

FOURTH INSTALLMENT

SYNOPSIS: A card game is in session in Elmer Henderson's penthouse atop a New York skyscraper. The players are: Henderson, Police Inspector Flaherty, Martin Frazier, Archie Doane, Max Michaelis, and his friend, Williams, a stockbroker. They are waiting for Stephen Fitzgerald. When he fails to appear, a telephone call brings the information that he is out with a girl. Fitzgerald and Henderson are both romantically interested in Lydia Lane, the famous actress, but Archie Doane reveals that she is engaged to marry him.

Doane leaves the party early when Fitzgerald fails to appear. A short time later he telephone Inspector Flaherty with the frantic news that he has found Fitzgerald and Miss Lane dead in Lydia Lane's penthouse apartment.

When Flaherty and the medical examiner reach the apartment they find that Miss Lane is still alive, she is rushed to a hospital where she had transfusion and care provided by a doctor here.

The door opening from the elevator landing into the foyer of Miss Lane's apartment proved to be equipped with two locks, one the regular Yale lock provided by the owners of the building, the other a police-though proof lock which could be broken only by a special key.

"Not a trace, chief," replied the young detective. "I've looked into every place where a gun could be hidden and there isn't a sign of one. Either the guy that did the shooting took it away with him, or else he threw it away. The snow would hide it, you know."

"We'll keep that in mind, too," replied Inspector Flaherty, as he led the way to the rear of the apartment.

Under the beams of the pocket lights of Detective Martinelli, the three men from Headquarters searched the rear roof garden of the penthouse apartment showed the same unbroken expanse of fluffy snow as the narrow space in front had exhibited. The white surface was broken only by the footprints of a man, which led from the janitor's roof door around the elevator shaft and the kitchen extension of the penthouse, to the French door which gave access between Miss Lane's bedroom and the roof.

phen Fitzgerald, could you have substituted a loaded cartridge for the blank cartridge used in the picture and so have made it appear an accident?"

"What about it, Tony?" asked the Inspector of Detective Martinelli, "Find anything?"

"Not a trace, chief," replied the young detective. "I've looked into every place where a gun could be hidden and there isn't a sign of one. Either the guy that did the shooting took it away with him, or else he threw it away. The snow would hide it, you know."

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"I want a photograph of these footprints, and of the whole roof," said Inspector Flaherty to the camera man. "You've measured them?" he asked the Bertillon expert.

"Yes, and I've compared them with Mr. Doane's overshoes," was the reply. "They are his footprints without doubt."

"I'd like to inspect them carefully," said Max Michaelis. He borrowed Martinelli's searchlight, and as soon as the camera man had set off his flash and obtained his photographs, he scrutinized the tracks for several minutes. Then he stood up and threw the searchlight beams on the rungs of the iron ladder to the penthouse roof and the coping which bordered the main roof on all sides, and upon the chimney stack which projected above it, seven or eight feet high and some twenty feet to the rear of the doorway in which they stood.

could have stood here by the door, where we are now, his feet pointing toward it, and tossed the gun up on this penthouse roof, or he could have stood in the doorway and thrown it beyond the rear edge of the main roof into whatever courtyard there is between the high walls all around us.

"Now, I suggest that, if there is no reason for having the snow on the roof garden undisturbed, since it has been photographed, that we go to the end of the roof and see what the snow below in the courtyard looks like."

"Why couldn't he have gone thru to the front and thrown the pistol into the street?" demanded Inspector Flaherty. "It would have been harder to find there."

"Because, Dan, as you probably noticed, the front door and the windows of the studio had not been opened since the snow began until we opened that door a minute ago. You recall how the banked up snow on the doorsill tumbled inward when you opened the door?" replied Michaelis.

"Not until after the men from Headquarters arrived and let me in there I hardly moved from the chair at the telephone table, after the door opening from the elevator landing into the foyer of Miss Lane's apartment proved to be equipped with two locks, one the regular Yale lock provided by the owners of the building, the other a police-though proof lock which could be broken only by a special key."

"I called up the Inspector, until I rose to open the door for the detectives."

The searchlights revealed an enclosed courtyard at the rear of the building as the party looked over the coping and down into an L-shaped well, bounded on all sides by the walls of the buildings. It was obvious that nobody could have thrown anything over the roof of any of the adjoining buildings and there was not a mark or blemish in the unbroken surface of the snow below them, so far as could be seen from where they stood.

"Go down and get the janitor, Tony," Inspector Flaherty ordered the detective. "Have him let you out into that yard and see if there is any spot we have overlooked."

"First, I want to look over Fitzgerald's body with the doctor, here. What's the matter, Archie? Catch him, somebody!" he cried, as Doane white-faced, reeled and would have fallen but for Max Michaelis.

The lawyer eased the actor into a chair. "It's that," he gasped, finally, with a motion of his head toward the sheet-covered form on the floor. "I can't stand it; never could, I'm sorry."

"Drink this," said Frazier, who had poured another generous libation from Henderson's bottle. The medical examiner took Doane's wrist in his hand and felt the pulse.

"Better go into the other room and lie down," suggested the doctor. "I'll lend you a hand."

