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CHAPTER XXII THE PARTY BREAKS UP

For a moment no one moved. The shooting had come so suddenly that they stood frozen into immobility, staring at the motionless body of man was my brother's murderer! I-I, They obeyed reluctantly and rose to Steiner. His two companions were still some few yards away when the shot was fired, and they remained absolutely motionless, their faces curiously impassive, as they eyed the limp form slumped over the canvas money bags.

It was the Major who broke the spell.'

"Murder nothing!" Becker retorted happened." coolly. "He'd got it coming to him! he showed up just now. You heard me kinda skeery to work with him." what he said didn't you? He was out for trouble. Well, he's found it.

"But-but you shot him down in cold blood!" the Major persisted, regarding the American with horrified eyes.

"Sure I did!" Becker agreed reasonably. "I'm no professional gunman, other two men. "It's all right, boys," he said. "It's all over. You know the way things have been boiling up between us these last couple of days. Well, it couldn't last; and if I hadn't fixed him this way, maybe he'd have fixed me. No hard feelings?"

"Not with me" the yellow-faced Lefty assured him hurriedly eyeing the pistol in his hand nervously. "I guess he asked for what he got. That's how I look at it."

"And you, Frenchy?"

"I ain't startin' no war on account Louis got his," the man growled. "Dat's his funeral. But all de same dey's sumthin' I wanna know. How's de split goin' now?"

"Same way as before-equal cuts!" Becker answered promptly. "So we'll all stand in for a raise."

told him; and Mecker nodded cheerfully hollered that the men had left you cold, replace them in the bag he had kicked patients have been "dressed up" in nice ing appears is on no account to be used and slipped his gun back into his pocbrief exchange, for she was still gazing me where the stuff was hidden. We'd ised and tied the bag up again he men's hair has been dressed. but the Major was goggling at Becker with you or Miss Salter before you'd streaming with perspiration, and looked more, mixing with others, would preopen-mouthed.

will have to be reported to the police!"



CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC

CANADI

December 13th, 1940

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cop handy! And when you're telling | He missed her, and at that moment all about it, you might mention that Becker intervened. Steiner was the guy who bumped your brother off. He'd be interested!"

there at the time—though it was Stein- beside him, with an awful fear at her er who did the shooting. That's so, heart.

"You've murdered him!" he exclaim- "Louis plugged him while we was be packin' a rod?" He still held the beatin' it. Me'n Lefty never see what pistol in his hand, and as he peered at or any other game he was not only help-

He was all get to start something when Louis," Lefty corroborated. "It made it over to Becker. The Major blinked at them in utter

> Becker again. "Well, but . . . I don't understand.

If you knew this . . . ?" "Well?" Becker prompted, calmly

these men here, sir?" the Major burst wasted enough time over him, so let's Hospital who is not bedridden is reand if I'd given him an even break, out with sudden fury. "What did you get going. Here! Give me a hand to moved from the ward at least once a he'd have got me!" He turned to the mean by assuring me that they could shift Steiner out of it. He's lying like day weather permitting, during all sea-

It was the girl who answered him. into taking this trip by making you be- canvas bags had been untouched, and baths, feeding and entertainment. to swindle us. He's been the swindler lift them out and pile them on the The number of deaths has become less, all the way through-and he was able ground beside him, while the other two more have been able to return to their to give you the position of this island watched him intently. None of them letter Uncle Tom was carrying on him the girl and her father. when they murdered him."

Becker looked at her admiringly.

as your pop, Miss Salter. Yes, Major, going, boys." I've been living on suckers all my life. of the bags and then proceeded to actively in games. "Dat's O.K. by me, boss," Frenchy When you came down to meet us and gather up the spilled coins carefully and To awaken pride in appearance, ing canvas. Paper on which any printcome through with that, and Steiner at the girl and her father.

> asking for it quite a while." During this recital, the Major had ning down thrugh his scanty hair. been staring at him, with his face growing more and more purple with emotion. The realization that he had been fooled into playing this man's game from the beginning was coming home to him fully now, and with it the knowledge that Becker already looked upon the gold as being in his hands. It was this last thought which wrought him to a pitch of frenzy and as Becker finished speaking, he made a sudden dive into his coat pocket fairly splut-

"You scoundrel!" he roared. "I'll show you --!"

tering with fury.

His hand come out with the big Webely in it, but before he could raise the weapon, Lefty and his fellow-tough

were upon him. The latter twisted his arm round him, while the former kicked his legs from under him. Then, as he crashed heavily to the ground, the pistol was wrenched from his grasp, and the two fell upon him, hitting and kicking in true hooligan fashion.

