THE MIDDLE TEMPLE MURDER A Detective Story by J. S. Fletcher

Convergent, 1980, Fred A. Knepf.

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HE'LL say no more. He was adameter destination was, surely, Elphick's chambers. And the question for him, Spargo, was—what to do?

What Spargo did was to remain in absolute silence, motionless to the destination was, surely, Elphick's chambers. And the question for him, Spargo, was—what to do? respect to my dealings with Marbury on

vas removed. apocent,' he said, 'find the guilty

"Well there was a tremendous lot of mmon sense in that," said Spargo. "Yes, of course, but how, how, how it going to be done?" exclaimed Brezon. "Are you any nearer-is Rathbuty any nearer? Is there the slightest he that will fasten the guilt on any-

apparently thinking. "Was Rathbury in court?" he sud-

denly asked.
"He was," replied Breton. "He was would it be a very weak case against Aylmore if the prosecution couldn't show some motive for his killing Marnury?"

"There's no necessity to prove motive in murder," he said. "But I'll tell you what, Spargo if the prosecution can show that Aylmore had a motive for show that Aylmer had a motive for getting rid of Marbury, if they could prove that it was to Aylmore's advantage to silence him-why, then, I don't think he's a chance.

"I see. But so far no motive, no reason for his killing Marbury has been

Spargo rose and moved to the door, "Well, I'm off," he said. Then, as if he suddenly recollected something, he turned back. "Oh, by the byc," he said, "isn't your guardian, Mr. Elphick, a big authority on philately?"
One of the biggest. Awful enthu-

"Do you think he'd tell me a bit bo you think a dealer in a shout those Australian stamps which Marbury showed to Criedir, the dealer?' "Certainly, he would—delighted. Here"—and Breton scribbled a few words on a card—"there's his address and a word from me. I'll tell you when you can always find him in, five nights out of seven-at 9 o'clock, after he's

CHAPTER XXVII

Temple that night at 9 o'clock, asking gloomier, more mysterious than ever, massi over and over again two ques. She neither spoke nor moved when imself over and over again two ques-ions—the first, how much does Elphick the second, how much shall I

the days of Queen Anne, was full of stairs and passages, and as Spargo had forgotten to get the exact number of the set of chambers he wanted, he was ebiged to wander about in what was ebiged to wander about in what was a drawted building. So wandering, he suddenly heard steps, firm, decisive steps, coming up a staircase which he binself had just climbed. He looked over the banisters down into the hol-low beneath. And there, marching up resolutely, was the figure of a tall, veiled woman, and Spargo suddenly realized, with a sharp quickening of his pulses, that for the second time that day he was beneath one roof with Miss asked Sp Baylis.

Spargo's mind acted quickly. Knowsparso's mind acted quickly. Knowing what he now knew, from his extraordinary dealings with Mother Gutch, he had no doubt whatever that Miss Baylis had come to see Mr. Elphick—come, of course, to tell Mr. Elphick that he, Spargo, had visited her that morning, and that he was on the track of the Maitland secret history. He had never thought of it before, for he had been busily engaged since the he had been busily engaged since the departure of Mother Gutch; but, nat-utally, Miss Baylis and Mr. Elphick

respect to my dealings with Marbury on absolute silence, motionless, tense, where he was on the stair, and to must, he said, over and over again, trust to the chance that the woman and I shall say nothing further on any pid not look up. But Miss Baylis and I shall say nothing further on any heither looked up nor down; she end I suan say in the law likes to hang reached a landing, turned along a corridor with decision, and marched fora innocent man on such that ward. A moment later Spargo heard hat, let it!' And he persisted in that ward. A moment later Spargo heard hat, let it!' And he persisted in that that, let it!' And he persisted in that uptil we left him. Spargo, I don't know what's to be done."

"And nothing happened at the police Baylis had sought and gained admit-

court?"

"Nothing—another remand. Stratton and I saw Aylmore again before he and I saw Aylmore again before he left. There was no one about—be had "He left us with a sort of sardonic tered the building. Accordingly he innocent," he said, 'find the guilty had seen Miss Baylis turn. He knew that all the doors in that house were double ones, and that the outer oak in each was solid and substantial enough to be sound proof. Yet, as men will under such circumstances, he walked softly; he said to himself, smil-ing at the thought, that he would b sure to start if somebody suddenly opened a door on bim. But no band opened any door, and at last he came to the end of the corridor and found Spargo gave no answer to these ques-ions. He remained silent a while,

Having satisfied himself as to his exact whereabouts, Spargo drew back as quietly as he had come. There was a window half-way along the corridor here with two or three other men who suppose were detectives, and seemed along, one could catch a silvers. along, one could catch a glimpse of the I suppose were detectives, and seemed to be greatly interested in Aylmore."

