

## IT IS DARK IN THE BUSH

(Continued from previous page)

with careful casualness that he would like to prowling round a little for himself. Could Morgan obtain permission for him?

"I'll see about it, but there won't be any bother. The guard has been removed. They did their job thoroughly enough and so did Missen, but the total result was that piece of green linen, and even that led us up a blind alley. Not a finger print anywhere. The man who committed that crime knew what he was about."

"You're perfectly certain," said David hesitatingly, "that there was a murderer? I mean, you've quite given up the suicide theory?"

Morgan shrugged. "It's more than unlikely. Langley hadn't been out of the district at all during the two years that he'd had the farm. He had no friend likely to purchase him luminal; if he'd sent for it, the police would certainly have got on the tracks of the seller by now. Then there's the difficulty of the chained dog; from all accounts that dog was the only thing Langley really cared about. If he'd meant to go out, he'd never have left him to starve to death like that; he'd either have killed him first or have let him loose. Last of all, we've had positive proof that Langley

had written booking his passage for the Islands only a fortnight after the sale."

"That's news to me. I thought he was practically destitute."

"So did we, but these chaps always take care to have a good nest-egg put away somewhere."

"Then he was simply lying to Preston?"

"Of course, just to make him pay up."

"So, if Preston had called his bluff nothing would have happened."

"I wouldn't say that, not for a moment. I think Langley would have called at Te Rata on the way out and given Preston away to the Murrays and also to his daughter. It would be just the sort of exit that would please him best. . . . But he certainly meant to leave the country, for, not only was his passage taken, but he had sent an order to a firm in town that specialises in tropical outfits."

"H'm. . . . It certainly doesn't look like suicide."

"Scarcely. Certainly no jury is going to take that view with such an excellent case piling itself up against Preston. . . . Well, there's a note to the authorities. I think you'll find that they'll let you go where you like, do what you like. No one will interfere with you. I've taken Missen off. No use piling up costs with

no result. But don't be too sanguine. Remember that a dozen policemen were searching that bush for several days."

"Oh, I'm not imagining I can beat the force. It's only, really, for my own satisfaction and because I have the time to put in. I suppose I could camp in the place if I wanted to?"

"Why not? If you've such a fancy for haunted huts. . . . But you'd better go along and see the police and explain thoroughly."

David had done so and had been received with a kindly tolerance that bordered on amusement.

"We've done with the show for the present. It's an unattractive hole, but you can certainly picnic there if you want to."

"In short I may play round and keep myself amused."

David's grin was answered by another that almost degenerated into a wink; evidently the force was satisfied with its case and was not inclined to take a youthful amateur too seriously.

At the end of three barren days, David was ready to agree with them. There was nothing to be found there. If the murdered man had really possessed such papers as Preston feared, if he had not been merely bluffing again, then the man who killed him had

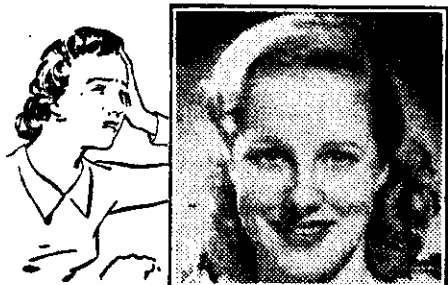
made off with the incriminating document and had probably destroyed it.

"I'm not going to give up yet," he soliloquised grimly on the third afternoon. "I've only made sure of the house and garden so far, and there are infinite possibilities in a place like this." The house, certainly, had yielded no results. He had combed the tiny place from iron roof to plank floor; he had crawled beneath it to be rewarded by the discovery of a dead rat and an old tin kettle; he had searched the walls inch by inch in the hopes of any opening, any hollow space into which a bundle of papers might have been thrust. He had even emerged black as a professional sweep, from a careful examination of the great iron chimney. The place was bare and empty as a shell; certainly the papers were not there. Nor did the tiny neglected garden offer any better results. It was roughly fenced as a protection against stock, but it showed signs of only the most erratic cultivation. There were a few drooping vegetables, now dry and neglected in the mid-summer heat. In any ground that had ever been cultivated, David poked and prodded laboriously, even turning the soil over methodically, spade by spade. There was no sign anywhere of any secret hiding-place.

(To be continued next week)

# Everyone's Cheerful!

Clements Tonic quickly relieves nervous exhaustion caused by anxiety, worry, loss of appetite and sleeplessness. Clements is a natural restorative that enriches the blood, replaces worn-out tissue, feeds the brain and gives you nerves of steel. Keep yourself fit and cheerful by taking Clements Tonic.



### KILKERRY, S. A.

"I feel happy, and do not get depressed now", writes Mrs. E. F. of Kilkerry, another grateful user of Clements Tonic. "For years I have suffered with nervous indigestion and sleeplessness; now I feel well and strong, thanks to Clements. I'll never be without it."



thanks to  
**CLEMENTS  
TONIC**

Wholesale Distributors: Clements Tonic Pty. Ltd., Box 977, G.P.O., Wellington I.121

My meals  
really are a  
pleasure

and

Here's how I ended

## ACID STOMACH

"For two years I suffered terribly with scalding pains in the stomach. Nothing I tried gave me any relief. I was given some De Witt's Antacid Powder to try, and after taking two doses I noticed improvement and two tins worked wonders. I am now able to eat and enjoy anything without any after-effects. I recommend De Witt's Antacid Powder to other sufferers because I am most grateful and thankful for the benefit I received." Mrs. R. N.

Two years of terrible stomach pains ended . . . now able to eat anything and meals really are a pleasure. No wonder this lady says: "De Witt's Antacid Powder works wonders." It will do exactly the same for you.

De Witt's Antacid Powder neutralises excess stomach acid, which causes pain. It soothes and protects your inflamed stomach lining. Then, by helping to digest your food, De Witt's Antacid Powder ensures pain-free digestion until your trouble is overcome.

End stomach troubles now  
and eat what you like.  
Get your sky-blue canister  
today!

**DeWitt's**  
**ANTACID POWDER**

A proved remedy for Indigestion, Acid Stomach, Heartburn, Flatulence and Gastritis. Obtainable from chemists and stores, in large sky-blue canisters, price 2/7 (including Sales Tax).

