# By Agatha Christic

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### INSTALMENT XVIII.

# THE STORY THUS FAR

Gerry Wade is found dead in bed Seven out of eight alarm clocks placed black velvet gown. Bundle noticed in his room to awaken him are lined up on a mantel. The guests are told that how Bill gravitated at once into fer from it?" death resulted from an overdose of her immediate neighborhood. The sleeping powder. Jimmy Thesiger and Ronny Devereux motor to Gerry's home serious, spectacled young man tess. "How should I?" to tell a sister, Loraine, of Wade's joined him.

to his sister making reference to the Seven Dials. Bundle feels certain that with a laugh. Gerry was murdered. En route to Lon- Bundle was by no means so sure "Oh, that!" The Countess un- sociation of ideas she turned to car. It proves to be Devereux, who dying, whispers: "Seven Dials-tell-

Jimmy Thesiger." to trail the murderer. From Captain

of the society and witnesses a meeting magnet. The three women hud- of Budapest shortly after the war "I suppose so," said Lady Coote. "Oh yes—exciting. But they may aire from Harrods in the half this attended by masked members. She reports to Thesiger, who has also ob- dled around it. tained an invitation to the Cabinet member's party. Among the guests is has military plans of interest to the Air Ministry.

# Female Charms

NOW CONTINUE THE STORY

show her round the interesting old said Bundle.

Bundle felt faintly uneasy. She "That grate is old-fashioned," One of my cousins had three ing for you."

female charms. In the hands of a room." woman like the Countess, Bill "Oh!" said the Countess. would be as wax.

to take Bill into their confidence, came difficult.

sorts of questions she asked." exactly funny-" "What kind of questions?" asked Bundle suddenly.

history of it. And old furniture, between them, they managed it. And—ah! all sorts of things."

At that moment the Countess, swept into the room. She seemed a shade breathless. She was look- have it?" said Lady Coote. Chimneys, scene of a house party. ing magnificent in a close-fitting

Lady Eileen Brent, known as "Bun- Bill and Pongo have both got it some surprise. dle," finds a letter Wade had written badly," observed Jimmy Thesiger "But I understand that you

After Dinner George was not a believer in began to talk rapidly.

Loraine. The three of them set out was innocent of anything so up to she said. "Horrors that I have "Macdonald? Well-" Battle at Scotland Yard Bundle obtains date as central heating. Conse- seen. Incredible! You would not hesitated. "One couldn't exactly that." He looked at her unhappily, to have a shot at pinching that a list of secret societies. That evening quently when the ladies entered believe!" like Macdonald," she explained "I say, Bundle, I wish you would- paper, we've got to keep watch Seven Dials Club. A watchman, Alfred, the drawing room after dinner, And she was as good as her apologetically. "But he's a first n't." is recognized as a former footman at the temperature of the room was word. She talked fluently and with class gardener." Cabinet Minister George Lomax woefully inadequate to the needs a graphic power of description. In- | "Oh! I know he is," said Lady "Get mixed up in these sorts of though to protest, but shut it plans a party. He has received a warn- of modern evening clothes. The credible scenes of starvation and Coote. ing letter from the Seven Dials So- lire that burnt in the well-bur- misery were painted by her for the "He's all right if he's kept in "Why not?" said Bundle. "They "By the way," continued Jimmy, clety. Bundle gets an invitation. Meantime she hides in the meeting room nished steel grate became as a benefit of her audience. She spoke his place," said Bundle.

Lady Coote, and drew a flowered record. You turned her on, and "I'd just adore a high-toned don't suppose I should ever have are rather butting in on his preatrocity of a scarf closer about there you were. Presently, just as garden," said the Countess dream- got what you call 'mixed up' in serves." her ample shoulders. . suddenly, she would stop.

bility of Mr. William Eversleigh to the chimney instead of into the Wasn't it?"

She wondered once more wheth- tess was so plainly bored by her begun.

er Jimmy Thesiger had been wise companions that conversations be- "There!" she said. "I have told "No etchings," said Jimmy. "I'd him. They're all in the study now

very charming woman. And no end breaking the silence, "that Mrs. intelligent. You should have seen Macatta's children should have her going round the house. All mumps. At least, I don't mean "I've heard my husband say Bill was striding up and down ing?" asked Jimmy.

mumps?"

