

OVERNIGHT GUEST

BEN AMES WILLIAMS

THE STORY THIS FAR: Adam Bruce, FBI operator, Inspector Tope and Mrs. Tope met in the Misin woods. Tope found a man murdered at auto camp operated by Bee Dewain. At first he was believed to be Mr. Ledforge, head of New England utilities. Holdom, a friend of Ledforge, had his chauffeur, Kell, hit him over the head and leave him alongside of the road. A car believed to have been used in the murder was raised from the quarries where it was found. A woman's body was discovered inside. Having received proof that dope was found in the stomach of the murdered man, Tope asked doctor to examine the woman in the car. He also asked New York to check on pilot of Ledforge.

CHAPTER XII

He was glad when at last Doctor Medford arrived, and Tope desired to hear what the medical examiner had to say. "She was strangled, Tope," the doctor reported. "An ignition wire knotted tight around her throat. I haven't had a chance to check on the drug end yet; came ahead so as to get things ready here." Tope frowned. "Is she big or little?" he asked. "Large for a woman."

Tope was a man not easily shaken; but he was shaken now. He sat down as though wearily; and Joe Dane said derisively: "Your evidence isn't coming through, Tope. Quite a bit of static." Adam cried loyally: "But there's still Holdom and Kell!" "Why, sure," Mat Cumberland agreed, relieved. "We'll send for them. Joe, you go telephone." Joe Dane went out; but Tope said slowly: "You know, Mat, I've got an idea that this whole thing has busted on me. We'll have to figure something else—some other way." And he added, almost apologetically: "It's just a hunch; but I'm willing to make a small bet that neither one of them—"

He had no time to state the wager. For Joe Dane returned. "You've spilled it now, Tope!" Dane cried furiously. "You wouldn't let me question Holdom! And you told Kell his wife was dead! You've had your way so far, made a mess of the whole thing. Now I'll take charge."

Tope looked at him thoughtfully. "Then she was drugged first," Tope said crisply. "He couldn't have overpowered her. He's a small man."

Steps outside; and Cumberland and Joe Dane were here. "Banion's right behind us with the ambulance," Cumberland reported. "Tope, Joe says he can't stand this waiting any longer. Says if you don't do something, he's going to." Adam saw Joe Dane grin slightly. "Why, Joe's right," Tope agreed. "I guess it's a time to clear it up. We'll want to get ready to make the arrest."

"Well, I'm glad to hear it, old man," Cumberland said with a heavy relief. "Who is it?" Tope hesitated. "If I told you myself, you wouldn't believe me," he confessed. "I want you to hear two or three things first from others. Then you'll see I'm right."

"Who?" Cumberland asked. "Who are your witnesses?" "Well," said Tope, calmly yet with a deep triumph in his tones, "first one is Holdom. I know enough about what happened so I can make him talk now. He won't want to, because he's in it; but he doesn't know there's a murder in the business. When he does, he's bound to tell the truth. He wasn't in on the killing—just the kidnap end. He'll talk, to clear himself of a murder charge."

He had their still attention now. "And the next is Kell," Tope continued. "He knows just as much as Holdom knows. He's lied to us so far; but he won't lie now. He'll tell all he knows—because his wife was murdered, and he loved her. I saw him awhile ago. He'll talk."

He looked from one to another; wagged his head. "You'll think Holdom is lying," he warned them, "You'll say it couldn't have happened the way he'll tell you it did happen. But I'll show you that it could. Bob Flint was Holdom's pilot. He flew up here Friday night—with a passenger; spent most of the night up here. But he had a girl here, Sally Tennant. Her father's Holdom's gardener. If I know anything about the way a young fellow acts, Flint saw Sally while he was up here. Probably he told her who his passenger was, warned her not to tell."

"But she'll tell now; because that passenger drugged young Flint, after they got back near New York, and after he got out of the plane—drugged him so that Flint went to sleep in the air and crashed and was killed. I'm having an autopsy on Flint's body to prove he was drugged."

He concluded: "So there you are! Sally Tennant will tell you who Flint's passenger was that night, and Kell will tell you what happened to Ledforge on the way up here Friday; and Holdom will tell you why it happened."

"And if you don't believe them, Doctor Loud, the dentist down in Ridgcomb, can possibly tell you what kind of teeth Ledforge had."

