STORY FROM THE START

Defying all efforts to capture him, after a long series of murders and robberies, a supercrook known to the police only as "The Bat" has brought about a veritable reign of terror. At his wits' end, and at the man's own request, the chief of police assigns his best operative, Anderson, to get on the trail of the Bat. With her niece, Dale Ogden, Miss Cornella Van Gorder is living in the country home of den, Miss Cornella Van Gorder is living in the country home of the late Courtleigh Fleming, who until his recent death had been president of the Union bank, wrecked because of the theft of a large sum of currency. Miss Van Gorder receives a note warning her to vacate the place at once on pain of death. Dale returns from the city, where she had been to hire a gardener. Miss Cornella tells Lizzle Allen, her faithful Irish maid, who is decidedly nervous, that a detective is coming that night. The gardener arrives, giving his gardener arrives, giving his name as Brooks.

CHAPTER III—Continued

"I could not verify your references as the Brays are in Canada-" she

The young man took an eager step forward. "I am sure if Mrs. Bray were here-" he began, then flushed

and stopped, twisting his cap. "Were here?" said Miss Cornelia in a curious voice. "Are you a profes-tional gardener?"

"Yes." The young man's manner had grown a trifle defiant; but Miss Cornelia's next question followed remorselessly.

'Know anything about hardy perennials?" she said in a soothing voice, while Lizzie regarded the interview with wondering eyes.

"Oh yes," but the young man seemed curiously lacking in confidence "They-they're the ones that keep their leaves during the winter, aren't they?" "Come over here-closer-" said

Miss Cornelia, imperiously. Once more she scrutinized him and this time there was no doubt of his discomfort under her stare. "Have you had any experience with

rubeola?" she queried finally. "Oh, yes-yes-yes, indeed," the gardener stammered. "Yes." "And alopecia?" pursued Miss Cor-

The young man seemed to fumble in his mind for the characteristics of such a flower or shrub.

"The dry weather is very hard on lopecia," he asserted, finally, and was evidently relieved to see Miss Cornelia receive the statement with a pleasant smile. She leaned forward -her next question was obviously to be a weighty one.

"What do you think is the best treatment for urticaria?" she propounded with a highly professional

It appeared to be a catch-question, The young man knotted his brows. Finally a gleam of light seemed to

"Urticaria frequently needs-erthinning," he announced decisively.

"Needs scratching, you mean!" Miss Cornelia rose, with a snort of disdain and faced him. "Young man, urticaria is hives—rubeola is measles—and alopecia is baldness!" she thundered. She waited a moment for his defense -none came.

"Why did you tell me you were a accusingly. "Why have you come here at this hour of night, pretending to be something you're not?"

By all standards of drama, the young man should have wilted before her wrath. Instead he suddenly smiled at her, beyishly, and threw up his hands in a gesture of defeat

"I know I shouldn't have done it!" he confessed with appealing frankness. "You'd have found me out anyhow! I don't know anything about gardening. The truth is," his tone grew somber, "I was desperate. I had to have work!"

The candor of his smile would have disarmed a stenier-hearted person than Miss Cornelia. But her suspicions were still awake. "That's all, is it?"

"That's enough, when you're down and out." His words had an unmistakable accent of finality. She couldn't help wanting to believe him -and yet-he wasn't what he had pretended to be-and this night of all nights was no time to take people on

"How do I know you won't steal the spoons?" she queried, her voice still gruff.

"Are they nice spoons?" he asked

with absurd seriousness. She couldn't help smiling at his tone. "Beautiful spoons." Again that engaging, boyish man-

ner of his touched something in her Dale?" "Spoons are a great temptation to me, Miss Van Gorder-but if you'll

take me, I'll promise to leave them alone." "That's extremely kind of you." she answered with grim humor-knowing

herself beaten. She went over to ring

Lizzie took the opportunity to gain "I don't trust him, Miss Nelly! He's too smooth!" she whispered, warning-Miss Cornelia stiffened.

haven't asked for your opinion, Lizzie," she said. But Lizzie was not to be put off by the Van Gorder manner.

"Oh," she whispered, "you're just as bad as the rest of 'em. A goodlooking man comes in the door and your brains fly out the window!"

