```
ng motionless, the right side of her body in the water. "I hope—" Nancy dared not complete the harrowing thought as she climbed down the steep slope. When she reached the child, she saw to her great relief that the little girl was breathing normally and no water hard entered her nose or mouth. A quick examination showed that she had suffered no broken bones. Gently Nancy lifted the little girl, and holding her firmly in both arms, struggled to the embankment. Then she hurried across the roger and love the post of the embankment. Then she hurried from the house. "Our baby! What has happened to her?" As the woman, seeing Nancy's car, asked excitedly, "Did you run into her?" "No, no. Judy fell off the bridge." Nancy quickly explained to take Judy, Nancy said soothingly, "Judy's going to be all right. I'll carry her into the house. "Our baby! What has happened to her?" As the woman reached out to take Judy, Nancy said soothingly, "Judy's going to be all right. I'll carry her into the house and lay her on a couch." One of the women opened the screen door and the other directed, "This way." Nancy carried her little burden through a hallway and into a small, old-fashioned living room. As soon as she laid the child on the couch, Judy began to murmur and turn her head from the house and Mary Turner, great-aunts of the little girl. "Judy lives with us," explained Edna, the older sister. "We're bringing her up." Nancy was somewhat surprised to hear that these elderly women were rearing such a small child. She gave her name and address, just as Judy opened her eyes and looked around. Seeing Nancy, she asked, "Who are you?" "My name is Nancy, she just as Judy opened to keep the child's Aunt Mary said, "She pasted to know you, Judy." "Did you see me fall?" Nancy nodded, as the child's Aunt Mary said, "She rescued you from the river after you fell in." Judy began to cry. "I'll never, never run into the road again, reall rurer started for the kitchen door. "I'd better get some medication and wet compresses for Judy. She's gett
tninking you nit Judy, the woman said. If guess Edna and I lost our heads. You see, Judy is very precious to us. We brought up her mother, who had been an only child and was orphaned when she was a little girl. The same tring happened to sold the precious to use it here." Many smiled. "We do the best we can on our small income. Sometimes it just does not light." Many Turner's thoughts went back to little Judy. "She's so little now that Edna and I are able to manage with our small income. But we worry about the future. We're dressmakers but our fingers aren't so nimble with the need eas they used to be. "To tell you the truth, Nancy, at the time Judy's parents were killed, Edna and I wondered whether we wouldn't part with her for anything in the world. She's won our hearts completely." Nancy was touched by the story. She knew what was in the minds of the Turner sisters—living costs would become higher, and with their advancing years, their own income would become lower. "Unfortunately," Mary went on, "Judy's parents left very little money. But they were extremely bright people and Judy is going to be like them. She ought to study music and dancing, and have a college education. But I'm afraid we'll never be able to win a scholarship, or get other financial aid." Mary, finding Nancy a sympathetic listener, continued, "A cousin of our father's named Josiah Crowley used to help us. But he passed away a couple of months ago. For years he used to pay us long visits and was very generous with his money." Miss Turner sighed. "He always promised to remember us in his will—he loved little Judy—and I am afraid Edna and I came to depend to the same thing—that Edna and I were to inherit money from him. He had always helped us and the same thing, that he should stop to stay with the surface of the went to stay with the same things that he should stop to stay with the surface of the remember to the went to stay with the promise. They live in River Heights. They live the River has been the promise that he went to stay with the
February and said the same thing—that Edna and I were to inherit money from him. He had always helped us and it seemed strange that he should stop so suddenly." Mary Turner looked at Nancy. "Mary Turner looked at Nancy. "Mary Turner looked at Nancy. "Mary Turner looked at Nancy." "Mary Turner looked at Nancy of the Rich and Isabel?" Nancy asked. "If so, I know them." "That's the family all right," replied Mary. Nancy detected a hint of coolness in the woman's voice. "Do you like those two girls?" Miss Turner asked. Nancy did not answer at once. She had been taught never to gossip. But finally she said tactfully, "Ada and Isabel were in high school with me. They were never my close friends. We—uh—didn't see eye to eye on various things." By this time Mary Turner had selected a few items from the first-aid chest. Now she went to the refrigerator for some ice cubes. A
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      rd Topham produced a will which made
                                                        d left all the money to him, his wife, and the two girls." "Yes. I did read that in the newspaper," Nancy recalled. "Is the estate a large one?" "I understand there's considerable money in it," Mary Turner replied. "Some of Josi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ah's other cousins say he told them th
                                                        lanning to go to court about the matter." The woman shrugged. "But I guess a fight to break the will would be hopeless. Nevertheless, Edna and I cannot help feeling there must be a later will, although as yet no one has pr
e same thing he told us, and they are p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      esented it." Nancy followed Miss Turne
