

OUT OF THE NIGHT

BY MARION WHITE

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

PRISCILLA PIERCE—heroine, young woman attorney.

AMY KERR—Cilly's roommate and murderer's victim.

JIM KERRIGAN—Cilly's fiance.

HARRY HUTCHINS—Amy's strange visitor.

SERGT. DOLAN—officer assigned to solve the murder of Amy Kerr.

Yesterday: Jim calls Cilly while Dolan is in her apartment. When Cilly refuses to divulge who called, Dolan orders her out to headquarters with him while he places police in her rooms to take further messages.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

CILLY leaned helplessly against the wall while Dolan proceeded to give orders over the telephone to trace Jim's call.

Jim had phoned from the Pennsylvania Hotel. The operator verified that. He could get out and disappear into the subway in 30 seconds. She felt a subtle pleasure at having outwitted Dolan. He was so sure of himself, so positive in his theory. What did it matter to him that he was railroading an innocent man to jail; to the electric chair! For the first time, Cilly caught the full significance of what Jim was facing. She held her breath as a new terror seized her.

Dolan was arresting her. There would be nobody to carry on for Jim... nobody to watch the Hunter man, or Harvey Ames... nobody to check on Carruthers who also came from Utah. Dolan would forget all that.

Suddenly she faced Dolan, her eyes burning with indignation and terror and despair.

"WHY are you so determined to accuse Jim? What about Harvey Ames? He had every opportunity and just as good a motive. What about Hunter? There are a dozen angles that you refuse to consider. What about Carruthers upstairs? We have proof that he came from Utah, too. His trip to Bermuda might easily have been blind, or he might have gone away to let someone else use his apartment. . . . What about the Elliot woman upstairs? Surely she's read about the case in the newspapers. Why don't you check on her?"

Dolan frowned in annoyance. "See here, Miss Pierce," he said irritably, "you may be a smart lawyer and all that, but I don't need you to tell me how to do my own work. We've checked every situation thoroughly. We've got the word of a dozen people who saw Carruthers on the Monarch of Bermuda. I don't go ransacking people's houses unless I've got something on them. Come now, get a hat and coat on; you're going with me."

"OK. Answer it," Dolan ordered.

Cilly opened the door to admit Mr. and Mrs. Perry, who lived next door in Apartment 1-B.

Mrs. Perry, a plump, neighborly little woman, held both hands out to Cilly in a motherly gesture.

"You poor dear," she murmured.

"We only heard about it today. I'm terribly, terribly sorry."

Dolan stood in the living room, taking in the situation.

"Come in, Mrs. Perry," Cilly urged. "Hello, Mrs. Perry. This is Sergt. Dolan, from police headquarters. Mr. and Mrs. Perry are my next-door neighbors, Sergeant."

Dolan acknowledged the introduction with a brief nod.

"Oh, this is just too terrible for you, my dear," Mrs. Perry went on. "And to have it happen the minute your young man was called away..."

Cilly's eyes widened. Dolan turned his shrewd glance on Mrs. Perry instantly.

"How did you know Jim was going away?" Cilly asked her.

"Oh, we met him that evening. Didn't we, John?"

"What was this?" Dolan asked abruptly.

"Just about midnight," Mr. Perry stated mildly. "Yes, it was exactly midnight."

Cilly's heart bounded as a new hope dawned.

"Just how and where did you meet the young man?" Dolan asked quickly.

Mr. Perry seemed a little surprised at the sudden questioning.

"We met him two blocks further down on State Ave," he replied. "You see, we'd stopped there a little after 11, wasn't it, dear?" Miss Pierce had offered to look after our fish while we were away. Mr. Kerrigan and another gentleman were here..."

"How did you know which was Kerrigan?" Dolan interrupted.

"Why, we had met him before.

One Sunday afternoon, we met him with Miss. Pierce down at Jones Beach. We all came home together.

So, of course, when I saw him in such a hurry Sunday night I was glad to offer him a lift. We'd gotten the car, and had a little bite down in the tavern, and then just as we started off we saw Mr. Kerrigan, running toward the subway. He seemed in such a hurry..."

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