Miss Cornelia quelled her with a gesture and turned back to the young man. He was standing just where she had left him, his cap in his handsbut, while her back had been turned. his eyes had made a stealthy survey of the living room—a survey that would have made it plain to Miss Cornelia, if she had seen him, that his interest in the Fleming establishment was not merely the casual interest of a servant in his new place of abode. But she had not seen-and she could have told nothing from his

present expression. "Have you had anything to eat lately?" she asked, in a kindly voice.

He looked down at his cap. "Not since this morning," he admitted, as Billy answered the bell. Miss Cornelia turned to the impas-

sive Japanese. "Billy, give this man something to eat and then show him where he is

She hesitated. The gardener's house was some distance from the main building, and with the night and the approaching storm she felt her own courage weakening. Into the bargain. whether this stranger had lied about his gardening or not, she was curi ously attracted to him.

"I think," she said slowly, "that I'll have you sleep in the house here, at least for tonight. Tomorrow we canthe housemaid's room, Billy," she told the butler. And before their departure

she held out a candle and matches.
"Better take these with you, Brooks," she said. "The local light company crawls under its bed every time there is a thunder storm. Good night, Brooks."

"Good night, ma'am," said the young man, smiling. Following Billy to the door, he paused. "You're being mighty good to me," he said, diffident ly, smiled again, and disappeared after Billy.

As the door closed behind them, Miss Cornelia found herself smiling, too. "That's a pleasant young fellow -no matter what he is," she said to herself, decidedly, and not even Lizzie's feverish "Haven't you any sense taking strange men into the house? How do you know he isn't the Bat?" could draw a reply from her.

Again the thunder rolled as she staightened the papers and magazines on the table and Lizzie gingerly sok up the ouija-board to replace it on the bookcase with the prayer-book firmly on top of it. And this time with the roll of the thunder, the lights in the living room blinked uncertainly for an instant, before they recovered their normal brilliance.

"There go the lights!" grumbled Lizzie, her fingers still touching the prayer-book, as if for protection. Miss Cornelia did not answer her directly. "We'll put the detective in the blue

room when he comes," she said. "You'd better go up and see if it's all Lizzie started to obey, going to

ward the alcove to ascend to the sec end floor by the alcove stairs. But Miss Cornelia stopped her. "Lizzie—you know that stair rail's just been varnished—Miss Dale got a

stain on her sleeve there this afternoon—and Lizzie—" "No one is to know that he is a de-

tective. Not even Billy." Miss Cornelia was very firm. "Well, what'll I say he is?" "It's nobody's business."

"A detective," moaned Lizzie, openng the hall door to go by the main staircase. "Tiptoeing around with his eye to all the keyholes. A body won't e safe in the bathtub." She shut the door with a little slap and disap peared. Miss Cornelia sat down-she had many things to think over-"if ever get time really to think of any thing again," she thought, "because with gardeners coming who aren't gardeners-and Lizzie hearing yells in the grounds and-"

She started slightly. The front-door bell was ringing-a long trill, uncannily loud in the quiet house. She sat rigid in her chair, waiting

Billy came in. "Front-door key, please?" he asked urbanely. She gave him the key. "Find out who it is before you unlock the door," she said. He nodded. She heard him at the door-then

murmur of voices-Dale's voice and another's-"Won't you come in for a few minutes? Oh, thank you." She The door opened-it was Dale "How lovely she looks in that evening

wrap!" thought Miss Cornelia. "But how tired, too. I wish I knew what was worrying her." She smiled. "Aren't you back early,

Dale threw off her wrap and stood for a moment patting back into its smooth, smart bob, hair ruffled by the

"I was tired," she said, sinking into a chair.

"Not worried about anything?" Miss Cornelia's eyes were sharp.

'No," said Dale, without conviction. "but I've come here to be company for you and I don't want to run away all the time." She picked up the evening paper and looked at it without apparently seeing it. Miss Cornelia neard voices in the hall-a man's voice -affable-"How have you been. Billy?"-Billy's voice in answer, "Very well, sir."

A Novel from the Play By Mary Roberts Rinehart

WNU Service

and Avery Hopwood "The Bat," copyright, 1920, by Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood.