                                    Interest the matter. The woman strugged. "But I guess a fight to break the will would be hopeless. Nevertheless, Edna and I canning to go to court about the matter." The woman strugged. "But I guess a fight to break the will would be hopeless. Nevertheless, Edna and I canning to go to court about the matter." The woman strugged. "But I guess a fight to break the will would be hopeless. Nevertheless, Edna and I canning to go to court about the matter." The woman strugged. "But I guess a fight to break the will would be hopeless. Nevertheless, Edna and I canning to go to court about the matter." The woman strugged. "But I guess a fight to break the will would be hopeless. Nevertheless, Edna and I canning to go to court about the matter." The world had been and I canning to go to court about the matter." It is possible to reduce the swelling where Judy had hit her head on a rock. Convinced now that the little girl was all right, Nancy said she must leave. "One if you a good sport!" The child's great-aunts profusely thanked Nancy again for rescuing Judy. The visitor had barely reached the door when Edna suddenly said, "Mary, where's our silver thanked Nancy again for rescuing Judy. The visitor had barely reached the door when Edna suddenly said, "Mary, where's our silver why, right they had to good sport!" The child's great-aunts profusely thanked Nancy again for rescuing Judy. The visitor had barely reached the door when Edna suddenly said, "Mary, where's our silver why, right had barely reached the door when Edna suddenly said, "Mary, where's our silver why, right they had the wen said she must leave. "On they was a few said she must leave." They was a few said she must leave. "On they was a few said she must leave." They was a few said she must leave. "On they was a few said she must leave." They reached the door what had a few miles and the few said she must leave. "On they was a few said she must leave." Nancy said the must leave. "On the page of the firm said in the door was a first or due to reduce the will 
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e my saving girl." "You bet I'll come." N
ancy answered. "I like you too. You're
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Oh, it's gone!" Edna ran into the di
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ught some furniture from us!" Instant
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        t we wanted to sell. We'll n
light. They had kind of la
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         eeding the speed limit,'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ke the road which led to
                                      a State Police barracks just a few miles ahead. "I'll stop there and report the theft." She kept looking for the van, which she recalled as charcoal gray. "I wish I'd seen the license number or the name of the firm that owns the van," Nancy said to herself
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ruefully. When she read
                                     arters Nancy introduced herself to Captain Runcie and told abo
                                                                                                                                        ut the robbery, giving what meager information she could about the suspects. The officer promised to send out an alarm immediately for the thieves and their charcoal-gray mov
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ing van. Nancy continue
                                     king of the Turners and their problems. "I wonder why Mr.
                                                                                                                                                losiah Crowley left all his money to the Tophams and none to his other relatives Why did he change his mind? Those Tophams are well to do and don't need money as mu
d her journey home, thin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ch as the Turners." Nanc
                                     opham, but she was acquainted with his wife, as well a
                                                                                                                                                    s his daughters. They were arrogant and unreasonable, and disliked by many of the shopkeepers in town. Ada and Isabel had been unpopular in high school. They had t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         alked incessantly of mon
                                                                                                                                                     nts. "I wonder," Nancy thought, "if a way can't be found so the Turners could get a share of the Crowley money. I'll ask Dad." Five minutes later Nancy pulled into the building stood well back from the street, and was surrounded by tall, beautiful trees. "Hello, Nancy," greeted the pleasant, slightly plump woman who opened the eath of the girl's own mother many years before. Nancy gave her a hug, then asked, "Dad home? I see his car is in the garage." "Your father's in the living room a
                                     aking themselves very obnoxious to the other stude
                                     kitchen door of the Drews' large red-brick house. T
d across the lawn to the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          nd dinner will be ready
Gruen, housekeeper for t
                                     he Drews, who had helped rear Nancy since the d
                                     went to say hello to her tall, handsome father, the
                                                                                                                                                              en hurried to wash her hands and comb her hair before the three who formed the Drew household sat down to dinner. During the meal Nancy related her advent
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ure of the afternoon. "W
                                    ah Gruen burst out. "Oh, I hope the police capt
                                                                                                                                                               ure them!" "They certainly took advantage of those Turner sisters," Mr. Drew commented. "Mary and Edna are in financial difficulties," Nancy commented. "Isn'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          t it a shame that Josiah
                                      some of his estate to the Turners and other re
                                                                                                                                                                           ves who need the money?" Carson Drew smiled affectionately at his only child, then said, "Yes, it is, Nancy. But unless a will written later turns up, tha
                                     is another will," Nancy told him. "Wouldn't it
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          be found?" "I agree," spoke up Hannah. "It's well known in town that Mrs. Topham and her daughters were unkind t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         o Josiah Crowley for so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          smile. "However, they di
me time before he died.
