

Kennedy/Kargan /
Magee

78 SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE

(Crosses MAGEE, goes up to door and unlocks it. KENNEDY steps in, watching CARGAN as the latter locks the door. As CARGAN is about to put key in his pocket, KENNEDY speaks. BLAND has gone L., above table, when CARGAN goes up to door.)

start →

KENNEDY. *(Up L.C., just inside door)* Here, wait a minute! I'll take that key. I'll take that gun I saw you stick in your pocket, too.

~~BLAND. *(Takes a couple of steps toward KENNEDY up r.)* What authority have you?~~

~~KENNEDY. *(Comes down L.C. to BLAND)* Close your trap! I'm Chief Kennedy of the Asquewan Falls Police Headquarters—that's my authority!~~

CARGAN. *(Down to KENNEDY, pointing to BLAND)* It's all right, Chief; he's all right.

KENNEDY. Where's the light switch?

MAGEE. Up there to your left.

KENNEDY. *(Goes up L. of door and turns on lights, then comes downstage L. of CARGAN, recognizing him)* Hello, Mr. Mayor! What are you doing here?

CARGAN. I can explain all that.

MAGEE. *(Pointing to MAX)* That man has a gun on him also. *(HAYDEN moves over toward L. slowly.)*

KENNEDY. *(Goes over R.C. and looks MAGEE over carefully)* Who are you? *(CARGAN crosses to L.C.)*

MAGEE. I'll tell you who I am at the proper time and place. You'd better get on your job quick here, Chief; there's something doing. Two of these men are carrying weapons, and two of them also have keys to that door. I'm telling you this to prevent a getaway.

KENNEDY. What are you trying to do, run the police department?

MAGEE. This is an important case, Chief. Thousands of dollars are involved, and a crime commit-

ted besides. I advise placing every man in this room under arrest immediately.

KENNEDY. (To CARGAN) What's this all about, Mr. Mayor? (All appear anxious.)

CARGAN. He's four-flushing, Chief. He's stalling for a chance to break away.

KENNEDY. Don't be afraid; I've got men outside; nobody'll get away. ~~(Crosses MAGEE to MAX R. and looks at him closely.) Lou Max, eh? Quite a crowd of celebrities. (To MAX) You got a gun? (MAX hands him his gun.) What are you totin' this for? (No reply from MAX. CHIEF turns and fans MAGEE.) He's clean. (Turns MAGEE upstage and crosses to CARGAN.) I'm sorry to trouble you, Mr. Mayor, but I'll have to relieve you of that hardware. (CARGAN hands CHIEF his gun.) And the key, too, please. (CARGAN hands CHIEF his key.) I've come here to investigate, and I've got to do my duty. (Crosses CARGAN over to BLAND L.C.)~~

BLAND. (Holding up his hands as CHIEF approaches him) There's nothing on me.

KENNEDY. (Fans BLAND) Who's got the other key? He said there were two.

BLAND. (Points to HAYDEN) This gentleman.

KENNEDY. (Goes to HAYDEN L., who hands the CHIEF his key) Hello! Mr. Hayden. Humph! This is a real highbrow affair, isn't it? Well— (Smiles, goes up c. to r. of CARGAN and looks them all over.) Come on, somebody open up. What's the big gathering all about?

MAX. (Pointing to MAGEE) He's got a key. Make him give it up.

KENNEDY. (To MAGEE) Come on. (MAGEE hands CHIEF his key.) You got anything more to say?

MAGEE. I prefer to tell my story in the presence of witnesses. I insist upon the immediate arrest of everyone here, myself included.

end

