

# The HOLLOW

by Agatha Christie

**CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR**

Midge said with a slight effort: "It will be lovely to be at Ainswick again for Christmas."

Edward did not seem to hear her. He had gone far away.

She thought, He is thinking of Henrietta and of John Christow. Sitting here he had said something to Henrietta or she had said something to him. . . . Henrietta might know what she didn't want, but he belonged to Henrietta still. He always would, Midge thought, belong to Henrietta.

Pain swooped down upon her. The happy bubble world in which she had lived for the last week quivered and broke.

She thought, I can't live like this—with Henrietta always there in my mind. I can't face it. I can't bear it.

The wind sighed through the trees—the leaves were falling fast now—there were hardly any gold left, only brown.

She said, "Edward!"

The urgency of her voice aroused him. He turned his head.

"Yes."

"I'm sorry, Edward." Her lips were trembling but she forced her voice to be quiet and self-controlled. "I've got to tell you. It's no use. I can't marry you, it wouldn't work, Edward."

He said, "But, Midge—surely Ainswick—"

She interrupted: "I can't marry you just for Ainswick, Edward. You—you must see that."

He signed then, a long, gentle sigh. It was like an echo of her dead leaves slipping gently off the branches of the trees.

"I see what you mean," he said. "Yes, I suppose you are right."

"It was dear of you to ask me, dear and sweet. But it wouldn't do, Edward. It wouldn't work."

She had had a faint hope, perhaps, that he would argue with her, that he would try to persuade her—but he seemed, quite simply, to feel just as she did about it. Here, with the ghost of Henrietta close beside him, he, too, apparently, saw that it wouldn't work.

She slipped the ring off her finger and held it out to him.

She would always love Edward and Edward would always love Henrietta and life was just plain unadulterated hell.

She said, with a little catch in her voice: "It's a lovely ring, Edward."

"I wish you'd keep it, Midge. I'd like you to have it."

She shook her head. "I couldn't do that."

He said, with a faint humorous twist of the lips: "I shan't give it to anyone else, you know."

It was all quite friendly. He didn't know—he would never know just what she was feeling. . . . Heaven on a plate—and the plate had slipped between her fingers or had, perhaps, never been there.

That afternoon, Poirot received his third visitor.

He had been visited by Henrietta Savernake and by Veronica Crax. This time it was Lady Angkatell. She came floating up the path with her usual appearance of insubstantiality.

He opened the door and she stood smiling at him.

"I have come to see you," she announced.

So might a fairy confer a favor on a mere mortal.

"I am enchanted, Madame."

He led the way into the sitting room. She sat down on the sofa and once more she smiled.

Hercule Poirot thought: "She is old—her hair is gray—there are lines in her face. Yet she has magic—she will always have magic."

Lady Angkatell said softly: "I want you to do something for me."

"Yes, Madame."

"To begin with, I must talk to you—about John Christow."

"About Dr. Christow?"

"Yes. It seems to me that the only thing to do is to put a full stop to it."

It was ten minutes to three. Edward passing her door and going down the stairs at this hour in the morning. It was odd.

They had all gone to bed early, at half past ten. She herself had not slept, had lain there with burning eyelids and with a dry aching misery racking her feverishly.

She had heard the clock strike downstairs—had heard owls hoot outside her bedroom window. Had felt that depression that reaches its nadir at 2 a.m. Had thought to herself, "I can't bear it—I can't bear it. Tomorrow coming—another day. . . . Day after day to be got through."

Banished by her own act from Ainswick—from all the loveliness and dearness of Ainswick which might have been her very own possession.

But better banishment, better loneliness, better a dreary and uninteresting life than life with Edward and Henrietta's ghost. Until that day in the wood she had not known her own capacity for bitter jealousy.

And after all, Edward had never told her that he loved her. Affection, kindness, he had never pretended to more than that. She had accepted the limitation, and not until she had realized what it would mean to live at close quarters with an Edward whose mind and heart had Henrietta as a permanent guest, did she know that for her Edward's affection was not enough.