"Who's out there, Dale?" she queried. Dale looked up from the paper. "Doctor Wells, darling," she said in a listless voice. "He brought me over from the club-I asked him to come in for a few minutes. Billy's just taking his coat." She rose, threw the paper aside, came over and kissed Miss Cornelia suddenly and passionately-then, before Miss Cornelia, a little startled, could return the kiss, went over and sat on the settee by the fireplace near the door of the billiard room.

thousand questions on her tongue, but before she could ask any of them, Billy was ushering in Doctor Wells. As she shook hands with the doctor, Miss Cornelia observed him with casual interest-wondering why such a good-looking man, in his early forties, apparently built for success, should be content with the comparative rustication of his local practice. That

Miss Cornelia turned to her with a



"Have You Had Anything to Eat Lately?"

keen gray eyes, would have found it self more at home in a wider sphere of action, she thought-there was just that touch of ruthlessness about it which makes or mars a captain in the world's affairs. She found herself murmuring the usual conventionalities

"Oh, I'm very well, doctor, thank you-Well, many people at the country club?"

The doctor sat down. "Not very many," he said, with a shake of his head. "This failure of the Union bank has knocked a good many of the club nembers sky high.

"Just how did it happen?" Miss Cornelia was making conversation. "Oh, the usual thing." The doctor took out his cigarette case. "The cashier, a young chap named Bailey,

looted the bank to the tune of over Dale turned sharply toward them from her seat by the fireplace.

"How do you know the cashier did it?" she said in a low voice. The doctor laughed. "Well-he's run away, for one thing. The bank examiners found the deficit. Bailey, the cashier, went out on an errand -and didn't come back. The method was simple enough-worthless bonds substituted for good ones-with a good bond on the top and bottom of each package, so the packages would pass a casual inspection. Probably been

going on for some time."

The fingers of Dale's right hand rummed restlessly on the edge of her settee.

"Couldn't somebody else have done it?" she queried tensely. The doctor smiled, a trifle patronizingly.

"Of course the president of the bank had access to the vaults," he said. "But as you know, Mr. Courtleigh Fleming, the late president, was burled last Monday." Miss Cornelia had seen her niece's face light up oddly at the beginning of the doctor's statement-to relapse nto lassitude again at its conclusion.

Bailey-Bailey-she was sure she renembered that name on Dale's lips "Dale, dear, did you know this roung Bailey?" she asked, point-blank. The girl had started to light a cigrette. The flame wavered in her fingers-the match went out.

"Yes-slightly," she said. She bent to strike another match, averting her face. Miss Cornelia did not press her. "What with bank robberies and bolshevism and income tax," she said, turning the subject, "the only way to keep your money these days is to

spend it." "Or not have any-like myself!" the doctor agreed.

"It seems strange," Miss Cornelia went on, "living in Courtleigh Fleming's house. A month ago, I'd never even heard of Mr. Fleming-though I suppose I should have—and now why, I'm as interested in the failure of his bank as if I were a depositor!" The doctor regarded the end of his

cigarette. "As a matter of fact," he said, pleasantly, "Dick Fleming had no right to rent you the property before the estate was settled. He must have done it the moment he received my telegram announcing his uncle's death."

"Were you with him when he died?" "Yes-in Colorado. He had angina pectoris, and took me with him for that reason."

"I suppose," pursued Miss Cornelia, watching Dale out of the corner of her eye, "that there is no suspicion Courtleigh Fleming robbed his own bank?"

"Well, if he did," said the doctor amicably, "I can testify that he didn't have the loot with him." His tone grew more serious. "No! He had his faults—but not that."

"Miss Cornelia made up her mind. She had resolved before not to sum mon the doctor for aid in her difficulties—but now that chance had brought him here, the opportunity seemed too good a one to let slip.

"Doctor," she said, "I think I ought to tell you something. Last night and the night before, attempts were made to enter this house. Once an intruder actually got in and was frightened away by Lizzie at the top of the staircase." She indicated the alcove stairs. "And twice I have received anonycommunications threatening my life if I did not leave the house and

go back to the city." Dale rose from her settee startled. "I didn't know that, auntie! How dreadful!" she gasped.

