

# Quality has no substitute



## Tea "fresh from the gardens"

### THE TULE MARSH MURDER

#### STORY OF A MISSING ACTRESS AND THE TAKING OF WITS TO EXPLAIN HER FATE.

BY NANCY BARR MAVITY.

#### SYNOPSIS

Don Ellsworth's wife, formerly actress Sheila O'Shay, disappears. Dr. Cavanaugh, criminal psychologist, learns that Peter Piper, a herald reporter, while on his way to the theatre, passes the scene of the crime. Barbara Kaine, a woman who was engaged to Ellsworth before his marriage, is found in the tule marsh in the vicinity of that of Sheila. Barbara Kaine, who is arrested and admits that Ellsworth married Sheila under threat of blackmail. The identity of the person who threatened her is not known until she is released. Dr. Cavanaugh and Dr. Cavanaugh agree to examine the body.

CHAPTER XXXIV—Continued

Peter closed Dr. Cavanaugh's office door behind him in a state of uncustomed mental turbulence. He loafed around the hedge-bordered path which led from the separate side entrance of the office to the front driveway, chewing a twig which he had absent-mindedly plucked from the bushes. There was something intimidating to ordinary folk about the detachment of the impersonal clarity of the knowledge. Peter no longer thought of the doctor merely as an expert in a field which interested Peter only as a source of copy on occasion. The psychiatrist looked before him distorted mental vision as a marionette master, pulling a hundred invisible wires that had been hidden before his eyes. Peter shook his head impatiently and tasted the twig away.

"I'd better go to bed and get about forty-eight hours of sleep," he muttered. "That nervous crime is better. Nevertheless, he continued to loiter by the side of the hedge. Were all the people in the world more or less 'cracked,' needing only a push to knock them off the narrow wall of normality, like Humpty Dumpty?"

"True, Orme might have killed Sheila O'Shay without being insane—and he might, on the other hand, be unbal-

anced without having killed Sheila O'Shay. They were no nearer to finding out why he had written that threatening letter, why he had changed his name and fled, why that flight had been so inconclusive, so easily abandoned, than they had been on the night when the letter was first found. And whatever Orme's relations with the dead woman might have been, they did not explain Ellsworth's unwillingness to have her disappearance made public, his perfunctory of promises and Mrs. Kane's effort to prevent the identification of the body.

Despite weeks of headlines and front page stories, thousands of words thrown into type and out again, investigations and suspicions, the tule marsh mystery was as much a mystery as the day when Jimmy first doubted if "the best murder of the year."

Motive? The doctor was right. Without understanding what pulled the wires in people's heads, since were nothing but a meaningless jumble. And motives themselves were a queer mixture—even Peter's own.

What those people did and why they did it was, strictly speaking, none of his business. A month ago he did not know any of them, unless Sheila O'Shay's frequently published photographs in retrograde sections and news pages constituted acquaintance. Yet here he was, losing sleep, forgetting his meals, working uncounted hours of "overtime" in the attempt to find out who had killed Sheila O'Shay, and why.

It was partly sheer human curiosity and pride, an unwillingness to confess himself baffled; partly the desire, not only to solve the "Herod," but to find it out—and partly the need of setting Barbara somewhere in clear sun, light, and breaking away from her own emerald and doubt and trouble and folly.

It was because he cared so much for Barbara that Peter had no lingering shadow, no trusting of guilt upon a possibly innocent man. If there were any chance of that, Barbara, he knew as surely as if he had known her all her life, would throw caution to the winds, even to her own mortal hurt. And she had used caution—

inevitable had happened. He saw the jaunty little sports coupe nosing its way through the night with its burden of death. Barbara's white dress searched with frenzied fingers for the missing comb, not daring to strike a light. Had she, in the horror of that dark hour, not even noticed that it had slipped from the gleaming copper of Sheila's hair—perhaps not even known that it had ever been there?

A groan broke from Peter's lips. He was dully aware that something was being done against his forehead. The path brought him slowly from the clutch of that imagined scene to the consciousness of his surroundings. The water and rises, by no effort of his own, as suddenly as the trunk of the tree, his face pressed close to its rough bark. His breath came in sobbing gasps, as if he had been running the length of a mile.

And then, as suddenly as the turning of a night in a dark room, he was roused from the numbness of that slumber by a flash of absolute certitude. Barbara's hand might have held a knife or jerked a trigger; but Barbara could not have flung the body of Sheila O'Shay into the marsh and set fire to the grass. She could not have done it, simply because she was Barbara.

If he had seen with his own eyes her figure at the wheel with that horrible figure beside it, he would give up the idea. He had seen Barbara. He had believed without evidence that this one thing she could do. The physical impossibility—or what looked like it—was often enough accomplished, but never in the presence of the body.

How to order patterns—Continued

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of each garment you desire. Enclose 20c in stamps or cash (prepaid). We will mail you a pattern free of charge.

Trapping Season Begins in Northern Manitoba

"Wintering. The trapping season north of 52° has begun in Manitoba. According to the provincial game regulations the season will be open for the trapping of other animals, fish, sable, mink and the various species of fox. For other fur-bearing animals the season still remains closed. The open season for beaver, which lasts for one month only, will begin March 15. This regulation was put into effect by a provincial ordinance.

The Changing Army

The men who served in the Malaya's Infantry during and just after the War will be interested to know that one of their best buglears is likely to disappear.

TOO PARTICULAR

The old family retainer was showing some visitors round his master's ancient castle, which had been thrown open to the public.