Edward walking past her door, down the front stairs.

It was odd—very odd—where was he going?

Uneasiness grew upon her. It was all part and parcel of the uneasiness that The Hollow gave her nowadays. What was Edward doing downstairs in the small hours of the morning? Had he gone out? Inactivity at last became too much for her. She got up, slipped on her dressing gown and taking a flashlight, she opened her door and came out into the passage.

It was quite dark, no lights had been switched on. Midge turned to the left and came to the head of the staircase. Below all was dark, too. She ran down the stairs and after a moment's hesitation switched on the light in the hall. Everything was silent. The front door was closed and locked. She

## DECLINES NOTED ON GA.-FLA. MART

### All Groups Of Tobacco Showed Drops Of \$1 To \$9 A Hundred

VALDOSTA, Ga., Aug. 13—(AP)—All grades sold today on the Georgia-Florida flue-cured tobacco markets broke sharply in price from the Tuesday levels.

U. S. Department of Agriculture reported the decreases ranged from \$1 to \$9 per hundred with most down \$3 to \$5.

Declines were general in all groups. A large number of grades averaged the lowest of the season. These losses also forced some grade below commodity credit corporation support level.

The general quality showed little change from Tuesday. Leaf continued the major offering with common to fair qualities predominating.

The daily general average yesterday sank to \$35.50 per hundred, lowest of the year, for the 8,128,492 pounds marketed. The average was \$2.24 below Monday. Gross sales for the season reached 114,860,476 pounds, averaging \$42.50.

Gross sales and averages by states for Tuesday, August 12, and for the season were:

Georgia—Weight: 7,117,691; Tuesday average: \$35.41; Weight: 101,115,278; season average: \$42.53.

Florida—Weight: 1,010,801; Tuesday average: \$36.12; Weight: 13,745,197; season average: \$42.29.

Total—Weight: \$128,492; Tuesday average \$35.50; Weight: 114,860,476; season average: \$42.50.

## CITY POLICEMEN GET PROMOTIONS AT COUNCIL MEET

Wilmington's police department will have nine officers in new positions beginning Friday.

Lieut. Coy Etheridge will be captain of the uniform, traffic and records. Lieut. L. A. Teague will be captain of the detective bureau. Private J. E. Moore will be lieutenant of the traffic bureau. Private Earl A. Saunders will be lieutenant in charge of records.

Lieut. T. B. Hughes was placed in charge of the uniform bureau. Private H. E. Williamson will be sergeant in the records bureau.

Desk sergeants will be Privates J. E. Griffith and R. H. Williams. Private J. L. Long, Jr., will be sergeant in the traffic department. The city council yesterday approved the changes.

## Front Street Widened From Greenfield Lake

Residents on South Front street from Greenfield lake to the city limits hereafter will have an 80-foot right-of-way with another 20-feet on the sides of the thoroughfare for sewer and drainage.

That was decided yesterday by the city council. The council voted to use only 80 feet of the 100-foot right-of-way allowed. The city engineering department previously had halted work on widening the thoroughfare to allow removal of tanks and other obstacles on the side of the street.

You can do a cleaner and safer job of roach exterminating by distributing an 8-ounce can of Red Circle Roach Destroyer according to directions, than by any other method, old or new, 35c at stores.—Advertisement.

## "UNBLOCK" YOUR DIGESTIVE TRACT

And Stop Dosing Your Stomach With Soda and Alkalizers

Don't expect to get real relief from headache, sour stomach, gas and bad breath by taking soda and other alkalizers if the true cause of your trouble is indigestion.

In this case, your real trouble is not in the stomach at all. But in the intestinal tract where 80% of your food is digested. And when the lower part gets blocked food may fall to digest properly.

What you want for real relief is something to "unblock" your lower intestinal tract. Something to clean it out effectively—help Nature get back on her feet. Get Carter's Pills right now. Take as directed. They gently and effectively "unblock" your digestive tract. This permits all 5 of Nature's own digestive juices to mix better with your food. You get genuine relief from indigestion so you can feel really good again.

