

The Mandarin House Murders

By VAN WYCK MASON

CHAPTER V

There was swung wider open the red face of Major Kilgour. "You've been taking my time, I must say. Help me. What's wrong? The summons commenced North like lengthening like a simple case of suicide there's something odd."

serious one more addressed the British Intelligence office. "Where's Sir Guy?" "Left a few minutes ago. Said he was sorry but he'd received an urgent summons from our Consulate." While offering his hand to the hotel detective, North wondered whether intelligence of certain arrivals on the Empress of Finland had not something to do with Sir Guy's abrupt departure? "My name's North, and you're—?"

than he did. It was also likely that the French Deuxieme Bureau was no less well posted. "L. A.?" "In lamented suicide's pocket was a letter addressed to one Major Luther Adams, but that was all. All baggage new, all clothes new. Very queer."

The dead man took this as a false name and—but he drew your own conclusions. The invariable politeness of the hotel detective, North thanked the manager and sent the individual back to his suite's little sitting room where standing in attitudes of expectancy. One was a big beefy fellow with a phlegmatic face and the other was a thin, nervous man. To a hotel detective, the other was a Buddha garbed in European clothes. Smiling while he was examining the new gray felt hat, North murmured "Hello," and clasped both round his little belly. "I've bowed very low."

"Pebble, Capt'n. Special Officer Pebble. Sorry we haven't got nowhere yet, but this Chink," he nodded contemptuously towards Inspector Chao, "thought we shouldn't do nothing 'till you showed up." "Sorry to have kept you waiting." "Oh, it's okay with me. But it's all nonsense, this waiting." He indicated the door of a bathroom neatly tiled in black and white. "If ever I've seen a case of suicide plain and simple, it's in there."

Making no comment, North stripped off his dinner coat and, with the help of the others, released the corpse which they laid on the room's cheerful brown carpet. This done, the man from G-2 narrowly examined a strip of adhesive crudely securing the dead wrists. "Looks as if the blighter might have done it himself, at that," Kilgour suggested from across the body.

"You've come to any conclusions, Bruce?" "Only got here five minutes ago, so there hasn't been much time," Major Kilgour stated shortly. "Still, I've noted a thing or two out of the way—Maybe they'll strike you, too."

North's black clad figure seemed to more nearly approximate its actual six feet and his prominent cheekbones became quite sharply delineated during his survey of a contorted figure dangling uglily from the end of a bright nickel chain.

"Yes, it's a poor job of binding." "Of course he done it himself," broke in the house detective. "The whole thing's plain as the nose on your face. Motive means everything." "Motive?" "Yeh. The guy was flat broke—there ain't five dollars Mex on him—no letter of credit not anything. Guess this was just the end of the trail for him."

Chao, you ought to have your head of yours examined," and then suddenly

Drawing a deep breath, North approached the corpse and for some moments regarded its bulging eyes and protruding tongue with the detached criticalness of a connoisseur examining a doubtful old master.

"Shouldn't wonder," Kilgour murmured while running through a small heap of documents on the sitting room desk.

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North Carolina Banks Make 255,000 Loans

Forty-two per cent of the banks in North Carolina made more than 255,000 loans totaling \$336,000,000 to business firms and individuals throughout the state during the second half of 1940, according to the semi-annual survey of bank lending activity made by the Research Council of the American Bankers Association.

The survey showed that business firms in the state used only half of the "confirmed open lines of credit" maintained for their use on the books of the banks. The average number of new loans made per bank during the six months period under review was 1,481 and the average size of loan was \$968.

NOTICE OF RESALE

Under and by virtue of an order of resale of the Superior Court of Haywood County, made in the Special proceeding entitled "W. H. Burnett, Administrator of Celia Burnett, deceased, vs. Ora Burnett King, et al.," the same being No. 140 on the Special Proceeding Docket of said Court, the undersigned Commissioner will, on Monday, July 14th, 1941, at eleven o'clock a. m. at the Courthouse door in Waynesville, N. C., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash that certain tract of land lying and being in East Fork Township, Haywood County, N. C., adjoining the lands of D. H. Pless and others, and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING on a walnut on East bank of Pisgah Creek at a large rock; thence running a South-east course up a ridge 20 poles, more or less, to a stake in the old line of Isaac Ivester; thence N. 20 E. 40 poles, more or less, to a stake in D. H. Pless' line on top of a ridge; thence down said ridge to a stake in center of Pisgah Creek; thence down the center of said creek as it meanders to the BEGINNING, containing TWENTY-FIVE ACRES, more or less. This June 25th, 1941.

W. H. BURNETT, Commissioner. No. 1085—July 3-10.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Lee Ferguson, deceased, late of the County of Haywood, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Waynesville, North Carolina, on or before the 31st day of May, 1942, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 31st day of May, 1941.

G. C. FERGUSON, Administrator of the Estate of Lee Ferguson, deceased. No. 1078—June 5-12-19-26-July 3-10.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Emma Dawson, deceased, late of Haywood County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Waynesville, North Carolina, on or before the 30th day of June, 1942, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This the 30th day of June, 1941.

J. H. McDONNELL, Administrator Emma Dawson, deceased. No. 1086—July 3-10-17-24-31-Aug. 7.

NOTICE OF SALE

On Monday, July 21st, 1941, at 11:00 o'clock a. m., at the Courthouse door in the Town of Waynesville, N. C., I will offer for sale at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real estate, to-wit:

Lying and being in Town of Hazelwood and, BEGINNING on an iron stake and runs N. 76° 10' E. 5 chains and 64 links to a stake in an old drain; thence S. 13° 50' links to Will Scates' line; thence S. 67° 40' W. 5 chains and 48 links to a phone pole; thence N. 24° 40' W. 1 chain and 33 links to the BEGINNING, containing one-half acre, more or less, and being the same land conveyed to W. D. Scates by L. Scates, et ux., by deed dated April 15, 1920, and recorded in Book 55 at page 315, Haywood County Registry.

EXCEPTING AND RESERVING a right-of-way along the Southern boundary line of the property above described as the same is now located.

Being the same land conveyed to Fred Calhoun and wife, Agnes Calhoun, by W. D. Scates and wife, Julia Scates, by deed dated May 1, 1937.

Sale made pursuant to the power and authority vested in me by that certain deed of trust dated May 8, 1937, executed by Fred Calhoun and wife, Agnes Calhoun, and recorded in Book of Deeds of Trust No. 31, at page 232, Haywood County Registry, to which record reference is hereby made for all the terms and conditions thereof. This June 20th, 1941.

A. T. WARD, Trustee. No. 1084—June 26-July 3-10-17.