With a horrified cry, Diana leaped across the intervening space and grasped one of the men by the collar in a vain attempt to pull him off.

"Let him alone, you beasts! - you brutes!" she cried, tugging with all her

The man-it was Frenchy - halfturned and landed out with his foot at

"Get out of it, you--!" he snarled

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"What!" the Major ejaculated. "This enough to keep him quiet!"

their feet, but the Major remained ball with the others and he replied "Please yourself!" Becker told him motionless, face downwards on the that as he was not required to play, he indifferently. "But these boys were sand; and the girl dropped to her knees didn't bother with it.

CROOKS IN CLOVER

and examined it. "Huh! Full up with sand!" he tion.

grunted contemptuously. "He'd have blown his blamed hand off if you'd givhe's still trying to keep the dough from sons. More baths of various kinds, better men!"

"Don't you see, Daddy?" she said, in With Frenchy's aid, he dragged ed and directed by the patients thema clear, cold voice. "This man has been Steiner's body clear of the excavation selves. More food is given. There is working with them all the time! He and dropped it carelessly to one side. some entertainment every day and the tricked you into thinking he'd been a The sand was stained dreadfully where patient's general life has been altered friend of Uncle Tom, and persuaded you it had been lying, but the neat row of in the direction of more sunshine, lieve that Father Maloney was trying he dropped to his knees and began to because he was in possession of the paid the slightest further attention to and quieting drugs has lessened.

at them. "Grab as many as you can a start to the patient's energies. Such hibited articles may be returned. "Mighty clearly put," he said. "I had carry and rush 'em down to the boat. measures as throwing a bean-bag to Customs declaration and dispatch kind of notion you weren't so dumb There's twenty of 'em altogether. Get women and a ball to men succeeds in notes are not required, but a list of the

"But—but look here!" he stammered. here, who'd got a weak stomach for He saw that she had contrived to mental institution. "You can't do this sort of thing! This that kind of work-for all he was a level the Major over on to his back, killer-had fixed it to stay aboard the and having loosened his collar, was Becker turned to him with a grin launch till we'd done with you. You feeling carefully over his body to as- ment although medical tests do not refooled him, for when he saw us going certain his injuries. The unconscious veal it? Do you sometimes feel 'comoff arm in arm, he suspicioned some- man's eyes were closed, and his face had pelled' to do things you know are use-"Just hunt around and see if there's a thing was wrong, and came after us assumed an ugly leaden hue, but the lesis or foolish? Send for this enlightloaded for trouble. So in a way you only visible sign of damage was from ening booklet by Dr., Barton entitled brought this on him-though he'd been a slight gash on the forehead, from "Neurosis" (no. 103) which explains

> not croacked this time, has he?" She turned a white, set face upon and mailing and mention the name of him for a moment. "He's not dead - though that's no

> gans!" she told him bitteryl. "Well, he's lucky," he returned, mop- here." ping his face with a large silk handker | She took the can from him without chief. "What did he expect-playing a word, but one of the other men-i a fool trick like that? You've got to was Frenchy-uttered an exclamation. be reasonable about these things. He "Antilla?" he began. "Say, what's was pulling a gun on me, wasn't he? de idea--"

> staring at her patient for a moment, kerchief on her father's forehead, and he went on: "If you ask me, I'd say after a while she tried to pour a little he's had something like a stroke. That's water between his blue lips. She was the way he looks to me. There's no- parched with thirst herself, but in her

thing broken, is there?" "I don't think so," she answered, moisten her own dry lips.

almost against her will. "That's what it'll be then," he told were arguing about something, and her, with the satisfied air of a success- presently they moved off together. anyway. Hello, Lefty? Back again The only result was to produce a already? Where's the boy friend?"

thumb over his shoulder.

whole lot of it-and us as well. He'll be slower and feebler than before be right back."

"Tell him to fetch a can of it." "O.K." Lefty agreed; and he bellowed the request into the distance.

father's prone body, gazing anxiously She hated doing it, but there was down into his face. She had to admit nothing left but to ask Becker for asthat Becker was probably right in his sistance. He had shown some kind of diagnosis, for she had been unable to consideration for her, and she felt he find any traces of serious injury; but in would hardly refuse his help. itself this afforded her little consola- The possibility that the men had altion. Indeed, she would have been bet- ready left the island did not occur to ter off with some definite injury to at- her, for the body of Steiner was still tend to, for she felt completely helpless lying where they had left him, and she

She had paid no attention to what ing the gold off to the launch; but as had been said between the two men, but she came in sight of the sea, she stoppresently she became aware that ped dead-staring blankly out over the Frenchy had returned, and a few dancing blue water. moments later, Becker came over to her In the middle distance—a good mile carrying a petrol can in his hand.