Doctor Medford protested in some surprise: "Doctor Loud? But he's dead, Tope."

The Inspector whirled on him, stared at him. "Dead?" he echoed. "Why, yes. He dropped dead two or three weeks ago."

Tope seemed to tremble. "Dropped dead?" he repeated. He shook his head. "We needed him," he confessed.

Ned Quill came in; and Tope spoke quickly. "You see the Tennant girl, Quill?" "Sure, had a long talk with her," the trooper replied, and he added: "She'd been to New York to young Flint's funeral. Or whatever you call it. They had him cremated."

investigations to the point of completion, only to see it collapse like a house of cards. Mrs. Tope and Bee Dewain and Mr. Eberly waited at the Mill. Presently Ned Quill arrived, seeking Tope; but Tope was not here.

"He ought to be, by now," the trooper protested. "He left five-ten minutes before I did."

"Left where?" Mrs. Tope asked. "Was he coming here?" "I thought he was," Ned declared; and—their questions prompting him—he told the story of that scene in Will Banion's chapel, when Tope's case crumbled and Joe Dane took charge.

"I'd like to slap Joe's face!" said Bee hotly. But Mrs. Tope only asked: "Where is Inspector Tope?"

"Why, ma'am, he left us there in Banion's. I stopped in here to tell him not to take it too hard. I'll jog up to the quarry now—see how they're doing with the car. Tell the old man I'm for him, will you?"

He started his engine with a kick, and wheeled out into the highroad and so away.

Ten minutes later, Tope and Adam reached the Mill. These two had been some time in finding, in North Madderson, the things Tope sought; and when they had secured these objects and stowed them somehow, well concealed, in the back of the little car, Adam looked at the old man inquiringly.

"What's all that for?" he asked. Tope chuckled. "Why, Adam, he said cheerfully. "I thought I'd take you out to shoot a fish!"

Adam looked at him; and after a moment he said gravely: "Inspector, I've gone along blindly so far. But—if you're suggesting that I shoot anything but fish, I'll have to know where we stand."

Tope looked at him. "Why, Adam," he suggested, "if you saw one man trying to kill another man, and no way to stop him but to shoot him, you wouldn't wait for explanations, would you?"

"You expect some one else to be killed?" "I expect there'll be a try to kill two people, before night," Tope assented simply.

"Who?" Adam demanded. "What two people?" "Mr. Eberly," said Tope. "And Miss Ledforge."

Adam ejaculated: "Why? Who—" Tope hesitated. "Well, Adam," he said, "you ought to be able to see it by now." And while Adam drove more slowly, listening, he explained: "This business builds up like a brick house, one brick at a time. First thing, a dead man under the bed in Faraway. Second thing, two people put him there. Third thing, they stayed in Little Bear, and one of them was a woman. Fourth thing, the man was small, and he knew Kell. He knew Kell because he imitated Kell's way of talking, and he wore Kell's shoes with the heel-plates on them. Fifth thing, they came in Holdom's coupe, and the woman was Mrs. Kell."

He added: "Those were facts; and Bob Flint being dead was another fact. And that telephone call from New York Saturday to report the stolen car was another fact. The dead man being Ledforge wasn't a fact, but it might get to be. Then the hair-oil on the dead man's head was a fact; and the hair-oil on the pillow in Little Bear was a fact. The two of them together made another fact."

But Tope said: "Here we are—here's the Mill. Wait till we leave here, son. We won't stay long."

Bee and Mrs. Tope were quick to meet them, Bee voluble with sympathy for the Inspector. But Mrs. Tope, watching them, thought him in no need of sympathy or reassurances.

"Why, I take that kindly of you, Miss Dewain. But he couldn't be Joe Dane and do different," the Inspector assured Bee. "Don't go expecting people to be different from what they are." He turned to Mrs. Tope. "I was thinking," he said, "that before we pull out of here, you might want to make a call somewhere. Like as not Miss Dewain would go with you. Mr. Eberly still here and all right, is he?"

Eberly said from the doorway: "Quite all right, Inspector." And Mrs. Tope asked, surprised: "Call? On whom?"

Tope said: "Why, on Miss Ledforge. She's a real nice woman. Why don't you get Miss Dewain to drive you down there?" He looked at his watch. "It's going on three o'clock. Time you get prettier up and get there, it will be just about time for her to give you a cup of tea."

