Gems of Peril

by HAZEL ROSS HAILEY

©1931 BY NEA Service Inc.

BEGIN HERE TODAY

Rich old MRS. JUPITER is robbed and murdered during an engagement party she is giving for her secretary, MARY HARKNESS. Mary's scapegrace brother, EDDIE, is supposed to have been in the house at the murder hour.

DIRK RUYTHER, blue-blooded young lawyer, Mary's fiance, advises her to keep silent about having arranged to meet Eddie secretly, until he can locate the boy. Eddie has disappeared.

Mary prevents a maid, BESSIE, from telling BOWEN, police reporter for the Star, about Eddie's supposed visit. Dirk telephones that he has found Eddie and will take her to see him that afternoon.

Dirk oversleeps and Bowen drives Mary to the rendezvous. Eddie is run down by a car as he crosses the street to meet Mary. Delirious, in the hospital, he mumbles about a fly. He dies.

Weeks of police investigation come to nothing, and finally INSPECTOR KANE tells Mary the case is closed.

NOW GO ON WIT HTHE STORY

CHAPTER TEN

COLD fury such as she never had dreamed she could feel possessed Mary at Inspector Kane's indifferent words. Within a few hours of each other, some one's hand had struck down the two people she loved best on earth, except her sweetheart, Dirk.

She had thought of the wheels of justice as grinding slowly but surely toward capture of that man. While he lived, how could anyone with a drop of pity in his heart, rest content?

"Everything that could be done has been done," Kane said. "If the jewels ever turn up—or if we find the car, we'll have positive evidence. Nothing to do but wait."

Mary suffered a feeling of vast disillusionment concerning the processes of justice and that great institution known as "the police." She had believed in "the law" as she had believed in God, and in Inspector Kane as its prophet. And here he was helpless, like any other mortal.

She did not realize it, but in that moment was born the great scheme that was later to take possession of her. The idea of seeking personal vengeance on her brother's killer, who, she was sure, was Mrs. Jupiter's murderer, too, came later in all its details.

But the genesis of it was right there, in the chilling discovery that in deep extremity the only one to be depended upon is one's self.

# # #

PERHAPS Kane felt her criticism, for his affability gave way to grievance.

"Police work is not so simple as some people think, Miss Harkness," he told her. "It's hard enough at best, and when people put stumbling blocks in our way—well——

"If you'd been frank with us about your brother coming to the house that night, we could have had the story out of him at once—and the case settled. It's too late now. We can do nothing but let the matter drop."

Slowly the implication of his words came home to the girl.

"What do you mean by that?" she asked, "you mean you think Eddie came in—and killed——"

Kane looked at her keenly.

"I meant only what is self-evident from the facts in the case," he said. He made a restless movement of dismissal.

"I dont think we'll get anywhere threshing this out any further, Miss Harkness. You come in and see me again any time you like. If I have anything to report, I'll be glad to tell you."

Mary said, "Tell me what you mean!" implacably.

"Well, what do you think?" he burst out. "What are the facts?" He held up two massive fingers and ticked them off, one at a time. "Your brother had opportunity and he had motive. What does it matter that he never did such a thing before in his life?

"How do you know he didn't? What do you know about him, anyway?" Before she could answer, he added with an air of wisdom, "Nobody on earth knows less about a man than his sister. Unless it's his mother, maybe."

"You think that Eddie killed Mrs. Jupiter?" Mary was shivering uncontrollably. She sat stiffly, fighting for self-control, cold fingers gripping tightly the gloves lying in her lap.

# # #

IF she cried, she would make a fool of herself, and this man and his stupidity must be fought with other weapons than that.

While she struggled to stop the tears that squeezed out and ran wetly down the sides of her nose, Kane went on "making his case."

"Eddie had to get his hands on $15,000 and do it in a hurry. We know that much. I had those boys in, those roommates of his. One's an elevator boy in an office building.

"He was the one that got your brother in the way of following the races. He used to place bets for 'clients' in the building. Eddie made a little pile and was feeling rich, so he went down to the tracks and started playing the sport.

"He met some 'big shots,' and the boys didn't see quite so much of him for awhile. But it wasn't long before he was back. He'd got hold of the long end of a 15-to-1 shot, and couldn't pay off.

