

The Road to Bagdad

By GEORGE GIBBS

SYNOPSIS—Beautiful Camilla Dean is touring Egypt and Palestine with a party of Americans. On the voyage she has many admirers, among them a wealthy Syrian known as Joseph Asad, in reality Hassan Isar, leader of fanatical Arabs in Palestine. She meets also the English-bred American, Ronald Barker, known as El Kerak, mysterious leader of the tribes opposed to Hassan. Camilla accepts the attention of Hassan to gain information helpful to Barker, who has warned her that she may be in danger if she continues her tour. She accepts Hassan's invitation to go to Damascus, accompanied by some of her American friends. She visits the home of Hassan's father, the sheik Arif-el-Arif, where she is joined by Hassan who renews his proposal of marriage, but she refuses him.

CHAPTER XII

It was then that the sheik in the scarlet pelisse, who had been riding behind her, rode up and took the bride of her horse from the man on her right who drew rein and took up the rear. "I regret, mademoiselle," he said at last, in execrable French, "that I was obliged to make you come with me against your will. But you will not be hurt or treated badly if you do as I command."

"But what of my friends who are still alive? What of the bus with me one to drive it?"

He made a deprecatory gesture. "It was bad that the big man should kill my companions. If he had not shot them no harm would have come. He is a God-forsaken man."

"You haven't heard the end of this," she said angrily as her courage returned. "There must be some law, even in this God-forsaken country."

"Pardon, mademoiselle," he said, with polite incomprehension. "Where are you taking me?" she asked. "Who is the man who planned this crime? And why do you take me instead of the others?"

The sheik moved one shoulder and a hand as a gesture of incomprehension. There seemed no hope for her,

less hope even than for the other survivors of the disaster.

It was toward the middle of the afternoon that Camilla's captor rose in his stirrups and pointed to a hill that rose above the surrounding plain. As they drew near she saw at its base the black ghostlike tents of a Bedouin encampment. Horses, camels and dromedaries were tethered to ropes pegged along the ground. "We shall rest here," the sheik said politely.

She made no comment and rode forward, trying to find new courage for the new adventure, whatever it was. Palm trees grew near the hill and extended out into the desert beyond. At the flap of the largest tent she was invited to dismount, but to her chagrin she had to be lifted to the ground.

Then with the assistance of a girl who had now appeared she sank upon a divan in the tent and, with difficulty, relaxed her aching limbs. The girl brought water to drink and a bowl to bathe the dust from her face, then stood by as impassive as the riders who had brought her here.

Apparently Camilla was to be treated with politeness, for after a while the Bedouin girl brought a dish of lentil soup, a red pottage of the same recipe, probably, for which Esau sold his birthright. This did much to restore her mind and body. As she sipped the soup she asked questions, but the girl gave signs of incomprehension, her slow bovine gaze completing the conviction of ignorance and stupidity. Then, as if to atone for her mental deficiencies, she carefully arranged the pillows on the divan and by childish pantomime suggested that Camilla should go to sleep.

And now while she tried to think of poor Josie, Janet and Mrs. Williamson, and to wonder what might be done to help them, she sank back in utter exhaustion. Poor Slim! He was in her last waking thought. Slim had been the cause of the bloodshed and had paid heavily for his impulse.

It was quite dark when she awoke, dark and cool. She pulled the silken robe over her and wondered how long she had been asleep; then remembered that it didn't really matter what time it was. Of course, escape was impossible and even if she had ever considered it, the distant sounds that now came to her—the sharp yelps from a pack of jackals fighting over a dead animal somewhere, the howl of a wolf or the distant wailing laugh of hyenas—would soon have driven the thought of escape from her head. But after a while these sounds diminished, became a part of the night itself, and with the moaning of the wind, the quivering of the tent flaps made a desert symphony that soothed her to sleep again.

In the morning the Bedouin girl, whose name Camilla never learned, came into the tent with Camilla's dressing case, a larger basin of water, towels and soap, and placed them on a table. And when she had bathed and taken coffee, Camilla found a cigarette and smoked. As she did so, her mind clearing rapidly, the thought of Hassan came to her again. Hassan and not Ronnie. Hassan more ominous than ever after what had happened. Who else but Hassan would have selected her from among her companions and brought her here into this far-off place? She remembered with clear comprehension the slow smile of her captor when the name of Hassan Isar had been mentioned. Hassan had planned this abduction, just as he had planned the conspiracy against Ronnie. She was sure of it now and she was frightened. Her insecurity and disloyalty to Hassan now came to haunt her.