CHAPTER XXXV

Sheila O'Shay's body had been driven to the marsh in Barbara's car—the one thing Peter had held to be

### What New York Is Wearing

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Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern



Here's slimming lines for the woman of heavier figure.

And a smart dress that will answer many needs for fall and winter day wear.

The bodice has a deep cross-over front, and the skirt is cut to the smartest depth to narrow the hips.

Cat Adopts Two Rats

Columbia, Mo.—What started as a love affair between a cat and two rats has become an experiment in the University of Chicago.

Sauce for the Gander

There was a tired business man, a member of the busy class that shudders from prying eyes behind that cool old shell.

Mutt Keeps Money in Circulation

BAH JOE, MUTT SENDS ME THAT DOLLAR—I SEE IT AGAIN!

OR DELICIOUS SANDWICHES

Women who entertain frequently know that Kraft Cheese Sandwiches are a delicious treat.

### Just the Thing for Christmas

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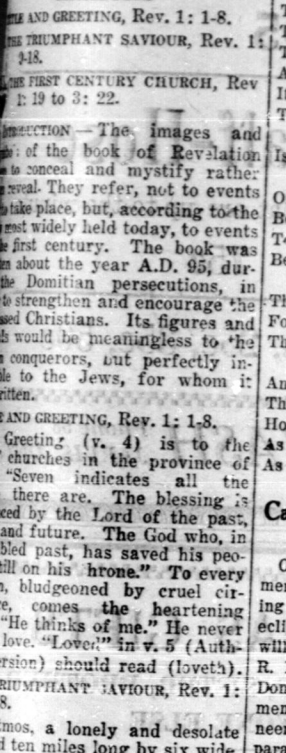
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### Drusilla

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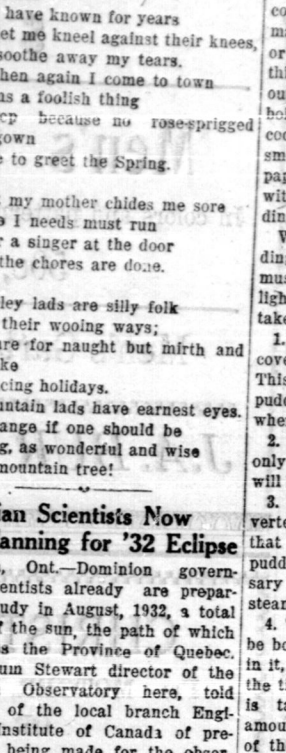
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### Prepare Plum Pudding Early

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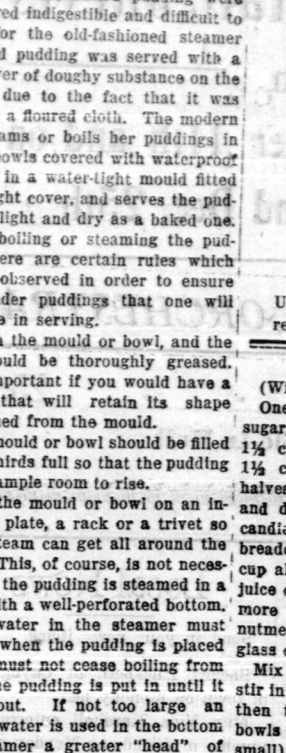
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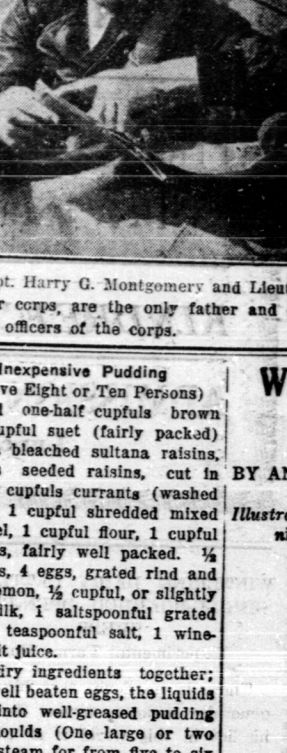
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### Father and Son Aviators

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### China Censors Films to End Scenes Harmful to Youth

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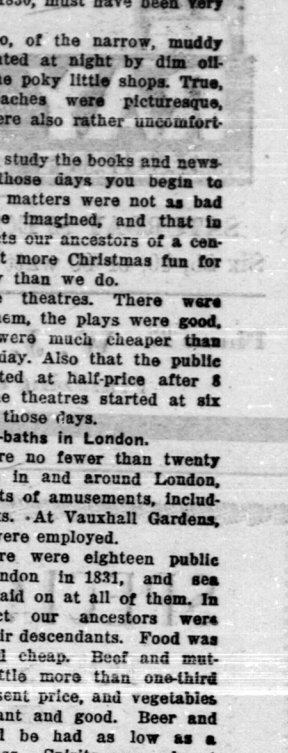
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### Hotel Rooms Sign Aids Travelers

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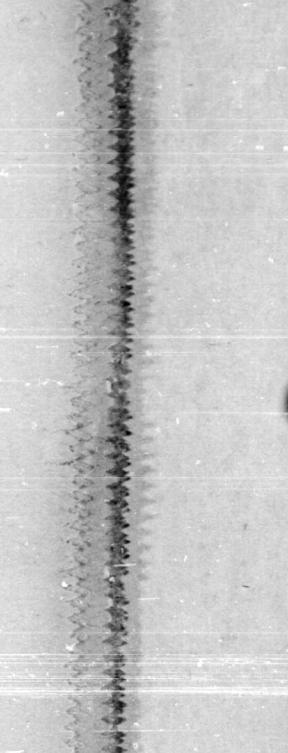
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