

Mary / Magee

SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE 33

MARY *intently.*) Be as brief as possible, please. I--
(*Stares at her.*)

start

MARY. Why do you stare at me so?

MAGEE. Do you believe in love at first sight?

(MRS. RHODES *takes a step toward them, surprised.*)

MARY. What do you mean?

MAGEE. You know, I've written about it a great many times, but I never believed in it before. It's really remarkable! (*Looks from MARY to MRS. RHODES, puzzled; then laughs in an embarrassed manner.*) Oh, pardon me, you were about to explain your visit here.

MARY. ~~Well, to begin with, I—~~ (*Phone rings. All turn and look at it.*)

MAGEE. (*Goes to 'phone, stops buzzer, then backs upstage c. MRS. RHODES is R.C. To MARY*) Will you be kind enough to answer that 'phone? I don't care to turn my back on anything but a bolted door to-night. (*As MARY looks surprised.*) If you please.

MARY. Certainly. (*Goes to 'phone. MRS. RHODES goes R.C., above MARY.*) Hello! . . . What's that? . . . Hold the wire, please, I'll see. (*Turns to MAGEE.*) Did you wish to talk to police headquarters?

~~Mrs. Rhodes. (*Goes to MAGEE c., frightened.*)
Police headquarters!~~

MAGEE. (*Crossing MRS. RHODES, who goes over to R. of table L.*) Yes. (*Starts, then stops and looks up at room R. on balcony.*) But, no; just say they must have made a mistake. (*Backs upstage c.*)

MARY. (*In 'phone*) Hello! . . . No, no such call put in from here. Must be some mistake. That's all right. (*Stands up receiver and goes L. MAGEE goes to 'phone, severs connection, then comes down c. MARY up to him.*) Then you did call police headquarters?

MAGEE. I did.

~~MRS. RHODES. (Goes to e.) Why did you call
police headquarters?~~

MARY. ~~Why~~, why did you call police headquar-
ters?

MAGEE. (Looks at both, puzzled, then laughs)
You know, these are the most remarkable lot of hap-
penings. No sooner do I get rid of one best seller,
than along comes another dyed-in-the-wool "to-be-
continued-in-our-next." (To MARY) You know
there's no particular reason for my saying this, but
I really believe I'd do anything in the world for you.

MARY. I don't understand.

MAGEE. But you promised to explain your pres-
ence here.

MARY. Which I fully intend to do; but first of
all I should like to ask you one question.

MAGEE. Proceed.

MARY. How did you get in here without this
key? (Shows him her key.)

MAGEE. (Laughs) Oh, no, no! (Laughs.)
You know, I'm beginning to think this whole thing
is a frame-up.

MARY. What do you mean?

MAGEE. (Points to her key) You have the only
key to Baldpate in existence, I suppose?

MARY. So I understood.

MAGEE. Well, if it's any news to you, ladies, be-
lieve me, there are more keys to Baldpate than you'll
find in a Steinway piano

MARY. Then he lied!

MAGEE. Who lied?

MRS. RHODES. (Quickly) Remember your prom-
ise, Mary! (Crosses to chair in front of fire and
sits.)

MAGEE. (Follows MRS. RHODES with his eyes,
making complete turn.) Well?

MARY. I can't tell you his name.

end