of the policemen put in his head.

any questions had been asked.

"Bring him in." said Ducros before

A moment later Fernandez came into

"In my experience, Fernandez,"

Ducros said, "and it is a considerable

A CASE OF FIRMNESS

pushed him to the far side of the room

"When did she see Mr. Lewin?" Dolli-

"Two days after the old woman was

"Yes. It was the day before I was

"Sadie-my daughter. Fernande:

"Go on," Ducros said quietly, "If you

"I want to 'phone 'to my lawyer,

"If I were to tell you what you want

For a moment it looked as if Fernan

"That lawyer came down with Mr

was when she got back from the in-

interrupted angrily. "I've told you it

"She told me that the Lawyer said it

Ducros remained silent, and the

"You mean murdered her?" Ducros

"Yes. Only she knew where the will

was and he wanted it, and if he mur-

dered her somebody else might get it.

Dollimore was listening intently; the

"How did he try to force her?" Ducros

"No. I looked after her. I took her

"You knew that she was being de-

"Yes. I told Sadie that it would end

"You fool," Sadie cried, "Can't you

"I don't want to be more drastic with

We've got another car outside. This

sponsible, and that you and your moth-

and influence. Now, go on, Mrs.

"I went down three times a day," she

said. "But when I went in with her

lunch to-day the place was empty. She

"Yes. Go on. What did you do?"

'phone to the lawyer. I was trying to

get the number for him before he went,

but there was no reply. That's why I

"You double-crossing sniveller!"

"I'm doing this as much for your

"There's one point," Dollimore put in.

"Surprised! He went as yellow as

"Did you think she had got away?"

Ducros glanced at Dollimore.

Sadie burst out.

"I told Fernandez. He seemed to go

just wasn't there."

"He threatened to murder her."

"You were her warden?"

the lawyer-and her husband.

"Cardew?" Ducros asked.

"He would have put her away."

was but that she knew it wasn't. It's

was wrong. It wasn't Mr. Lewin."

truth-it's our only chance."

woman continued.

said sharply.

Lewin and Miss Stenning saw him. It

Fernandez said in a calmer tone.

"You mean he came here?"

"Who sent for you?"

told her to send for me."

compared with Fernandez.'

door in silence.

the room handcuffed and resentful.

"Why do you want to shield him?"

through the door."

so are these women."

Fernandez demanded.

as well as being serious."

more asked sharply.

burst out.

ent for."

He (during a quarrel); "Now, I know

He: "Because they are always chirp-

She: "That's on account of the

A Clever Fellow

Mother-Did you say that the young

Daughter-Not exactly-but I've seen

LIQUID or PASTE

SUIT YOUR TASTE

-Kapuskasing Tribune

why women are called birds."

She: "Oh, why is that?"

worms we pick up."

ward price revision, and some speculat- | acceptable to the public so long as the

ing in merchandise resulted. A rise in basic wearing quality is not substantial-

employment resulted from the acceler- ly touched."

ated general economic structure, and

the heavier purchases to "beat the

price rise." Sound arguments tended to keep these impulses and speculations

time Price and Trade Board and the

potent force of the style cycle pre-

vented speculative risks. The demand

The complex problems faced by re- be forecast, the writers state; women

of the consumer public simply cannot ing.



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## CHAPTER XI

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER Dollimore spoke.

daughter," she said stubbornly.

Ducros glanced at Dollimore: "I'll asked. fetch her," the latter said.

with Fernandez. "Will you come into the office, Miss

Pachmann," he said casually. "Your mother wants to see you there."

andez, and both of them rose. "You stay here, please Fernandez," Dollimore said.

Miss Pachmann?" Ducros asked when in the middle of the room. Dollimore brought her into the office. said casually.

"Why did she come?"

"I got her a job. Anything wrong in that?"

"What job?"

"Housekeeper."

"She came, as a matter of fact, the day after Mrs. Lewin was murdered," | door of dark wood. Ducros said.

shoulders helplessly.

American woman said with a touch of this door can lead to." her old jauntiness.

to have a look at the cellars. There's a lock. door there which seems to be locked. You may know where the key is. You lead the way, Ferguson," he went on to the Yard man who had discovered the

"I'm not going into any cellars," said Sadie Pachmann uneasily.

