

# THE BIG FOUR by Agatha Christie

## SYNOPSIS

On the eve of his departure from London for South America, Poirot is invited to investigate a case which has baffled the police. Hastings, Poirot's friend, is the victim of a mysterious death. Hastings, Poirot's friend, is the victim of a mysterious death. Hastings, Poirot's friend, is the victim of a mysterious death.

CHAPTER III  
He had the look of a man sud- denly awakened from sleep. Poirot looked at him and did not speak.

"But I have been an imbecile. I see clearly at last. It is undoubtedly the blessed saints who stopped the train. Jump, Hastings, but jump, I tell you."

"In an instant he had unfastened the carriage door, and jumped out on the line."

"Throw out the suit-cases and jump yourself."

"I obeyed him. Just in time. As I alighted beside him, the train moved on."

"And now Poirot," I said, in some exasperation, "perhaps you will tell me what all this is about."

"It is my friend, that I have seen the light."

"That," I said, "is very illuminating to me."

"It should be," said Poirot, "but I fear—I very much fear that it is not. If you can carry two of these valises, I think I can manage the rest."

"Fortunately the train had stopped near a station. A short walk brought us to a garage where we were able to obtain a car, and half an hour later we were spinning rapidly back to London."

"Then, and not till then, did Poirot design to satisfy my curiosity."

"You do not see? No more did I. But I see now, Hastings. I was being got out of the way."

"What?"

"Yes. Very cleverly. Both the place and the method were chosen with great knowledge and acumen. They were afraid of me."

"Who were?"

"Those four geniuses who have banded themselves together to work outside of the law. A Chinaman, an American, a Frenchwoman, and another. Pray the good God we arrived back in time Hastings."

"You think there is danger to our visitor?"

"I am sure of it."

"Mrs. Pearson greeted us on arrival. Brushing aside her ecstasies of astonishment on beholding Poirot, we asked for information. It was reassuring. No one had called, and our guest had not made any sign."

With a sigh of relief we went up

to the rooms. Poirot crossed the outer one and went through to the inner one. Then he called me, his voice strangely agitated.

"Hastings, he's dead."

"I came running to join him. The man was lying as we had left him, but he was dead, and had been dead some time. I rushed out for a doctor. Ridgeway, I knew, would not have returned yet. I found one almost immediately, and brought him back with me."

"He's dead right enough, poor chap. Tramp you've been befriending, eh?"

"Something of the kind," said Poirot evasively. "What was the cause of death, doctor?"

"Hard to say. Might have been some kind of fit. There are signs of asphyxiation. No gas jet open, is there?"

"No electric light—nothing."

"And both windows wide open. Been dead about two hours, I should say. You'll notify the proper people, won't you?"

"He took his departure. Poirot did some necessary telephoning. Finally, somewhat to my surprise, he rang up our old friend Inspector Japp, and asked him if he could possibly come around."

"No sooner were these proceedings completed than Mrs. Pearson appeared, her eyes as round as saucers."

"There's a man here from 'Anwell—from the 'Syum. Did you ever? Shall I show him up?"

"We signified assent and a big burly man in uniform was ushered in."

"Morning, gentlemen," he said cheerfully. "I've got reason to believe you've got one of my birds here. Escaped last night, he did."

"He was here," said Poirot quietly, asked the keeper, with some concern.

"Not got away again, has he?"

"He is dead."

The man looked more relieved than otherwise.

"You don't say so. Well, I dare say it's best for all parties."

(To Be Continued)



Poirot prompted eagerly: "Number Four"? His eyes were fastened on the stranger's face. The latter gasped: "The Destroyer!"

## STAR SIGNALS BY OCTAVINE

For persons who believe that human destiny is guided by the planet, the daily horoscope is outlined by a noted astrologer. In addition to information of personal interest, it outlines information of special interest to persons born on the designated date.

NOVEMBER 3  
Those born between June 21 and July 20 are most likely to be influenced by the vibrations outlined below for today.

