

The SEVEN DIALS MYSTERY

By Agatha Christie

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INSTALMENT XXI.

THE STORY THUS FAR

Gerry Wade is found dead in bed at Chimneys, some of a house party. Seven out of eight alarm clocks placed in his room to awaken him are lined up on a mantel. The guests are told that death resulted from an overdose of sleeping powder. Jimmy Thesiger and Ronny Devereux motor to Gerry's home to tell a sister, Loraine, of Wade's death.

Lady Eileen Brent, known as "Bundle," finds a letter Wade had written to his sister making reference to the Seven Dials Bundle. That evening Gerry was murdered. En route to London a man, mysteriously shot, staggers into the road in front of Eileen's car. It proves to be Devereux, who dying, whispers: "Seven Dials—tell Jimmy Thesiger."

At Jimmy's quarters Bundle finds Loraine. The three of them set out to trail the murderer. From Captain Battle at Scotland Yard Bundle obtains a list of secret societies. That evening with Bill Eversleigh, she visits the Seven Dials Club. A watchman, Alfred, is recognized as a former footman at Chimneys.

Cabinet Minister George Lomax plans a party. He has received a warning letter from the Seven Dials Society. Bundle gets an invitation. Meanwhile she hides in the meeting room of the society and witnesses a meeting attended by masked members. She reports to Thesiger, who has also obtained an invitation to the Cabinet member's party. Among the guests is one Herr Eberhard, an inventor who has military plans of interest to the Air Ministry.

To prevent the theft of these plans by members of the Seven Dials Society Eversleigh and Thesiger agree to stand watch after the other guests have retired. Jimmy takes the first watch and is armed with an automatic. At 10 minutes of 2 he hears the creak of a board—a sound from downstairs. He creeps cautiously down the staircase, then to the library door. Suddenly, flinging open the door, he turns on the lights. The big room is empty. He opens a window and steps out on the terrace. Then back in the library, he locks the door from the inside and pockets the key. He thinks he hears a soft patter of feet outside—

NOW CONTINUE THE STORY

Loraine came obediently. The superintendent had produced a large, clean pocket-handkerchief and was neatly bandaging the wounded man's arm. Loraine helped him.

"He'll be all right," said the superintendent. "Don't you worry. As many lives as cats, these young fellows. It wasn't the loss of blood knocked him out either. He must have caught his head a crack on the floor as he fell."

Other Guests Arrive

Outside the knocking on the door had become tremendous. The voice of George Lomax, furiously upraised, came loud and distinct: "Who is in there? Open the door at once!"

Superintendent Battle sighed. "I suppose we shall have to," he said. "A pity."

His eyes darted round, taking in the scene. An automatic lay by Jimmy's side. The superintendent picked it up gingerly, holding it very delicately and examined it. He grunted and laid it on the table. Then he stepped across and unlocked the door.

Several people almost fell into the room. Nearly everybody said something at the same minute. George Lomax, spluttering and obdurate words which refused to come with sufficient fluency, exclaimed:

"The—the—the meaning of this? Ah! It's you, Superintendent. What has happened? I say—what has happened?"

Bill Eversleigh said: "My God! Old Jimmy!" and stared at the limp figure on the floor.

Lady Coote, clad in a resplendent purple dressing gown, cried out: "The poor boy!" and swept past Superintendent Battle to bend over the prostrate Jimmy in a motherly fashion.

Bundle said: "Loraine!"

Herr Eberhard said: "Gott im Himmel!" and other words of that nature.

Sir Stanley Digby said: "My God, what's all this?"

A housemaid said: "Look at the blood," and screamed with pleasurable excitement.

A footman said: "Lor!"

The butler said, with a good deal more bravery in his manner than had been noticeable a few minutes earlier: "Now then, this won't do!" and waved away the underservants.

The efficient Mr. Rupert Bate-man said to George: "Shall we get rid of some of these people, sir?"

Then they all took fresh breath. "Incredible!" said George Lomax.

"Battle, what has happened?"

Battle gave him a look, and George's discreet habits assumed their usual sway.

"Now then," he said, moving to the door, "everyone go back to bed, please. There's been a—er—"

"A slight accident," said Superintendent Battle easily.

"A—er—an accident. I shall be much obliged if everyone will go back to bed."

Everyone was clearly reluctant to do so.

"Lady Coote—please—"

"The poor boy," said Lady Coote in a motherly fashion.

She rose from a kneeling position with great reluctance. And as she did so, Jimmy stirred and sat up.

"Hallo!" he said thickly. "What's the matter?"

He looked round him vacantly for a minute or two and then intelligence returned to his eyes.

"Have you got him?" he demanded eagerly.

"Got who?"