Instantly Miss Cornelia regretted her impulse of confidence. She tried to pass the matter off with tart humor. "Don't tell Lizzie," she said. "She'd yell like a siren. It's the only thing she does like a siren, but she does

it superbly!" For a moment it seemed as if Miss Cornelia had succeeded. The doctor smiled—Dale sat down again, her ex-pression altering from one of anxiety to one of amusement. Miss Cornelia opened her lips to dilate further upon Lizzie's eccentricities. . .

But just then there was a splinter ing crash of glass from one of the French windows behind her!

CHAPTER IV.

Detective Anderson Takes Charge.

"What's that?" "Somebody smashed a window

Child Training That Has Harmful Effects Too much or too little affection of | tionally infantile. He may become fixed upon the parent so that he is esparents is equally harmful and both sentially parasitic in his inner emo

spoil character. The training that produces docile obedience spoils the child's native aggressiveness and leaves him to be easily beaten in the later competitions of life by minds superior only in their inner preparation. The authority of a parent is a responsibility rather than a privilege. Another risk assumed by parents which is not so commonly understood is that of hurting their children by affection. With human beings the love attitude may persist in such a way

that the child never actually matures

and comes to have a fully developed

self-life, or indulgence heaped upor

the child by the parent may spoil the

zest of life and keep the child emo

No Home-Made Bread It is frequently said men run their nomes. How about home-made bread? scarcely know a man who does no want home-made bread and cannot ge it; the bakers have persuaded the women that bakery bread is better, as barbers have persuaded them about bobbed hair. And look at the clothes the man milliners have persuaded the women to wear .- E. W. Howe's Month-

tional cravings and cannot maintain normal relationships in business, social contacts or later family life if he ever attempts to establish a home of his own.-From "Social Problems of the Family" by Prof. Ernest R. Graves.

No Wolf in Police Dog

German police dogs are German hepherd dogs police-trained. The history of the German shepherd dog breed dates far back into antiquity. In the opinion of Max von Stephenitz, a noted authority, it is a descendant of the Bronze age dog. This theory refutes the more or less popular present-day idea that the wolf has been largely instrumental in the development of the breed, and is in line with the beliefs of other authorities who consider it very doubtful that wolf outcresses were ever made with the German shepherd dog, and that if it today. By the way, did you bolt such were the case the relationship is remote and of minor importance.

A hair from a white woman's head is lighter in weight than a white man's

"And threw in a stone!"
"Wait a minute, I'll-" The doctor, all alert at once, darted up into the alcove and jerked at the terrace door. "It's bolted at the top, too," called Miss Cornelia. He nodded, without

wasting words on a reply, unbolted the door and dashed out into the darkness of the terrace. Miss Cornelia saw him run past the French windows and disappear into blackness. Meanwhile Dale, her listlessness vanished before the shock of the strange occurrence had gone to the broken window and picked up the stone. It was wrapped in paper-there seemed to be writing on the paper. She closed the terrace door and brought the stone to her aunt.

Miss Cornelia unwrapped the paper and smoothed out the sheet. Two lines of coarse, round handwriting sprawled across it: "Take warning! Leave this house

aster which will involve you if you remain!" There was no signature, "Who do you think wrote it?" said

at once! It is threatened with dis-

Dale, breathlessly. Miss Cornelia straightened up like ramrod-indomitable "A fool-that's who! If anything

was calculated to make me stay here forever, this sort of thing would do it!" She twitched the sheet of paper angrily. "But something may happen, dar-

ling!" "I hope so! That's the reason I-.

She stopped. The doorbell was ringng again—thrilling, insistent. Her niece started at the sound. "Oh, don't let anybouy in," she be-

in from the hall with his usual air of walking on velvet. "Key, front door please-bell ring," he explained tersely, taking the key

sought Miss Cornelia, as Billy came

from the table. Miss Cornelia issued instructions. "See that the chain is on the door, Billy. Don't open it all the way. And

get the visitor's name before you let She lowered her voice. "If he says he is Mr. Anderson, let him in and take him to the library." Billy nodded and disappeared. Dale

turned to her aunt, the color out of her cheeks. "Anderson? Who is Mr .-- " Miss Cornelia did not answer. She thought for a moment. Then she put her hand on Dale's shoulder in a gesture of protective affection.