General Indications  
Morning—Harmonious.  
Afternoon—Practical.  
Evening—Pleasurable.

This is a good day. It should be a good time to work and plan in the home and with food.

Birthdate  
Those whose birthdates fall on Nov. 3 should always be near someone they love, for they have strong affections.

Many changes are likely to take place from May through June. Avoid accident through travel of traffic by using care in all your actions. Strive to broaden your views and learn the attitude of those close to you.

Indications are good for January, 1937. Make plans and listen to the advice of relatives and neighbors. Travel should be beneficial.

Danger—Jan. 22 through 31.

## Prose Rhapsody On Chowan November

Edenton, Nov. 2.—Election may be here tomorrow and the fate of nations may be in the balance, but what's that got to do with yesterday? Never was there such a day in Chowan, a day to bring forth all the poetry in a man's soul, a day preceded by an equally gorgeous night with a full Halloween moon, mellowed in brilliant gold, with a rim of silver, its shadows carved out with clear glistening, to make it all the more beautiful.

And about the countryside, tall trees stood forth like cathedral apices pointing sharp toward the skies. The breath of frost became apparent as the darkness waned and the guardian angels of the sky tripped softly about their task of putting the candles of the stars away. A sudden riot of color in the east and it was sunrise.

Squirrels scamper after nuts in the oaked woods of Cowpen Neck. Fog hung softly over Bennett's Mill Pond as Frank Cale, dominie, punted off shore in a young and active mid-county daily quest for bass. Out Paradise way Father White and Henry Barber, superlative husbandmen of many acres heard the crows calling, and around Bear Swamp Nehemiah Bunch listened to the voice of crickets presaging a significant roar of soon-to-be silence.

Around Rocky Hock, Bill Privott and Craig Haste got their dogs out on trial, and their keen baying echoed through the woods and lespedeza fields. And not even an absent shirt tail prevented Mayor Spires from remarking:

"Good morning, November, you're a great month."

Fisherman Gets Deer

Mt. Shasta City, Cal. (U.P.)—Ira Daulton combined a fishing and deer hunting trip. He first cast his line, then fixed the pole in a firm position with a stone and finally started off for deer. He found no deer while deer hunting but when he returned to the fishing pool found one swimming around his pole and bait.

## You and Your Child

Praise Child for His Efforts to Succeed

By JANE HERBERT GOWARD

FOUR-YEAR-OLD PAUL is undergoing a change which his mother cannot quite fathom. She thinks he may be getting lazy. But the idea of laziness in a child so young is of course far-fetched—the pre-school child being the very soul of activity.

He cannot sit still, and he is too richly endowed with curiosity and imagination. If he is a normal child, to be indifferent to life around him.

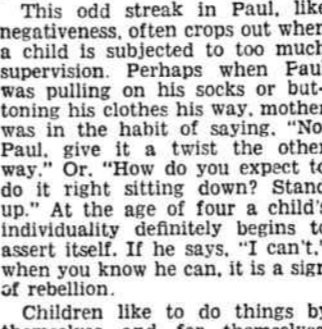
What is the matter with Paul, then? Why suddenly does he turn to his mother to put on his shoes and socks and button his clothes? Why does he say, "I can't," when reproved for his helplessness? Yesterday he dropped something and asked mother to pick it up for him; he couldn't bend. Another time he could not open the door.

Paul's loss of interest in doing things for himself indicates a stubborn streak suggestive of the negative stage through which many children of his age pass. During this stage the child says "no" to everything, even when cake is passed and he wants a piece.

This odd streak in Paul, like negativism, often crops out when a child is subjected to too much supervision. Perhaps when Paul was pulling on his socks or buttoning his clothes his way, mother was in the habit of saying, "No, Paul, give it a twist the other way." Or, "How do you expect to do it right sitting down? Stand up!" At the age of four a child's individuality definitely begins to assert itself. If he says, "I can't," when you know he can, it is a sign of rebellion.

