

# THE BATTERING MYSTERY OF THE WEISKOPF TWINS.

Is one of them a murderess and robber and the other a saint or are both of them guilty

**D**USSELDORF and all of Rhenish Prussia is excited over the mystery of the Weiskopf twins, a strange, weird, mysterious romance that has attracted the attention of the criminologists and psychologists of all Europe.

The principal actresses in the story of love, murder, saintliness, crime, robbery, charity, purity, and debauchery are Myra and Rosetta Weiskopf, daughters of a well-to-do manufacturer, twins, now 22 years of age, well educated, handsome, brilliant, and skilled in the arts of the household.

At their door are laid two murders, one suicide, the robbery of a rich man's house, the ruin and robbery of the son of one of the wealthiest men in Dusseldorf, the stealing of diamonds worth a quarter of a million, and the breaking up of two prominent families. Yet neither girl is under arrest, both appear perfectly innocent, both attend their church regularly, both go into their society, ride freely through the streets in their carriage, receive the best young people of the town.

Yet one of them, the police declare, is a murderess and a robber, a woman whose life of debauchery and daring escapades has thrilled the city—and the other is a saintess, a friend of the poor, great in charity works. And the police do not know which is the daring debauchee, whose wild orgies in Paris and Berlin destroyed two homes, and which is the Lady of Good Works, who is blessed by the laborers in her father's plant and followed by the prayers of the poor of Dusseldorf. Nor are they entirely certain that either is guilty, and admit that they may be victims of monstrous circumstances.

## Strange Problem Perplexes Sleuths.

The problem which the police are facing is one of the strangest that ever perplexed a sleuth. The girls are so remarkably alike that their closest friends cannot tell them apart; they dress exactly alike; move and speak in the same way, and so far as any one except themselves knows, are seldom separated for more than a few hours. They have traveled together, been educated together, occupied adjoining rooms, and, to the police, it seems inconceivable that one of them should have done the deeds attributed to her without the knowledge of the other. Startling crimes have been traced home to the twins, yet, because of the father's influence and wealth and the great



MAN AND WOMAN  
QUARRELED  
MAN'S BODY  
WAS FOUND NEXT MORNING.

Despite this strong evidence, the police knew it was useless to make an arrest, but continued watching.

## Accused in Two Divorce Suits.

In June of 1904 two well-to-do Dusseldorf couples separated—the wives accusing their husbands of faithlessness and each one declaring that the Weiskopf twins were responsible. One accused Myra, the other Rosetta; one told of her husband's wild escapades in Berlin with the one woman, the other complained that her husband, annoyed of the beauty of the girl, had wasted their savings on her during a long debauch in Paris.

Just at that time one of the principal churches in Dusseldorf was returning thanks for a large gift for the poor of the parish from one of the girls.

Investigation by the police brought out the fact that, so far as any one knew, except themselves, neither girl had been in Paris or Berlin at the times stated by the men—but neither had they been seen at the same time in public in Dusseldorf during the times that one of them was supposed to have been in Berlin and Paris. No servant in the house ever saw both at the same time during the four days that one man was in Berlin with a reckless woman, or the three days that the other man spent in Paris. Yet both girls maintained that but for a slight indisposition that kept Myra in her bed one day, they had been together regularly and never separated more than two or three hours at a time.

The climax was reached on March 23 when the residence of Louis Kuebler, on Lintenstrasse, was robbed. Kuebler was awakened by some one working at the drawer in which he kept his money and his wife's and daughters' jewels. He sprang from his bed and was confronted by a revolver in the hands of—of her and his wife say—one of the twins. Cowed, he backed to the bed as ordered. The robber sprang into the hallway, ran down the stairs, met a servant, fired one shot at him, jumped from the window into the rose garden, and escaped.

Two blocks from the house a policeman saw a woman riding rapidly northward on a bicycle and called to her to stop—but she pedaled faster. The woman on a bicycle was seen within two blocks of the Weiskopf house.

The police were notified. At breakfast time three descended upon the house. They guarded both ways of exit and entered, announcing that they were again seeking the servant suspected of a robbery. No bicycle was found in the house. Not one trace of the money and jewels stolen from the Kuebler house was found. No trace of any short, dark bicycle suit, such as worn by the woman robber, was discovered.

