taking Miss Austin home. Now, the said of evidence, to my mind, point to Miss Austin home whole matter."

"What is your theory as to the death, Mr. Stone?" Lockwood asked. "Suicide or murder?"

"Honestly, I don't know. I'm quite ready to form an opinion when I get

"Suppose I say I—he killed him-"Suppose I say I—he killed him-self," she said, "will you believe me?" self," she said, "will you believe me?" Iy, will you?" I'm not sure that I can. But I'm

strict questioning. You were here,"
he spoke very gravely, "late at night.
Next morning he was found dead.
There are no footprints in the snow
hat your own. There was no other
hat your own. There was no other

"Delusion?"
"Yes; I mean she's under a mistaken sense of duty to somebody,

"Ah, now, Mr. Lockwood," this from
Fibsy, "you're positive the young lady
is an angel of light, because you're
head over beels in the said maybe not. If he and
Miss Austin were in collusion—"
"I beg your pardon, Mr. Stone, but
I cannot have anything said in my head over heels in love with her. That's all right, and I don't blame you-but, take it from me, you'll prove your case quicker, better and more surely if you investigate the secret of Miss Mystery, than if you just go around babbling about her Lockwood looked at the boy, ready

to resent his impudence. But Fibsy's

alive, you cannot avoid or evade the strict questioning. You were here," he spoke very gravely, "late at night.

Next morning he was found dead.

Will take you home. Mr. Stone, await my return. I sha'n't be long."

The two went, and Stone, pacing up and down the long room, said musing
"You're right, McGuire," he said;

"You're right, McGuire," he said; "and I for one am not afraid of the result of a thorough investigation of (To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

Miss Austin's affairs.' "You've reason to be, though," Stone observed. "I can't be sure, of course, but many stray hints and bits of evidence, to my mind, point to Miss

"I don't say you must." he returned deliberately, "but I say you may."

"Never," declared Trask. "You know what I told you, Mr. Stone."

"And you know that I refused to accept your terms. I shall carry this matter through to the end. I do not say I think Miss Austin guilty of "Trask taking Miss Austin home. Now, tell me, please, can you get at the truth about that girl?"

"I haven't as yet. She's as great a mystery as the death of Dr. Waring."

"She is. But I have every faith in her. She is the victim of some deliation—"

"Suicide or murder?"

"Honestly, I don't know. I'm quite ready to form an opinion when I get some real evidence. I'm through questioning Miss Austin—I shouldn't have let her go otherwise. I want next to do a lot of further questioning. And I'd very much like to get hold of that servant, Nogi." "You think he's implicated?" Lock-

wood stared. "Why else would he run away? He must be found. He is probably the key to the whole situation."

"Maybe and maybe not. If he and

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