Bill was vague. Bundle and Lady Coote started declares he would have never got don't like this." "Oh! I don't know. About the simultaneously to explain. Finally, on without them."

# Hungarian Horrors

"I suppose Hungarian children

"Eh?" said the Countess. "Hungarian children. They suf-

"I do not know," said the Coun-

worked---"

don a man, mysteriously shot, stag-gers into the road in front of Eileen's that it was a laughing matter. crossed her legs, took her cigar-

and traced its vicissitudes to the She looked enviously at Bundle, be damnably dangerous. Look at evening, or was it our old friend "Brrrrrrr!" said the Countess, a present day. She was dramatic, who appeared to approach the poor old Ronny." Lestrade from Scotland Yard?" one Herr Eberhard, an inventor who fine, exotic foreign sound. but she was also, to Bundle's task of keeping Macdonald in his "Yes," said Bundle. "If it had "Scintillating Watson," said Bill.

"After tea," said Jimmy with a "Why on earth doesn't George Lady Coote was thrilled to the Bundle stared, but at the mo- earthly use your bleating about if we mean to see this thing grumbled Bill. "Just because grin, "the Countess asked Bill to have the house properly heated?" marrow—that much was clear ment a diversion occurred. Jimmy it." She sat with her mouth slightly 'Thesiger entered the room and "I know you're the most fright- "Then it's agreed," said Jimmy "You English, you never heat open and her large, sad, dark spoke directly to her in a strange ful sport, Bundle, but—" "We must divide the night into quainted with this unfair me

"Well, I couldn't refuse, could 1?" your houses," said the Countess. Oc- hurried voice. "Cut out the compliments. Let's two watches?" said Bill, his countenance assum- She took out her long cigarette casionally. she interpolated a "I say, will you come and see make plans." ing a brick-red tint. | holder and began to smoke. | comment of her own. | those etchings now? They're wait- | To her relief, Bill reacted favor- and again shut it without speak-

knew, only too well, the suscepti- said Lady Coote. "The heat goes up children burned to death. Awful.

The Countess paid no attention. Jimmy close behind her. She went on and on and she fin-There was a pause. The Coun- ally stopped as suddenly as she had the drawing room door closed be-

you! We have money—but no or- got to say something to get hold \_what you might call coming

Lady Coote sighed.

that nothing can be done without the library, clearly in a very per-"What," said the Countess, "are regular methods. He attributes his turbed state of mind. own success entirely to that. He "Look here," he burst out,

She sighed again. A sudden "You being mixed up in th fleeting vision passed before her Ten to one there's going to be eyes of a Sir Oswald who had rough house and then-" not got on in the world. A Sir He looked at her with a kind Oswald who retained, in all es- of pathetic dismay that gave sentials, the attributes of that Bundle a warm and comfortable cheery young man in the bicycle feeling. shop. Just for a second it occur- "She ought to be kept out of red to her how much pleasanter oughtn't she, Jimmy?" life might have been for her if Lady Coote looked at her in Sir Oswald had not had regular methods.

By a quite understandable as- some one might get hurt."

ette-holder from her mouth and "Tell me, Lady Eileen," she said, "do you like that head "I haven't got the hang of it At Jimmy's quarters Bundle finds modern innovations. The Abbey "I will tell you some horrors." gardener at your place?' ', all yet," confessed Bill. "You in

# Bill's Viewpoint

Bundle left the room hurriedly

"What etchings?" she asked. as hind her.

"The Countess," said Bill, "is a "It's funny," said Lady Coote, ganization. It is organization we of you. Come on, Bill is waiting to brass tacks." for us in the library. There's no-

"Don't like what?"

He appealed to the other. "I've told her so," said Jimmy. "Dash it all, Bundle, I mean-

Bundle turned around to Jimmy "How much have you told him?"

"Oh! everything." Bundle that place in Seven Dials and all it. If we believe some one's going

"Wouldn't what?"

"The days are drawing in," said mind, a little like a gramophone place so light-heartedly. | not been for your friend Ronny I "I suppose," said Jimmy, "that we this thing. But I am. And it's no "Can't be helped," said Bill. "Not "You girls are all the a

ably to the suggestion.

mula," he said. "Eberhard's got some sort of formula with him, or rather Sir Oswald has. The stuff

"You're right about the for-

has been tested out at his works --very secretly and all that. Eber-

### Plan to Watch

"How long is Sir Stanley stay-

"Going back to town tomorrow." | "All right. Here goes "H'm," said Jimmy. "Then one you first and I second things quite clear. If, as I sup- vice versa." pose, Sir Stanley will be taking Bill nodded. The coin the formula with him, any funny the air. Jimmy bent to low business there's going to be will "Tails," he said. be tonight."