"The man. Climbed down the ivy. I was by the window there. Grabbed him and we had no end of a set-to—"

A Cat-Burglar

"One of those nasty, murderous cat burglars," said Lady Coote.

"Poor boy."

Jimmy was looking round him.

"I say—I'm afraid we—er—have made rather a mess of things. Fellow was as strong as an ox and we went fairly waltzing around."

The condition of the room was clear proof of this statement. Everything light and breakable within a range of twelve feet that could be broken had been broken.

"And what happened then?"

But Jimmy was looking round for something.

"Where's Leopold? The pride of the blue-nosed automatics."

Battle indicated the pistol on the table.

"Is this yours, Mr. Thesiger?"

"That's right. That's little Leopold. How many shots have been fired?"

"One shot."

Jimmy looked chagrined.

"I'm disappointed in Leopold," he murmured. "I can't have pressed the button properly, or he'd have gone on shooting."

"Who shot first?"

"I did. I'm afraid," said Jimmy.

"You see, the man twisted himself out of my grasp suddenly. I saw him making for the window and I closed my finger down on Leopold and let him have it. He turned in the window and fired at me and—well, I suppose after that I took the count."

He rubbed his head rather ruefully.

But Sir Stanley Digby was suddenly alert.

"Climbing down the ivy, you said? My God, Lomax, you don't think they've got away with it?"

He rushed from the room. For some curious reason nobody spoke during his absence. In a few minutes Sir Stanley returned. His round, chubby face was white as death.

"My God, Battle," he said, "they have got it. O'Rourke's fast asleep—drugged, I think. I can't wake him. And the papers have vanished!"

THE FORMULA RECOVERED

"Der liebe Gott!" said Herr Eberhard in a whisper.

His face had gone chalky white. George turned a face of dignified reproach on Battle.

"Is this true Battle? I left all arrangements in your hands."

The rocklike quality of the Superintendent showed out well. Not a muscle of his face moved.

"The best of us are defeated sometimes, sir," he said quietly.

"Then you mean—you really mean—that the document is gone?"

But to every one's intense surprise Superintendent Battle shook his head.

"No, no, Mr. Lomax, it's not so bad as you think. Everything's all right. But you can't lay the credit for it at my door. You've got to thank this young lady."

Barge to Leave Skidegate For Southern B. C.

SKIDEGATE, Jan. 24.—J. L. Barge, one of the real pioneers of the Queen Charlotte Islands, has sold his home at Queen Charlotte City to Capt. J. Haan of Sandspit and will be leaving shortly for the south to locate. It is reported that C. Miller of Queen Charlotte City is to take over Mr. Barge's hall, store and offices.

The departure of Mr. Barge from the islands will be a matter of general regret.

New Members of Council Welcomed

At the opening of the council meeting last night, Ald. Brown rose and welcomed the new mayor and aldermen. He said he knew that, though they might differ, the business of the council would be conducted in a gentlemanly way.

Mayor Orme congratulated the new members on their election and expressed regret that, through illness, Ex-Alderman Dibb had been prevented from offering himself this year.

STOCK QUOTATIONS

(Courtesy of S. D. Johnson Co. Ltd.)

Friday, Jan. 24.

Bayview, 2, 2½.
Big Missouri, 78, 82.
Cork Province, 4¼, 5.
Cotton Belt, nil, 25.
Dunwell, 3 nil.
Duthie Mines, nil, 49.
George Copper, 3.75, 3.95.
Goconda River, 13, 13½.
Golconda, 88, 90.
Grandview, 12, 12½.
Independence, 4½, 4¾.
Indian Mines, 2½, 4.
Int. Coal & Coke, 28, 30.
Kootenay Florence, 6, nil.
Kootenay King, 5¼, 6.
Mohawk, 1½, 2.
Morton Woolsey, 8¼, 8½.
Marmot River Gold, 8, 16.
Marmot Metals, 1¼, 2½.
Nat. Sil. G. S., 6½, 7.
Noble Five, 32½, 33½.
Oregon Copper, 11, 12.
Pend Oreille (cm.), 4.35, 4.45.
Premier, 1.53, 1.55.
Porter-Idaho, 26, 30.
Reeves Macdonald, 1.38, 1.40.
Rufus-Argenta, 7, 8.
Ruth-Hope, 19, nil.
Silver Crest, 4, 5.
Silverado Cons., 25, 35.
Snowflake, 18, 18¼.
Sunloch, nil, 1.00.
Terminus, 2, nil.
Topley Richfield, nil, 5.
Woodbine, 13¼, 2.
Bluebird, nil, 5.

