

# The MYSTERY of HARTLEY HOUSE

by Clifford S. Raymond  
Illustrated by Irwin Myers Copyright by George H. Doran Co.

## JED ABDUCTED.

Synopsis.—Dr. John Michelson, just beginning his career, becomes resident physician and companion of Homer Sidney at Hartley house. Mr. Sidney is an American, a semi-invalid, old and rich and very desirous to live. Mrs. Sidney is a Spanish woman, dignified and retiring. Jed, the butler, acts like a privileged member of the family. The family has come from Montevideo, South America. Hartley house is a fine old isolated country place with a murder story, a "haunted pool," and many watch-dogs, and an atmosphere of mystery. The "haunted pool" is where Richard Dobson, son of a former owner of Hartley house, had killed his brother, Arthur Dobson. Jed begins operations by locking the doctor in his room the very first night. Doctor John fixes his door so he can't be locked in. He meets Isobel, daughter of the house, and falls in love at first sight. In the night he finds the butler drunk and holding Mrs. Sidney by the wrist. He interferes. Mrs. Sidney makes light of it. John buys a revolver. John overhears Jed telling Mrs. Sidney he will have his way. In reply she says she will not hesitate to kill him. Mrs. Sidney asks John to consent to the announcement of his engagement to Isobel. The young people consent to the make-believe engagement. Later they find it is to be real. Jed tries to kill John, but the matter is smoothed over. John, though "engaged" to Isobel, conceals his love. Mr. Sidney visits a nearby prison and has Dobson, the murderer, pointed out. Jed tells the story of the Dobson murder. The family go to South America for the winter. John is left at home but the "engagement" is not broken. John hears the story of a tragedy "that might have happened in Montevideo." The family returns. A mysterious Spanish sailor appears. Jed recognizes him and wants to kill him. The sailor plays burglar. Mr. Brown, "attorney" for the sailor, calls on John and makes demands.

## CHAPTER VIII—Continued.

"I cannot correct your convictions," I said. "You must use your best judgment. You have our permission to do anything that suggests itself to you."

"You're going to brazen it out," he cried.

"We are not going to do anything at all," I said, "not seeing any necessity for doing anything. I might merely suggest to you that there are legal provisions against blackmail."

The quiet little man, with his notions of profit evaporating, suddenly became savage and desperate.

"I can't be fooled with," he cried. "I know you. You won't assault me with a blackmail charge, because you do not dare. I know I am guilty and can be punished unless I have a real hold on this family. I have taken the chance that I have a real hold. It was not certain, but now I know it. It

I turned suddenly and saw Jed. He was not three feet behind my chair. His face revealed disorder of mind.

"Do you want a cocktail?" he asked.

"No," I said.

Isobel touched the keys of the piano, as a player done with a mood may do to express surfeit or conclusion.

"Not a mild one?" Jed asked, persisting.

"Well, then, very weak," I said.

I took up my book again and forced myself, as discipline, to read. I had not been able to do it so long as Isobel played, but now that she had stopped I might at least try.

I made an effort. I tried to keep my attention on the type. It was no use. After fifteen minutes' reading I found that I had not turned a page. Neither had Jed brought the cocktail. I got up and walked about the library. I went to the front entrance to find if a few deep breaths in the open would not produce tranquillity.

As I stood at the entrance Isobel came running toward it. I heard her before I saw her. She was running and gasping. She came up the steps, saw me, controlled herself and tried to appear undisturbed. She might have succeeded, but a sleeve of her gown was torn from her waist and had fallen to her wrist.

"What has happened to you?" I asked.

"Nothing," she said.

"You are running."

"A little exercise."

"Look at your sleeve," I said.

She clutched at it as if she had become conscious of it for the first time, and then ran by me and indoors.

We met at dinner twenty minutes later. Isobel had on another gown. Jed did not serve us. Dinner was delayed ten minutes. Then two maids undertook the service. Mrs. Sidney asked for Jed. One of the maids said that he had not appeared and they were doing the best they could without him.

"Why, what can have happened to Jed?" Mrs. Sidney exclaimed.

"What did happen to Jed? I asked Isobel after dinner when we were alone.

"I don't know," she said.

"Who tore your sleeve?"

"You are in for trouble," he said. "We know what you have, and we'll get it."