"I suppose it will."

"Not a doubt of it. That nar- that's going." rows the thing down very com- "Oh, you never know" fortably. But the bright lads will Jimmy. "Criminals are we have to be their very brightest, certain. What time shall i We must come down to details, you. Three thirty?" First of all, where will the sacred "That's about fair, I the formula be tonight? Will Eber- And now, at last, Bunda hard have it, or Sir Oswald Coote?'

"Neither. I understand it's to be handed over to the Air Minister and sleep." this evening, for him to take to town tomorrow. In that case O'- very exciting." Rourke will have it. Sure to."

"Well, there's only one thing for

tonight, Bill, my boy." Bundle opened her mouth as again without speaking.

are exciting." - "did I recognize the commission-

through."

Again Bundle opened her mouth.

SCOTTS EMULSION COD-LIVER OIL MADE EASY TOT TRY IT AND SE

Right you are," agre "Who'll take first duty?" "Shall we spin for it?"

"Might as well."

"Damn!" said Bill first half and probably

"What about me?" she "Nothing doing. You got

"Oh!" said Bundle, "The

"You never know," said kindly. "You may be me in your sleep while Bill am cape scot-free."

"Well, there's always the sibility. Do you know, Jim don't half like the look Countess. I suspect her." "Nonsense!" cried Bill

"She's absolutely above sugh "How do you know?" m

"Because I do. Why, one of fellows at the Hungarian En vouched for her."

# Off to Bed

"Oh!" said Bundle, memen taken aback by his fervor. a jolly good-looking woman-Bundle was only too well line line of argument.

(To Be Continued.)

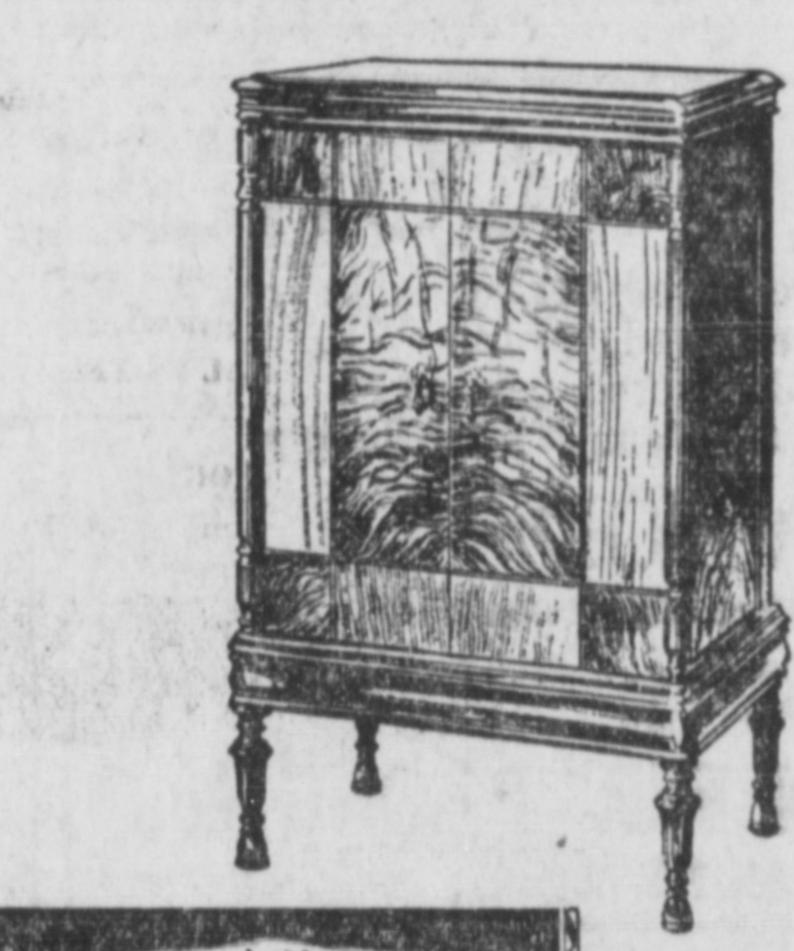
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