                                     heir excuse was that Josiah's eccentricities
                                                                                                                                                                               ere extremely
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        trying." "The Tophams have never been noted for any charitable inclinations," Mr. Drew observed with a
d give Josiah a home.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            oney to them," said Hannah. "If I'd been Josiah I wouldn't have stayed there." The housek
                                    Only because they knew he was going to leave
                                                                                                                                                                               e all his m
                                     t like change. And probably he put up with th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      s rather than move." She said the treatment the Tophams had accorded old Josiah
                                                                                                                                                                                  ing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Crowley had aroused a
                                      comment throughout River Heights. Nancy
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             had not known him personally, but she had often seen the elderly man on the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           street. Secretly she had
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   g an influenza epidemic and after that he had made his home with variou
                                      nice, kindly person. His wife had died durin
regarded him as a rather
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s relatives. According to
                                     had admitted that he had paid his board and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         done many favors for them. They in turn had been very kind to him,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         and though poor themse
                                    osiah Crowley comfortable and happy. "Tell
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           me everything you know about Mr. Crowley," Nancy urged her fath
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         er. The lawyer said that
                                     declared he intended to provide in his will
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            for several deserving relatives and friends. Then, three years before
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e his death, the Topham
                                     own an interest in him, had experienced a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           en change of heart. They had begged Josiah Crowley to make his h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ome with them, and at la
                                    ortly after he moved into the Topham hou se, Mr.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Drew was told that the old man had decided to leave all his money
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         o them. Mr. Crowley, tho
st he had consented. Sh
ugh failing in health, mai
                                     ntained a firm grip on life. But as time wen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          me more and more unhappy. He continued to live with the Tophams,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          but it was whispered ab
out that he frequently sli
                                    pped away to visit his other relatives and friends, and that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                he intended to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          change his will again. "Then there must be a later will!" Nancy said
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         hopefully. Mr. Drew nodd
                                       Josiah Crowley became critically ill. Just before his deat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         d to communicate something to the doctor who attended him, but his
ed, and went on, "One da
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          words, other than 'will
were unintelligible. After
                                      the funeral only one will came to light, giving the entire for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ams." "Dad, do you suppose Mr. Crowley was trying to tell the doctor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          something about anoth
                                      some place where the Tophams couldn't find it?" Nancy as
er will which he had put
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        the lawyer replied. "Probably he intended to leave his money to relati
                                     im of the opportunity." "Do you think anybody has looked for ano
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      cy questioned. "I don't know. But I'm sure of this. If another will shows
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          up. Richard Topham wil
                                     onsiderable one, I understand, and they aren't the kind of people to sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Can't the present will be contested?" Nancy asked. "I hear that oth
I fight it. The estate is a c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          er relatives have filed a c
                                      told another will had been made in their favor. But unless it is located, I d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    matter will ever go further." "But the Tophams don't deserve the fortune
                                     on't need the money. It doesn't seem fair." "It may not seem fair, but it is legal," Mr.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ew told her, "and I'm afraid nothing can be done about the situation." "P
ed. "And besides, they d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         oor Judy and her aunts!
said Nancy. "There are o
                                     thers affected in the same way," her father remarked. "For instance, two young
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  omen who live on the River Road. I don't know their names. I understand
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          they were not related to
Mr. Crowley, but were gr
                                     eat favorites of his. They are having a struggle and could use some extra
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  money." Nancy lapsed into silence. She felt strongly that a mystery lurked
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          behind the Crowley case
                                      Josiah Crowley made a second will?" Nancy questioned suddenly.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 You sound like a trial lawyer, the way you cross-examine me," Mr. Drew pro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          tested, but with evident
                                     uth, Nancy, I don't know what to think, but something did happen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ich might indicate that Mr. Crowley at least intended to make another will.
enjoyment. "To tell the tr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          "Please go on!" Nancy b
                                      one day nearly a year ago I was in the First National Bank when
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ey came in with Henry Rolsted." "The attorney who specializes in wills and o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ther estate matters?" Na
                                                                                                                                                       Crowl
                                      no intention of listening to their conversation, but I couldn't h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              aring a few words that made me think they were discussing a will. Crowley m
ncy inquired. "Yes. I had
                                                                                                                                                  elp overhe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ade an appointment to c
                                      following day." "Oh!" cried Nancy excitedly. That looks as "For one of many reasons," Mr. Drew replied. "In the first p
                                                                                                                                               though Mr. Cr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              owley had made a new will, doesn't it? But why didn't Mr. Rolsted say somet
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          hing about it at the time
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ver have drawn a new will for Mr. Crowley. And even if he had, the old man m
                                                                                                                                            lace, he may no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ight have changed his m
                                      Before Nancy spoke again, she finished the delicious appl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Hannah had made. Then she looked thoughtfully at her father. "Dad, Mr. Rol
ind again and torn it up.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          sted is an old friend of v
                                      old friend and college classmate." "Then won't you please
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                w up a will for Mr. Crowley, or knows anything that might solve this myster
ours, isn't he?" "Yes. An
                                                                                                                                           ask him if he eve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          v?" "That's a rather delic
                                      He may tell me it's none of my business!" "You know he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  s he'll understand why you're taking a special interest in this case. Will yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          u do it? Please!" "I know
                                     ho are in trouble.