Is not enough of a hold, but it is enough to keep you from making trouble for me, and I'll see that soon it will be enough to make you listen to me.

"You may do anything you want to do," I said.

He became quiet and cunning again.

"Then, if you don't mind, I'd like to speak to Jed," he said.

I rang for him.

When Jed came, the little shabby lawyer became excited again and got up out of his chair to shake his finger at Jed.

"You are in for trouble," he said.

"We know what you have, and we'll get it. They don't dare stop us, and I want to give you notice that you are marked. That's all. You'll be followed and hounded and run down in the end, and there'll be an end to this superciliousness here. It may be when you're dead.

"Jed," she said with resolute frankness.

"Where is he?"

"I don't know."

"Where were you when he did it?"

"At the edge of the woods. I had gone out for a bit of air—just across the lawn. Jed appeared."

"What did he say?"

"I don't know—something incoherent, violent; and he took me by the sleeve. I was not frightened, but I drew back suddenly. My sleeve ripped off. We were at the edge of the woods. Three men appeared, strangled Jed before he could cry out, picked him up and carried him off."

I spent the evening with Mr. Sidney and told him that Jed was ill. He was concerned, and I made the lie a kindly one.

"It is insignificant," I said. "With his habits he must occasionally pay a price. A touch of indigestion this time."

To extemporize a few lies to get through the night was easy enough; but Jed was not back in the morning, and Mr. Sidney had to be deceived in more enduring fashion.

I explained to him that Jed had been called away on an urgent matter, which seemed to Mrs. Sidney to justify his going at once. Mrs. Sidney, at my request, made the same explanation later, and Mr. Sidney accepted it. This explanation seemed very lame to me, but it served. Mr. Sidney did not know of any reason why Jed should disappear. We offered him an explanation of the servant's absence, and he accepted it.

It was apparent that the Spaniard and the lawyer had been two of the men concerned in Jed's plight, and I thought it best to telephone a discreet detective agency and have the lawyer put under scrutiny. Mrs. Sidney thought this was a proper course—or at least that no better one was available.

Two days later the detectives reported that the lawyer had disappeared from all his accustomed places and that it might require some time to get trace of him.

Jed had been gone four days when one of the maids asked for a month's leave. Her mother was very sick, she said. Mrs. Sidney agreed willingly, although disliking to have an unfamiliar servant in the house to fill the maid's place for the time she would be gone.

Anna, the maid, said that a very close friend of hers would be glad of an opportunity to have a month in the country. Mrs. Sidney took Anna's recommendation with some relief.

The day Anna went away a very pretty girl was met at the train by the chauffeur. She was the thirty-day maid. I saw her as she came in. I thought her manner did not indicate domestic service, but afterward I found that in spite of appearance she was very deft and competent. With Jed gone, such of his duties as could be done by the maids were given them; and this new servant, Agnes, was so efficient in the dining room that she took over what Jed had done there.

Mr. Sidney liked attractive women about him, and Agnes pleased him with her bright, pretty appearance and good-humored serviceability. In three or four days he was glad to have her assigned to duties which Jed had done for him. In little over a week Agnes had fitted into the routine of the house perfectly.

Up to this time nothing had been heard of Jed, but on the ninth day of his disappearance the detectives telephoned that they had the lawyer. McGuire was the detective-superintendent's name.

"I am not to understand what is back of this case," he suggested, telephoning.

"It is not necessary," I said. "If he is willing to come here in your custody, that is enough."

The next day McGuire, the detective, came with the lawyer, who apparently was trying to keep from looking as frightened as he felt.

"I'll have you understand I came of my own volition," he said.

"With Mr. McGuire representing your volition," I suggested.

"I think I'll look about the grounds for a while," said McGuire.

"What do you expect to gain by this?" the lawyer asked when the detective had gone.

"What did you fear to lose by not coming?" I asked. "Suppose we make our dealing plain. You were one of a party of three that abducted the servant Jed. We want him released and returned here where he is needed."

"You are talking nonsense," said the lawyer. "I came with your detective because I thought that at last this household was prepared to deal reasonably with a reasonable man."

"Where is Jed?" I asked.

"That's none of my business."

"It will be made yours."

"Barking dogs—moonshine—things to scare babies," said the little man. McGuire came back.

"I guess I've seen all I want of the grounds," he said, "and there's a train back in half an hour. We've our rig waiting."