Oils

A. P. Consolidated, 2.31, 2.33.
Calmont, 2.25, 2.28.
Dalhousie, 2.40, 2.45.
Fabyan Pete, 7, 7¼.
Home, 10.60, 10.70.
Freehold, 76, 80.
Merland, 75, Nil.
Mercury, 67, 68.
Sterling Pacific, 73, 75.

TORONTO STOCKS

(Courtesy of S. D. Johnson Co. Ltd.)

Friday, Jan. 24

Amulet, 1.68, 1.70.
Dome, 8.00, 8.10.
Falconbridge, 5.40, 5.50.
Hudson Bay, 11.25, 11.50.
Howie, 1.25, 1.26.
Hollinger, 5.50, 5.70.
Int. Nickel, 37.50, 37.90.
Imperial Oil, 26.25, nil.
Mining Corporation, 2.85, 2.86.
McIntyre, 17.50, 17.75.
Noranda, 38.35, 38.50.
Nipissing, 1.63, 1.70.
Sherritt Gordon, 2.96, 2.99.
Sudbury Basin, 4.95, 4.98.
Teck Hughes, 5.60, 5.65.
Ventures, 2.80, 2.95.
Wright Hargraves, 1.79, 1.80.

The debt of the Argentine is approximately 4,500,000,000 pesos (nearly 1,890,000,000) or 450 pesos (\$189) per capita.

SCOTT'S EMULSION
COD-LIVER OIL
Whipped to a Cream
TASTES GOOD
DOES GOOD!
GIVE IT A TRIAL

ORME GOES TO VICTORIA

Mayor Will Interview Provincial Government in Regard to Local Affairs

The city council decided last night to send Mayor Orme to Victoria to take up with the provincial government a number of matters of local interest such as the construction of the Skeena Highway, disposal of the government block in the centre of the city, provision for housing the Prince Rupert public library and other matters outstanding between the city and the government. Mayor Orme left for the south later in the evening on the steamer Prince Rupert and will be in Victoria Monday.

Among the minor matters to be discussed with the government will be a settlement of the Cow Bay road account and payment by the government for the sidewalks surrounding the government block in the city.

Ald. Collart was named acting mayor during Mayor Orme's absence.

NATIONAL PUCK PLAY

Boston and Rangers Winners Last Night; Detroit and Montreal Draw

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—With the Cook brothers and Frank Boucher passing and shooting in their best form, the New York Rangers defeated Ottawa Senators in a fast and brilliantly-played National Hockey League game last night to tighten their grip on second place in the International group.

At Montreal, Detroit, showing a better turn of speed and more aggressiveness than in their previous visit, held the Maroons to an overtime tie.

Boston Bruins, at home, closed the season's account with the New York Americans by defeating the star-spangled outfit in an exciting overtime affair.

The scores were as follows:
New York Americans 1, Boston 2. (Overtime).
Detroit 2, Montreal 2. (Overtime).
Ottawa 3, New York Rangers 6.

WHIST LEAGUE LAST EVENING

Play Commences in Newton Cup Competition

Prince Rupert Fraternal Whist League results last night were as follows:
Six Musketeers 8, Canadian Legion 1.
Grotto 4, Drydock 5.
Seal Cove 3, Leif Erikson 7.
Moose 7, St. Andrews 2.
Elevator 4, I.O.O.F. 5.

Table—Dybhavn Cup

	W.	L.	Pts.
I. O. O. F.	9	1	9
Grotto	7	3	7
St. Andrews	6	4	6
Dry Dock	6	4	6
Moose	6	4	6
Leif Erikson	4	6	4
Six Musketeers	4	6	4
Seal Cove	3	7	3
Canadian Legion	3	7	3
Elevator	2	8	2

Table—Newton Cup

	W.	L.	Pts.
Six Musketeers	1	0	1
Dry Dock	1	0	1
Leif Erikson	1	0	1
Moose	1	0	1
I. O. O. F.	1	0	1
Canadian Legion	0	1	0
Grotto	0	1	0
Seal Cove	0	1	0
St. Andrews	0	1	0
Elevator	0	1	0

CAREER OF OLD SHIP IS ENDED

Ancient Barkentine City of Sydney, Once Pride of Pacific, Is Burned

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 24.—That gallant old barkentine, "The City of Sydney," once the pride of the Pacific sailing ships but later known as the "hell ship" of the Alaska fishing trade, closed its colorful career yesterday in flames on the mud flats here. It had been condemned as unseaworthy and was sold for junk. The vessel was to have been cut up for scrap iron.

