HD WIDENER
HW PTEJ 7

MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
AVERY HOPWOOD

THE BAT

WITH CRIME MAP ON BACK COVER

A DELL MYSTERY

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Persons this *Mystery* is about—

THE BAT,
a mysterious, bloodthirsty assassin who has a nation terrorized, is the master criminal of the century, flouting law and lawless alike. Is he beast, man, or devil?

CORNELIA VAN GORDER,
65, wealthy, patrician to her finger tips, and an indomitable, tart-witted spinster, has a zest for adventure which finds an outlet when she moves into the Fleming house in the heart of the Bat's present working territory.

ANDERSON,
a tall, handsome, brilliant detective begs for a chance at the Bat. His chief reluctantly consents as he considers him too valuable to commit such sure-suicide.

DALE OGDEN,
Cornelia's favorite niece, is spending the summer with her aunt. Young, charming, lovely, Dale should be walking on air; instead, she is apprehensive and distraught.

LIZZIE ALLEN,
Cornelia's faithful old Irish maid, can grow hysterical over a creaking door. Fifty years in America have not shaken her firm belief in banshees nor tamed her wild Irish tongue.

BROOKS,
the new gardener, is a handsome fellow, neatly but shabbily dressed, and obviously inexperienced in gardening.

DR. WELLS,
the local physician, shrewd, and affable, has a ruthless streak and seems strangely content with country practice.

JACK BAILEY,
a young bank cashier, is missing along with the funds of the bank.

RICHARD FLEMING,
the deceased bank president's nephew and heir, is a dissipated, crafty young man who has leased his uncle's home to Miss Cornelia.

BILLY,
the Japanese butler, *almost* retains his stoic Oriental serenity.

REGINALD BERESFORD,
Richard's friend, is a flippant but gallant young man-about-town.

THE UNKNOWN,
a half-dead stranger with a scarlike streak of dried blood on his forehead, tumbles into the room and highlights the night's eerie events. He becomes startlingly alert whenever no one is watching him.

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