                                                                      her father said. "I suppose I could
                                                                                                                           invite Mr.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rrow—" "Wonderfull" Nancy interrupted eagerly. "That would be a splen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          did opportunity to find o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         o we won't have to waste
                                                                                                                                                                                            face lighted up as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       she said, "Oh, thank you, Dad. I'd love to. I hope it can be tomorrow, s
                                                                             right. I'll try to arrange a date
                                                                                                                         . How about joining us?" Nancy's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      y wrote one?" "I might." Nancy's eyes sparkled in anticipation. CHAPT he replied. Her eyes twinkled. "There's a dance coming up at the coun
                                     nother will." Mr.
                                                                                                                                                                                           en will if Mr. Crowle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ER III An Unpleasant Me
                                                                                   led. "We?" he said. "You
                                                                                                                       mean you might try to find a hidd
eting "WHAT are your pl
                                                              ning, Nancy?
                                                                                      "her father asked at the breakfast table. "I thought I'd do
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         try club and I'd like to ge
                                                                                                                                                                                           a little shopping," s
                                                                                                                                                                                           sted comes or not?" "I
                                                                                        Or better still, how about eating with me, whether Mr. Ro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          'Il be there!" Nancy declared gaily. "All right. Drop in at my office ab
t a new dress." "Then wil
                                      vou phone me a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         out twelve-thirty. If Mr. R
                                                                                                     ng about Josiah Crowley's wills." Mr. Drew p
olsted does accept my in
                                      ritation, we'll try to
                                                                        find out s
                                                                                        omethi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ust hurry now or I'll be late getting downtown." After her father had
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          left, Nancy finished her
                                                                                                                       Gruen, who had already left the ta
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             Nancy asked. "Yes, dear. Here's a list," the housekeeper replied.
                                     he kitchen to help Hann
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          "And good luck with you
                                    h Gruen gazed at the girl affec
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            school Nancy had been very popular and had made many friends
                                                                                                                          tely and several thoughts ra
                                                                                                                                                                                          ced through her mind. In
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         But through no fault of h
er own, she had made tw
                                    o enemies, Ada and Isabel Topham. This
                                                                                                                                                                                           sisters, intensely jealous
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              of Nancy, had tried to discredit her in positions she had held in s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         chool. But loyal friends I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             easant than ever to Nancy. "Thanks for your encouragement," sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e said to Hannah a little
ad always sprung to Nan
                                     cy's defense. As a result, Ada and Isabel
                                                                                                                                                                                          m sisters. They'd be onl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         my quard," Before leavin
ater, giving her a hug. "W
                                      hatever you do, Nancy, beware of those Topha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              y too happy to make things difficult for you." "I promise to be on
                                     ed the Turners. She was glad to hear that Judy
                                                                                                                                                                                          had suffered no ill effect
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               s from her fall. But she was disappointed that the police had foun
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         d no clue to the thieves
                                    ware. "Please let me know if you learn anything,
                                                                                                                                                                                          Nancy said, and Edna p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               romised to do so. Becomingly dressed in a tan cotton suit, Nanc
who had stolen the silver
                                    t. She drove down the boulevard, and upon reac
                                                                                                                                                                                        hing the more congested
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                streets, made her way skillfully through heavy traffic, then pulle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                Nancy purchased several items for Hannah on the main floor, t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         hen went directly to the
                                    ment Store first for a dress," she decided. Taylor's
                                                                                                                                                                                       iver Heights' finest stores
nk I'll try Taylor's Depart
misses' wearing apparel
                                     section on the second floor. Usually Nancy had no trouble finding a sal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ning seemed to be an especially busy one in the department, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          an extra rush of custon
                                     whelmed the sales force. Nancy sat down in a convenient chair to await he
                                                                                                                                                    r turn. Her thoughts wandered to the Turner sisters
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               and little Judy. Would she be able to help them? She was sudde
ers had temporarily over
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          nly brought out of her re