Whatever Hassan's sins against Ronnie, he had committed none against Camilla. From the beginning he would have done anything she asked. She had betrayed him again, and again, and now her transgressions were finding her out. If Hassan had made her a prisoner she had little to hope for, and she was willing to admit that whatever happened to her would be nothing less than she deserved. Ronnie had said that Hassan was politically powerful in this country; otherwise, she now realized, his men would not have dared to hold up Michael's bus and kill Slim.

Just after sunset there was a sound of a rifle shot in the distance, an answering shot nearby, and an immediate commotion outside. The Bedouin girl rushed from the kitchen and the brigand who had captured Camilla yesterday passed before the flap of the tent in the sunlight and leaped on his horse. She wanted to run outside, but the Bedouin girl interposed, pointing to a camp chair that she had brought forward to the table. She gave a series of grunts which Camilla interpreted to mean that she was not permitted to leave the tent.

And yet in spite of her knowledge that she had brought all this upon herself she could not feel that Has-

san would dare molest her on his own terms. Wasn't the reason why he preferred her because she could deceive him as she had always done? Wasn't this abduction merely his own way of making their caravan into the desert an accomplished fact in spite of her opposition?

His entrance at the flap of the tent was not in the least alarming. "Of course you know that if it hadn't been for your friend Slim, nothing would have happened yesterday."

His voice was deep but mild and she gained courage. "Nothing, of course," she said, "but the holdup of an American bus and the abduction of an American girl traveling in it."

"Granted. I intended to bring you here no matter what happened."

"And how are you going to answer for it?"

"I don't intend to answer at all. I'm not supposed to know anything about the holdup or about you."

"My government will have a word to say when it knows the truth."

"Who will tell?"

"Dr. Williamson, Torelli, Janet, Josie—"

"And how will they learn that I had anything to do with it?"

"I will tell them after you let me go."

He laughed jovially. Apparently he had determined to get as much pleasure out of the situation as possible. "Come, Camilla," he said. "Let's wait and quarrel after dinner. I hope the meal will be a good one." He clapped his hands three times and a tall Nubian appeared wearing the linen cap of a chef. He bowed as Hassan spoke and then the Bedouin girl returned, setting the table with a fine linen cloth and proper silver and porcelain furnishings.

"I think you'll be glad to have good news of your friends," Hassan said. "The great adventure of your friend Michael having ended in disaster, he thought it best to return to Damascus. He was not badly hurt, just a bullet through the flesh of his shoulder. Torelli drove, I'm told, and managed very well. Your cousin Josie is worried about you, of course, and I have no way of reassuring her. Miss Priestly is very happy to be back at the hotel with Torelli, and Kitty Trimble is on her way to Beirut."

"And you think you can keep a story like this quiet?"

"It will be a nine days' wonder and then forgotten."

"Not with the body of Slim as evidence."

"There will be no body of Slim," he said. "When there's no body there's no crime. They tell me it was Slim who made the trouble. He'll make no more."

She sat silent, wondering how she could have tolerated Hassan for so long. He went out to bathe his face and hands, leaving her in a misery of uncertainty. There now seemed no hope for her in any direction... none of her old weapons would do. She was done—finished—

(Continued Next Week)

NEW OLDS TO BE EXHIBITED OCTOBER 5, WINKLER SAYS

W. R. Winkler of Boone, local Oldsmobile dealer, and members of his sales staff, returned yesterday following a preview of the new Oldsmobile B-44. Factory executives from Lansing, Mich., assisted by zone officials, conducted the meeting in Charlotte. Details of the Oldsmobile's sales and advertising plans, as well as company policies for the coming model year, were outlined to the retail selling organization.

"Motorists are promised the biggest surprise in the history of the automobile business when they view the new Oldsmobile B-44," Mr. Winkler asserted. "October 5 has been scheduled as the official announcement date for Oldsmobile, and on that day the product that has been in the development stages for the past year will be unveiled nationally," he added. "Regardless of any existing opinions pertaining to inferior quality in the 1942 automobiles, Oldsmobile will introduce three lines of cars that are definitely better looking, better lasting and better built than any cars in the 44 year history of the company."

Questioned regarding the Oldsmobile B-44, Mr. Winkler stated that advancements such as new double duty bumpers, heavier frame, more fire power in the engines, and larger braking areas, place more emphasis than ever on ruggedness and dependability.