"Just as you wish." "What can you want me to do in the

door, Ferguson?"

cellar?" she demanded angrily. "It's Fernandez's job, not mine."

as a matter of fact, is easily moved a few yards beyond, half-left. away from the door and the wall." "You know the door he refers to?" Ducros asked Sadie Pachmann. She was twisting her hankerchief; it

was a different Sadie Pachmann-her arrogance and impudence had been nearly all frightened out of her.

would probably lessen your sentence if Dollimore said. I were able to tell the judge that you! had helped up, even at this late hour,' Ducros suggested. "It's up to you. Are you going to tell us where the key is or do we smash the door down? The best you can hope to do is to delay us for a few minutes."

"Look here-this is Fernandez' affair," she said again.

know who is behind the door.'

"Sadie doesn't know a thing about it. on the table; a chair in front of it had It was given to me by Fernandez." She been pushed back and overturned as if

fashioned keys, as she spoke.

Ducros took them: "We'll go into the Silence fell on the room as Inspector question of responsibility later. You two women will stay in this room until fore he darted across to a door on the Mrs. Lawes met his glance: "I'm you receive further instructions. If you left this opened into a smaller room saying nothing until I have seen my attempt to leave it you will be arrested." in which was a camp-bed that had

She was still sitting in the alcove snapped. "Now Ferguson, let's have a look at this mysterious door."

Ferguson led the way to the baize door which shut off the kitchens, and, several toilet articles in silver each of at the end of a passage, opened a door which was engraved with the same "My mother-" A quick, startled on the other side of which was a flight initials. glance passed between her and Fern- of stone steps leading down to a large But of Mary Stenning herself there cellar. The cellars were airy and dry was no sign. and lit by electricity. Most of the wine bins were empty, but there were several In silence Dollimore indicated the "When did your mother come here, packing-cases and other timber stacked initials.

"Some weeks ago," Sadie Pachmann plained: "I noticed that one of the bins tody. The third degree is not tolerated had been moved and on examining it is in this country, of course, but I'm going concealed hinges—it has obviously been recently moved. But this it is."

> wall of the cellar to which one end of no means of escape—no signs of escape it was fastened. Behind it was a small anyway."

"What part of the house is this Ducros. Sadie Pachmann flashed a glance at under?" Dollimore asked.

the elder woman who shrugged her | "That's what puzzled me, sir," Ferguson said. "The wall is beneath the "Then you know all about it," the front of the house so I can't see what "Let's have a look, anyway," said

"Very nearly. Now we're going down Ducros as he inserted the key in the It turned easily and he opened the

door. Ducros, always methodical took out the keys and slipped them into his me so and there are 14 cigarette stubs

rough-hewn stone squares and that the parently interrupted and stubbed walls were built of brick. "You stay here, Ferguson. We don't

"I'll tell you. Where exactly is the want any funny business this end," Ducros said,"Let me have your torch."

"In the second wine cellar-in the Dollimore was already some way along lad-from those pets upstairs." far corner. The door was covered by the tunnel-like passage and Ducros a wine-bin, but it was evident that the hurried after him. Twenty yards ahead bin had recently been moved. The bin, the passage turned half-right, and then,

"We're underneath the lake," Dollimore said. "See what the roof of the turned to follow the two detectives tunnel is like."

Ducros cast the beam of his torch upwards. The roof was only a foot or so above their heads and was quite dry. "It's leading us to that island in the

"It will be greatly in your favour and lake in front of the house apparently," A few yards further they reached an-

other door which completely blocked the passage. It was locked, but the second key fitted it. Beyond the door the passage continued to a point where a short flight of steps led down into an empty

This room was faintly illuminated by a small window in the roof, the glass "I haven't given him the opportunity of which was either opaque or dirty. to help." Ducos said, "I don't want to An open door gave on to a large room do so. If you persist in refusing it'll in which was an old oak table, and probably be the worse for you. We several other articles of furniture. This room, too, was illuminated through a "Here's the key," said Mrs. Lawes, window in the roof. A book was open up. held out a ring on which were two old- the person who had been reading it had

stood up hurriedly. PALE GREEN PYJAMAS

Dollimore glanced round sharply be-"Can't I talk to Fernandez?" Sadie | been slept in. There were two suitcases in the room and on the bottom of the "No. You will stay here," Ducros bed was a suit of pale green pyjamas.

On a primitive dressing table were

The initials on the suitcases were

Ducros followed him into the room.

