

MERRILL'S ALIBI

After a hard day at the office, Merrill comes home to his comfortable den. He has just come in from a day at the beach and is looking forward to a quiet evening. He has just come in from a day at the beach and is looking forward to a quiet evening. He has just come in from a day at the beach and is looking forward to a quiet evening. He has just come in from a day at the beach and is looking forward to a quiet evening.



Just as it started to rain at 7:00 on a November evening, Ferris Allen was shot and killed at his home by a rifle bullet that penetrated his left eyeball. His assailant escaped by outrunning the Allen watchman and scaling a high wall. Since the police knew that C. B. Merrill and Allen's gorgeous wife Euphrosyne were having an affair, and that Allen had threatened Merrill with dire harm, Merrill was an obvious suspect. The police therefore rushed to his apartment, which they reached at 7:40. He answered the doorbell and they walked into his living room, which you see exactly as it was when they entered. Merrill admitted that he could have reached the Allen estate in a half hour by car, but insisted that he had not.

"Euphrosyne was here this afternoon," he told the police, "and after she left a package was delivered. Around 6:15 I went out to buy a bulb, since one of mine had broken. Later on it started to rain, and I went out again around 7:15 to buy a paper. I sat down in the chair by my bookcase and was reading it when you people came in."

Euphrosyne said, through her tears, "C. B. and I spent an innocent afternoon reading poetry. He didn't go out until 6:45, when he bought a paper and a bulb and sent me home in a taxi."

Would you charge Merrill with homicide?

Questions

1. Could Merrill have outrun the watchman and scaled a high wall?

Yes No

2. Is it likely that he was a good marksman? Yes No

3. Is the fact that none of the guns in the rack had been fired recently evidence of Merrill's innocence?

Yes No

4. If Euphrosyne's story is completely true, does it clear Merrill?

Yes No

5. Had Merrill and his lady love previously agreed on their stories?

Yes No

6. Do you think that she was in his

apartment during the afternoon?

Yes No

7. Can you prove that any part of Euphrosyne's story is false?

Yes No

8. Had Merrill been out recently?

Yes No

9. Check the assertions in Merrill's alibi that you can prove false: Euphrosyne was here this afternoon. One of my bulbs was broken and I got a new one. I was out after it started to rain. I bought a paper. I was reading it when you people (the police) came in.

10. Would you charge Merrill with homicide? Yes No