## Police Fear to Make Arrest.

Myra and Rosetta, who were getting ready to visit some poor families, waited and talked with the police. They said they were sure none of the servants was out the night before. Myra said she locked the door herself and that she and her sister sat talking in Rosetta's room for some time.

And—stranger than all—the two detectives who had been watching the front and back of the house all night

NOT ONE GLANCE  
OF RECOGNITION

But no one in the entire household was found who had seen both girls at the same time, and Kranzman admitted that he did not know whether the girl who was with him was Rosetta or Myra.

Not one member of the household knew the object of the inquiry, being told that the servant was again suspected of robbery.

The girls were questioned cautiously by the police, who pretended to them to be investigating a report that some jewels that had been purchased by them were among those stolen from Feibel. They readily exhibited their jewels, let the police examine them. Myra when asked where she was the night of the murder said she was with Kranzman

toward the spot he passed a girl fleeing through the park. Two blocks away a street cleaner at work saw a girl scurrying along. Five persons saw the woman, and three of them positively declared she was one of the Weiskopf twins, whom they had seen frequently. She was last seen within a block of the Weiskopf home.

The police, on plea of new evidence, made inquiries, stating that a servant was under suspicion, and every member of the Weiskopf household declared that neither girl left the house after they entered it on returning from the opera.

The second crime was committed in January of 1904—in Frankfurt. Raoul Feibel, son of a wealthy jeweler, was sent to Berlin to carry a great consignment of diamonds. Only he and his father knew of the contemplated trip or its object. Raoul left Dusseldorf on the midnight train, carrying the diamonds in a leather case. Three days afterward his body was found in a hotel in Frankfurt, and the diamonds, valued at \$225,000, were gone.

## Involved in Another Mysterious Murder.

Why he went to Frankfurt, what happened to him, no one could tell, and not a clew was found until the post-mortem revealed the fact that he had been poisoned. The police, in tracing down clues, discovered that the room in which the young man died was connected, through a bathroom, with another room on the same floor. A maid testified that on the morning the body was found she attempted to enter Feibel's room, found it locked, and got in through the bathroom, finding both doors unlocked. She remembered being surprised at this.

The experts then discovered that the woman's name, "Mlle. Lannes," was written by Feibel. She had disappeared utterly, paying her bill and leaving, ostensibly for Paris, an hour before the body was discovered.

The shock came when Andrew Kaufmann, a prominent Dusseldorf citizen, declared that he had seen Feibel and one of the Weiskopf twins in Frankfurt on the day of the murder and that they both spoke to him.

Kaufmann's startling statement threw the police of Frankfurt and Dusseldorf into a frenzy of excitement. The closest watch was kept on the girls and their every movement was scrutinized. Every jewel they wore was examined through powerful glasses as they sat in their box at the theater or at the great Thursday night symphony concerts in the Tonhalle.

Detectives who investigated the movements of the twins on the night Feibel was robbed, murdered, and his reputation destroyed ran up against a stone wall. Every servant, every member of the family at the Weiskopf house declared that neither girl was away from home on that night—that both were seen in the house at 9 o'clock in the evening and both appeared at breakfast, and Kranzman, whose engagement to Myra had been announced, declared he spent the evening with her in the music room.



HE AND HIS WIFE SAID — "ONE OF THE TWINS"

and that she called to Rosetta when she went to bed and that Rosetta answered.

Again the police found themselves helpless against such an alibi, nor could they find any way for days in which either of the girls could have left the house. Finally a porter was found at the Derendorf station, in the edge of Dusseldorf, who declared that on the day of the murder a girl met a man at that station and boarded the 5 o'clock train for Frankfurt with him. The tickets were purchased at the Dusseldorf station. When shown photographs of Feibel and the twins he positively identified them as the couple.

declared that no one had departed or entered.

The police are afraid to make an arrest, their confidence in the guilt of one of the girls of all these crimes being shaken by the faint possibility, which they admit reluctantly, that some one else, resembling the girls, is committing the crimes.

They are merely watching. And the problem is left as it was, with the general belief of the detectives that either the two girls are leading a double Jekyll and Hyde existence and working together, or that one is the criminal and the other hypnotized into aiding her.

But which is which no one in Dusseldorf dares guess.



