Shadows of the City

By EDWIN BALMER and GENE MARKEY

CASH BAIL

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THE change in the police attitude toward Kitty Hewitt came with startling suddenness. At ten o'clock she was a guest in the Finley mansion on the Lake Shore drive breakfasting with Mrs. Finley and with Dr. Bertram Durand in the quaint, Dutchified little breakfastroom of the Finleys.

A camel-trail fire was snapping and burning coolly in a black iron basket in the blue-tile hearth; upon the table, attractively set with breakfast things, a coffee percolator was steaming with pleasant aroma. Mrs. Finley sat facing the fire; with her back to it sat Kitty Hewitt and between them Doctor Durand.

No one was to disturb them. This was the order given to the servants by Mrs. Finley; and certainly it was a necessary order, if the three in the breakfastroom were to procure any sort of peace this morning. For the telephone bell was ringing almost ceaselessly.

The reason, of course, was the presence of Kitty Hewitt. This morning millions—literally millions—of people wanted to know about her. What was the truth underlying her amazing situation?

What they already knew was extremely provocative of interest. Here, lovely girl, whose delicacy of feature and figure and whose natural manner gave proof of gentle birth and early upbringing, had been discovered to be a friend of gunmen. The most notorious youth in Chicago—handsome young man of many aliases, best known as Edward Pellen or by the subriquet of "Eddie the Immune"—had been her friend. She had known well the members of an underworld gang who grouped themselves about a crook known to the police as Grasse. Yet it appeared that she had not been actually a member of the gang, in the sense that she lived by its activities. She had supported herself, recently at least, by teaching mahjongg to fashionable people. Further and more dramatic proof of her separation from Grasse's going arose from the fact that a couple of days ago when she learned that Grasse was holding Dr. Bertram Durand in his power she had immediately called the police and brought them in time to save Durand.

This was the spectacular incident which turned public attention to her; and immediately it was followed by another—a more unpleasant affair—when Grasse sent a gunman, one Garvey Lavvy, to punish her for informing the police. Last night, as she sat at supper in a cafe, Pellen, protecting her, had shot down his co-gangster.

For this act Pellen now was in jail, charged with murder; and Kitty Hewitt was safe in his big home on the drive. Ostensibly she was here as a guest of Doctor Durand's and Pellen's friends, the Finleys; actually she was here for protection against the gang and under a sort of informal parole.

For this, Doctor Durand and his friends had taken responsibility; so her physical situation this morning was comfortable.

"What are they doing with him now?" she asked suddenly, glancing from Mrs. Finley to Bertram. "Have, of course, referred to the youth she had put his own life at stake last night for the sake of defending her; he was Pellen, Eddie, the show "Immune."

"The grand jury is in session," Bertram replied. "One of the Tribune reporters just told me that the state's attorney takes Pellen before the grand jury at two o'clock."

"I must be there with him!" And Kitty Hewitt arose, trembling.

Young Durand caught her hand and held her. "Don't you see," he told her gently, "that you must stay here? Besides, even if you want to the criminal courts building, you could do no good."

"Oh, I know it!" Wearily she sank again into her chair. "Today is their day; they'll indict him—for murder. There's no use fighting against that—there's no stopping that, I suppose."

Mrs. Finley poured clear brown coffee from her steaming percolator. "You must eat something now, my dear," she urged.

But Kitty Hewitt had no appetite. "I'm spoiling your breakfast," she said. "I'm sorry. If you'll excuse me, I'll go up to my room."

"Of course I'll excuse you," smiled Mrs. Finley. Bertram followed Kitty Hewitt to the stairs and escorted her up to her room on the second floor, where a maid met her and she was dismissed.

He started downstairs almost immediately afterward, or as soon as he got past the cordon of reporters before the house. Being barely twenty-seven years of age, he possessed a great quantity of modesty; yet it was long enough to provide, sensibly, an hour or two of actual work for him each morning.

Bertram got down on and with a troubled mind took up the routine of his day. It was one o'clock and he was on the west side of the city, following a visit to the county hospital, when the front page of an early afternoon paper brought his eye. There it was in bold headlines;

PELLEN INDICTED FOR MURDER

Eddie the Immune Held for Trial Without Bail

A definite and undeniable step had been taken, bringing Pellen nearer to doom. If Bertram felt it, how much more would Kitty Hewitt be affected by it! She had told him that the bond between Pellen and herself was not love; at least, not love on her part, she had said, though it was true Pellen loved her. They had grown up as girl and boy together, Pellen and she; when disaster had met her mother, Pellen's mother had taken little Kitty Hewitt into her own home and brought her up to the best of her ability. Eddie Pellen had been like a brother to her; and when he went "bad," Kitty had refused to forsake him. He loved her—above everything else in the world.

Doctor Durand also was in love with her. Of course this was a for more recent date and one to which she held little or no heed. It was overshadowed today by Kitty's troubles—Pellen who, protecting her, had put his life to forfeit. Bertram longed to be with her when the news of the indictment was being spread through the streets; but what could he say? So, having no professional calls to make this afternoon, he took recourse to the resort of an idle physician, and absorbed himself in the watching ethery work at a clinic.

Later when Bertram stepped from the hospital doors into the lamp-lit dusk of the early evening a shock awaited him. New headlines screamed from the newspapers. Kitty Hewitt! they proclaimed. Something had happened during the afternoon while he peered during the afternoon while he was absorbed in the clinic room. Something which surpassed the sensation of the earlier headlines. Kitty Hewitt arrested! That was it.

