

# "The VANITY CASE"

A Tale of Mystery and Love

By CAROLYN WELLS

BEGIN HERE TODAY  
In Harbor Gardens, Long Island, in  
HEATH and his wife MYRA, who were  
entertaining as house guests their distant relative of Myra's and, aside from Perry,  
her only heir, and

MYRA, a young, vivacious,  
golden-haired, young friend of Myra's.  
Perry, an ardent young candidate for  
president of the Country Club. The  
other leading candidate is SAM ANDERSON,  
a man of the world, but cold and sarcastic. She never used  
rouge, never wore colors. She collected  
rare books and art objects, and had a  
whisky bottle which aroused her husband.

Myra, provoked at a growing intimacy  
between Perry and Bunny, announces  
she is going to the country club to  
man, cutting Perry off. That night she  
quarrels with her husband, and abandons  
Myra, who is heartbroken.

That night, Heath, stealing downstairs,  
surprised the two young lovers in the  
latter's room by morning.

The next morning Myra's body is discovered  
in her room, and death blow struck

with a card marked "The Word of  
Truth". The butler discovers near  
the body the death blow was struck  
with Myra's cherished whisky bottle.

The police are called, and the investigation,  
and it develops that Perry Heath has  
disappeared during the night. His body  
was found on the inside. Detective Mott  
and his wife, who are investigating, are  
upstairs the night of the murder. "Yes,  
what?" asks Bunny.

GO ON WITH THE STORY  
The sudden question was in a  
rather impertinent tone, but was  
accompanied by an innocent and  
enchanting smile that made Detective  
Mott sit up and take notice. He  
had his own opinion of young women  
who tried to cajole or bewitch a  
detective, and he immediately began  
to watch his step.

"Why, because I want to know all  
about when you last saw Mrs. Heath  
alive."

"That was the time," Bunny spoke softly.  
"I said good night—I think—or, perhaps I didn't, we're  
not very punctilious about such  
things, and I went up to my room  
and shut the door, and I didn't hear  
anybody else come upstairs at all."

"And you didn't leave your room  
again, last night?"

Bunny paled and her big blue  
eyes stared at the detective.  
"W—what do you mean?" she  
said, with a gasp and a little catch  
in her voice.

Mott looked at her. Could it be  
that this lovely child had some  
knowledge, guilty or otherwise, that  
she was keeping back?

"It doesn't seem to be an abstruse  
question," Mott smiled kindly at her.  
"I only asked if you left your bed-  
room again after you went in and  
shut the door."

"Why, no—no, of course I didn't!"

"Then you knew nothing of the  
tragedy until you came downstairs  
this morning?"

"I knew before I came down, be-  
cause Carter, Mrs. Heath's maid,  
came to my room and told me."

"I see. And did Carter tell you the  
details of Mrs. Heath's appearance?  
How her face was painted and how  
there were candles at her head and  
feet?"

"No—she didn't tell me that—" Bunny  
looked vaguely at Mott, her  
lovely eyes clouding with tears as  
she gazed toward the beautiful  
still figures on the floor.

"Then you were shocked afresh  
when you came downstairs and saw  
the scene that you did see?"

"Yes—oh, yes."

"You gazed at the strangely paint-  
ed face—"

"Yes." Bunny's eyes looked  
straight into the detective's own.  
"You saw the crimson scarf draped  
across the body?"

"Yes."

"You saw the card about Mr.  
Heath's work?"

"Yes."

"You saw the candles burning at  
her head and feet, almost as if in a  
church?"

"Yes."

"You saw the details of Mrs.  
Heath's appearance?"

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