"The man in the library is a detec-

tive from police headquarters," she She had expected Dale to show surprise-excitement-but the white mask

of horror which the girl turned toward her appalled her. "Not-the police!" breathed Dale in tones of utter consternation. Miss Cornelia could not understand why the news had stirred her niece so deeply. But there was no time to puzzle it out-she heard crunching steps on the terrace-the doctor was

returning. "Ssh!" she whispered. "It isn't necessary to tell the doctor. I think he's a sort of perambulating bedside gossip -and once it's known the police are here we'll never catch the criminals!" When the doctor entered from the terrace, brushing drops of rain from his no longer immaculate evening clothes, Dale was back on her favorite settee and Miss Cornelia over the mysterious missive that had

been wrapped about the stone. "He got away in the shrubbery," said the doctor, disgustedly, taking out a handkerchief to fleck the spots of mud from his shoes.

Miss Cornelia gave him the letter of warning. "Read this," she said. The doctor adjusted a pair of pincenez-read the two crude sentences over-once-twice. Then he looked shrewdly at Miss Cornelia "Were the others like this?" he

She nodded. "Practically." He hesitated for a moment like & an with an unpleasant social duty to face.

"Miss Van Gorder, may I speak frankly?" "Generally speaking, I detest frankness," said the lady, grimly. "Butgo on!

The doctor tapped the letter. His face was wholly serious. "I think you ought to leave this ouse," he said bluntly. "Because of that letter? Humph!" His very seriousness, perversely

enough, made her suddenly wish to treat the whole matter as lightly as "There is some deviltry afoot," he persisted. "You are not safe here, Miss Van Gorder."

But if he was persistent in his attitude, so was she in hers. "I've been safe in all kinds of houses for sixty-odd years," she said lightly. "It's time I had a bit of a change. Besides," she gestured towards her defenses, "this house is as nearly impregnable as I can make it. The window locks are sound enough -the doors are locked and the keys are there," she pointed to the keys lying on the table. "As for the terrace door you just used," she went on, "I had Billy put an extra bolt on that door again?" She moved toward

the alcove. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

When tulips were introduced into northern Europe in 1554 there were only two varieties, red and yellow.



PRAYED FOR A REST

The story goes that several college esidents were discussing what they would do after they retired. What would they be fit for was the ques-

"Well," said one of them, "I don't know that I'd be fit for anything, but I know what I'd like to do. I'd like to be superintendent of an orphan asylum so I'd never get any letters from parents."

"I've a much better ambition." exclaimed another. "I want to be warden of a penitentiary. The alumni never come back to visit."

NOT THAT WAY



Customer-Can you repair a suit of clothes with two pairs of pants? Tailor-No, my friend, I can only do it with a needle and thread as

In business life a girl equips
Herself for earning bliss.
Yet many a girl will purse her lips
Who wouldn't sell a kiss.

Not for Sale

Some Chicken Catcher Mike Murphy, who lived on a farm, sent his friend, Jimmy O'Brien, in town, a crate of chickens.

"Did ye get the chickens?" asked Mike the next time he saw Jimmy. "Some of 'em," answered Jimmy. 'Afther I got 'em from the station they got out av the crate and I was hours scourin' the neighborhood

an' thin only got tin." "Sh-sh-sh, Jimmy, not so loud. I only sint ye six."

DISTINGUISHING MARK



She-I think married men should wear something to distinguish them

He-They do-a worried look

Penalty of Distinction

"I represent the dignity of labor," said the mechanic. "Yes," replied the man of wealth and responsibility, "you can work in your shirt sleeves, speak your mind and quit work when your regular hours are through. I've got to wear

nity.' No Use for Comb Within my silly, puzzled dome This thought is my despair:

speak and keep busy fourteen hours

a day. I represent the labor of dig-

A rooster has no hair. Strange Miss Sharp-Perhaps you won't be-

eve it, but a strange man tried to Miss Snap-Really! Well, he'd tried to kiss you twice.

Poor Opinion of Harry "Weren't you surprised, uncle, to hear that poor Harry had left me a widow?"

What Price? Judge-You say you have known

"That's about all I expected he

the defendant here all your life. Now tell the jury whether you think he would be guilty of stealing this Witness-How much was it?

would leave you."

Fortunate Ignorance Giles-So you've got a post in the bank, eh? I suppose it was partly because you knew the manager? Harris-Partly that and partly cause he didn't know me.

