- minimum nature barden Mr. Krithin

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THE STORY THUS FAR

Gerry Wade is found dead in bed Seven out of eight alarm clocks placed brief and to the point. death resulted from an overdose of that party," he said. eleping powder. Jimmy Thesiger and Renny Devereux motor to Gerry's home "That's what I think," said, to tell a sister, Loraine, of Wade's Bundle.

Lady Eileen Brent, known as "Bundle," finds a letter Wade had written most dreamily. to his sister making reference to the Seven Dials. Bundle feels certain that Gerry was murdered. En route to London a man, mysteriously shot, stag- was on?" he asked unexpectedly. "Why are men so happy when they're single?" said Loraine tragical- ing," said Jimmy. car. It proves to be Devereux, who dying, whispers: "Seven Dials tell ----Jimmy Thesiger."

Lorainc The three of them set out war. Gerry didn't." to tra I the murdeer.

NOW CONTINUE THE STORY INSTALMENT X.

How It Happened

"It didn't happen that way. We were discussing what we could do to get Gerry up, and Pongo said my. "Or at least I can make a very self out to be." an alarm clock, and somebody shrewd guess. He was out of Eng- "And if you're right?" said Bunsaid one would be no good, and land from 1915 to 1918. I've taken dle, practical as ever. somebody else—Bill Eversleigh. I the trouble to find that out. And "Then the thing's bigger than we hoofed off to get them. We got Germany." just out of the generosity of our admiration. hearts. There was nothing premeditated about it—it just happened."

Bundle was slienced, but not convinced.

methodically.

of certain facts. There's a secret the term, but you know what I is bound to be there as Codder's think it's all for the best." society, with points of resemblance mean-as Bill Eversleigh and right-hand man. He might bring -as an absurdity, shall we say. He I think Gerry Wade was the real "I don't see why not," said Bun- She became meditative. couldn't believe in its being really dangerous. But later something happened to convince him, and then he got the wind up in earnest. I rather fancy he must have said something to Ronny Devereux about it. Anyway, when he was put out of the way, Ronny suspected, and he must have known enough to get on the same track himself. The unfortunate thing is that we've got to start quite from the outer darkness. We haven't got the knowledge the other two had."

"Perhaps that's an advantage," said Loraine coolly. "They won't suspect us and therefore they won't be trying to put us out of the way."

"I wish I felt sure about that," said Jimmy in a worried voice, "You know, Loraine, old Gerry himself wanted you to keep out of it. Don't you think you could

"No. I couldn't," said Loraine. "Don't let's start discussing that again. It's only a waste of time. At the mention of the word

time, Jimmy's eyes rose to the clock and he uttered an exclamation of astonishment. He rose and opened the door.

"Stevens." "Yes, sir?"

"What about a spot of lunch Stevens? Could it be managed?"

Lunch For Three

"I anticipated that it would be required, sir. Mrs. Stevens has made preparations accordingly."

"That's a wonderful man," said Jimmy, as he returned, heaving a sigh of relief. "Brain, you know. Sheer brain. He takes correspondence courses. I sometimes wonder if they'd do me any good."

"Don't be silly," said Loraine. Stevens opened the door and proceeded to bring in a most recherche meal. An omelette was followed by quails and the very lightest things in souffles.

"Why are men so happy when they're single?" said Loraine tragically. "Why are they so much better looked after by other people than by us?"

"Oh! but that's rot, you know," said Jimmy. "I mean, they're not How could they be. I often think

He stammered and stopped. Lo-

raine blushed again. Suddenly Bundle let out a whoop! and both the other started violently.

Me. I mean. I knew there was something I'd forgotten."

"You know Codders-George Lomax, I mean?"

"I've heard of him a good deal," said Jimmy. "From Bill and Ronmy, you know."

Well, Codders is giving some sort of a dry party next weekand he's had a warning letter from Seven Dials."

"What?" cried Jimmy excitedly, By Agatha Christic leaning forward. "You can't mean

> "Yes, I do. He told father about it. Now what do you think that points to?"

Jimmy leaned back in his chair. He thought rapidly and carefully. Chimneys, scene of a house party. At last he spoke. His speech was

on a mantel. The guests are told that "Something's going to happen at

"It all fits in," said Jimmy al-He turned to Loraine.

"How old were you when the war "Nine-no, eight."

"And Gerry, I suppose, was about At Jimmy's quarters Bundle finds 20. Most lads of 20 fought in the

THE REAL THING

one each and an extra one for! The color rose in Loraine's body has got to be at this house-Pongo and one for Lady Coote_ cheeks. She looked at Jimmy with party of Lomax's." Bundle make a slight grimace.

"How clever of you." "He spoke German well, didn't doesn't like me. He'd never think

"Oh! yes, like a native."

ering. All the same, I might_" "I'm sure I'm right. Listen, you She remained a moment lost in Jimmy proceeded to sum up two. Gerry Wade was at the For- thought. eign Office. He appeared to be the "Do you think I could work it "I think we can say we're sure same sort of amiable idiot—excuse through Bill?" asked Jimmy. "But on the whole, I ger himself had various ideas and "And I've heard that very often to the Mafia, in existence. Gerry Ronny Devereux. A purely orna- me along somehow or other." Wade came to know about it. At mental excrescence. But in reality first he treated it as rather a joke he was something quite different.