Children like to do things by themselves and for themselves. But no child can stand always being wrong. His "best" is an honest effort, regardless of what you may think of the result. It is the parent's place, therefore, to say something encouraging even when she cannot honestly give full praise.

NOVEL SWEATERS



Copyright, 1936, by Fairchild

Above—The "lux twin" is another version of the twin sweater. In this a tuxedo coat sweater in brown is combined with a rust colored slipover in fancy stitch.

Below—A brushed wool twin set consists of henna colored cardigan with action back and metal slide closing up the front posed over a brushed wool sweater shirt.

Copyright, 1936, by Fairchild

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## Autumn Breakfast Never Blouses of Muffed By Crisp Muffins Chiffon Are Back Again

By JUDITH WILSON

WITH breakfast appetites perking up, these autumn mornings why not surprise your family with something extra special in the way of hot muffins, to offset the frosty nip in the air?

If you are worried about leftovers all you need do is to take a few drops of glycerine and add a well kept moist and fresh for days. You can reheat them later or toast them and no one will suspect they are not freshly made.

See if these muffins will not get your morning off to a brighter start:

**Breakfasts**  
Fruited Plate  
Puffed or Flaked Cereal  
Baked Eggs with Cheese Topping  
Bacon  
Popovers  
Coffee

Pineapple Juice  
Finnan Haddie Baked in Milk  
Poached Eggs  
Date Muffins  
Coffee or Cocoa

**Butter Crunch Muffins**  
Split and toast as many English muffins as needed. Spread with the following mixture: Cream together 1/2 cup butter, 1 cup confectioner's sugar and 1 tablespoon rum flavoring. Place under the broiler until the sugary coating bubbles and browns lightly. Cut in half and serve warm or let them cool slightly, if you want them extra nice.

**Breakfast Eggs**  
Grease muffin pans thoroughly and into each place 1 tablespoon milk. Break an egg into each compartment, being careful not to break the yolk. Season with salt and pepper, and sprinkle over each egg 1 tablespoon fine buttered bread crumbs and 1 tablespoon grated cheese. Bake in a hot oven about 15 minutes. Serve with strips of bacon or for a luncheon dish with creamed peas or creamed sautéed mushrooms and triangles of toast.

**Potato Dumplings**  
Here is another use for leftover mashed potatoes. Cream 1 tablespoon butter, add 1 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg and the beaten yolks of 4 eggs. Gradually combine with 2 1/2 cups mashed potatoes and 1 cup cracker crumbs. Sift in 1/2 cup flour and the eggs. Shape into balls with well-floured hands and insert 3 crisp fried croutons in the center of each ball. Place on top of boiling stew, cover tightly and let boil about 10 minutes or until the dumplings are done.

**Jelly Muffins**  
Make the muffin batter, following the above recipe with the exception of the dates. Fill greased muffin tins 2/3 full of the plain batter. In the center of each place 1 teaspoon currant or grape jelly, pressing it slightly into the batter with the spoon. Bake in a hot oven 20 minutes. A teaspoon of peanut butter pressed into the center of each muffin also makes an interesting variation.

**Popovers**  
Beat 2 eggs slightly. Sift 2 cups flour, remeasure and sift again with 1/2 teaspoon salt, add to the beaten eggs alternately with 2 cups milk. Add 2 tablespoons melted butter. Beat with an electric beater if you have one. If not, beat and beat until the batter is smooth and full of bubbles. Have iron popover pans greased and sizzling hot. Fill 2/3 full of the batter and bake in a hot oven 35

**Sunbury Social**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parker and little daughter spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lewis in Elizabeth City.

**Book Club Meets**  
Mrs. J. W. Nixon was hostess to the members of the Book club on Wednesday afternoon at her home, which was attractively decorated with fall flowers.

