

● SERIAL STORY

NEW YORK JUNGLE

BY WRAY WADE SEVERN

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YESTERDAY: Continuing his questioning, Plowman interviews Nella and Mrs. Langdon. When the officer's questions seem to be trapping Gundrum, Pat reveals that Maria had written Adam, saying she would marry him. Pat opened the letter by mistake. Plowman demands the letter...

BARKES SEES A SHADOW

Under Plowman's continued questioning, Pat admitted that Adam had not been himself during the day. He had refused to drive to the Country club with the family and had locked himself in the Jungle. Not until Nella had gone downstairs to plead with him had he changed his mind.

"Miss Nella Langdon is a neurotic," Plowman said, after Pat had left the drawing room. "She looks a lot like her uncle."

"There is a neurotic strain somewhere on the grandmother's side," Sidney admitted. "Nella's father and Adam Langdon were brothers, so she comes in for it, too. Hugh had a different grandmother and escapes."

Hugh Langdon was called. He corroborated Nella's account of Adam's unusual behavior but was unable to account for it.

"I've had no more than a five-minute talk with my cousin since his return," he said gravely. "But I felt that there had been a serious change in him."

"What did you discuss during that five minutes?" Plowman asked.

"My cousin's marriage had come as a surprise to the family; we discussed it," Hugh replied briefly.

"What reason did he give for surprising you?"

"He disliked using wireless for intimate revelations and, since he had married just before sailing, there had been no time for letters."

The arrival of a sheriff, a medical examiner, and a photographer delayed the examinations so that neither Marta nor Craig Gundrum were questioned until long after the other guests had made statements.

Guarded by a state trooper, Craig and Marta had waited in the library and whether or not Craig had persuaded Marta to slant her testimony toward his theory of the murder, Sidney could not know. He doubted it.

Finally Gundrum was called. "Let's get this over with as quickly as possible," he snapped. "I have an 11 o'clock class in the morning, and must make an early train. It's 2 o'clock now."

"Sorry, Professor. I will have to hold you all here for at least 24 hours, unless something definite turns up to release you from possible implication."

"Can he do that, Braftwood?" Craig demanded angrily. "I'm sorry to say that he has the authority. We shall all have to make the best of it, Gundrum."

"Fire away, Mr. Policeman," Gundrum directed, grimly. He made a good witness. He admitted his former engagement to Pat but denied that he had returned to the Jungle instead of searching the storeroom.

"You will," he explained, "find my fingerprints in the storeroom if you care to look. I moved several pieces of large furniture to look behind them."

Before leaving, he managed to give his theory of the crime to Plowman. As it stood, allowing that the murderer had been after a mythical map or one of the rare old weapons, it was not impossible that Adam Langdon had been shot by someone either already hidden in the Jungle, who had left after the door was opened, or by a person who had entered under cover of darkness. Apparently Plowman was impressed.

When Marta's turn came, it flashed into Sidney's mind that this was the strangest "entrance" she was ever to make.

"How did you find your way to the lioness in pitch darkness, Miss Hempfield?" Plowman asked gently.

"I have played Lady Macbeth, Captain Plowman," Marta told him, simply.

"In my sleepwalking scene I had to reach a given place with my eyes closed. At first I counted my steps, but after a while I found I could judge distance without counting. This evening Mr. Langdon had pointed out to me that he had placed his new lioness directly in front of the door, a place of honor. I knew that if I turned at a right angle when I touched her I would be in direct line for the door, so I started with one hand held out."

Both men knew what that outstretched hand had encountered. They listened, fascinated by the sheer drama of the recital.

"I couldn't see. I groped." She paused and continued, "I touched Adam's coat. I thought at first it was a thief, and terror gripped me. But I did not scream then. I believed I'd touched one of the specimens, he would remain immobile as he was. I lifted my hand slightly and then I felt—"

Again she paused and swallowed. "I felt the scar in the little cleft

on Adam's chin. His face was lifeless—cold. He did not speak and—somehow I knew. That is the last I remember. They tell me I screamed and fainted."

There was silence for a moment. Plowman rose and brought Marta a glass of sherry from a decanter on the table.

He waited while she sipped the wine, then asked: "Did you notice anyone removing the key from the door, Miss Hempfield?"

"Remove the key? The door was locked from the outside, Captain."

Plowman did not contradict her. "As an old friend, do you recall that Mr. Langdon had enemies?"

"None that I know of. His was a kindly nature. His friends loved him."

"Did you ever hear him hint that he had some purpose other than hunting in going into the African jungle?"

"No, I never did. He and Hugh have always hunted big game."

"Thanks, Miss Hempfield." Plowman opened the door for her to leave.

Togi contributed little. He had made hasty preparations for the house party, he said. And he had engaged Henry Barkes after Langdon had wirelessed him to find a chauffeur and meet him in Boston.

Togi disliked Barkes because, he said, the chauffeur thought himself too good to help get the house in order for the family's unexpected return. Barkes spent his evenings at the village and acted like Langdon, himself, until the family arrived.

Yet Barkes, when he entered, did not look surly. Undoubtedly, frightened, he repeated his story and insisted that the village storekeeper would support his alibi.

"There's an incident I failed to mention, when I talked with you before the police came, Mr. Braftwood," he added. "About 6 o'clock when I was filling the car with gas, I chanced to look up at the windows. There's a side window in the front room on the third floor. I believe Miss Hempfield has it. I saw a man's shadow against the curtain there."