She hesitated. "I think I know what's in your mind," she admitted. "Ned Quill told us you sent for Mr. Ledforge's dentist. But—is that possible?"

"It's bound to be," he assured her soberly. And he added: "I'll be with Mr. Eberly, and you'll be with Miss Ledforge." He looked at Bee, here beside them. "You ladies, like as not you'll meet Mr. Ledforge. He's due home this afternoon."

And Bee, watching him, cried softly: "You haven't given up? You're still working on it? I'll take Mrs. Tope down!" Her eyes were shining. "What do you want us to do?"

"What do you want us to do?"

"What do you want us to do?"

"What do you want us to do?"

(TO BE CONTINUED)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D. Of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for February 17

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TRUE TO A GREAT HERITAGE

LESSON TEXT: Deuteronomy 4:1, 32-40. MEMORY SELECTION: He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered.—Psalm 111:4.

A goodly heritage is the gift of God to his people. By faith they must enter into it and possess it. Thus they honor him who has promised, and they witness to all the earth that he is a great God and a loving heavenly Father. It magnifies his name to believe on his word and to act on his promises.

Israel, having failed God and plunged themselves into years of wandering by their unbelief when they just came up to the Promised Land, were now ready to go over Jordan and take the land.

A new generation had grown up, and for their instruction Moses rehearsed the history of the people, repeated the promises of God, and renewed their remembrance of his law. The book of Deuteronomy gives that "second law"—actually a review of what had been given before.

As they entered upon God's rich heritage for them they were admonished to:

I. Hearken to God's Law (v. 1). To hearken means more than to hear and forget. It carries with it the giving of attention to what is heard with the purpose of doing something about it.

God's law, his statutes and judgments are for the good of his people. They are not designed to limit their freedom, but to provide the channels through which they shall be most free to live and to accomplish that which is good and noble and useful.

Two things were assured to Israel if they hearkened to the law of God. They would first of all "live." This does not mean only that they should escape death, but that they might enter into the fullness of life.

"The Bible teaches that we are free to choose between a high grade of life or a low grade, between a life which involves fellowship with God or a daily existence which means nothing more than the enjoyment of animal comforts and following our own willful ways" (Earl L. Douglass).

The second result of obeying God's law would be their going into and possessing the land which God gave them. There is victory and attainment, as well as blessed fellowship for the one who obeys God. That is true today as it was in the time of Moses.

II. Remember God's Love (vv. 32-36).

The loving mercies of God toward his people had revealed his infinite greatness and glory.

He revealed himself in the fire—and they might well have been consumed by it—yet he graciously spoke to them instead of destroying them. They were to recall, too, that he had done a mighty and wonderful thing in taking them out of the powerful hand of Egypt and making them into a people for his name.

Sad is the state of the soul of the man who has lost his sense of the miraculous. To live in the midst of the constant demonstration of God's power and his mercy, and to see and feel nothing but the commonplace touch of humdrum daily life, is to be blind and deaf—yes, to be dead spiritually.

Is he any less powerful today? Certainly not! He is still the God of the miraculous and nowhere is that divine energy more evident than in the spiritual life of man.

The wonders of God in creation were rehearsed for Israel. They learned of his care for his people. "But far more wonderful are the works of God in the new creation and his infinite care for his people redeemed from a ruined race, and made inheritors of eternal residence in the heavenly Canaan" (Hight C. Moore).

III. Depend on God's Promise (vv. 37-40).

The Promised Land was before them, but it was for them to go in and possess it. There were warfare and struggle ahead, mighty warlike peoples to overcome. Were they able for it? No, not in their own strength!

How were they to accomplish this formidable task? By counting on God. He had promised to drive out the nations now holding the land. He is a God not only in heaven, but also on earth (v. 39). The people who believe him may go forward expecting miracles to happen.

Obedience to God's law brings fellowship with the eternal and omnipotent One, and the confident assurance that he will bring victory and the full accomplishment of his will for the obedient believer.