"If I don't see Rathbury tonight I'll see him in the morning." said Spargo. He rose as if to go, but after lingering a moment, sat down again, "Look here," he continued. "I don't know here," he continued. "I don't know here," he continued at the same out and let wait until the woman came out and let wait until the withdrew.

things immediately. He let things slide for the moment. He lighted a cigarette and stared at the river and the brown sails, and the buildings across on the Surrey side, Ten minutes went by-twenty minutes-nothing happened. Then, as half-past nine struck from all the neighboring clocks, Spargo flung away a second cigarette, marched straight down the corridor and knocked

boldly at Mr. Elphick's door.
Greatly to Spargo's surprise, the door was opened before there was any necessity to knock again. And there, calmly confronting him, a benevolent, yet somewhat deprecating expression on his spectacled and placid face, stood Mr. Elbhick, a smoking cap on his head, a tasseled smoking jacket over his dress shirt, and a short pipe in his hand. Spargo was taken aback: Mr. Elphick apparently was not. He he'd the door

to enter. "Come in, Mr. Spargo." he said. "I was expecting you. Walk forward into my sitting room."

Spargo, much astonished at this re-

well open, and motioned the journalist

ception, passed through an auteroom into a handsomely furnished apartment dired. I'd go with you tonight, but I full of books and pictures. In spite must go to Aylmore's. The two girls are of the fact that it was still very little terrible trouble."
"Give them a message from me," said in the grate, and on a table set near a Spargo as they went out together.
"Tell them to keep up their hearts comforts as a spirit-case, a syphon, a tumbler and a novel-from which things Spargo argued that Mr. Elphick MR. ELPHICK'S CHAMBERS

SPARGO went round again to the Temple that night at 2 o'clock paking.

Temple that night at 2 o'clock paking.

above the second, how much shall I at him. And Sparge stood staring at her until Mr. Elphick, having closed his doors, touched him on the elbow. be repaired and in which many a and motioned him on the elbow, resertation of old fogies had lived since seat seat. "Yes, I was expecting you, Mr. Spargo," he said as he resumed his own chair. "I have been expecting you at any time, ever since you took up your at any time, ever since you took up your investigation of the Marbury affair, in some of the earlier stages of which you saw me, you will remember, at the mortuary. But since Miss Baylls told me twenty minutes ago that you had

Spargo entered; she did not even look

it would not be more than a few hours before you would come to me. "Why, Mr. Elphick should you sup-pose that I should come to you at all?" usked Spargo, now in full possession of

been to her this morning I felt sure that

"Because I felt sure that you would leave no stone unturned, no corner un-explored," replied Mr. Elphick. "The curiosity of the modern pressman is iusatiable.

Spargo stiffened.

"I have no curiosity, Mr. Elphick,"
he said. "I am charged by my paper
to investigate the circumstances of the death of the man who was found in Middle Temple lane, and, if possible, to track his murderer, and-

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

"And about going back to the long,

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES THE LONG-AGO CHARM By DADDY

friends.

(In this story Peggy and Billy have | splashing into the river beside which a visit from their old friend the King of the Wild Geese and his queen, the Beautiful Blue Goose.)

CHAPTER I

The Gift of the Geese PEGGY had been reading in a book of a visit," honked the Beautiful Blue

the long, long ago time when there Geosc. was not a city nor a town in all America, just woods and the rude villages of wild Indians.

"I'd like to have seen America then," said Peggy to herself. "It must have been jolly reaming in the forest when it was one huge Birdland, with nothing away wish that Peggy and Billy had

t was one large Birdland, with nothing away wish that Peggy and Billy had o spoil the happy times of birds and never expected it to be made true, and "My, I'll bet it was fun." cried the voice of Billy Belgium, and there was just joking with them. But the king of the wild geese wasn't joking. He came up close and showed them a quietly she had not beard them. "I've often wished that I could have lived among the Indian boys long, long age," continued Billy.

"Behold, I bring you a bag-ago charm! Honkle-honkle "he

Peggy opened her mouth to answer bim, but before she could say a word a sound from high in the sky caused her and Billy to look upward. Floating swinty along in the air was a big, wary V.

"It will take you back to long, long ago times," said the king of the wild geese. "I got it from a shipwrecked Chinese sailor who was floating on a reaft far out at sea."

See the wild geese on their springtime ourney to the North!"

'Oh, I hope they'll stop to pay us visit," cried Peggy, who was anx-bous to see again their friends, the slang of the wild geese and his queen, the beautiful Blue Goose.

'Honkle-honkle-honkle," gabbled the wild geese, and, as they sped swiftly

Chinese sailor who was Houting on a raft far out at sea."

"We saved his life by feeding him fish to keep him from starving," honked the Beautiful Blue Goose.

"And when we towed him to shore he gave us this long-ago charm for saving him." said the king.

