

Magee / Mary /
Mrs. Rhodes

SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE 31

Asquewan police headquarters. . . . That's what I said, police headquarters.

(BLAND pounds on door. As MAGEE sits waiting for connection, MARY NORTON appears at door. She unlocks it and enters, closing door. The cold blast of wind attracts MAGEE, who jumps up and yells:)

start

MAGEE. Who's there? What do you want?

MARY. Don't shoot; it's all right. I'm harmless.

MAGEE. How did you open that door?

MARY. (*Slightly down toward MAGEE*) Unlocked it with a key, of course.

MAGEE. (*Half aside*) My God!

MARY. (*Comes toward MAGEE*) If you will allow me to bring my chaperon inside, I will explain in a moment who I am and why we're here.

MAGEE. Your chaperon!

MARY. (*Going up to door*) Yes; another perfectly harmless female who has been kind enough to accompany me on this wild adventure. (*Turns to MAGEE*) I have your permission?

MAGEE. (*Looks up at room R., then back at MARY, puzzled*) Say, what the deuce is this all about?

MARY. You'll soon know. (*Opens door and calls*) All right, Mrs. Rhodes.

(MRS. RHODES screams off stage, then enters and runs past MARY to above table L., terribly frightened.)

MAGEE. What's the matter? What's happened?

MRS. RHODES. (*Shouting to MARY*) Lock the door! Lock the door!

(MARY hurriedly locks door.)

SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE

MAGEE. (*Crosses to MRS. RHODES, speaking hurriedly*) Tell me, please, what is it?

MARY. (*Runs down L. to MRS. RHODES*) What frightened you, Mrs. Rhodes?

MRS. RHODES. (*Almost hysterical*) A man!

MAGEE. A man?

MARY. What man?

MRS. RHODES. I don't know. He appeared at the window above, flourishing a revolver, and then he jumped to the ground and started running down the mountain-side.

MAGEE. Are you sure?

MRS. RHODES. Of course I'm sure.

MAGEE. Just a moment. (*Turns and darts upstairs, taking key from his pocket as he goes.*)

MARY. (*Going R.C. with MRS. RHODES*) Is there anything wrong?

MAGEE. I'm beginning to think I am. (*Opens door R. on balcony and exits.*)

MRS. RHODES. (*Still hysterical*) Why did you ever come here?

MARY. (*Coolly*) It's all right. Don't get excited.

MAGEE. (*Enters from room R. and comes to C. of balcony*) The bird has flown, but he forgot this when he took the jump. (*Points gun at women.*)

MRS. RHODES runs R., screaming; MARY screams and runs L.) Don't be alarmed; I'm not going to shoot—at least, not yet. (*Is on landing of stairs as he speaks next lines.*) Now might I ask why I'm so honored by this midnight visit? (*Snaps on bracket lights and comes down C.*)

MARY. (*Goes L.C. to MAGEE*) I can explain in a very few words.

MAGEE. That will suit me immensely. My time is valuable. I'm losing thousands of dollars, perhaps, through even this waste of time. (*Looks at*

end