"It must have surprised him some when the chap, whoever he was, demanded his money. That's the trouble with a kid like that playing for big stakes.

"When he loses, he's like a woman—he wants to wiggle out of it. Every man hates a welsher. Eddie knew that, and he knew more than that—if he didn't come through quick, he was due for a good beating-up, at least.

"They've got funny ideas around the race tracks about taking bigger odds than you can afford to lose.

"Evidently the chap Eddie picked up with was a hard cookie. Maybe he needed the money in a hurry to meet obligations of his own. Maybe he was just sore and wanted to give the kid a lesson.

"Anyway, he put it up to the kid to come through, or——

# # #

In desperation, Eddie went to your employer and asked for a loan. Jupiter don't like kids much, does he? I guess he's had his hands full with that wild one of his own.

Anyhow, he offered him a job at $35 a week learning the automobile business. You can figure out yourself how long it'd take Eddie to pay off at that rate, even providing the guy would wait.

"Why didn't he come to you for it? Well, he knew you didn't have it. And he had some idea you'd bawl him out, I expect. Jupiter tells me the kid made him swear not to tell you he'd even asked.

"There was nothing left but to take it off people that had it and wouldn't miss it—the guests at your party. He made it all right with you to let him in, came and went in the other fellow's car. Only it wasn't in the cards that he was to shoot. That was pure funk.

"The old girl was no set-up, though—she yelled. And that was her big mistake. If she'd kept still and forked over, she'd be alive today.

"He knew he had to silence her or have it all come out and spoil your party, not to mention your life, so he shot her."

# # #

MARY listened with fascinated attention as the links fell into place, forming a chain of probability so plausible that for the moment she was benumbed into seeing the thing through his eyes.

"He may not have meant to kill her, I don't know," Kane continued. "'The gun went off right in my hand.' God, I've heard 'em say it a thousand times!

But he plugged her just the same, even if it was just a nervous twitch of the finger. Instinct of self-preservation, they call it. I call it funk."

"If," said Mary, "all this should be true, why don't you arrest the other man—this 'hard cookie' you speak of? Eddie was just a boy. Nineteen.

He didn't know his way around, and that man did. He's to blame, as much as Eddie—more so. Why don't you arrest him?"

"I'm willing," Kane said, sardonically. "Why don't you tell me where he is?"

Mary perceived that this was humor, but she was not amused.

"Surely, the car—"

"There's a hundred Lorimors like that in this part of the country, most of 'em parked in garages you have to have an engraved, gold-edged invitation to get into.

"My theory is the man's society blood. I wouldn't be surprised if that Lorimor was parked in some Park avenue garage right this minute, and the man that owns it dining at the Ritz."

"It was a Lorimor that brought—whoever came to rob the house that night, too. Doesn't that look as if the murderer wanted Eddie killed?"

"Yeah, I know. We thought of that. But it don't tie up. Look here. If anybody was trying to kill your brother to keep his mouth shut, would he take a chance on knocking him down with a car? It would have taken perfect timing to be at that particular spot at that particular time.

"No, the kid was rattled and got hit, that's all. It's them big cars that shoot through like that—some Wall Street guy tryin' to make time up a side street, beating the lights at a corner where there was no cop.

"Might a' been a Rolls or a Mercedes—any of them big cars. It happened to be a Lorimor, that was all. There was a uniformed driver, like they all have. Pure coincidence, Miss Harkness."

# # #

IT had looked so damningly clear to her before—the cars being the same, that deadly swerve, just as Eddie was crossing the street to speak to her, to tell her the whole story.

Now it seemed a dim, impractical theory. And she never could prove it, now. Eddie's lips were sealed. Only one man knew—the man in the Lorimor car.

She would find that man and make him talk. She would get from him the true story, somehow.

If no one else would do it, she would do it herself. The absurdity of this fierce resolve did not occur to her. She was too grimly serious.

Oh, if only Eddie were here—Her eyes filled with tears.

"Oh, if only I'd gotten there sooner! It always seems to be my fault. My carelessness. I'm to blame for it all!"

Kane chose her moment of weakness to grow pompous.

"Not that, Miss Harkness, but you certainly might have been franker with us than you were." That was a sore spot with him, apparently, and would remain so.

"Oh, please! I've explained that so many times!"

"I know. That boy friend of yours told you to keep still. He'll get too big for his boots some day. Withholding evidence.