Hydra-matic drive, the revolutionary feature introduced by Oldsmobile two years ago, which eliminates the clutch pedal and all shifting gears, will be offered as optional equipment. Factory officials estimate that due to the ease with which hydra-matic drive is operated and the contribution it makes to safer motoring, the percentage of Oldsmobiles equipped with this feature will be substantially increased during 1942. More than 130,000

Oldsmobiles with hydra-matic drive are now in daily service, it was announced.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Assistant veterinarian, \$2,600 a year and junior veterinarian, \$2,600 a year, for employment in the bureau of animal industry, department of agriculture, the U. S. public health service, federal security agency, and the war department. For both positions applicants must have completed the full course of study in a veterinary college of recognized standing; and for the assistant grade experience is required in the inspection of milk and dairy products and the establishments producing such products. Applications may be filed at the commission's Washington office until further notice.

Junior Multigraph Operator, \$1,440 a year, open to men only, as there are adequate registers of female eligibles. Applicants must show that within the last five years they have had at least 6 full months, or the time-equivalent, of paid experience in operating a power-driven multigraph machine. Three months must have been in setting and distributing type and in the composition of complex forms. Applications must be filed at the commission's Washington office not later than November 13, 1941.

Full information as to the requirements for these examinations and application forms, may be obtained at the local postoffice.

LEGAL NOTICES

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING \$4,000 STREET IMPROVEMENT BONDS

Be it ordered by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Blowing Rock:

Section 1. That the Town of Blowing Rock issue its bonds, pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act, 1921, as amended, in an amount not exceeding \$4,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of reconstructing the surface of streets in said town.

Section 2. That a tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest of said bonds shall be annually levied and collected.

Section 3. That a statement of the debt of the town has been filed with the clerk and is open to public inspection.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall take effect thirty days after its first publication unless in the meantime a petition for its submission to the voters is filed under the Municipal Finance Act, 1921, as amended, and that in such event it shall take effect when approved by the voters of the town at an election as provided in said act.

The foregoing ordinance was passed on the 7th day of October, 1941, and was first published on the 16th day of October, 1941.

Any action or proceeding questioning the validity of said ordinance must be commenced within thirty days after its first publication.

H. P. HOLSHOUSER, Clerk.

SALE OF LAND FOR CITY TAXES

By virtue of the power of sale vested in me by law as tax collector for the town of Boone, N. C., I will on Monday, November 3, 1941, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 12 m., at the city hall in said town, sell to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy taxes for the amounts indicated for the year 1940, the lands of the following delinquent taxpayers of the town of Boone, N. C.

This September 30, 1941.

MRS. RUTH McCONNELL, Tax Collector, Town of Boone.

Mrs. Fred Aldridge	\$13.10
I. S. Ayers	56.38
T. & L. Cafe	18.62
Carrie H. Bingham	25.62
D. L. Blount	9.83
Mrs. J. W. Brawley	13.10
J. R. Brinkley	11.23
E. O. Britain	1.87
M. F. Byers	2.34
R. G. Carroll	2.81
Miss Jennie Coffey	18.38
Ralph Coffey	10.30
Earl D. Cook	41.08
Mrs. Cora Council	28.64
J. Ed Cullers	6.71
Mrs. J. N. Davidson	1.87
Tom Davis	70.30
Laura A. Deal	9.83
Mrs. Edna Dellinger	7.37
Bernard Dougherty	14.11
J. Paul Fox	7.49
Elhel Garrison	2.70
Roy Hagaman	43.52
Rex Hagaman	21.63
Grady Hartley	14.61
Highland Furniture Co.	18.72
Mrs. Edna Hodges	23.61
Stuart Hodges	14.40
Hollar's Grocery Store	32.51
Letha Hoyle	1.42
A. L. Hunt	2.90
Mrs. Gene Holt	6.55
J. L. Huss	1.87
Mrs. W. R. Johnson	21.69
Carl Kuykendall	3.84
C. W. Kirkpatrick	4.92
Cassey Keever	7.37
A. W. Lippard	3.68
W. R. Lovill and Mrs. J. W. Brawley	35.57
Mrs. J. S. Lyons	23.14
J. A. & Lucille Luther	23.40
Ralph Mast	30.15
Mrs. Frank McGhee	29.48
Earl C. Norris	23.17
E. L. Payne	45.68
S. E. Phillips	9.36
E. S. Qualls	3.28
J. R. Reese	12.55
Mrs. C. A. Little-Reese	40.94
W. E. Rush	11.79
W. E. Setzer	7.68
Mrs. Elizabeth Sproles	7.71
Mrs. Helen Stallings	11.23
Ralph and Edna Stansberry	16.38
C. S. Stevenson	2.43
H. S. Storie	25.59
Will C. Walker	33.70
Mrs. J. L. Winkler	31.90

LEGAL NOTICES

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

(By Substitute Trustee)