"Here you are," he said, "water." ing southward at full speed! "Try bathing his face. I guess he could She remained gazing out after it for de with a drink too, but go easy with a full minute, while the realization of it. There'll be no more when that's her position gradually came home to gone, and maybe you'll be here quite a her. while yet. I'll fix it for someone to

That Body of

Dours By lames W. Barton, M.D.

Getting Mental Patients Away From

Themselves I visited an acquaintance who was a patient in a mental institution. was granted a certain amount of liberty "All right, boys!" he ordered sharply. and I went out on the grounds with him "Let up on the old skeezicks! He's had and the patients began playing a game of softball.

I asked him why he wasn't playing

I reminded him that he could certainly play ball better than most of "Well, wadja know about that?" Lefty the players in the game and also that "Sure, dat's right," Frenchy agreed. panted. "Who'd a guessed he would he needed the exercise. I pointed out also that when he was playing baseball it, he burst into a sudden laugh. "Take ing himself physically - heart, lungs, "He was too free with his rod, was a look at it, boss!" he said, and handed digestion-but that during the game he wouldn't be thinking inwardly, of himself, but rather about playing the game. Becker, who had not moved during There would be that much time anyway bewilderment, and then turned to the scuffle, took the Major's revolver when his mind would be on other things than his presence in a mental institu-

Dr. Abraham Myerson, Boston, in American Journal of Psychiatry states "Well, what's your idea in bringing en him a chance to use it! Well, we've that every patient at the Boston State more exercise is taken and games play-

Definite improvement has resulted. homes, and the necessity for restraint

"Here you are!" he said, looking up downs have a tonic effect and also give ative or friend to whose care any prohaving them co-operate by throwing contents of the parcel should be shown You've been played for the world's big- They staggered off under their bur- back the bean-bag or ball. This sim- on a slip inserted inside the parcel. gest sucker! You've surprised me-and dens, and Becker stacked up the rest ple start often causes them to engage Parcels must be strongly wrapped

I could scarcely credit my hearing. But over. It took him some little time to clothes. Men have been shaved regu- either on the outside or inside wrapping ket. Diana had missed the gist of this you had to go the whole way and show accomplish this, but when he had fin- larly and their nails cared for. Wo- of the package. in horror at the body of the dead man, calculated we'd have to get real tough squatted back on his hams with his face I believe getting about more, playing

vent many from having to enter a

Are you afraid you have some ailwhich a thin trickle of blood was run- such conditions. Send your request to The Bell Library, Post Office Box 75, "How's it coming?" he asked. "He's Station O. New York, N.Y., enclosing Ten Cents to cover cost of handling this newspaper.

thanks to you and your fellow hooli- come out for you when we get back to Antilla, but I can't say when they'll get

And anyway, if I hadn't called the boys | He broke off short as Becker turned | off, they'd have beaten him up to a and scowled warningly at him, but the girl had noticed nothing. She was She made no reply to this, and after already busy dabbing a sodden handanxiety it never occurred to her to

She was vaguely aware that the men

ful diagnostician. These fiery old The attempt to induce the stricken cusses are liable to that kind of trouble man to drink was a complete failure. horrible rattling, choking sound which The man had appeared on the ridge, indicated clearly that the water had and at the question, he jerked his got into the windpipe, and thereafter she was forced to content herself with "He's took that lot off to the launch," keeping a soaked handkerchief over his ne said. "He reckoned the boat forehead. She tried his pulse again wouldn't stand for the weight of the after a while, and it seemed to her t

She stared down at him helplessly, "That's what it is to have brains!" and then it occurred to her that the Becker told him cheerfully. "Well, hot air in the valley was probably the while you're up there, just holler for worst kind of atmosphere for him in him to bring some water back with his present condition. If she could only get him up on the ridge, the cool "Water?" the man repeated, staring breeze might do something to revive him-but that was a task which was "Sure, water," Becker affirmed. obviously impossible for her to accomplish alone.

She rose to her feet and began to make her way slowly up the ridge Diana was now kneeling beside her overlooking the beach.

in the face of this unknown factor. | fancied they must be engaged in ferry-

from the shore—the launch was head-

(To be Continued)

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