

## SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE 43

swer that one before you ask it. A friend of mine gave it to me. Of course you thought you had the only one in existence, but he lied to you. I have a cute little key of my own. Oh, there are keys and keys, but I love my little key best of all. (*Shows her his key, kissing it.*) See?

MYRA. I can't understand it at all.

MAGEE. You haven't anything on me. And just about two more keys, and I'll pack up my paraphernalia, go back to New York, and never make another bet as long as I live!

start

MYRA. (*Up close to him*) Will you please tell me your name?

MAGEE. Well, a name doesn't mean so much, so you may call me Mr. Jones. And yours?

MYRA. My name is—— (*Hesitates. MARY and MRS. RHODES lean over balcony, listening.*) Listen! (*Brings MAGEE downstage.*) My husband is the president of the Asquewan-Reuton Suburban Railway Company. He has agreed to pay a vast amount of money for a certain city franchise; a franchise that the political crowd at Reuton has no power to grant. They are going to cheat him out of this money and use it for campaign funds to fight the opposition party at the next election. If he sues for his money back, they are going to expose him for entering into an agreement he knows to be nothing short of bribery. The present mayor is at the bottom of it all. (*MARY and MRS. RHODES start at mention of mayor's name.*) I ran to my husband to-night and begged him not to enter into this deal. I warned him that he was being cheated. He wouldn't believe me, but I know it's true. He's being cheated, and will be charged with bribery besides. That's why I risked the mountain on a night like this. I must have been followed, for I was shot at as I reached the top of Baldpate. Oh, I don't know who you are, but you're

a man and you can help me. (*Puts her hands on his shoulders, pleadingly.*) You will help me, won't you?

MAGEE. (*Interested*) Yes. What do you want me to do?

MYRA. (*Looks at MAGEE for a moment without speaking, then goes up to safe and back to MAGEE*) In that safe there is a package containing two hundred thousand dollars.

MAGEE. (*Goes up toward safe*) Two hundred thousand dollars!

end

(MARY and MRS. RHODES start downstairs very slowly.)

MYRA. (*Following MAGEE up R.*) That's the amount. It must be there. A man named Bland was to bring it here and deposit it at midnight. Cargan was to follow later, and was to find it here.

MAGEE. (*Coming down stage*) Cargan coming here!

MYRA. So they've planned it. I must have that money out of there before he arrives. You'll help me, won't you? Don't you understand? My husband is being cheated, tricked, robbed, probably ruined.

MAGEE. But I don't know the combination.

MYRA. (*Wringing her hands*) Oh, there must be something we can do! Please, please— (*She kneels at his feet and puts up her hands imploringly.*) For the sake of my children, help me, please! (*MAGEE sees women on stairs, and warns MYRA with a look as he helps her to her feet. She turns and faces MARY and MRS. RHODES, then turns abruptly to MAGEE.*) Who are these women? What are they doing here? (*She has changed from hysteria to dignified coldness.*)

MAGEE. Oh, of course, pardon me! (*Goes to*