thing. Our secret service is sup- dle. You'll have to prime Bill and suspicion. The tameness with "Always remember people," "No," said Loraine, after think- posed to be the best in the world make him say the right things. which Loraine was taking it Battle. He added: "Got to in my ing a minute or two. "No, Gerry I think Gerry Wade was pretty He's incapable of thinking of them seemed hardly natural. Loraine job." wasn't a soldier. I don't know high up in that service. And that for himself."

ly. "Why are they so much better looked after by others than by us?"

explains everything! I remember "What do you suggest?" asked and guileless. They met Bundle's ed. saying idly that last evening at Jimmy humbly. Chimneys that Gerry couldn't be "Oh! it's quite easy. Bill de- lashes. Bundle was only partly inquired the superintendent.

think—said why not get a dozen nobody seems to know exactly thought. This Seven Dials business for new, rich, young men. The

"I know George well-but he

settled. I'm dining with Bill to-stance, if Loraine Wade was per- "We've got a very good rule to Not at all a romantic spot to useful."

there," said Bundle. "Codders hates which he had no intention of reme like poison—but there are vealing to-say, Bundle. other ways."

-interested in politics, anxious to of Loraine Wade highly suspi- point. stand for Parliament. George will cious. fall at once. You know what these political parties are always looking tional. One thing's certain, some-jit will be to manage."

Rothschild, I don't mind," said serve. That "Nobody tells every- tiously.

"You're not on in this act," said whatever about. side ter-er-"

"To what?" said Loraine.

"Next time," said Jimmy kindly. ing on his remembering this fact. "And suppose there isn't a next

time," said Loraine.

a doubt of it."

-wait." "That's it," said Jimmy, with Battle was a stolid-looking man Bundle slowly, "a society me

thought you'd understand." "three of us forcing our way in tective. do see that, don't you?"

"Oh! yes," said Loraine. "Then it's settled-you do noth-

Bundle looked at her in sudden me."

looked at her. Her eyes were blue "Oh! said Bundle, rather damp without a quiver even of the "And what can I do for you?" "I can tell you why," said Jim- quite such an ass as he made him- scribes you as a rich young man satisfied. She found the meekness Bundle came straight to the moment his eyelids flickered

Scotland Yard

one of the three participants had. thing" is a very true motto.

"Then I think that's practically It may be questioned, for in- aren't really dangerous." seek out Jimmy Thesiger.

"I'm sorry you can't be there," In the same way, Jimmy Thes- out." plans connected with the forth- you let them go on?" "I'm not so sure I shan't be coming party at George Lomax"

fledged plan which she proposed and talk about rivers of blood-it

"And what about me?" asked to put into immediate execution Loraine in a small, meek voice. and which she had said nothing

Jimmy instantly. "See? After all, On leaving Jimmy Thesiger's we've got to have some one out- rooms she drove to Scotland Yard, where she asked to see Superintendent Battle.

Jimmy decided not to pursue Superintendent Battle was raththis tack. He appealed to Bundle. er a big man. He worked almost "Look here," he said. "Loraine entirely on cases of a delicate polmust keep out of this, mustn't itical nature. On such a case he had come to Chimneys four years "I certainly think she'd better." ago, and Bundle was frankly trad-

Superintendent Battle

"Oh! there probably will be. Not After a short delay she was ta- if there is trouble any time ken along several corridors and know where to lay our hand "I see. I'm just to go home and into the superintendent's private him."

every appearance of relief. "I with a wooden face. He looked more dangerous than any supremely unintelligent and more imagines?" "You see," explained Bundle, like a commissionaire than a de- | "Very unlikely," said Battle

might look suspicious. And you He was standing by the window would be particularly difficult. You when she entered, gazing in an expressionless manner at some spar-

"Good afternoon' Lady Eileen," he said. "Sit down, won't you?"

"I do nothing," said Loraine "Thank you," said Bundle. "I was afraid you mightn't remember

people at Scotland Yard have lists usual wooden self as he said: Now it may be said at once in of all secret societies and things "Strictly speaking, Lady E And we all said good egg and where he was. I think he was in isn't merely criminal—it's interna- richer Bill says you are, the easier the foregoing conversation each don"

> "We try to keep up to date," "Short of being described as as it were, held samething in re- said Superintendent Battle cau-

"I suppose a great many of them quarter once, but it's very res

morrow night, and I'll get a list of feetly sincere in her account of go by," said Battle. "The more about in for mysterious secret who is to be there. That will be the motives which had led her to they talk, the less they'll do. You'd cieties." be surprised how well that works "Oh!" said Bundle, rather t

Battle nodded.

"That's so. Why shouldn't a man Lady Eileen," all himself a Brother of Liberty, "Have I got to tell you?" And Bundle herself had a fully and meet twice a week in a cellar

TAKE COD. The PLEASANT WAY

won't hurt either him or us

MOTHER and CHILD V

HIL GOOD FOR

"But sometimes, I suppose,"

"But it might happen," ted Bundle.

"Oh it might!" admitted to perintendent.

There was a moment or silence. Then Bundle said of

Secret Secieties

"Superintendent Battle, said you give me a list of secret cieties that have their headen ters in Seven Dials?"

It was Superintendent Bar boast that he had never been to display emotion. But B could have sworn that just f he looked taken aback. Only i "I've always heard that you moment, however. He was

> Dials nowadays." "No. Most of it is pulled

and rebuilt. It was rather a table and high class nowad

plussed. "But all the same I should

much like to know what put neighborhood mee your

BRINGING UP FATHER



of asking me to a serious gath-

Interested in Politics







By George McManus