                                     plaints. "We've been standing here nearly ten minutes!" a shrill voice declare
                                                                                                                                                 d. "Send a saleswoman to us immediately!" Nancy t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               urned to see Ada and Isabel Topham speaking to the floor manag
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         er. "I'm afraid I can't," th
                                    "There are a number of others ahead of you. All our salespeople are—" "Perhaps you don't know who we are!" Ada interrupted rudel nly wait—" "We're not accustomed to waiting," Isabel Topham told him icily. "Such service!" Ada chimed in. "Do you realize that my
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 "Indeed I do," the floor manager told her wearily. "I will have a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               father owns considerable stock in Taylor's? If we report your con
w moments. If you will o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         duct to him, he could ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              shed angrily. This did nothing to improve her looks. In spite of th
ve you discharged." "I'm
                                      sorry," the harassed man apologized. "But it is a rule of the store. You must await your turn." Ada tossed her head and her eyes fla
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e expensive clothes she
wore. Ada was not attrac
                                      tive. She was very thin and sallow, with an expression of petulance. Now that her face was distorted with anger, she was almos
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ly, Isabel, the pride of the Topham family, was rather pretty, but
                                      ificially elegant manner of speaking which, although irritating, was sometimes amusing. It was her mother's ambition that Isabel marry
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               nto a socially prominent family. "I pity any future husband of her
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s!" Nancy thought with a
                                    and Isabel saw Nancy, who nodded a greeting. Isabel coldly returned the nod, but Ada gave no indication that she had even noticed Na the young woman for her failure to wait on them sooner. "What is it you wish to look at, Miss Topham?" the clerk said, flushing. "Eve
chuckle. Suddenly Ada
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ncy. At that moment a saleswoman hurried toward the Topham s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          isters. At once they beg
an to shower abuse upon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ning dresses." The saleswoman brought out several dresses. Na
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ncv watched curiously
                                      leasant frame of mind, tossed aside beautiful models with scarcely a second glance. They found fault with every garment. "This is a v
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ery chic gown," the saleswoman told them hopefully, as she dis
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         played a particularly att
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ted clerk went off to bring other frocks. The fluffy gown slipped
                                     chiffon. "It arrived only this morning." Ada picked it up, gave the dress one careless glance, then tossed it into a chair, as the distrac
active dress of lace and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          to the floor in a crumple
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         a this?" Nancy asked ev
                                    or Ada stepped on it as she turned to examine another dress. In disgust, Nancy went to pick it up. "Leave that alone!" Ada cried out,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                her eyes blazing. "Nobody asked for your help."
d mass. To Nancy's horr
                                    usiness!" As Nancy continued to hold the dress, Ada in a rage snatched it from her hands, causing a long tear in the chiffon skirt.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Oh!" Isabel cried out. "Now you've done it! We'd better get out o
enly. "It's none of your b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           f here. Ada!" "And why
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               efore that clerk gets back." Reluctantly Ada followed Isabel out
                                      led. "It was Nancy Drew's fault! She's always making trouble." "It was not my fault," Nancy said. "Come on, Ada," Isabel urged, "b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         of the department. As th
                                     ng elevator, Nancy gazed after them. At this moment the saleswoman reappeared with an armful of lovely frocks. She stared in b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ewilderment at the torn dress. "Where did my customers go?" s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         he asked Nancy worriedl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                you think it could be mended?" "Oh, I don't know," the woebeg
                                     the elevator, but made no comment. Instead she said, "I'm looking for an evening dress myself. This torn one is very pretty. Do
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         one clerk wailed, "I'll pro
                                     e and I can't afford to pay for the dress." "I'm sure Taylor's wouldn't ask you to do that," Nancy said kindly. "If there's any tro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          hat such a dress is great
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                uble, I'll speak to the manager myself. What usually happens is t
                                      ' the clerk replied. "I'll call Miss Reed, the fitter, and see what can be done." "First, let me try on the dress," Nancy said, smi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ling. They found a vacant fitting room and Nancy took off her su
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          it and blouse. Then she
                                     ue dance creation over her head and the saleswoman zipped it up. "It's darling on you," she said enthusiastically. Nancy g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               rinned. "I kind of like myself in it," she said. "Please call the fitte
slipped the lovely pale-bl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          r now." Presently Miss R
                                    n, appeared. Within seconds she had made a change in an overlap of the chiffon skirt. The tear was no longer visible and want the dress, he will reduce the price fifty percent." "How wonderful!" Nancy exclaimed. Laughing, she said, "That pri
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               the style of the dress was actually improved. "I told our manage
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          r what happened," said t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ce will fit into my budget nicely. I'll take the dress. Please send it.
he saleswoman. "If you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           She gave her name and
                                    added, "Ada Topham did me a favor. But if she ever finds out what happened, she'll certainly be burned up!" Nancy s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              uppressed a giggle. "It's been a real pleasure waiting on you, Mis
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s Drew," the saleswoma
                                      ft and Nancy was putting on her suit. "But how I dread to see those Topham sisters come in here! They're so unreas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              onable. And they'll be even worse when they get Josiah Crowley
n said after Miss Reed le
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s money." The woman lo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Oh, I guess there's no question about our getting old Crowley's f
wered her voice. "The es
                                      tate hasn't been settled, but the girls are counting on the fortune already. Last week I heard Ada say to her sister, '
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ortune. But I wish Father
                                      somebody is going to show up with a later will which may do us out of it.' " Nancy was too discreet to engage in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                gossip with the saleswoman. But she was interested and excite
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         d about the information.
