

CHAPTER 10

At dawn, John and Bill entered the Grand Hotel. Bill had the key and John showed the way to the room where he had been trapped.

There was no corpse in the bed and the bed was not made up. There were no sheets or blankets and it was dusty. All John's clothing was neatly folded on a chair and his coat was on a hanger.

The electrical fixture was not there and two wires were sticking out of the ceiling. There could be no electric light in this room. There was evidence that John had been in the room but there was also evidence that his story was not true. John could have been under some hypnosis or charm and Bill could also have been under some hypnosis when he thought he recognized Margot in that strange girl. Somebody was making fun of them all.

Sam had introduced this girl, so he could be in the plot or he could be a victim too. They decided to approach Sam at breakfast.

At breakfast, Bill Jensen was alone at a table with Sam. John Randall had left early and had taken Vic with him. Bill tried to switch the conversation to yesterday's girl. Sam, usually talka-

tive, was reluctant to speak. From the few words Bill heard, he could understand that Sam had been waiting for the girl to come, but when she came, she ignored him, so Sam felt hurt.

Bill thought of himself. Was he not in the same position? He had been waiting for Margot to appear and when he recognized her and their eyes met, he got scared and backed out. Should he not have said a kind word to her? But what? That he was sorry that he had been angry with her? That he had not known? That he loved her again? Quite unexpectedly Sam said, "I did not apologize — that is why she ignored me." "Apologize for what?" Bill asked.

"For being scared. Leave it alone. I do not know what I am saying, I had better go." And Sam left in a hurry.

Bill thought that it was strange that Sam, a young man so carefree and joyful would have the same feelings as he did.

The next day ghost stories spread over Stump Bridge. Many people had seen, or at least heard John's wandering in the dark. There were many witnesses and their stories were becoming more fantastic every time they were told.

The next evening, many witnesses met some more ghosts and there was no end of ghost descriptions. Of course, John's adventure was not known and Sam's hitch-hiker was forgotten.