"I'm not going back," said the lawyer. "I stay at Hartley."

"What is he to do?" asked McGuire.

"Merely leave the house," I said, and I rang for a maid.

"I'll not be bulldozed," said the lawyer.

"You are not being," I suggested. "The maid will show you out."

He was at a loss but had nothing else to do but go when the maid came. I held McGuire for only a moment and asked him to have operatives watch the lawyer constantly, with an idea that he actually would remain in Hartley, and to continue to search for Jed.

Mr. Sidney, Isobel and I had a cheerful dinner that evening. Worried as Mrs. Sidney was by Jed's disappearance,

she was relieved by his absence. I had a pleasant two hours with Mr. Sidney, and after that the night produced an occurrence.

Ever since Jed had disappeared I had been accustomed to taking certain responsibilities with regard to the house. The element of security entered as a question. I knew we were in circumstances which demanded—at least asked—precautions. So I went about the house at night to see to locks, in a supervision of the duties the servants performed in closing the place—one I took on myself without saying anything about it.

Hartley house was large, with many wings. It was nearly a half-hour's work to visit all the entrances and see to bolts. Many of the halls and corridors were dark, and I carried an electric flash to use when needed.

I did not say anything of my assumed duties, but I suggested to Mrs. Sidney that, considering the state of

the house, it would be wise to tell the household that all doors would be locked at ten o'clock. Mrs. Sidney thought this good policy and the servants were so informed.

The night which had our phenomenon as a development I started through the house at midnight. I had gone from Mr. Sidney's room to my own, had put on a smoking jacket and slippers, put my revolver in my pocket and had laid my watch on the dresser.

I went downstairs and examined the bolt, lock, and chains on the doors at the main entrance. In the halls leading from these doors there were electric buttons, and the house being presumably closed for the night and darkened, I went from hall to hall, from door to door, lighting my way by pushing the buttons and turning off the lights when I had satisfied myself. In two wings, one to the north and one to the south, there was no electric wiring. In the halls of these wings I went along easily enough with an occasional flash of the little light I carried.

Jed's room was in the south wing on the second floor. The windows of the hall toward the east showed the waning moon just rising above a grove of oak mixed with larch, and I stopped at one of the windows to admire the quiet scene. I was attracted—not startled but turned—by a noise at the farther end of the hall. At that end of the hall were the stairs to the second floor, where Jed had his room. There were no windows at that end, and it was in complete darkness, although three faint rays of moonlight

crossed the hall from the windows nearer me.

I listened, and it seemed that the sound I heard was the creaking of old stairs under a light and stealthy step. That interested me, and I went as quietly as I could toward the sound. I must have made some noise. The creaking stopped. I stood still—in one of the shafts of moonlight. There was an instant of silence. I took another step toward the stair and hit my foot against a chair, almost losing my balance.

There was a scurry of feet and a rustling of skirts from the bottom of the stairs across the dark hall. I flashed my electric light, and within its rays saw a glint of white which instantly disappeared down a side corridor which led to a small door used by servants. I started in pursuit, but a blow on the head, sharp but not powerful, coming from behind, knocked me down.

It dazed me a bit and felled me, but was not enough to make me unconscious. Nevertheless I got to my feet unsteadily and made my way slowly down the corridor into which the flash of white had turned. I came to the door with my electric light illuminating the hall, and thus I knew no one was in it—it had no recesses or furniture to offer concealment—and found the door locked from the outside.

"Agnes, the new maid, can not be found."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Eye of the Cat.

As showing how widely the permanently blue eyes of cats differ from other eyes, it is noted that immediately the eyes of white cats that are to have permanently blue eyes open they shine brightly in the dark. No other colored eye does this.

One of Human Ways.

Ever notice how every one of the near-centenarians thinks his one good habit is the secret of longevity?

"I'll Not Be Bulldozed," Said the Lawyer.

the house, it would be wise to tell the household that all doors would be locked at ten o'clock. Mrs. Sidney thought this good policy and the servants were so informed.

The night which had our phenomenon as a development I started through the house at midnight. I had gone from Mr. Sidney's room to my own, had put on a smoking jacket and slippers, put my revolver in my pocket and had laid my watch on the dresser.

