

Hayden Magee

54

SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE

*takes off gloves, rubs his hands and nose trying to warm them, then comes down to fireplace and stands with his back to the fire. As he turns he comes face to face with MAGEE, who has come to C. He goes to MAGEE slowly.)*

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start

HAYDEN. I beg pardon, but who are you?

MAGEE. (C.) I'm Mayor Cargan's butler.

HAYDEN. Mayor Cargan!

MAGEE. Yes, he's here. Do you wish to see him?

HAYDEN. (Importantly) Yes. Say to him that Mr. Hayden of the Reuton-Asquewan Suburban Road, is calling.

MAGEE. Oh, I see! Are you the president of that road, sir?

HAYDEN. (Pompously) I most certainly am, sir.

MAGEE. (Looks at HAYDEN, and then up at room R. and laughs) Your wife's here.

HAYDEN. What!

MAGEE. Yes; locked in that room up there. (MAGEE points to room R. on balcony. HAYDEN turns and looks up. As he turns, MAGEE fans him for gun. HAYDEN turns to MAGEE quickly, sputtering.) Pardon me, I just wanted to see if you had a gun on you. Just a minute; I'll tell the mayor the president has arrived. (Starts upstairs, laughing.)

HAYDEN. (When MAGEE is on first landing) Are you a crazy man, sir?

MAGEE. That's what the critics say, but I'm beginning to think they are all wrong. Sit down, Mr. Hayden. I'll tell the boys you're here. (Unlocks door L. and steps aside.)

HAYDEN. The boys!

MAGEE. Come on, boys; everything's all right; the president's here. (As men come down, HAYDEN steps forward toward stairs.) Watch your step. Easy, that's it; one at a time, please. Lead on, boys. I'll walk a little behind.

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