During the business session books were exchanged and there was some discussion of new books to be put in the club at the next meeting. It was decided to buy only one book each for the next year, instead of two as in the past.

After several progressions of rook a salad course was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. S. E. Nixon.

Those present were: Mrs. Hattie Hathaway, Mrs. G. H. Rountree, Miss Margaret Jordan, Mrs. L. Woodford, Mrs. Aubrey Corten, Mrs. H. G. Brown, Mrs. J. E. Grimm, Miss Bertha Hill, Mrs. J. E. Corbett, Mrs. H. C. Benton, Mrs. Norfleet Cross, Mrs. F. N. Cross, Mrs. F. L. Pierce and Mrs. S. E. Nixon.

Miss Minnie Perry has returned home after spending some time with relatives in Hertford.

**Halloween Party**  
The Sunbury High School students and teachers enjoyed a Halloween party Thursday evening at the school. The carnival, beauty contest and sale of refreshments netted a profit of \$48.42. Miss Eula Leary won the beauty contest and Marvin White was declared the best looking young man. Each of the contestants received a cake from the Home Economics department.

Other prize winners were: Ellen Edwards for the best costume, Frank Rice for the tuckest costume, Richard Jones in the hog calling contest, James Winston in the cracker eating contest, Margaret Felton in the cake walk contest, Mrs. W. G. Byrum in the bean guessing contest, C. P. Hathaway and Burton Hathaway at the Bingo stand.

**Lovely Reception**  
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Benton entertained a number of friends at a beautifully appointed reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Benton of Roanoke Rapids, whose marriage took place in Scotland Neck on October 15.

The home was lovely with masses of roses, dahlias and ferns.

Mrs. William Nixon received at the door and introduced the guests to the receiving line, in which were Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Benton, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Benton, Mrs. Harry Moore Grimm, Miss Clara Hearne, Mrs. Thelma Daugherty, Miss Mary McFarlin and Garland Midgett.

Receiving in the hall were Mrs. L. Woodford, Mrs. F. L. Pierce and Mrs. S. E. Nixon.

In the dining room a color scheme of green and white was carried out. The table was covered with a lovely lace cloth, with a center piece of white snapdragons and ferns, flanked by tall white tapers in silver holders.

Dainty ices, cakes, salted nuts and mints were served by Mrs. G.

**City Operation of Pin Boards for Idle Urged**

Fort Worth, Tex. (U.P.)—Municipal ownership of marble boards estimated to net \$540,000 a year in Fort Worth is advocated by City Manager George D. Fairtrace.

That was Fairtrace's reply to a city council query on what to do

**Lumber and Millwork**

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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

**Men's Suits**

Men's and Young Men's Suits in latest sport styles and fabrics... grays... browns... and blues.

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**MELTON CLOTH JACKETS**

32 ounce all wool in blue

**\$2.98 up**

**MEN'S SHOES**

In the season's best styles, all leather.

