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SERIAL STORY

5 WOULD KILL

BY TOM HORNER

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CAST OF CHARACTERS
ARNOLD BENTHORNE—Five persons wished him dead.
HELEN BENTHORNE—His charming young wife.
WILLIAM ALSTON—Benthorne's father-in-law and business associate.

JOEY DI TORIO—Night club owner and gangster.
ARA JOHNSON—The mystery girl.
JOHN DOUGLAS—A young mining engineer, in love with Ara.
CAPTAIN DAWSON—a detective who likes to listen.



William Alston

Yesterday, Dawson sends Flynn to find the taxi driver, Nick Smith, then questions Mrs. Benthorne. She admits that she had quarreled with her husband, had sent for her father. She also admits she is an excellent pistol shot.

CHAPTER V

"I am not accusing anyone of Arnold Benthorne's murder—yet," Captain Dawson said. "The fact that you once captured a pistol team does not make you a killer. I could have found out from the records anyway, but I prefer to have you tell me.

Helen Benthorne sobbed into the back of her chair. "Oh—I can't—I can't stand any more!" Gently, Dawson lifted her to her feet. "I know, I know," he said soothingly. "You may go upstairs now, try to get some rest. He led her to the doorway, beckoned to Krone, standing at the end of the hall. "Take Mrs. Benthorne to the room. Check the quarters carefully, make sure all the doors are locked. . . . There is no need for you to be frightened, Mrs. Benthorne. There will be an officer within call."

She tried to smile her thanks, but it was a feeble effort. "And, Krone," Dawson added. "Send that butler, Jameson, here."

"You called for me, Captain Dawson?" Jameson bowed stiffly, as he entered the room. Dawson stopped his pacing across the study floor.

"Yes," he snapped. "Where were you when Benthorne was shot?" "I had just let Mr. Alston in the back entry, sir," Jameson said. "I wanted to take his things—his wet coat and hat—but he seemed to be in a hurry. I knew Mrs. Benthorne was expecting him—she had asked me to be sure he got in the back way all right. He—Mr. Alston—seemed quite upset, if I may say so, sir."

"You may. What did Alston do?" "He started up the back stairway—its closer to Mrs. Benthorne's rooms—and told me to go to bed. . . . And he told me not to tell Mr. Benthorne that he—Mr. Alston—was in the house."

"And then what did you do?" "I went directly to my quarters, sir. They're on the ground floor, beyond the kitchen. Daniels, the chauffeur, was there. We'd been having a few drinks. Daniels will tell you."

"How about the front door?" Dawson turned on the man. "I ordered that front door left unlocked. But when Flynn and Krone tried to get in—"

"Habit, sir, habit," Jameson apologized. "I've been locking up Mr. Benthorne's house for years, sir, every night at 10. Tonight I made my usual rounds and stopped at Mr. Benthorne's study to

control of a large block of Alston Motor stock, enough to become my partner—but not enough to buy my daughter."

"How much does it mean to you to have Benthorne dead?" Dawson fired a shot in the dark. Alston's sudden start told him he had scored a hit. Alston's weakened calm returned almost immediately.

"You might as well know, Captain," he said slowly. "It will come out with the probating of the will. Upon my death full control—my shares—of Alston Motors were to go to Arnold. His death returns his holdings to me. We had arranged it that way for Helen—and any children she

might have. No outsider will ever own Alston Motors."

"I see."

"My attorney arranged the details. He'll show the agreement to you."

The slamming of the front door interrupted him. Angry voices rose from the outer hall. Then

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ing night club proprietor through the doorway. (To Be Continued) Look in the Classified First.



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