"Not too good," said Ducros. "We'll "It's at the far end." Ferguson ex- take those beauties upstairs into cusdiscovered that it could be turned on to get the truth out of them or bust!"

"Where is she?" Dollimore asked, almost to himself. "She's been in here-The bin was at right angles to the a prisoner—several days. And there's

"Let's make certain of that," said

He went all round each room carefully. "No," he said, "when she went she went out through the door and along the passage to the cellar. And since she didn't take her belongings with her, she went in a hurry, I should

"She was in here approximately three days," said Dollimore. "She used no use, Sadie. I'm going to tell the to smoke one cigarette after each meal -never more. I remember her telling in the ashtray. And they are the In front of them stretched a long, cigarettes she smoked; one of them, I'm narrow passage. The light was bad but practically certain, was smoked to-day. they could see that it was paved with It's only a third smoked; she was ap-

"She's not here. There's no point in He tried to force her to tell him." stopping here. Let's go back and see jig-saw puzzle was fitting in as jig-saw what we can elicit—that's the word, my puzzles do when one approaches the

Ducros carefully locked both doors. "You've seen nobody, Ferguson?" Dollimore asked.

"No. But I began to wonder what had happened to you sir," he said as he

food and got anything she wanted." through the cellar. "What's that?" Ducros asked over tained against her will?" his shoulder, indicating a door in the wall on the left. as it has. I begged her to break away

"It's unlocked," Ferguson said. "There's a short flight of iron steps from this devil, Fernandez. But Sadie eading up into a kind of yard at the daren't. She was terrified of Rolliter, side of the house."

"Why is it unlocked?" "I don't know, sir."

see that these splits have bluffed you? Ducros opened the door and went up You've got it all wrong anyway." into the yard, which was deserted. "We may as well go this way to the you than I'm forced to," Ducros said. front of the house,' he said.

The yard opened into the main gar- "But if you arent careful you will go age, but Dollimore noticed that at the down to the station like Fernandez. other end a gate led into the park. The three men went through the isn't bluff, Sadie. I can see that Fer-

garage to the front of the house. The andez and Rolliter are the people repoliceman on duty in the conservatory looked at them in surprise as they came er were acting under their instructions

"Nothing to report?" Ducros asked as Lawes." he glanced through the door to the dance hall and saw Fernandez still sitting glumly in the alcove. "Nothing sir."

Two of the searchers were waiting outside Ferandez's office. "Well?" Ducros demanded.

to pieces. Within half an hour he and "Found nothing sir. We searched Sadie had packed and were in a car. I was to follow later, after Mr. Rolliter thoroughly everywhere you mentioned." had rung up That must have been "Right. Arrest the man in there, handcuff him, and bring him into the about when you got here. The only thing Fernandez tried to do was to office.'

"Very good, sir." "Come on, Dollimore."

The two women were sitting in silence when the officials re-entered the had to wait for Rolliter to 'phone here.'

"Where is Miss Stenning?" Ducros began in an ominously quiet voice. "I don't know" said Sadie Pachmann.

sake as my own Sadie," Mrs. Lawes "I have arrested Fernandez on sussaid. "The only way we can get out of picion of being implicated in the murder of Mrs. Lewin," Ducros said: "You the jam we're in is to tell the truth." -Pachmann-were also an accomplice "Was Fernandez surprised when you Do you want to be hanged by the neck told him that Miss Stenning had gone?" until you are dead?" he asked the question very seriously. "If not you will be brass and started sweating-that's how well advised—as they say in your counsurprised he was. He began by accusry-to come clean.

"That's true," said Mrs. Lawes, sur- ing me of double-crossing him and let-

ting her go. If I'd known what I know "As a matter of fact, it's just about now I'd have done so as soon as she your only chance," Ducros said to the was put in there." elder woman. "We have discovered "Your positive of this-positive that where you had imprisoned Miss Sten- he had no idea she had gone until you ning. Presently we shall have the told him?" finger-print experts down there, and if "Absolutely. Why, he and Sadie you have been in there at all no further tried to bolt almost at once. If Miss proof will be necessary of your com- Stenning had got away the place would be a hornet's nest in no time and Fer-

"Complicity in what?" demanded nandez knew it." Sadie Pachmann.