That is as true now as ever. Yes, let's be accurate and say that it is more true than ever, for believers now are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God who makes real in and through them all the grace and beauty and power of God.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS Well-Fitting Slip and Pantie Set Favorite Costume With Teen-Agers



Slip and Pantie Ensemble. A BEAUTIFULLY fitting slip and pantie ensemble in a wide range of sizes. Built-up shoulders are comfortable and stay in place. So easy to make you'll want several sets to wear with your new spring clothes. Use rayon crepe or satin in white or tea rose, or if you like, taffeta in a darker shade.

Pattern No. 8887 is designed for sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Size 12, skirt, 1 1/2 yards of 35 or 36-inch; blouse, 1 1/2 yards of 35-inch; 4 yards ribbon; 4 yards ric rac.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT. 1150 Sixth Ave. New York, N. Y. Enclose 25 cents in coins for each pattern desired. Pattern No. _____ Size _____ Name _____ Address _____

Pattern No. 8952 comes in sizes 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 40. Size 24, slip, requires 2 1/2 yards of 35 or 36-inch fabric; panties, 1 1/2 yards; 3 yards lace edging.

Skirt and Blouse. DELIGHT of every teen-age miss is the dirndl skirt and gay peasant blouse. Juniors who sew their own can make this outfit in no time at all. Beading with narrow ribbon run through high-lights the blouse—the side-button skirt has two rows of ric rac for accent. Wearable and tubbable.

Household Hints

When the family tires of the usual breakfast food, serve big bowls of freshly popped corn with milk or cream, and sugar. It is a swell change.

Book shelves should be cleaned and painted, and books frequently dusted, to prevent the breeding of moths, silverfish, or other book devouring insects.

When laundering woollens, be sure to use plenty of soapuds. It minimizes the rubbing, and therefore preserves the garment longer.

Hold artificial flowers a safe distance away from a steaming teakettle, and steam will coax out the wrinkles. If edges are soiled, trim them down and ruffle them anew over the edge of scissors.

You can make dress and apron pockets more sturdy by laying a piece of tape on the underside of the garment in line with the pocket top. Stitch it in with the corners.

GRANDMA SPEAKIN'...



Never knock a fellow for tryin' to make an honest dollar. Hikin' yourself up the ladder of success is hard enough 'thout tryin' to knock others off.

A Table-Grade Margarine is what folks want for their table—an' that means Nu-Maid. It's the only margarine that's certified by the maker to be Table-Grade.

I always say, a helpin' hand is worth two that push.

Say, you know, "Table-Grade" means top quality in margarine. That's why Nu-Maid Margarine is just dandy for makin' extra-special pies and cakes. Next time you see that fellow who sells you groceries, ask him for Table-Grade Nu-Maid Margarine.



Get sweeter, tastier bread!

use FLEISCHMANN'S FRESH ACTIVE YEAST



FULL-STRENGTH! Fleischmann's fresh active Yeast starts working right away! All the strength of the yeast brings out all the flavorful goodness of your bread. Be sure of sweet taste—light texture—fragrant freshness every time!

IF YOU BAKE AT HOME, insist on Fleischmann's full-strength, fresh active Yeast with the familiar yellow label. Dependable—America's favorite yeast for over 70 years.



ANGRY

Please don't be angry at us if you can't always get Smith Bros. Cough Drops. Our output is still restricted. Soon, we hope, there'll again be plenty of Smith Brothers... soothing, delicious. Black or Menthol, 5¢.



RENFRO VALLEY Jubilee... FEB. 20 to 24



RENFRO VALLEY Folks will broadcast an old-fashioned "party" next week, Feb. 20, to start their 155th Anniversary Jubilee. It was just 155 years ago that John Renfro first settled this famous Kentucky valley.

RENFRO VALLEY'S Blue Mountain Girls, Virginia Sutton, left, and Bernice Scott, show how their ancestors made biscuits when the famous settlement was founded. They'll bake and serve biscuits before the old-time fox hunt Friday, Feb. 22. RENFRO VALLEY FOLKS ARE PRESENTED 5 MORNINGS EACH WEEK, WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY BY BALLARD'S OBELISK FLOUR.

Elsie Behrens is showing her husband, Jerry, how they played the dulcimer, early American stringed instrument, back 155 years ago. These Renfro Valley sweethearts are heard each week over CBS at 7:15 a.m. CST, 8:15 EST, Wed. thru Sat.—8:15 a.m. CST, 9:15 EST, Sunday.