I went downstairs and examined the bolt, lock, and chains on the doors at the main entrance. In the halls leading from these doors there were electric buttons, and the house being presumably closed for the night and darkened, I went from hall to hall, from door to door, lighting my way by pushing the buttons and turning off the lights when I had satisfied myself. In two wings, one to the north and one to the south, there was no electric wiring. In the halls of these wings I went along easily enough with an occasional flash of the little light I carried.

Jed's room was in the south wing on the second floor. The windows of the hall toward the east showed the waning moon just rising above a grove of oak mixed with larch, and I stopped at one of the windows to admire the quiet scene. I was attracted—not startled but turned—by a noise at the farther end of the hall. At that end of the hall were the stairs to the second floor, where Jed had his room. There were no windows at that end, and it was in complete darkness, although three faint rays of moonlight

crossed the hall from the windows nearer me.

I listened, and it seemed that the sound I heard was the creaking of old stairs under a light and stealthy step. That interested me, and I went as quietly as I could toward the sound. I must have made some noise. The creaking stopped. I stood still—in one of the shafts of moonlight. There was an instant of silence. I took another step toward the stair and hit my foot against a chair, almost losing my balance.

There was a scurry of feet and a rustling of skirts from the bottom of the stairs across the dark hall. I flashed my electric light, and within its rays saw a glint of white which instantly disappeared down a side corridor which led to a small door used by servants. I started in pursuit, but a blow on the head, sharp but not powerful, coming from behind, knocked me down.

It dazed me a bit and felled me, but was not enough to make me unconscious. Nevertheless I got to my feet unsteadily and made my way slowly down the corridor into which the flash of white had turned. I came to the door with my electric light illuminating the hall, and thus I knew no one was in it—it had no recesses or furniture to offer concealment—and found the door locked from the outside.

"Agnes, the new maid, can not be found."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Eye of the Cat.

As showing how widely the permanently blue eyes of cats differ from other eyes, it is noted that immediately the eyes of white cats that are to have permanently blue eyes open they shine brightly in the dark. No other colored eye does this.

One of Human Ways.

Ever notice how every one of the near-centenarians thinks his one good habit is the secret of longevity?

## TRIMMING IN USE

Wealth of Embroidery Takes Precedence Over Silhouette.

Lavish Use of Decoration Raises Question of Where Needlework is to Come From.

The trimming takes precedence over the silhouette, asserts a prominent fashion authority. This is the thing that strikes one most forcibly in the late models. Many of the old forms of trimming are cast aside for the late models, which are used so lavishly that we wonder where all the workers are coming from to turn out so much of this needlework.

It is unfortunate to run to an extravagant use of any mode of ornamentation. No one can gainsay the decorative value of beautiful embroidery, but it, like anything else, becomes commonplace when too extensively used.

One reason for using so much trimming may be because the silhouette has changed so slightly designers have felt that this is the only way of offering something new. Straightline dresses are covered with embroidery, the stitches being placed so closely together that it is almost impossible to discern the patterns. Coats and hats show quite as much embroidery as do the frocks.

It is surprising to see such a costly use of trimming directly following so many movements toward economy. It would seem that any effort toward economy in dress is like swimming against the current. With what measure of success these dresses will meet it is difficult to say. They must necessarily be expensive with so much needlework ornamenting them.

Very unusual are the things used to work out embroidery designs. A che-

## COIN DOTS OF GREEN VELVET



Blouse of couture brown Klimax satin with applique coin dots of green velvet, worn with box plaited skirt of pussy willow satin.

with bright red silks are used to ornament day-time frocks of dark blue Poiret twill.

## FOR THE PORCH AND GARDEN

Furniture and Accessories Suitable for Outdoor Use and Which Resist Weather.

"Of all the furnishing problems that confront the home decorator, none is more fascinating than that of converting the porch or terrace into a charming outdoor room to which family and guests alike instinctively gravitate," writes Winnifred Fales in June Good Housekeeping.

"The undertaking is delightfully easy, for nowadays appropriate furniture, fabrics, and accessories are obtainable in such limitless variety that the only real difficulty is to keep a reasonably tight hold on the purse strings, instead of yielding to the impulse to buy every new and enchanting thing that offers.