"You know, I suppose, he went to the district attorney and asked him not to make a special investigation. The family was satisfied, he said, to let the matter drop."

"Dirk did that? Why, he wouldn't do such a thing!"

"Wouldn't he? He and his father represent Jupiter, you know. And Jupiter wants the whole inquiry quashed. Told me not to go any farther with it, and refused any further help."

Mary gasped. "Why, I heard him say he'd never be satisfied until he found the man who killed his wife!"

"Maybe he thinks as I do," Inspector Kane said.

(To Be Continued)

Suit Asks $25,000

By Times Special

ANDERSON, Ind., Oct. 24.—Suit filed in superior court by William Williams, 20, Negro, against the Indiana Railroad, demands $25,000 damages for loss of his left arm. Williams was injured Sept. 26 when an automobile collided with a city street car. His arm was amputated the next day.

STICKERS

1. CND
2. BHMS
3. MDGSCR
4. MLT
5. JV
6. NTL
7. JPN

Above are listed the names of seven countries, but one letter is needed to make them clear. That letter appears 18 times among the seven names. Can you supply it?

Answer for Yesterday

"COME HITHER MINE FRIEND," SAID THE MONK EYEING HIM KINDLY, BE A VERY GOOD BOY; STEP THROUGH THE FURZE BRAVELY, AND SEEK THE LOST RICHES".

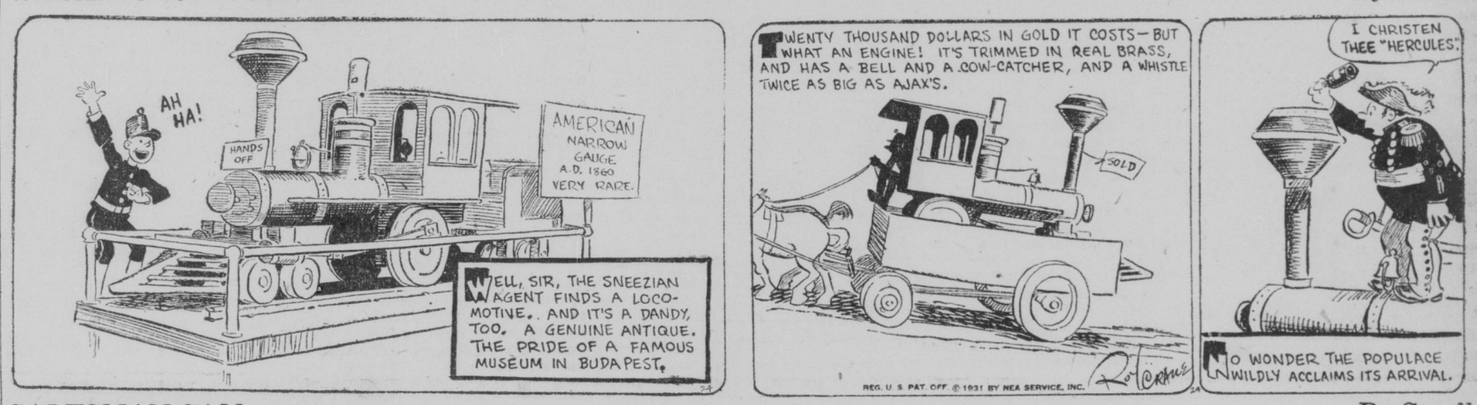
Ermine, monkey, beaver, zebra and ostrich are the five animals which were hidden in the above sentence.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE —By Ahern

OUT OUR WAY —By Williams

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS —By Blosser

WASHINGTON TUBBS II —By Crane



SALESMAN SAM —By Small

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES —By Martin

TARZAN AT THE EARTH'S CORE —By Edgar Rice Burroughs

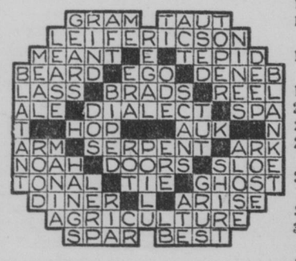
As the three men reached the summit of the low hills, they saw in the far, hazy distance a range of lofty mountains. "There," said Thoar, pointing, "lies Zoram, my country in the Mountains of Thipdars." This was the second time the ape-man had heard a reference to the thipdars." Tar-gash had thought the aeroplane was a thipdar and now Thoar spoke of them. The three hunted and ate, slept and marched together under the eternal noonday sun of Pellucidar, three creatures representing three distinct periods in the ascent of man.