"It's genuine enough," he reported, as he rejoined the others. "Not uncommon for the sight or even the thought of blood to unnerve a man who has that peculiar sensitiveness."

"Wouldn't do for a policeman," commented Dan Flaherty, grimly, as he turned back the sheet that had been thrown over the huddled form of what had been Stephen Fitzgerald.

"I don't follow you," replied the medical examiner. "The position is a trifle distorted, but that may not signify anything."

"Well, I have," said Dan Flaherty. "I never saw one fall back ward so. They fall forward, every time. Sitting down, they fall forward always the same."

"This is the one that went thru the girl's arm, all right," he said. "It's a thirty-two calibre. What do you find, Doc?"

"The bullet went thru the man," said the medical examiner. "Missed all the ribs and came out in the middle of the back. Thru the clothes and all. But it doesn't seem to be under him."

He poked about with a metal probe in the pool of rapidly clotting blood which the turning over of the body had disclosed, and upon which the Inspector now turned his search light.

"No bullet there," agreed Flaherty. "Therefore, he was not shot while lying here. The next thing we've got to find out is where the bullet went; then we may be able to tell where he was when he was shot. If he was shot inside of the apartment, the bullet is still here, for there isn't a crack in a pane of glass. Now, to speed things up, I wish you would all help."

Michaelis and Frazier agreed willingly, and the two Headquarters men took the request as an order. To each of them the Inspector assigned one of the walls of the bedroom. "I'll take the floor and the ceiling," he said. "Go over every square inch of wall, woodwork, furniture, until we find that bullet."

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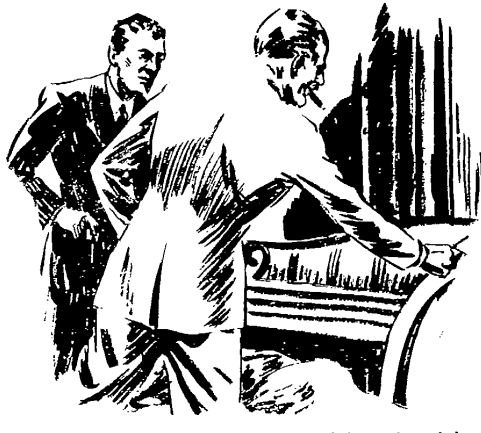
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The Inspector poked his finger into a tiny hole in the upholstery.

Advertisement for 'I Pick 'em Up' by L. Ellisevons, featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman.

THE END OF THE TRAIL. It was getting dark. The road was bordered by dense woods on either side. A few miles back I had passed a sign, announcing the fact that this was the highest point on the state highway system.

"I was thirty-one years old I met a real woman. We fell in love with each other and were married."

"I was born and raised in a small town in New York, Fort Jer-vis," he said. "Never had any real trade but could do most anything, got to be sort of a handy man. I made a good living and thought of getting married like most young fellows, but the girls around those parts wanted some one who could be a sport and dress up in swell clothes and entertain them with fancy talk. I was a quiet sort, a faithful to the memory of his sweetheart and wife."

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THE HOUSE OF HAZARDS By Mac Arthur

A multi-panel comic strip titled 'THE HOUSE OF HAZARDS' by Mac Arthur. The panels show a man in a suit talking to a woman in a dress, with various humorous dialogue bubbles.

Country South H...

July 26.—Howard Healed from Buffalo Sunday mother, Mrs. Lillian Healed granddaughter, Rose Healed returned home in moon and Mrs. Healed and stayed on with the Deans days. Mrs. Healed will be as Miss Lillian Sullivan resided on the Sullivan Gus Lynch now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eugene Griggs, Saturday Mrs. Howard Dean was a ville shopper Saturday and also called on her Mr. and Mrs. John Danhier. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Y Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Charles Moon.

—Mr. and Mrs. Glen over and son Gerald, re their week's vacation spent Saturday night with Mrs. Wm. Beihl of Ping Mr. and Mrs. Leo H one day last week in B Mr. Horan consulted a refer to an inju some months ago to his dilling at Allentown.

Mrs. Anna Benjamin ness caller in Andover a Monday afternoon and ed to Petrolia where s supper guest of her sist ily. Mrs. Roy Hulbert Doris Hulbert returned to spend a few days Mr. and Mrs. Newton son Bruce, called on M Clayton Baldwin, Mond Clayton Dawey Northru Earl Schoonover motre ship with Mrs. Doris B of the Andover Juvenile the Lucille Grange me they at a social a very meeting of the sec County Rally The J Cuba took the chairs ar Grange to order about the afternoon, with g Mrs. R. Fidd, State participant and Mrs. M. M. M. of Danvi Headed Whitman, Ju of Inavale. The Ju officers of Andover ex Juvenile degree in a v manner with a fine pro sion and singing and a ed, a Wife." Mrs. B very interesting talk of Grange established for Mr. and Mrs. Howard family. Mr. and Mrs. Dougherty and family, Everett "Lark and da and Mrs. Wm. Joyce an Mr. and Mrs. Paul M joyed a picnic dinner late near Howard, S

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