                                      was disturbed indicated to her that he too suspected Josiah Crowley had made a second will! The conversatio
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                n reminded Nancy of her date. She glanced at her wrist watch an
                                      or I'll be late for an appointment with my dad," she told the saleswoman. Nancy drove directly to her father's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 office. Although she was a few minutes ahead of the appointed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           time, she found that he
                                     t luck, Dad?" Nancy asked eagerly. "Did Mr. Rolsted accept your luncheon invitation?" "Yes. We are to meet re interested than ever in the case." She told her father about the saleswoman's gossipy remarks. "Hm," sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  him at the Royal Hotel in ten minutes. Do you still think I shou
was ready to leave. "Wha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Id quiz him about the C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  id Mr. Drew. "It's not what you'd call evidence, but the old say
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ing usually holds good
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  quickly walked the distance. Mr. Rolsted was waiting in the lo
                                     ere's fire.' Come, let's go!" The Royal Hotel was located less than a block away, and Nancy and her father
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         bby, Carson Drew introd
                                      ne three made their way to the dining room where a table had been reserved for them. At first the conver
uced his daughter, then t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    sation centered about a variety of subjects. As the luncheon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         progressed the two lawy
                                     y of their college days together and finally of their profession. Nancy began to fear that the subject of th
ers talked enthusiastical
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     e Crowley estate might never be brought up. Then, after the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          dessert course. Mr. Dre
                                      nversation into a new channel and mentioned some strange cases which he had handled. "By the way
w skillfully turned the co
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         he said, "I haven't heard the details of the Crowley case.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           How are the Tophams
                                     d other relatives are trying to break the will." For a moment Mr. Rolsted remained silent. Was he reluc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ered. Finally the lawyer
making out? I understan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        tant to enter into a discussion of the matter? Nancy wond
aid quietly, "The settlem
                                     ent of the estate wasn't given to me, Carson. But I confess I've followed it rather closely because of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         something that happened a year ago. As the present will
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          stands, I do not believe
                                     the Tophams fall heir to the entire estate," Mr. Drew commented. "Yes, unless a more recent will is
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          uncovered." "Another will?" Carson Drew inquired inno
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         cently. "Then you believ
                                    d one?" Mr. Rolsted hesitated as though uncertain whether or not he should divulge any further inf
e Crowley made a secon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ormation. Then, with a quick glance about, he lowered
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         his voice and said. "Of o
                                      idential—" CHAPTER IV Racing the Storm "CONFIDENTIAL?" Mr. Drew repeated, ľooking at Mr. R
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             olsted. "You may rest assured that whatever you tell
ourse this is strictly conf
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         us will not be repeated t
                                     this much," Mr. Rolsted went on, "about a year ago Josiah Crowley came to me and said he want
o anyone." "Well, I'll say
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ed to draw up a new will. He indicated that he intend
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ed to spread out his beg
uests among several peo
                                     ple. He expressed a desire to write the will himself, and asked me a number of questions. I took hi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                m to my office and told him exactly how to proceed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           When he left, he promis
                                      the document after he had drawn it up." "Then you actually saw the will?" Mr. Drew asked in surp
ed to have me look over
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  rise. "No. Strange to say, Crowley never came bac
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         k. I don't know whether h
                                     ot." "And if he did, there would be a chance that it would not be legal?" Nancy spoke up. "Yes. He
e ever wrote the will or n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    have typed it and signed the paper without a wit
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ness. In this state at leas
                                     red and three are advisable." "What would happen," Nancy asked, "if a person were ill or dying and had no witness, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nd wanted to make a will?" Mr. Rolsted smiled.
t two witnesses are requi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         That sometimes happens
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     bate." "Then if Mr. Crowley wrote out and signe
                                    will himself by hand and signs it, so there's no doubt the same person did both, the surrogate's office will accept it for pro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         d a new will, it would be
egal," Nancy commented
                                       "That's right. But there's another thing to remember. It's pretty risky for someone who is not a lawyer to draw up a will that ca
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      nnot be broken." Mr. Drew nodded. "If Josiah C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         rowley left any loophole
                                     ally, the Tophams would drag the matter into court." "Yes. It's a foregone conclusion that the Tophams will fight to keep the fortune
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          some other relatives ha
in a will he wrote person
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        whether they have a right to it or not. I believe
                                      the moment they have no proof that a later will exists." Although Nancy gave no indication of her feelings, the possibility that Mr. C
ve filed a claim, but up to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         y had made a new will thrilled her. As soon as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           Mr. Drew paid the lunch
eon check, the three aro
                                     se and left the dining room. Mr. Rolsted took leave of Nancy and her father in the lobby. "Well, Nancy, did you find out what you wan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         r. Drew asked after the lawyer had left. "Oh,
                                     did make a later will! He hid it some place! If only I could find out where!" "It would be like looking for a needle in a haystack, Mr. D
ed. I'm sure Mr. Crowley
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          st figure out a way!" Nancy said with determ
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ination. "I want to help li
ttle Judv." She awoke th