Buy Carter's Pills today "Unblock" your intestinal tract for real relief from indigestion.

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WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT KEEPING PRICES DOWN

For 45 years, in good times and bad, Penney's has brought you always "best possible quality—lowest possible price." That is a day-in, day-out Penney policy. But every so often something super-special comes to us—a value so unusual it's worth shouting about. Here's one of those super-specials.

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### WHERE BUT PENNEY'S! 80-SQUARE PERCALES

at Only **2.79**

Don't let the low price fool you! See if you don't agree these are the best wash frock values in the country! These dresses have sweeping 144-inch skirts . . . deep pleats . . . full two-inch hems! These dresses are color-fast! The styles include long zipper-fronts, coat dresses, shirtmakers and pinafores! These, we think, are the DRESSES, you NEED, the STYLES you WANT, the marvelous QUALITY 80-SQUARES you won't find anywhere else for a down-to-earth 2.79

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Girls' Cotton and Rayon

## DRESSES

1.98 and 2.98

Pretty little washable and fast color cottons and rayons in striking plaids, checks, stripes and florals. Back-to-school dresses that are high in quality, smart in their styling. All sizes 3 to 6 and 7 to 14.

—PENNEY'S BALCONY—

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Smartly tailored cotton broadcloth uniforms in short sleeve style. Well made, sanforized. In solid white and green or blue with white trim. All sizes 12 to 44.

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## RAYON BROADCLOTH

Only **69c** Yard

You get double savings here! Making your own clothes is a savings anyway—but you save doubly when you buy lovely Penney fabric! New rayon broadcloth prints in medium and small florals, novelty designs, monotonies, stripes and polka dots on medium and dark backgrounds. Lots of variety!

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Brand New And Oh . . . So Good

**DICK HAYMES VERA ELLEN CESAR ROMEO**

—In—

**"Carnival In Costa Rica"**

Plus Color Cartoon Latest World News

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THE PICTURE OF 1000 MEMORABLE MOMENTS!

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"Jesse McCanes" . . . courageous—idealistic . . . rebelling against the tyranny of his ruthless, empire-building father.

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JENNIFER JONES GREGORY PECK JOSEPH COTTEN with a Cast of 2500

Minimum Admission Prices As Required By The Producers Of This Picture . . .

MATINEE . . . 74c

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(Tax is included)

Regular Pass List Suspended During This Engagement

See "Duel In The Sun" From The Beginning! CONTINUOUS SHOWINGS STARTING . . . 8:42

1:00 — 3:34 — 6:08 — 8:42

LAST FEATURE AT 8:56

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2 Shows Nightly 8 & 10 P.M.

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ROUGH! TOUGH! TERRIFIC!

Van Johnson in "Romance Of Rosy Ridge"

Shows: 1:15-3:12-5:09-7:06-9:03

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Adventure! Thrilling Love! NELSON EDDY ILONA MASSEY "NORTHWEST OUT POST"

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5c Plus Tax

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—ADDED—LATEST NEWS

**BIJOU**

20c Plus Tax John Wayne Claudette Colbert in "WITHOUT RESERVATIONS"

LATEST NEWS

tried the side door, but that, too, was locked.

Edward, then had not gone out. Where could he be?

And suddenly she raised her head and sniffed.

A whiff—a very faint whiff of gas.

The baize door to the kitchen quarters was just ajar. She went through it—a faint light was shining from the open kitchen door. The smell of gas was much stronger.

Midge ran along the passage and into the kitchen. Edward was lying on the floor with his head inside the gas oven, which was turned on full.

Midge was a quick, practical girl. Her first act was to swing open the shutters. She could not unclasp the window and, winding a glass cloth around her arm, she smashed it. Then, holding her breath, she stooped down and tugged and pulled Edward out of the gas oven and switched off the taps.

(To Be Continued)

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See All 26 Beauties Perform At This FREE SHOW

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ADVANCE TICKETS . . . \$2.25 Included Tax

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