But she was not being held without bond, as was Pellen, who had fired the shot. The Judge, who had ordered her held, had fixed her bail at ten thousand dollars. "As no one offered bond, she was taken to the jail." That was what the paper said.

He drove at once through the dark streets for the jail. It was not the hour for visitors, but his situation and condition were exceptional, and he was let in. He had to see for himself that Kitty Hewitt actually was in jail; and from the corridor outside the women's section he caught a glimpse of her. About forty women were grouped in small cells with bars in a barred and steel-bound enclosure known as the women's "bull pen."

At the fourth table behind the bars through which Bertram Durand peered, a patch of lovely color showed. He caught his breath. It was corncolor hair—Kitty Hewitts hair!

The guard who had piloted Bertram discovered her at once. "There's your girl," he said, jerking his thumb toward her table.

He could see her eyes now; she gazed at him steadily—until he lowered his head. It seemed to him not so much her shame as his that she met there.

As he followed the guard away, he heard nothing of where he was led, he found himself again stirred by the question which so many others asked this morning, but which no one yet had answered: "Who was this girl?" Whoever she was, she was the girl who had risked her own life to save Durand from Grasse; who had taken a gunman's bullet intended for Pellen; who had been indicted for murder; who was in jail!

He drove first to the Finleys'. Here there was a crowd when he was taken away by the police the Finleys had foreseen that he would be thought it possible that they did not fully understand the situation and that it might be put in jail. So he went to them and told them.

They were very sorry; they felt extremely distressed. Indeed, for about half an hour after Bertram left, ten thousand dollars was ten thousand dollars, and it would be a considerable pecuniary factor to them; for the free-spending Finleys, a small item.

There was a chill finality in their sorrow; it was no occasion for the return hurried on to the house of the Durand's.

Half an hour later he was hastening to the corner of the block. By ten o'clock he had ceased to try to raise ten thousand dollars in one sum; he had raised it in parts of a quarter of it; then for a tenth of it only.

At one o'clock in the morning, when even the music to of the ditty and Durand had become dark, he returned wearily toward his board ing-house room with experience and much bitter learning for his night's work. He had learned that the friends of his father and the wife of the friends of his grandfather had distributed their fortunes through the preservation of a narrowlessly rigid attitude toward some such as ten thousand dollars, or even five or one.

With required them to see clearly the return to themselves before risking any such sum.

He went to bed but did not sleep; and as he lay, reviewing bitterly his beginnings of this night, he thought of Kitty Hewitt on a cot in one of those steel-walled cells of the pen. The women prisoners shared cells.

On the street a newsboy was crying his extra. Shrilly Bertram bought a paper, and saw the story on the first page, beneath startling headlines. Kitty Hewitt had been freed from jail. Pellen was the astonishing report that a lawyer named Kingson had appeared with thirty thousand dollars in cash and obtained the release of Pellen's fiancee.

Cash! Anonymous, unidentified cash! Cash had been put up for her! Who had put it up?

A reporter encountered Bertram on the walk. "Just looking for you, doctor. They say some of your rich friends put up that cash bail."

"Not any friends of mine," denied Bertram with emphasis. "I'm aware of that. I've been them all. But look here—" he caught at the reporter's sleeve. "She's really out of jail? You've seen her—sir?"

"Sure was all with—"

"Who was her lawyer?" the newspaper man assisted.

"Whose lawyer?" Bertram demanded.

"Why, doctor, I was after you to ask that."

"If I could tell you, I would," said Bertram. "But I don't know. I don't know. Where did Kingson go with her?"

"He wasn't going with her; she was going with him—to his office, it looked like. I don't know—they'll be had to come to find you."

And, having found him, the reporter insisted on accompanying him; but Bertram did not care. The reporter knew where Kingson's office was, and together they walked away.

He sent in his name to Kingson; and the girl who took his card brought out word that the attorney could not see him; but a minute later Kitty Hewitt came in.

She closed the door behind her and stood with her back to it, clinging to the knob as though for support. She said to him, before the reporter who crowded around her: "It wasn't a friend of yours who put up that bail!"

Bertram shook his head. "No."

Bertram took her arm and led her out to the elevator, and then through crowded close, finding the car which stopped for her and Bertram, and followed them in the taxicab to the street, where Bertram hailed a taxi.

"Get an empty," he told the taxi driver. "Then I'll tell you where to go."

He took Kitty in his arms as the cab sped off. "What is it, dear?" he asked her.

"The bail! The cash bail! Some one put up thirty thousand dollars cash for me!"

"Yes," said Bertram. "Yes."

"Mr. Kingson won't tell me a thing. He says there's no way to trace it. But he gave me a message."

"Yes?"

"From the one who put up the bail. He sent word that I was to go to—to—to—" Kitty Hewitt's voice trembled. "To Pellen's mother. Something had happened during the afternoon while he peered during the afternoon while he was absorbed in the clinic room. Something which surpassed the sensation of the earlier headlines. Kitty Hewitt arrested! That was it.

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At one o'clock in the morning, when even the music to of the ditty and Durand had become dark, he returned wearily toward his board ing-house room with experience and much bitter learning for his night's work. He had learned that the friends of his father and the wife of the friends of his grandfather had distributed their fortunes through the preservation of a narrowlessly rigid attitude toward some such as ten thousand dollars, or even five or one.

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