                                     e next morning thinking about the mystery. But where should she start hunting for possible clues to a second will? She continued p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                dering about it while she showered an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          d dressed. As she entered the dining room.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          she was greeted with a c
                                    om her father and Hannah Gruen. During breakfast Mr. Drew said, "Nancy, would you do a little errand for me this morning?" "Why
heery "Good morning" fr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            of course, Dad." "I have a number of legal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             documents which must be delivered to Ju
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         dge Hart at Masonville s
                                    d take them myself, but I have several important appointments. I'd appreciate it if you would drive over there with them." "I'll be glac
ome time before noon. I'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             to go," Nancy promised willingly. "Beside
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            s. it's such a wonderful day. I'll enjoy the t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         rip. Where are the paper
                                    an drive me down and I'll get them for you." Nancy, wearing a yellow sunback dress and jacket, hurried away to get her gloves and nt door. "I put the top down so I can enjoy the sun," she explained as her father climbed in. "Good idea. I haven't heard you mention gotten, but I must admit I am stumped as to where to search for clues." "Maybe I can help you. I've learned that the two girls on Riv h the mailboxes for their name." When they reached the building where Mr. Drew had his office, Nancy parked the car and waited w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            handbag. Before Mr. Drew had collected his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             own belongings, she had brought her car
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          from the garage and was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            the Crowley case yet today," Mr. Drew teased
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               as they rode along. "Have you forgotten
louded. "No, I haven't for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            er Road who expected to be remembered in the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               will are named Hoover. You might look t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         hem up on your return tri
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           hile her father went upstairs to get the legal docu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ments to be delivered to Judge Hart. Ret
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         urning a few minutes late
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          any Building." "That's right." Selecting a recently c
                                     envelope in his daughter's hand. "Give this to the judge. You know where to find him?" "Yes, Dad. In the old Merchants Trust Comp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               onstructed highway, Nancy rode along,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         glancing occasionally at
                                     on either side. Beyond were rolling hills. "Pretty," she commented to herself. "Oh, why can't all people be nice like this scenery and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           not make trouble?" It was nearly eleven o'clock wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                en she finally drove into Masonville. Na
the neatly planted fields
                                      formed he had gone to the courthouse. Recalling that her father had mentioned the necessity of the papers being delivered before
e Hart's office but was in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          noon, she set off in search of the judge. Nancy had c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 onsiderable trouble trying to see him, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         nd it was twelve o'clock
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 y was the daughter of Carson Drew, he
when at last she delivere
                                     d the Manila envelope into his hands. "Thank you very much," he said. "I'll need these directly after lunch." Nancy smiled. "Then I'm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          glad I found you." When Judge Hart learned that Nano
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          at once insisted that sh
                                      and his wife at their home before returning to River Heights. She accepted the invitation and spent a very pleasant hour with the H
e have luncheon with him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         arts. During the meal the judge laughingly asked if Nanc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   y was still playing aide to her father. "
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Oh, yes," she said, and a
                                      Drews' interest in the Crowley case. "Did you know Josiah Crowley or ever hear of him?" she asked. Both the Harts nodded. "A m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ained. "Jane herself pas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         aid who used to be with them, came to work for us after
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Mrs. Crowley's death," the judge expl
                                     o." "We never met Josiah," Mrs. Hart added, "but Jane pointed him out to my husband and me one time down on Main Street." "Did ville if he had no relatives or friends there. The town was not known as a spot for sight-seeing. Her interest was further quickened w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         he have relatives or friends in town?" Nancy inquired. "I t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   hink not," the judge replied. Nancy w
sed away a short time ad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ondered what old Josial
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hen Mrs. Hart remarked that she had seen Mr. Crowley in to
had been doing in Mason
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     wn at another time also, "How long a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         go was that?" the girl as
                                    minute, then replied, "Oh, less than a year, I'd say." When luncheon was over, the judge said he must leave. Nancy told the Harts sh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        too should go. She thanked them for their hospitality, then s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        aid good-by. Soon she was drivin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         g homeward, "Why had
                                     onville?" she asked herself. "Could it have had anything to do with a later will?" Nancy had chosen a route which would take her to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       River Road. Half an hour later she turned into the beautiful co
Mr. Crowley gone to Mas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              untry road which wound in a
                                      k at the names on the mailboxes. "Hoover," she reminded herself. About halfway to River Heights, while enjoying the pastoral scen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    es of cows standing knee-high in shallow sections of the stream
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 , and sheep grazing on flow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         er-dotted hillsides, Nanc
                                    un had been blotted out. "A thunderstorm's on the way," she told herself, glancing at black clouds scudding across the sky. "Gues
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    s I'd better put the top of the car up." She pressed the button on
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 he dashboard to raise the t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         op, but nothing happene
                                    gain. Still there was no response. By this time large drops of rain had started to fall. "I'll get soaked," Nancy thought, as she looked
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    around. There was no shelter in sight. But ahead, past a steep ris