MAN MURDERED

DIAMONDS GONE

works of charity and deeds of kindness of one or the other and the grain of doubt of guilt, they hesitate to make an arrest.

Detectives watch every movement the twins make, hoping that some day the guilty one will be caught on one of her nocturnal escapades and the entire matter brought to a climax. Yet, so far as appearance goes, neither one nor the other of the girls is aware that she is being watched, despite the fact that the police have questioned them repeatedly, and the behavior of both is a perfect simulation of innocence if not innocence itself.

## Problem the Police Must Solve.

Here is the problem which the police must solve, arranged in its varying forms and theories:

Is Rosetta or Myra Weiskopf the criminal, and, if so, does her sister know of the crimes?

Having located the criminal, how are the police to distinguish between her and her sister?

Is one of the girls a female Jekyll and Hyde?

Are both of the sisters dual characters, shielding each other?

Does one or do both of the girls commit crimes unconsciously while living in a secondary life?

Does one of the girls carry out the rôle of Christian worker to more completely puzzle the police?

Is one of the girls ignorant of the crimes of the other, or hypnotized by her?

Is one of the girls conscious of the crimes of the other and shielding her?

Do both girls, while under some strange influence, plot together to commit a crime and use their remarkable likeness to puzzle the police?

Do the girls take turns in slipping away for wild debauches?

The questions remain unanswered. Indeed, were it not for staggering circumstantial evidence the police would weeks ago have abandoned their suspicions of the young women and arrived at the conclusion that they are innocent victims of some cunning criminal who is shielding himself or herself behind the innocence of the young women.

## Beginning of Strange Mystery.

Until about a year ago Myra and Rosetta Weiskopf were regarded only as lovely, sweet, homeloving girls, remarkable only for their strange resemblance to each other. They attracted but little more attention than any other twins would attract except that they were inseparable and that their father was a wealthy manufacturer and their mother a member of a well known family. They were educated at a private school on Kaiserwertherstrasse, not far from the Hofgarten, and there became acquainted with girls of their own class, with whom they formed

pleasant friendships. They were bright, clever, and, although apparently not especially vivacious, were favorites in their society. They both appeared to take deep interest in church and charitable work, and always went together until they were about 18 years old, when one—no one knows whether Myra or Rosetta—suddenly ceased to accompany the other on the errands of mercy to the homes of the poor, and one—no one knows which—became gayer and went offener into society. Still the twins were seldom separated more than an hour or two at a time. The fact that the family took no notice of the change in habits, which the police have since discovered, appears to indicate that the girls might have begun a dual life seven years, alternately becoming society butterflies and slum workers.

The fact that, since earliest girlhood, either would answer to either name makes the task of discovering which is which harder. It is evident from all circumstances that the parents of the twins are in deepest ignorance, and have thus far never even noticed anything unusual in the conduct of either young woman, or heard a whisper of the crimes of which they are suspected. Because of this fact the police have been able to make one important step in the case. They have discovered that Myra has a small, black mole at the edge of her hair, under the left ear, and Rosetta has none. They believe that ultimately the mole will solve the mystery. Every effort of the police is bent on keeping the family deluded with the idea that servants in the household are the ones under suspicion.

## Meeting with Their Favored Suitors.

Four years ago, when the girls were 18, Isaac Weiskopf, the manufacturer, took his family for a year of travel, visiting France, Italy, Spain, Egypt, and finally England, and while they were away his handsome home on Dinsburgherstrasse was built. The family returned home in March of 1902, and in the following May moved into the new house.

On the evening of March 26 a company from Berlin sang "Lohengrin" in the Stadt theater in Allee street. Myra and Rosetta Weiskopf with Julius Kranzman and Edouard Lisarce, with the mother of the girls as chaperon, attended. After the performance they drove to the Bierhoff, in Briete street, where they remained until nearly midnight. The two young men had been particularly attentive to the two girls, and it had been regarded in some quarters that they would be the favored suitors of the twins. The party drove to the Weiskopf home, the men said good night, and drove back into the city.

The next morning the body of Lisarce was found in the Hofgarten, on the banks of the Rhine, with a bullet in the head. Although no revolver was found, the police regarded it as a case of suicide.

It was not until over a year later that the police made the startling discoveries and reopened the case. Then they learned that on the night Lisarce died a musician heard a man and a woman quarrelling, then a shot, and running