Pursuant to the power and authority contained in a certain deed of trust dated the 6th day of February, 1941, executed by A. E. Hodges and wife, Mrs. Roberta B. Hodges, to R. W. Wilmoth, trustee, which deed of trust is duly registered in the office of the register of deeds of Watauga county in Book 33 at page 332, securing a certain note payable to Security Life and Trust Company, default having been made in the payments of said note as provided therein and in the performance of certain covenants set out in said deed of trust and demand of foreclosure having been made by the holder of said indebtedness, the undersigned trustee, having been substituted as trustee, for R. G. Wilmoth, said substitution being duly recorded in the office of the Register of deeds of Watauga county, North Carolina, in Book 53, at page 525, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Boone, Watauga county, North Carolina, at 12 o'clock noon on the 3rd day of November, 1941, the following described real estate, to wit:

Lying and being in the town of Boone at the intersection of Grand Boulevard and Queen street, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning on a stake at the intersection of Queen Street and the west margin of Grand Boulevard and runs with the south margin of Queen Street, north 69 west 174 feet to a stake corner to Mrs. J. W. Jones; thence with Mrs. J. W. Jones south 35 west 75 feet to a stake; thence south 69 east 174 feet to a stake in the west margin of Grand Boulevard; thence north 35 east 75 feet to the beginning. Being the same property conveyed to A. E. Hodges by Mrs. J. W. Jones et al. Recorded in Book 52 at page 513.

This 3rd day of October, 1941.

N. W. MITCHELL, Substituted Trustee.

NOTICE

North Carolina, Watauga County.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust, dated May 19, 1927, executed by A. C. Reece and wife, Lola Reece, to W. E. McNeill, trustee, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Watauga county, in Book 9 at page 351, securing certain notes payable to the Bank of Glade Springs, and default having been made in the payment as provided therein, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Boone, Watauga county, North Carolina, on the 26th day of October, 1941, at 12 o'clock noon, the following described real estate, to wit:

First Tract: Beginning on a sugar tree, George Hayes' old corner, west 77½ east 75 poles to a poplar; north 70 east 54 poles to a stake; north 4 east 42 poles to a stake; west 80 poles to a stake; then north 84 west 42 poles to a cucumber; then north 3 west 30 poles to a stake; south 85½ west 11½ poles to a stake; then south 59 west 5 poles to a stake; south 72 west 9 poles to a stake; west 72 poles to a stake; south 87½ west 12 poles to a stake; north 87 west 4 poles to a stake; north 83½ west 6½ poles to a stake. Wilson heirs' corner; then south 5½ west 38 poles to a stake; east 3 poles to a stake; south 5½ west 16 poles to a stake; south 86½ east 38 poles to a sugar tree; thence east 14 poles to a stake; then south 47 poles to the beginning, containing 70 acres, more or less.

Second Tract: Beginning on a rock and runs north 33 west 16 poles to a birch; then north 32 east 68 poles to a dogwood at two rocks on a ridge; thence south 40 east 8 poles to a chestnut on top of the ridge; thence south 30 east 10 poles to a small chestnut; thence south 42 east 26 poles to a chestnut; thence south 66 east 6 poles to a stake on top of the ridge; then south 42 east 30 poles to a chestnut on top of said ridge; then south 10 west 46½ poles to a white oak, Solomon Isaacs' corner; west 10 poles to a stake, the Rick's corner; north 45 west 59 poles to a white oak on a flat ridge; south 60 west 32 poles to the beginning, containing 32 acres, more or less.

This 26th day of September, 1941.

W. E. McNEILL, Trustee.



ONE LINE OF DEFENSE THAT Must REMAIN IMPREGNABLE

Of vital importance to the South's security is the dependability of its far-reaching telephone lines.

On their constantly maintained efficiency depends continuity and flexibility of communication between military, industrial, and civilian forces necessary to the nation's defense.

In this crisis, Southern Bell is faced with the three-fold task of giving "all-out" service to defense, industry, and the public—a task requiring every ounce of its resources.

In most cities and towns in the nine southern states we serve, the demand upon our services is without precedent. In many of these places, mass troop and civilian concentrations, in addition to increased industrial demands, have made the continuation of normal telephone service difficult.

In these critical times, telephone workers ask your cooperation and appreciative understanding of the problems which confront them, knowing that you, too, are "all-out" for defense—that it is our common problem to keep telephone lines of defense impregnable.

D. & P. Pipe Works

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

We ARE Buying Ivy and Laurel

Burls. Those guilty of spreading rumors that we have stopped buying are unfair competitors.

Bring your burls to Bone. No limit to quantity.

D. & P. PIPE WORKS