

THE LAST MYSTERY OF LORD SUNNDAY

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"Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Pilary King. I am your host for KMWA-TV's new series 'Odd Dramas'. Our odd drama tonight is the disappearance of mystery author Lord Sunnday. Two of the author's most popular tales were 'The Purple Door Mystery' and 'Simulacrum's Mural Music'. Normally, Sunnday's disappearance would have gone unnoticed if it had not been for what the writer had left behind. Last Thursday morning, Merle Evans, the author's publisher, visited him on business. When Sunnday did not answer the door, Evans found the door was not completely closed. Evans pushed open the door and searched the house. He did not find the author. Instead, Evans found in the author's computer the verse you now see on your screen. This verse later appeared in the newspapers under the caption 'Can You Solve The Last Mystery Of Lord Sunnday?'"

Regard mystic number. It is what Lord Sunnday stands for.
Evil force dooms. Strange omen will be my last mystery.
Cruel trio lurks. Dark vengeful spirit will be death of me.
Keen barbs of enmity spread vicious falsehoods. A ban on

Garish garbage might pierce into sewer of Doyle Canon.
Horrid secret of Tex Urtos erupts. Whim of fate
Ordains fatal judgment of rotund sleuth who overate.
Sinister act of Nilf Enigma, whose bond was benign,
Tartly affirms that he stole an unpublished work of mine.

Never believe disappearance was my choice. Now prove death.
Expert clues of sound and change point way. Find site of last
breath.

Truth that will rate search warrant requires sharp mind. O quest
roar.

"Though the verse mentions a search warrant, the police have advised that they cannot conduct such a search until they are convinced. The three men mentioned in the verse are here in the studio to present their defense.

"Mr. Urtos, what is that 'horrid secret' Sunnday refers to?"

"Absolute nonsense. My first wife, Elaine, had a rare form of cancer. Any rumor that I poisoned her is a fabrication. It was her wish that she be cremated as soon as possible after her death. I saw nothing wrong in marrying my second wife, Rachel, one month after Elaine died."

"Mr. Canon, can you elaborate on 'garish garbage'?"

"Sunnday was an absolute charlatan. He believed he was an amalgam of two great writers: one, Drax Plunkett, the Irish dramatist; and two, the creator of Father Brown. Sunnday resented my criticism that he relied more on wordplay than on characterization."

"Were you incensed when he aborted your attempt to have your own mystery story published?"

"I had worked on 'Orange Pebble' for six months. Sunnday had no reason to tell Evans that my story was juvenile."

"Mr. Enigma, what do you say to Sunnday's allegation?"

"It was just a coincidence that we both had the same concept at the same time. I will agree that Sunnday was better known than me and that my reputation could have been damaged if he sued me for plagiarism."

"One moment, gentlemen, while I answer the telephone."

"What is that? The police obtained a search warrant. Police Lieutenant Arthur Jamison, euphemistically known as the 'Poetic Detective', convinced Judge Ephraim Waters."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, while we have been having this interview, the dead body of Lord Sunnday was found. It was crammed into an ice chest. The police at this very moment are in the wings of this studio, ready to make an arrest."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sorry we are out of time. Please tune in to the next edition of 'Odd Dramas'. We will present Police Lieutenant Jamison, who will explain how he solved the last mystery of Lord Sunnday."