A Wife's Transformation The Story of the Comeback of a Woman Gone to Seed

By Mary Culbertson Miller

INSTALLMENT V

Face Skin Treatment. TOW that Helen Crane was wholly awakened to the consciousness of natural feminine charm and beauty her enthusiasm in the pursuit of it brushed aside almost every other in terest. The vanity that had been submerged by years of self-indulgence and indifference was now a salient factor in her life, firing her on toward her goal.

"I'm giving you a very nice little girl for your operator," said the beauty genius upon Helen's appearance that second morning. "All our girls are put through a thorough apprenticeship, but this girl usually takes our special cases. She will take you to an isolated booth and explain her work to you. I want your loving labor at home to be effective. Mrs. Crane." One of her rare smiles came. "I mean to make you over from tip to toe. Our rules here are absolute quiet, but you may ask any questions you like. The emergency booth is sound proof."

Later, in the soft reclining chair in her particular booth while being swathed in white. Helen ventured: "I always thought massage loosened

the skin and made more wrinkles" "Not the delicate manipulation that I will give you," said the operator. "Miss Whyte has an aversion to the ordinary massage followed by hotwater applications. She believes they do harm. But in your case she has advised it. Your skin is in too sluggish and unhealthy a state for any other treatment than professional massage. It must have that attention for a while to get it back into normal condition.'

Finds It Soothing.

The operator's finger-tips moved lightly, with delicacy, accuracy and strength. "You see, I'm working only with the finger tips, always moving upward and outward. On your cheeks and around your chin I massage in circles. But on your forehead and around your mouth I stroke with the length of my fingers." She demon strated her meaning as she spoke. The gentle soothing motion dropped Helen's eyes.

"I've heard of so many preparations I'm sort of bewildered," she roused herself to say.

"You see, first I rubbed in softly a cleansing cream that liquefies when applied on the skin, perfectly eliminating dust, grit, and other deteriorating elements. It takes the place of soap and water. Water does not properly cleanse the face, and soap contains lye and other deleterious ingredients which in time injure the skin. Now then, after the cream was rubbed in I wrapped your face in steaming hot towels to remove the cream and open the pores to make them ready for the skin tonic.

"This skin tonic and astringent produces an evenly measured excretion of the moisture and fat-secreting glands. Abnormal diminution or increase of these secretions makes the skin either dry or dull, or unduly moist and oily. But if you use this tonic it will make the pores normal, the skin firm and more active, therefore lighter and clearer in color. Following the use of cleansing cream t removes any oil left theref is delightfully cooling, giving one's skin the realization of absolute purity and cleanliness."

Patience Needed. "Should it be patted on?"

"Yes, for five minutes daily, with a piece of absorbent cotton, or with a patter." "Hot towels again?" said Helen,

"Madame must not get tired-it takes a lot of patience, this beauty building, but ah . . . the result! Just once more I'll steam your face, then I'll cover it with a lotion which will close the pores again. More towa high hat, guard every word that I els, but cold this time, followed by a plaster of cotton soaked in witch hazel. The idea is to thoroughly close the pores so the dirt can't enter. An ice rub helps, too."

"But can I do all that myself?" "Certainly, madame. The massage treatments will be discontinued after one or two more, and you'll only have to consider the care of the skin as it is normally treated. It's quite simple. Cleanse your face with some good cleansing cream just as you have seen me do it. Always remember to rub upward and outward. It would be well to provide a lot of tissue towhave been a strange man if he had els. They are fine for wiping off various creams. Then apply skin food. should advise you to use a patter, it gives better results. Your face is plump. You may use tissue cream and pat it in firmly. Since much of the work of our bodies is done while we're asleep it is well to leave the skin food on all night so that it has a chance to work deep into the pores and enrich the skin.'

(© by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

His Advice

Walter-What'll you have, sir? Diner-1 should like some ham and eggs and some kind words. Waiter (returning with the order) -There you are, sir. Diner-Here are the ham and eggs,

but you've forgotten something .. Waiter-What's that? Diner-The kind words. Waiter (bending low and whispering)-Don't eat the eggs!

Otric PAW SEZ AN AUTO RUNS B WAYS AND KI BRING BIZNE AS WELL AS TAKE IT

THE F

(Copyright, W. FINNE

Buddy Ho

By PERCY

Find