"Of complicity in either kidnapping "I don't know. There's only one set or murder-or both. Mrs. Lawes here of keys," the woman said doubtfully. had the keys. There is no sign even "That is-as far as I know," she added. of an attempted escape. Miss Stenning . "And where were they kept," Dolli-

-alive or dead - left those rooms Some Problems of **Retailers Arising** "If you don't tell them what happened I shall," Mrs. Lawes said angrily There was a tap at the door and one from War Conditions

> Retailers Have Made Gen- at a minimum. The powers of the wareral Effort to Keep Prices at Right Levels.

one-people do pay, sooner or later, for tailers throughout Canada have been want high heels one season and no rendered increasingly difficult since heels the next. Even men may suddenwhat they do. You're going to pay and September, 1939. An article in the ly refuse to wear hats. Sound merspring issue of The Commerce Quarter- chants simply can't afford to have on "What charge am I arrested on? ly. University of Western Ontario's hand anything but the minimum quan-"At the moment I have several business publication outlines the pres- tities of merchandise. charges, but they will probably all boil ent conditions affecting price-setting Retail prices did not rise as fast as man who calls on you is a magician? down to one. That one is a simple one in Canadian stores, and explains how wholesale prices; the average departretailers can relieve the situation. Writ- ment store had enough stock on hand him take a quarter and make Willie "He shut her up there because she ten by Professor Walter A. Thompson, in September to carry through four disappear. - Globe and Mail. had seen Mr. Lewin," the elder woman head of the Department of Business months' business. Consumer resistance Administration, and Gordon H. Ingram, to immediate price rises, strong comwell known retailer, the article shows petition, desire to avoid the label "pro-Fernandez was suddenly livid with the importance of style, local demand, fiteer," were among the factors which anger and raised his hands as if he competition, and advertising in the caused the retailer to avoid immediate would strike the woman to the ground, price-setting division of retail business. price increases. But the Canadian

but Dollimore grabbed his arm and The already complex pricing function customer is beginning to feel the rise has been rendered increasingly diffi- now. Wider consumer knowledge of cult since September, 1939, the article retail prices will probably tend to incontinues. War usually brings a buy- crease constance resistance to price ers' market. One of the wisest meas- increases, and this is another factor ures taken by the Canadian Govern- which causes department stores to conment was the setting up of Canada's sider the policy of handling merchan-Wartime Price and Industry Board, dise of slightly lower quality and fabric The setting up of this competently in order to avoid price change. manned board was as popular a move When prices are going down, the as could have been made by the govern- consumer wants the same quality at ment. It is generally recognized by lower prices, though this isn't completetell the truth, even now, you may find the public and the business community ly true when prices are rising. Profesthat no one should make money from this war. A variety of additional forces sor Thompson concludes by warning that is the best policy. I can see that you played a minor part in the affair which will tend to keep price rises in retailers to avoid trash and says hand are described by the writers. "Changes on fabric and design are Considerable capacity in machine and man power to manufacture goods, con-- what you deserve - you'd be sur- trol of credit inflation, and mechanical prised," said Ducros. "Take him down means of keeping down the price level to the station in one of the police cars are in turn opposed by rising ocean and lock him up. I'll be down later transportation costs, exchange disadon this evening to have a chat with vantage on purchases from the United States and the switching of machinery and men from consumers' goods to war dez were going to struggle, but suddenly productions in the battle to keep prices he altered his mind and turned to the at normal levels.

The price situation of September, "Now, Mrs. Lawes," Ducros said, 1939, certainly did not suggest a down-

more asked.

"Who else knew about the underground passage?" "That's all wrong," Sadie Pachmann "Jones, the porter."

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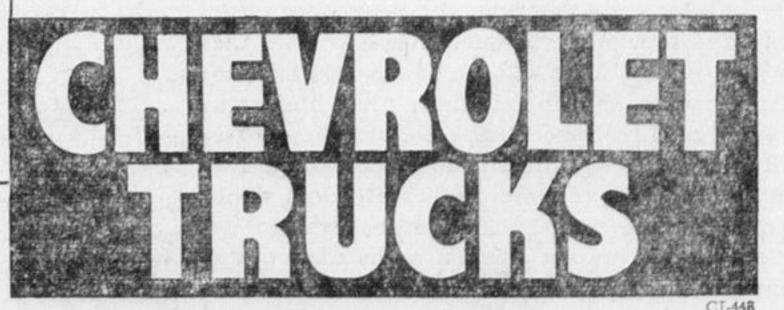
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