

"Whoever the killer is, he comes and goes unseen!" growled Staunton, as though reading Terhune's thoughts.

A detective reported the finding of two stiff bristly hairs in the car

Directly he saw these were a dirty grey in colour, Terhune whipped out his powerful magnifying glass and examined them closely.

"Exactly similar to the hairs found on the judge's balcony. Your experts said they came from some form of ape."

"Huh! Looks as though there may be something in what you say after all, Terhune," Staunton grunted. "I wish we could put that Chako through a third-degree."

The more they went into Layton's home affairs, the less likely it seemed to them that any motive for the crime would be found there.

In the end, Dick Staunton turned in disgust.

"We can do nothing more here till morning and until we hear from his wife. I'll leave guards to keep everyone out and we'll get back to that circus, Terhune. Any theory is better than none. We'll clear up this point about the gorilla once and for all."

By the time they reached the circus-ground it was nearly midnight and the lights had been put out.

Yet no sooner had the two detectives stepped between the lines of closed tents than a brawny watchman challenged them.

Staunton stepped up to him. "We want to speak to Ellis Uttley and that assistant who was supposed to look after

the gorilla while Uttley was away this afternoon," he explained.

"You mean Jones," growled the watchman. "You'll find 'em both in the tent at the end of the menagerie. I can't leave my post to come with you, but there it is."

He pointed with a grimy finger.

on the way through," he suggested.

In the corner stood the big cage where Chako was kept, with the lofty shelf on which hay or straw was bedded for his comfort.

The detectives paused and stared. Their eyes widened in astonishment, and instinctively they glanced nervously over

him to Paul Terhune.

The detective went over and shook the man awake. He felt the hard muscles on the arm that he shook, and realised Uttley was an exceptionally powerful fellow.

"Ss-sss!" hissed Terhune. "No need to rouse the others, Uttley. We want to speak to you outside."

Ellis Uttley was a man of quick reactions. He showed little surprise, reached for his boots, and joined Terhune and Staunton at the door. He had been sleeping fully clothed.

"Well?" he growled, for he recognised them as having questioned him earlier that evening. "What is it now?"

His expression was truculent, his thick eyebrows drawn together.

"It's about the gorilla," said Terhune. "We're not satisfied about it." He had given Staunton a slight nudge to let him do the talking.

"We've had more people telling us it was seen out in the city between two and three this afternoon."

It was a pure invention, but it was worth trying. The man's eyes blazed and his fists clenched.

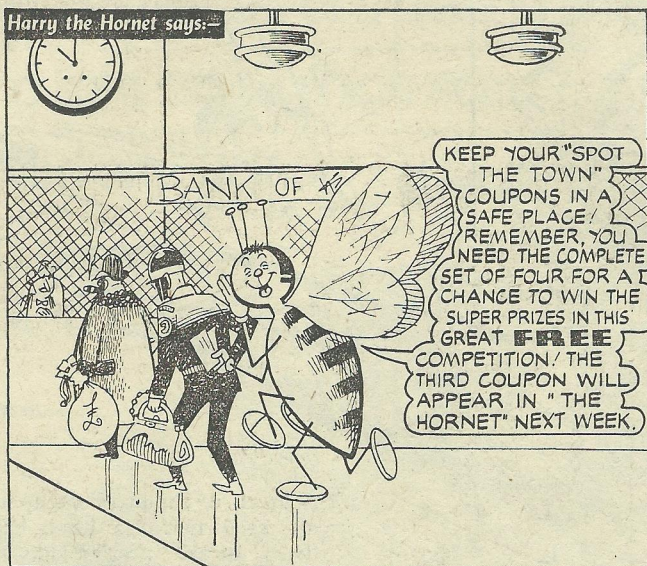
"It's a lie!" he snarled. "Chako never left the fair-ground."

"How do you know if you were away at the time?" demanded Staunton.

"Because Jones told me and he wouldn't dare lie to me. Besides, I know. That gorilla is as close as a brother to me. I know everything it does."

Terhune sprang his bombshell.

"Well, do you know it isn't



The Unfinished Sentence

EVERYTHING had taken on a ghostly air since being shrouded with tarpaulins for the night.

The two ends of the menagerie tent had been tied back to admit air, for the night was a warm one.

The quarters of the attendants were at the farther end. Terhune nudged his companion towards the nearer opening.

"Let's have a look at Chako

their shoulders.

The cage was empty. What was more, the door swung open. There was no sign of Chako!

Lieutenant Staunton pointed towards the men's quarters. They both moved in that direction.

A chorus of snores came from the partitioned tent when the newcomers stood on the threshold.

Again the flaps had been left open, and it so happened that Uttley was one of those nearest the entrance. The starlight shone on his face revealing

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