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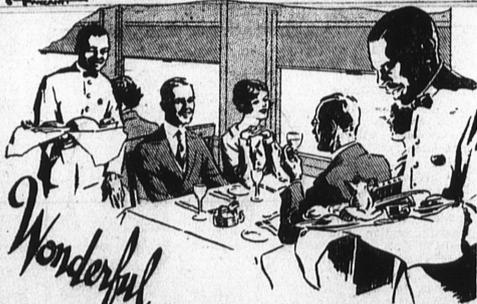
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BEGIN HERE TODAY SIR DUDLEY GLENISTER is suspected of murder when a crowd drops a skeleton finger in the midst of a picnic party on his estate. He asks— KATHLEEN GLENISTER, sister of the dead man, to marry him to allay suspicion. When she refuses he goes into a rage, and suffers a beating at the hands of—

NORMAN SLATER, Kathleen's lover. Two scenes are being prepared as prisons for the lovers when Mrs. Simon Trickey calls upon Sir Dudley.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY "Is Sir Dudley Glenister at home?" she asked, accentuating the mincing tone which she had made it her business to cultivate. The old servitor's eyes ranged critically over the visitor's face and over her smart, brand-new mourning. But there was no sign of recognition in his survey.

"I think he came in a short time ago, madam." The visitor produced a card, its black edge eloquent of the deepest woe. "Will you give him that, please. You might say that it is very important. I bring him some news that will interest him."

With a gesture the butler invited "Miss Maud Blair" into the hall and begged her to wait while he ascertained if his master was visible. He was gone some little time, but when he returned it was with the air of the servant whose master's friend is his friend. "Sir Dudley will see you, madam," he announced.

"The baronet was standing on the steps—wasn't he?" she asked, her hand to her forehead. "I haven't the pleasure—" he was beginning lamely, when his visitor cut him short. "No, you haven't," she chipped in briskly. "Unless you've seen me in the pictures. I always use my professional name out of doors, but in private life I am Mrs. Simon Trickey."

The baronet's manner stiffened. "The devil you are!" was his exclamatory rejoinder. "And what, pray, do you want with me, Mrs. Trickey? I should have kicked your husband out of the room the other day if he had not taken himself off in time."

"Well," replied the cinema actress sweetly, "you'll have to kick me now if you feel that way. I came to inform you that Simon is dead."

Sid Dudley shifted a leg. He failed to keep a most unholty joy from his countenance. "Most considerate of you," he murmured. "I also came to ask you," the widow proceeded coolly, "if you intend to continue the allowance."

"Matter?" shrilled the actress. "Nerves? What about my nerves, you artful cat? I've come for the diary you sneaked out of Simon's bureau the day he died."

"My dear Maud, you are raving. I wasn't aware he kept a diary, and I certainly haven't sneaked one, as you so elegantly put it."

Miss Maud Blair's limited intelligence grappled with the problem of how much truth there was in this. She recognized that she might have been rash in preferring an accusation based only on the opportunity which her sister-in-law had had. She would have to beat a retreat with what grace she could.

one else had a chance. I'll go home and tax her with it, as soon as she comes in." After her visitor's departure Mrs. Coningsby sank down on the couch and covered her face with her hands. "I wish I could tell her where the diary is," she sighed.

CHAPTER XVI A Guilty Secret

MRS. CONINGSBY was a late riser. It was therefore with annoyed surprise that she heard the warning tinkle of the bell a few minutes after the ornate French clock on her mantelpiece had struck noon.

A minute later her maid came to her and announced that Sir Dudley Glenister was in the drawing room. When she entered the apartment a few deft touches with sundry pigments and a moderate use of the powder-puff had thoroughly justified her visitor's remark.

"By Jove, Ivy, how well you are looking!" Mrs. Coningsby waved the baronet to a chair and subsided onto the recently vacated sofa. "You didn't come here to flatter me," she said.

"Well, hardly," Sir Dudley laughed. "I came to see if you really meant the promise you made me at Beechwood. You said if I got into a tight place you might be able to help."

"Things have taken a wrong turn?" "As yet not definitely, but I am getting the jumps. That vindictive little devil, Kathleen, is waiting her chance and she narrowly missed a knock-out. I will begin by re-

peating that I did not murder my cousin George." Mrs. Coningsby's lip curled. "Go on, old boy," she said. "I hid in my city office," Sir Dudley proceeded, "a confidential clerk who did odd jobs for me—"

(To Be Continued)

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Edwards and family enjoyed a picnic luncheon at White's Point recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hawkins of Hawthorne were guests Saturday of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McKinney at dinner and the Amaranth dance.

Mrs. B. M. Hughes and children, of Los Angeles, spent part of last week at the home of Mrs. Hughes' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rosenberg, of Walnut street.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Prince and family, of 260th street, and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Butler, of Torrance, were recent dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Booth, of Inglewood.

Mrs. E. W. Brumpton and Mrs. Frank Baker were Los Angeles visitors Friday.

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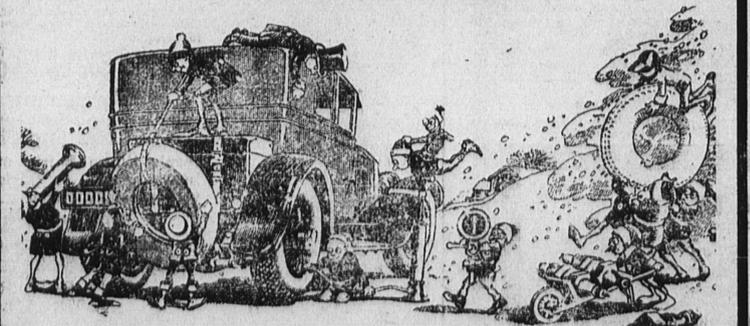
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