"The modern use of weatherproof materials and finishes for porch and garden furnishings has done much to encourage outdoor living by making it no longer necessary to drag heavy chairs and tables into the house at the first hint of a shower. Far from being injured by rain, the various basket types of furniture are actually improved by it, and even an occasional drenching will do them no harm. Indeed, the accepted cure for rattan and natural willow pieces that have begun to sag and lose their resiliency is to set them out on the lawn and administer a copious shower bath with the garden hose. While this remedy is a trifle drastic for fiber and willow furniture that has been stained or painted in the ordinary manner, even these types will successfully withstand fog and dampness."

Boudoir Cape Latest. The latest in negligee garments is the boudoir cape.

bare floors, use moist sawdust. When the room is carpeted, moisten a newspaper, tear it into small scraps and scatter these over the carpet. In sweeping, brush these scraps of paper along with the broom and they will catch most of the dust and hold it fast, just as the sawdust does on bare floors. Do not have the paper or sawdust dripping wet—only moist.

In dusting a room, do not use a feather duster, because this does not remove the dust from the room, but only brushes it into the air. Use soft dry cloths to dust with, and shake them frequently out of the window; or use slightly moistened cloths and rinse them out in water when finished. In this way the dust can be gotten out of the room.

In rooms which have bare floors, in houses, stores, shops, school rooms, etc., all dust can be easily removed after it has settled by passing over the floor a mop which has been wrung out so as to be only moist, not dripping wet.

Straw Braid Trimming. A very odd trimming is seen on some of the new satin models. It is a bristly straw braid sewn to the frock in a conventional design very much after the manner of old-fashioned braiding. The effect is extremely novel. By combining embroidery done in heavy black silk threads with this straw braid great elaboration is obtained.

Frocks of Taffeta. Many afternoon frocks are of taffeta, very often black, combined with white georgette crepe or crepe de chine.



Beitless Chemise Dress Embroidered in Red, Bright Blue and Copper.

mise frock of satin has the entire front and back portions overlaid with huge clusters of grapes embroidered in natural colored wooden beads. Steel nailhead embroideries in conjunction

## NEW NOVELTIES ARE SHOWN

Among Late Accessories is an Algerian Chain of Dull Gold; An Attractive Headdress.

Although the season is well advanced designers are untiring in their efforts to provide us with something new to wear. Summer never has been a time when the shops exploited new details in dress. This year, however, is an exceptional one in this respect, judging from the number of unusual accessories to be had, states a Paris fashion correspondent.

Among the novelties is an Algerian chain of dull gold, studded with varicolored stones. At the end of the chain hangs a gold case, designed to hold a stick of lip rouge. This little vanity box, although intended for lip rouge, is not the shape of an ordinary lip stick holder, but is like a metal plaque paved with stones to make a handsome ornament.

An Empress Josephine headdress composed of black satin leaves placed so that they form a crown, in crystal. The leaves are studded with crystal beads that are long and narrow. From the crown spring slender silver wires aglitter with tiny crystal balls.

## SWEEPING AND DUSTING

(By U. S. Public Health Service.)

In sweeping a room raise as little dust as possible, because dust, when breathed in, irritates the nose and throat and may set up catarrh. Some of the dust breathed is carried to the lungs, making portions of them black and hard and useless.

To prevent raising dust in sweeping

Use a broom with soft bristles. Sweep with a light touch. Sweep in the direction of the wind. Sweep on a damp day.

Use a vacuum cleaner. Vacuum cleaners are very effective in removing dust from the air. They are especially useful in rooms with heavy carpeting.

Use a mop. A mop is very effective in removing dust from the floor. It is especially useful in rooms with bare floors.

Use a duster. A duster is very effective in removing dust from the walls and ceiling. It is especially useful in rooms with high ceilings.

Use a brush. A brush is very effective in removing dust from the furniture. It is especially useful in rooms with a lot of furniture.

Use a vacuum. A vacuum is very effective in removing dust from the entire room. It is especially useful in rooms with a lot of dust.

Use a broom. A broom is very effective in removing dust from the floor. It is especially useful in rooms with bare floors.

Use a mop. A mop is very effective in removing dust from the floor. It is especially useful in rooms with bare floors.

Use a duster. A duster is very effective in removing dust from the walls and ceiling. It is especially useful in rooms with high ceilings.

Use a brush. A brush is very effective in removing dust from the furniture. It is especially useful in rooms with a lot of furniture.

Use a vacuum. A vacuum is very effective in removing dust from the entire room. It is especially useful in rooms with a lot of dust.