

Adele Garrison
"My Husband's Love"

Who Drives the Other Boat That Follows Fast?

"Now!" said little Mrs. Bird incisively. "Make your good-bya brief. I stopped and kissed my husband's small nose and cheeks, bidding them good-bya with a voice that I tried strenuously to make cheery. But my spirits were anything but high. It seemed, suddenly, a sad and monstrously unjust thing—this enforced hurried flight to a far country because of the greed and meanness of their dead father's relatives.

It was a perilous undertaking, also. I told myself, with a vision of the obstacles which still intervened before they should arrive safely in their alien haven. And in the farewell embrace which Harriet gave me there was a convulsive clinging, utterly foreign to her self-contained nature, which told me that she shared my apprehensions of the difficulties in front of them.

"Tell mother everything went all right," Harriet said quietly.

"I'll keep her from worrying," I replied. "You're sure you have the address right for writing or calling?"

For answer she touched her bodice where, in a little oil silk packet, she always carries a card of identification and an emergency sum of money. To these she now patently had added the carefully selected address which Dicky had given her from which he could secure her messages.

Mrs. Bird, the young driver and the man in charge of the boat had been busy getting the luggage and the children aboard. Harriet and the small Roderick stepped into the boat, and Edwin wrung my hand hastily.

"You're a trump, Madge," he said heartily. "Good-bya."

Mrs. Bird is optimistic.

In another minute the small motor boat which held them was chugging its way along the winding creek. The noise it made seemed terrifically loud to me.

"Won't those men, watching in front of the house, hear that and suspect something?"

"What good would it do them if they did?" Mrs. Bird retorted. "By the time they can get a boat and go after them our people will be on board that other boat and far enough out in the bay so there will be no chance to distinguish their craft from any other of the many in the harbor."

The last word was hardly out of her mouth before the noise of another motor boat engine punctuated her sentence as with an exclamation point. Mrs. Bird wheeled toward the sound.

"Isn't that Griffin's?" I detected a strained note in her voice as she accosted the young chauffeur, who stood just behind her.

He listened to the noise carefully, then delivered his judgment cautiously.

"Sounds like it."

"It can't be—" she broke off abruptly and turned to me. "It's only fair to tell you," she said, "that Griffin occasionally rents out his boat."

There's a hundred to one shot that the people behind you may not have overlooked this bit of news, but you may be sure they won't corner it. George, who's in charge of your party, is a wise old bird. He'll hear that noise, and he won't waste any seconds getting down to the mouth of the creek and transferring your party.

"Harming accidents, which aren't probable, and accounting for the start he has, and the greater distance the other chap will have to go," she continued, "he'll have a good 10 minutes' edge on the other boat. That's enough for any get away, even if that isn't Griffin himself out there on some errand of his own, which is the most likely explanation."

"What is your signal?"

I tried hard to share her optimism, but I failed dismally. I did not know what powers of the law the family of William Harrison might not have been able to invoke, and I visualized fearfully the possible forcible seizure of the children and the arrest of Edwin and Harriet.

"What is your signal?" Mrs. Bird's voice, crisp, incisive, roused me. "It's none of my business, of course, but you're not as used to distinguishing noises across the water as I am and you might not hear it."

"The cry of the screech owl," I replied. "I'm not very good at it, but Mrs. Underwood can give the call very realistically, and as she will be listening for my response it will not matter if it is not so realistic as it might be."

"All right," Mrs. Bird responded. "Now we won't say another word for."

by the sounds. George is almost there. Her signal will come any minute now. But that other boat is moving faster than I like." (Copyright, 1924.)

Wymore Pioneer Dies
at Home of Son in Kansas

Wymore, Neb., March 27.—J. R. Spearman, 75, pioneer settler of Wymore, dropped dead Wednesday while visiting at the home of his son, Earnest, near Stockton, Kan. Spearman homesteaded in 1875 on the farm where he died, and moved to Wymore more in 1885 shortly after the town was founded. His wife, Sarah, past president of the Gage County W. C. T. U. for 15 years, died suddenly at

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