

Dinner at Antoine's . . . By Frances P. Keyes

Synopsis: Why did Vance Ferrault, doctor of the murdered Odile St. Amant, Sabina Duplessis, her ex-sister, Carrese, her sister, and certain other characters in this story wish to visit Odile's tomb? The reader would like to know and so would Captain "Doc" Murphy who thinks he knows the name of the murderer. Meanwhile, Orson Foxworth, the shipping magnate; Amelie Lalonde, Odile's mother; and Tossie Pryde, her old nurse, are under suspicion. Joe Racina and his wife Judith are in the clear. Now go on with the story—

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

WITHOUT conscious effort, Judith Racina had managed to give a New England atmosphere to the Queen Anne house on Henry Clay Ave.; the bed-chambers, especially, were reminiscent of those of Farman Hill, where she had spent her youth. Exhausted as Carrese was, when she reached the Racinas' house, she was not oblivious to the quaint and restful charm of the spare room to which Judith unquestioningly led her.

"I'm going to bring you some hot milk," Judith told her. "If I could just sleep—"

"You will, Carrese. You'll be asleep before you know it."

Judith opened a bureau drawer and took from it a clean white nightgown which smelled of lavender. "You'll find new toothbrushes and several standard makes of soap and other toilet articles in the bathroom," Judith said.

WHEN CARESE awakened the room was full of sunlight. She jumped up and, crossing the floor, flung open the door into the hallway. A little girl, wearing a blue gingham dress, was standing near the threshold, clasping a dilapidated doll close to her plump little stomach. She was not a beautiful child, but she had appeal and individuality.

"Hello," she said softly, her pleasant little face brightening as she smiled. "I didn't wake you up, did I?"

"No, I waked up myself."

"I'm glad," Jenness said with evident relief. "Because Mommy said I wasn't to make any noise and I tried not to. But she told me to stay outside your door and let her know when I heard something."

"It's very kind of you to have let me have such a nice long sleep. But perhaps you'll tell your mother I'm awake now."

"Yes, I will."

IN A sudden burst of noise and speed, the little girl rushed down the stairs, shouting as she went. When Judith appeared with a laden tray, Jenness was at her side, carrying with great pride and care a covered dish for which there evidently had not been room among the others. After her mother had set the tray down on their guests' knees, Jenness removed the lid, disclosing hot, sugared doughnuts, and with her sugared, rather shy smile, silently offered them to Carrese.

"I know there ought to be just coffee to begin with," Judith said, "but it is late and Jenness was

was a little afraid this one would. Now I know they'll talk things through and be better friends than ever."

Her serene smile deepened. Obviously she had no qualms concerning the outcome of the discussion which was under way in the book-lined study and Carrese felt no curiosity about it.

Carrese looked gratefully around the peaceful room. She was profoundly moved. But her hostess, even more than her surroundings, was responsible for the healing balm which overspread her troubled spirit.

Judith folded up her knitting and rose. Then she smiled down at Carrese.

"You wouldn't believe I'd ever really been a nurse if I didn't tell you that it's now time for your nourishment," she said. "So I'm going to get you some." Judith bent over and kissed her guest.

IT WAS nearly five when Vance Ferrault finally came to see Carrese.

"You don't look like the same girl I saw 24 hours ago," Perrault informed her.

"That isn't strange. I don't feel like the same girl," Carrese replied. "I don't know how I'm ever going to thank you enough for letting me come here."

"Well, don't try. I don't need thanks. I only need to be sure you'll be well enough to go to New York. And I think I can be now, thanks to Judith. I wish I were as easy in my mind about Tossie as I am about you. I've been to see her today, as you asked me to do. And she's eating her heart out in that jail. However, I'm going to make a point of seeing Orson Foxworth about her before night. I believe he can help me to get her released right away."

"He can do almost anything he puts his mind on."

"Yes, that's true. He's a very resourceful man. He gets what he wants, one way or another. . . . Judith says she's offered to go home with you tomorrow and help you finish packing. That's a mighty good idea. Then suppose you let Joe take you down to the broadcast station. After that, perhaps you'd like to look in on Ruth Avery to say goodbye to her—I'm sure she'd be glad to have you, unless she has something else planned. And then—well, the rest of the train time, one way or another, till I train time. But if it doesn't, I think I've said enough to both your mother and your brother-in-law so that you won't have any coffee to begin with—that is, if you make up your mind you

FOR THE second time that afternoon, a slight nervousness had crept into her manner. Perrault answered her soothingly.

"No, I don't mind. I was only trying to give weight to my words. But perhaps I don't need to. I've never yet broken a promise I made you, have I, Carrese?"

"No," she said. "No, you never did. I don't believe you ever broke a promise in your life."

"You're right. But some of them have been pretty hard to keep. A good deal harder than this one will be."

He had taken her hand again, not like a physician examining a patient this time, but like an old friend revealing abiding affection.

"I'm thinking of going away, too, Carrese," he said gently. "I'm rather tired, as you say. I've felt the need of a rest for quite a while. But as long as Odile depended on me. . . . My other patients don't matter so much. Except you. And tomorrow night you'll be on your way to another city, you'll find another doctor among all your other new friends. Well, God bless you, my dear child. And if I don't see you again, goodbye."

He kissed her forehead. She put her arms around his neck, hugging him hard.

It was not until after Vance Perrault had gone and she was dressing, with happy anticipation of the evening, that Carrese realized she had forgotten to ask him to give back the key to the Lalonde tomb.

(To Be Continued)

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\$1,507,348 Cash For School Lunches

U. S. Department of Agriculture today allocated \$1,507,348 to Indiana to help finance the school lunch program. The state's school lunch program came from a total of \$64,625,000 in federal funds paid to the states and territories.

The department said school lunches were served last year to approximately one-fourth of the nation's school children under the program. Allocations were made according to the number of children of school age and the per capita income of each state.

Scout Troop to Sponsor Ice Cream Social

Boy Scout Troop 91 will sponsor an ice cream social in the parking area of Fidelity Trust Co., 410 E. 10th St., at 6 p. m. tomorrow. Funds from the social will be used in various troop activities during the coming year.

James F. Payne is general chairman of the assisting parents' committees and Scoutmaster Max Reise is chairman in charge of planning for the social.

Legion Post to Dedicate New \$100,000 Home

Formal dedication of the new \$100,000 home of Wayne Post 64, American Legion, will be Aug. 14 at Holt Road and Oliver Ave.

The dedication will climax a three-day fish fry, Aug. 11-13, to obtain funds for a community playground and park as a memorial to war dead.

Baseball bats autographed by members of the Indianapolis Indians will be given away during the celebration. Willard Thomas is chairman of the fish fry committee.

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