

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS



It was hard for Martha McGonnigle to believe, but here she was in Europe, and staying at the U.S. Embassy because her father was an aide to the American representative in formulating an important international treaty. But on the day before the final get-together of the various key delegates, Martha's father almost sent her home.

"There's been a threat," he told Martha, "and if anything happens to one of us, then the whole treaty will be lost and our work will be for nothing. Which is what the terrorist wants—whoever he is."

"You mean somebody may get killed?" Martha asked.

Her father nodded and Martha said, "Including you?" Her father nodded again and Martha said, "Gee! What can you do?"

"Hope," her father said. "And maybe spot the assassin in time."

During the previous days Martha had been all over the embassy, in the kitchens and the storerooms and the records room and most of the offices. After the first day, nobody paid much attention to her. "McGonnigle's kid," they said, gave her a smile, and let her do whatever she wanted.

Consequently, on the day of the final meeting Martha had free rein to find evidence of the plot against the treaty, but about all she managed to accomplish was to make a nuisance of herself, until the hors d'oeuvres were rolled in, when...

From an examination of the sketch—what do you think Martha saw, what did she deduce, and what did she do about it?

Questions

1. Which of the following is the most likely means to use in order to kill a delegate at the embassy? A bomb____
A gun____ A knife____ Poison____
2. Would one of the delegates be a likely poisoner? Yes____ No____
3. Would a spy be likely to pose as a waiter? Yes____ No____
4. Would the waiter have a good opportunity for administering poison? Yes____ No____
5. Which item is best suited for containing poison?_____
6. Do you find that the contents of any of the plates arouse your suspicion? Yes____ No____ If yes, which plate?_____
7. Could Martha be absolutely sure which item was poisonous? Yes____ No____
8. What do you think Martha did?

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