**\$1.98 to \$2.98**

**S. GANDERSON & SONS**

Elizabeth City — Edenton

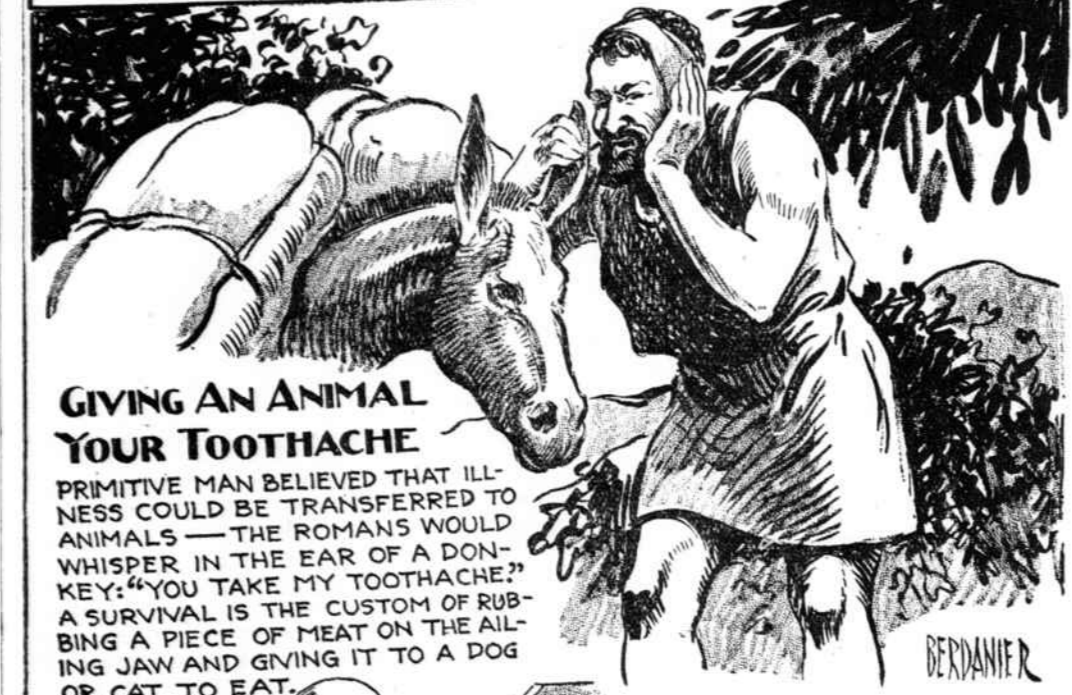
Elizabeth City Transportation Schedules

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN**  
Bus Line  
Hartwood—L. 8:35 A.M.; 1:00, 4:40, 10:20 P.M.  
Edenton—L. 9:30, 11:40 A.M.; 5:40, 11:00 P.M.  
\*Main connection.  
\*Raleigh connection.

**Railroad**  
Hartwood—L. 8:07 P.M.  
Edenton—L. 11:17 A.M.

**BOAT SCHEDULES**  
Elizabeth City—Carolina Line  
Foot Colonial Avenue  
Horn-N. 1 P.M. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.  
Hatteras, Manns Harbor, Stumpy Point.  
The Warehose Line  
S-S Dock Foot Burgess Street  
Horn-N. 11:15 A.M. O. T. & Lloyd.  
L. 12 noon daily except Sunday and Monday.  
Horn-N. Buffalo City, Gum Neck.  
Alligator River Line  
S-S Dock Foot Burgess Street  
Horn-N. 9 A.M. Monday and Thursday.  
Gum Neck & Alligator Line  
Foot of Shury Ave. Foot Colonial Avenue. 3 A.M. Mondays and Thursdays.  
Edenton.  
Columbia Boat Line  
Foot Colonial Avenue  
Hatteras, L. 12 noon Thursdays.  
Hatteras.  
Foot Burgess Street  
Hatteras and C. H. Mallinson Jr. 6 P. M. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays.  
Edenton.  
Foot of Fearing Street  
Hatteras, L. 8 P.M. Wednesdays.

## HOW IT BEGAN By Paul F. Berdanier



**GIVING AN ANIMAL YOUR TOOTHACHE**  
PRIMITIVE MAN BELIEVED THAT ILLNESS COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANIMALS—THE ROMANS WOULD WHISPER IN THE EAR OF A DONKEY: "YOU TAKE MY TOOTHACHE." A SURVIVAL IS THE CUSTOM OF RUBBING A PIECE OF MEAT ON THE ALLING JAW AND GIVING IT TO A DOG OR CAT TO EAT.

**DRESS COAT**  
BEAU BRUMMELL, ENGLISH PANDY OF THE EARLY 18th CENTURY, WAS RECOGNIZED AS AN ARBITER OF GOOD TASTE. FROM ONE OF HIS CLOTHING DESIGNS WE GOT OUR MODERN DRESS COAT.

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