FRASER & PAYNE'S

January Sale Specials

REMARKABLE VALUES FOR SATURDAY'S SELLING. RAYON SILK UNDERWEAR SELLING AT BELOW FACTORY COST

Lace-Trimmed Combinations	\$1	Plain Tailored Bloomer and Vest Sets
Lace-Trimmed Brassier and Bloomer Sets		Plain Tailored Brassier and Bloomer Sets
Lace-Trimmed Pettinicks		Plain Tailored Nightgown
Lace-Trimmed Nightgowns		Shadowproof and Lace Trimmed Slips

72 x 90 HEMSTITCHED SHEETS—Pair	\$2.95	54" ALL-WOOL NAVY SERGE—Yard	\$1.00
PURE WOOL FLANNEL PANTIE DRESSES—2 to 6 years			\$2.75

FRASER & PAYNE, 3rd Ave. & 6th St.

CENOTAPH WOUND UP

Payment of Memorial Completed With Balance to Poppy Fund

The cenotaph committee met last night to make a final windup in connection with the establishment of the local memorial.

A letter was read from Major McGregor, V.C., thanking the committee for an invitation to the unveiling and giving his impressions of London today.

The financial statement was presented, showing a balance of \$84.89. This was voted to the poppy fund of the Canadian Legion for the assistance of returned men and their dependents in distressed circumstances.

A vote of thanks was tendered S. M. Newton and the secretary for their work in connection with the raising of funds.

The final financial statement was as follows:

Receipts	
Total subscriptions	\$3,404.30
Bank interest	57.16
Sale of programs	78.80
Total	\$3,540.26
Expenditures	
Total cost of cenotaph	\$3,300.00
Programs and cuts	72.20
Advertising	53.50
Unveiling expenses	29.67
Total	\$3,455.37
Balance to poppy fund	\$84.89

Donations

Donations to the fund which have not been acknowledged up to the present were:	
Thomas Trotter	\$10.00
W. Haworth	2.00
Charles Barker	4.00
J. C. Brady	10.00
Valentin Dairy	5.00

MORE SPRUCE IS SHIPPED

Two Carloads of Kived Timber Arrive Here On Prince John En Route to St. Paul, Minn.

SKIDEGATE, Jan. 24.—The Bernsfield Logging Co. shipped two more carloads of kived spruce this week aboard the Prince John to Prince Rupert, where it will be trans-shipped over the Canadian National Railways to St. Paul, Minn. This high-grade species of spruce has been finding a ready market in the United States, it is reported.

The Bernsfield interests are taking up another large tract of spruce on Moresby Island.

PEDESTRIANS STILL SQUEAK

In comparison with even the best cars of not many years ago, high class automobiles of today are silent to a degree that would have been regarded as incredible by early motor engineers—Scientific American.

Catholic Women's Tea and Sale Was Successful Affair

A successful tea and sale of home cooking was held yesterday afternoon by the Catholic Women's League at the home of Mrs. M. P. McCaffery, Fourth Avenue West.

The satisfactory sum of \$40 was realized as a result of the affair.

Mrs. W. H. Kinkade and Mrs. B. Curlin presided and Mrs. A. Lewis and Mrs. G. C. Arsenau had charge of the home cooking table. Assistance in serving was Mrs. Harold McEwen, Mrs. R. E. Moore, Miss Bussanich, Miss Irene Bourassa and Mrs. Lisinski. Mrs. D. E. Murphy was cashier and also had charge of the raffle of a pair of pillowslips which was won by Mrs. Lewis.

During the afternoon there were vocal solos by Mrs. Jarvis McLeod, who was accompanied by Mrs. R. E. Moore.

Provincial Constable George Wyman of Smithers, who arrived in the city yesterday afternoon accompanying a party of prisoners, will return tomorrow morning to the interior. The prisoners were taken on to Okalla last night by Constable William Harrison of Hazelton.

Only One Billiard Game Was Played

Only one game was played tonight's Billiard League fixture. Marcus Andrews (Canadian Legion) defeated Fred Stephens (H.C.) this by a score of 250 to 185. Four other games are to be played tonight.

"TRY A NIP TO-NIGHT!"

GRANT'S

"Best Procurable"

(THE ORIGINAL)

Pure Scotch Whisky

RICHEST IN FINEST HIGHLAND MALT

Bottled and guaranteed by William Grant & Sons Limited, Glenside, Dundee, Glasgow, Scotland.

This advertisement is not published or displayed by the Liquor Control Board or by the Government of British Columbia.

COAL! COAL!

PEMBINA EGG—Delivered, per ton \$12.00
ALBERTA EGG—Delivered, per ton 12.50
ALBERTA LUMP—Delivered, per ton 13.50

Special Prices On Your Winter Supply

WOOD

JUST ARRIVED, NEW SHIPMENT OF BIRCH AND JACK PINE

MILL ENDS—Per load \$4.50
BOX CUTTINGS—Per load 3.50

HYDE TRANSFER—PHONE 580

PHONE 580