Yet they were united now by a strong bond of confidence in each other. As the three resumed their journey it was not long before Tarzan's keen eyes saw something lying upon the open plain, far ahead. It was not a part of the natural landscape and instinctively, Tarzan always investigated anything he did not understand. So he turned from the others and crept toward the thing that had aroused his curiosity. And when he came near enough to recognize it, he saw to his astonishment and dismay that it was the wreck of an aeroplane.

Tar-gash and Thoar looked with wonder on the aeroplane's wreckage as they came upon the scene. The ape-man hastily searched it for the body of the pilot. To his relief all he saw was the signs of footprints that told him the pilot had landed alive. Immediately he recognized the prints as having been made by the boots of Jason Gridley. Then he saw something else that puzzled him greatly. For mingled with the American's footprints and evidently made at the same time, were those of a small sandaled foot. They were those of either a woman or a youth.

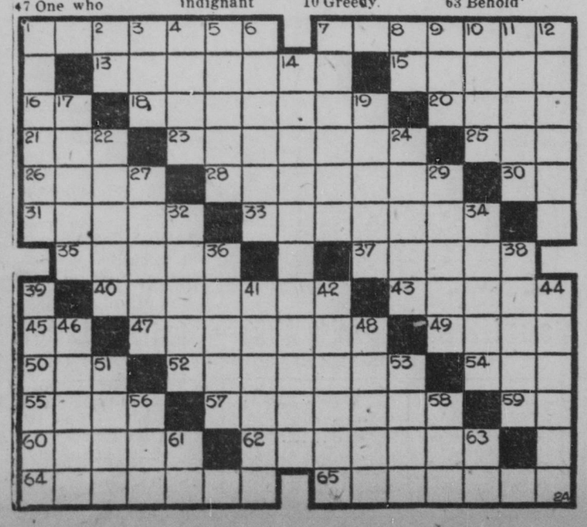
Tarzan saw the footprints went side by side as they left the wrecked plane. All he could do now was to follow them. He found it difficult to get Thoar away from the aeroplane. But Tar-gash merely glanced at it after asking: "What is it?" "It is the thing that flew over us and you thought was a flying reptile. One of my friends was in it as it fell." "It has no eyes," said Tar-gash, "how could it fly?" "It was not alive," answered Tarzan. "I heard it growl," insisted Tar-gash, unable to believe this thing was not some strange living creature.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER



HORIZONTAL

1 Shoots growing at the base of the parent plant.
7 David Starr Jordan's aim in life was to ——?
13 What is the chemical basis of horn, hair and nails?
15 Flavor.
16 Road.
18 Deprives of reason.
20 Minute object.
21 Still.
23 Planting.
25 Lair of a beast.
26 Portrait statue.
28 Particular.
30 Missouri.
31 Perfume.
33 Apparition.
35 Calyx leaf.
37 Infidel, that is, a non-Mohammedan.
40 Comes back.
43 Backless chair.
45 Bone.
47 One who withdraws from a communion.
49 Portico.
50 Rubber tree.
52 Genus, mollusks.
54 Heaven.
55 Female horse.
57 Signifies.
59 Southeast.
60 To call out.
62 Manifesting indifference to pleasure or pain.
64 Exhibits indignant displeasure at.
65 Ideas.

VERTICAL

1 Austria declared war on —— on July 28, 1914?
2 All right.
3 Guided.
4 Native metals.
5 Titles.
6 Saturates.
7 To inveigle.
8 You and me.
9 Eccentric wheel.
10 Greedy.
11 Clan symbol.
12 Heretofore.
14 What India wants to be.
17 Lymphatic tubes.
19 A small cut.
22 Carrier.
24 Sharks.
27 Backs of necks.
29 Opposite of rights.
32 Valued.
34 Disturbance by a crowd.
36 Transparent.
38 Corvine birds.
39 President of France.
41 School intermission.
42 Bale of indigo.
44 Stratum (Pl.).
46 Serf.
48 Proportion.
51 God of love.
53 Believers of a particular creed.
56 To piece out.
58 Capuchin monkey
61 Half an em.
63 Behold!