"Sure of the window?" Plowman asked.

"Positive. The shadow stood very still. The more I think of it, the more I believe someone was hiding behind the drapes."

"A still shadow, now. Did it look like anyone you knew?"

"It wasn't tall enough for Mr. Hugh Langdon, nor short enough for Togi," Barkes said. "Otherwise I couldn't say. It was like seeing something in a play, watching that silhouette."

(To Be Continued)

Jacksonville Finances Showing Improvement

JACKSONVILLE, Oct. 19.—The Town of Jacksonville ended the 1939-40 fiscal year in improved financial condition, the annual audit, approved this week, disclosed. It indicated that continued improvement this ensuing year may make possible a tax reduction for 1941-42.

Tax rate for the current year is \$1.68 2-3 per \$100 valuation, the same as last year.

The financial condition of the town was considered good in view of the fact that all bonds and interest were retired as they came due in 1939-40, and that balances in the general, water and sinking fund exceeded those as the close of the corresponding period last year.

Mayor Charles E. Warn and his board of Maurice Margolis, Hedrick Aman, G. P. Johnson and Clyde Sabiston instructed the tax collector to press for payment of delinquent accounts.

Retention Of Gillette Is Urged In Onslow

JACKSONVILLE, Oct. 19.—The Jacksonville Kiwanis club has joined the movement to have Lt. Col. George Gillette retained at Wilmington as chief of U. S. Army engineers.

The local club's part was disclosed by President Ennis Murrell, Jr., at this week's meeting. He said the club had endorsed the movement, launched by Hugh MacRae, Wilmington, because it felt Col. Gillette, a native of Onslow county, is "competent, acquainted with every feature of the coast" and has the confidence of the people of this section.

Col. Gillette has been ordered transferred from his Wilmington post to Fort Belvoir, Va.

Movie On Painting To Show At Museum

On Wednesday evening, October 23, at 8 o'clock, a movie will be shown in the first floor gallery of the Wilmington Museum of Art. This movie is entirely in technical color and tells the story of a famous artist painting a portrait.

Wayman Adams, a prominent American Portrait painter, shows the entire process involved in creating a portrait.

William Fields, the Director of the Raleigh Art Center, will be here Wednesday evening to assist in the showing of the picture and will answer any questions you may care to ask.

Browne Group Exhibit On View At Museum

The George Elmer Browne American Artists Group is opening its fourth and last week at the Wilmington Museum of Art.

This has been one of the most popular exhibits ever held at the Museum. Nearly a thousand people have already been in to see the pictures, many returning again and again.

The gallery will be open today and also next Sunday, Oct. 27, from 3 until 6 p. m., as well as during the regular hours on week days 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.

The exhibit will close October 29.

Man-eating trees do not exist on this earth. Stories of them are the products of early-day imaginative writers.

MRS. OVERTON IS TO PREACH HERE

Leading Methodist Woman Speaker To Conduct Services At Grace

Mrs. Grace Sloan Overton, of Ann Arbor, Mich., will begin a series of special services at Grace Methodist church on Sunday morning, October 27. These services will continue through Friday night, November 1. Services for Sunday will be at the usual hours, including the 7 o'clock service for youth, which will be addressed by Mrs. Overton.

Mrs. Overton is the nation's leading Methodist platform woman, giving her time in churches and before other forums throughout the nation. She has just closed a similar meeting at Wichita, Kansas, and is opening a meeting today in Eldorado, Arkansas, from which she will come to Wilmington. For many years she has given her time to teaching, as well as preaching, but for the past several years the demand for her platform and pulpit ministry has been such that she has had to relinquish all teaching duties, and now gives all her time to platform and pulpit, the Rev. J. F. H. Rbert said.

During the week days of her ministry at Grace she will speak each morning at 10 o'clock, especially to parents and all interested in children. An evening service for all will be held at 8 o'clock. Special services during the week will be announced for youth.

New Officers Elected By Epworth Methodist

The Epworth Methodist church elected officers at the fourth quarterly conference conducted Wednesday evening by the Rev. W. A. Cade, district superintendent.

Newly elected officers include: trustees, W. P. Smith, C. A. Bradshaw, George Godwin, D. J. Joyner, and J. B. Taylor; and stewards, J. C. Maxwell, George Clark, D. J. Joyner, George Godwin, Tom McKee, Zeb V. Cowan, J. A. Southland, Ed Maxwell, Mrs. George Godwin, Mrs. J. C. Maxwell, Mrs. V. Rivenbark, Mrs. W. C. Baker, A. R. Herring, Arthur Grimsley, George Holland, Mrs. June Flowers, Miss Lizzie Padrick, and Mrs. Walter Barnes.

Mrs. Roy Rumley and Mrs.

George Clark were appointed communion stewards. A consecration service for officials will be held Sunday, October 27. New committee appointments included: membership, D. J. Joyner,

A. J. Morris, and Mrs. Benson; pastoral relations, Zeb V. Cowan; Mrs. Maxwell; audit, Oscar Flowers; nominations, J. B. Taylor and Miss Mae Frink.

Records, Arthur Grimsley and Miss Rachel Godwin; hospital and homes, Mrs. J. O. Grimsley and Mrs. Maxwell; audit, Oscar Flowers, Jr., and Grady Sheally; Golden cross director, Miss Rachel Godwin.

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