"And we're giving it to you because you saved our lives and the lives of you saved our lives and the lives of

wild goese, and, as they sped swiftly hearer Peggy and Billy were surprised to finit their "Honkle-bonkle-honkle" turning their "Honkle-bonkle honkle honkle hearer whall

wild goese, and, as they sped swiftly bearer Peggy and Billy were surprised to find their "Honkle-honkle-honkle typing into the words: "You shall have your wishes!" You shall have While Peggy and Billy were wondering what this promise meant, the sweryed toward them. At the head was the king of the wild geese and bested him in two long lines were all the seese of his flock.

"Honkle-honkle honkle!" You shall have were giving it to you because you saved our lives and the lives of our children away up north last fall," honked the Beautiful Blue Goose.

"Rub it and see what will happen." Said the king of the wild geese, smiling at their puzzled faces.

So Billy took the coin from the neck of the king of the wild geese and being curious to see its effects, rubbed it as the king told him to do.

(Tomorrow will be told the surprising thing that happens when Billy rubs the coin.)

THE GUMPS—Look Out for a Big Rise in the Stock Market

MIN I'VE BEEN KINDA LOOKIN'

CHANCE AT IT MY SELF-EVERY BODY'S GETTIN' RICH

AND I WAS ALWAYS

OVER THAT LITTLE PRINT IN

THE STOCK MARKET-

A FRIEND OF MINE WASTELLING ME ABOUT A FELLOW -THAT TWO YEARSAGO DIDN'T HAVE \$500.00 - HE'S WORTH OVER A MILLION TODAY.

-:-

AND DID IT ALL BY SPECULATING -NO MAN EVER GETS ANY PLACE JUST PIKING ALONG LIKE I AM MIN-THESE PEOPLE ARE NO SMARTER THAN

THESE PEUTLE AND THEY TAKED CHANCE THAT THEY GET RICHTILL BET IF I WENT DOWN TO THAT STOCK EXCHANGE WITH ★10,00000 - 1'D BE A MILLIONAIRE INAWEEK



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PETEY—He Don't Count Anyway

THAT

£\$[]0_>000.**

SIZZLING IN

JEANS

THE OLD GET

RICH GERM HAS

BIT HIM AGAIN. ww

HE IS SYILL KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM

MIN THAT HE VAST

AMOUNT

IS JUST

ANDY'S

IM THE CENSUS TAKER - WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME! WHAT'S YOUR WIFE'S MAIDEN HAME !- BORN IN BROOKLYN -- WHEN WERE YOU NATURALIZED

-NO CHILDREN ?- IF YOU HAD ANY CHILDREN WOULD THEIR FIRST NAMES BE GEORGE !- IF SO, WHY HOT! ARE YOU WHITE OR BLACK !

- DO YOU LIKE BLONDES HAVE YOU ANY ANIMALS . COWS, GIRRAFFES ELEPHANTS,

-I HADA GOAT- BUT-1 JUST LOST IT! By DWIG

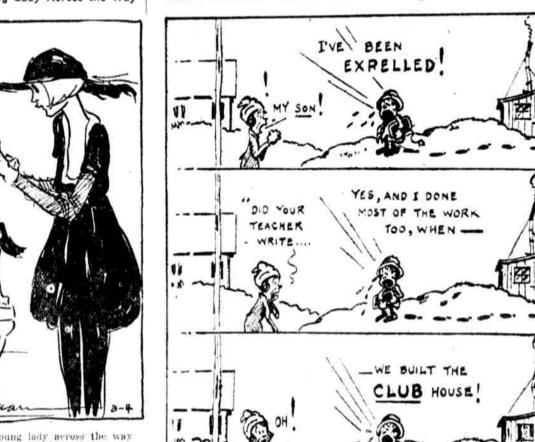
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Bu Sidney Smith

By C. A. Voight

The Young Lady Across the Way

This Would Have Made Jimmie's Second Expulsion From School - By Fontaine Fox



The young lady across the way says no great reform is accom-plished without hardship to some body, and she supposes the cotton gins will all have to be idle under prohibition until they can get the machinery changed.

SCHOOL DAYS

Great gosh! Do you Sleive She's come in like that stuft? You bleive every thing you hear, don't you? Why, there aint a lion, all right, wind She'll out like a famb, nothin in that! nothin in that state of the cold clean who to May!

This way said so Because the hair on the cat May so love and presides your shirt on. March comes jazzing in

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SOMEBODY'S STENOG-The Boss Has Shell Shock



BOSS! WHATS THE MATTER?

-:-

REITERATE, I HAVE

NO WISH TO PLAY

ADJACENT PARTS

MY STATION IN LIFE

OF YOUR PREMISES.

AROUND THE

UNLESSIAM

ACCORDED THAT RESPECT, WHICH IS COMMENSURATE WITH

-:-

RIGHT AWAY

DOROTHY DARNIT-She Breaks Off Diplomatic Relations





By Chas. McManus

By Hayward

THEY GAVE ME

THE RIGHT NUMBER