d. Puzzled. Nancy tried a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e, was a sharp bend in the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          road. Hopeful that there
                                      n beyond, Nancy started the car agáin. Vivid forked lightning streaked across the sky. It was followed by an earth-shaking clap of t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  hunder. The rain came down harder, "Oh, why didn't I bring a rainc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    oat?" Nancy wailed. Wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         en Nancy swung around
                                      ted to see a barn with lightning rods about a quarter mile ahead. Farther on stood a small white house. "I wonder if that's the Hoov
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  er place," Nancy mused. By now the storm was letting loose in all it
the bend, she was deligh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      s fury. The sky was as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          dark as night and Nanc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         was so blinding in it
                                      adlights to see the road. She was already thoroughly drenched and her thought of shelter at this point was one of safety rather tha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 n of keeping dry. Nancy turned on the windshield wipers, but the rai
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s intensity, it was impos
                                      few feet ahead. Almost in an instant the road had dissolved into a sea of mud. Nancy had been caught in a number of storms, but
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 never one as violent as this. She feared a bad skid might land her in a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ch before she cou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         d reach the shelter of the
                                     r is it?" she worried. "It didn't seem this far away." The next instant, to Nancy's right, a ball of fire rocketed down from the sky. "O
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                h! That was close!" she thought fearfully. Her skin tingled from the elec-
barn, "How much farthe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         I vibrations in the ai
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         r. A moment later a surg
e of relief swept over Na
                                    ncy. "At last!" she breathed. At the side of the road the barn loomed up. Its large double doors were wide open. Without hesitatio
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               n, Nancy headed straight for the building and drove in. The next momen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                t she heard a piercing screa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         m! CHAPTER V A Surpris
                                     ehind the wheel. Had she inadvertently hit someone? Her heart pounding in fright, she opened the car door to step out. At the sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               me instant a shadowy figure arose from a pile of hay near her. "I guess
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                must have scared you silly
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         when I screamed," said a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               d for the chickens. I didn't think it was going to be a bad storm, so I didn't
                                     ping forward. "You—You're all right?" Nancy gasped. "Yes. And I'm sorry I yelled. I came out here to check on our supply of fee
girl of Nancy's age, step
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 bother to go back to the ho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         use." "It's pretty bad," s
aid Nancy. "Well, the sto
                                      rm terrified me," the girl continued. "I didn't hear your car coming, and when it rushed in here, I panicked." Nancy began to bre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                athe normally again, then told the stranger her name and the fact that the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         op of the convertible was
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               mechanism for raising the t
                                     hame," said the girl. "And you must get your clothes dried. The storm is letting up. Let's dash over to the house. Grace will hel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   p you too. She's my sister. My name's Allison Hoover." Hoover! Nancy
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         at she had been plannin
not working. "That's a s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              was tempted to tell Allison th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    n. But first I'd like to wipe out the car. Are there any rags around the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            barn?" Allison produced sever
                                      not to mention it at the moment. It might be better to do her sleuthing more subtly. Nancy smiled at Allison. "Thanks a millio
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         al and together the two g
                                    m the cushions and floor. By this time the rain had stopped. As Nancy and Allison sloshed through a series of puddles to th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          he was tall, with reddish-blond h
irls mopped the water fro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     e farmhouse, Nancy had a better chance to study her companion. S
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         air and very fair skin. Her
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ehind them, another girl
voice was musical and s
                                     he had an attractive, lilting laugh. The girls reached the run-down farmhouse and stamped the mud from their shoes on the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     back porch. Then Allison flung open the door, and they entered a c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      heerful kitchen. As the door shut b
                                      oven of an old-fashioned range turned toward them in surprise. "Grace, I've brought a visitor," Allison said quickly. "Nan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    cy, I want you to meet my sister. She's the mainstay of our family of
who was just closing the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ledged the introduction
                                     a warm smile. Nancy judged her to be at least four years older than Allison. Her face was rather serious, and it was eviden
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   t from her manner that responsibility had fallen on her shoulders at an early age. Nancy was attracted to both
and greeted Nancy with
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           girls and responded to t
                                     e put on a robe which Allison brought her and Grace hung her wet clothes near the range. Presently Grace pulled an iron
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ing board from a closet with the intention of pressing Nancy's garments. But Nancy would not hear of this and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  have much company. To tell you the truth, we can't afford it." Grace stepped to the stove, removed a golden-b
                                     d to the sisters. "I don't know what I would have done without you girls." "It's great for us," Allison spoke up. "We don't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          rown cake from the oven
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 too much of a hurry, I wish you'd join us in a little celebration." "Why, I'd love to," Nancy said. "Grace's cakes
                                      cool. "But today we're not talking about money. It's Allison's birthday and this is a birthday cake. Nancy, if you're no
and set it on the table to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         are yummy," Allison decl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                put them back on. Meanwhile, the cake had cooled and Grace started to spread the chocolate frosting. "Suppo
                                    cook myself. My department is taking care of the barn and the chickens." Soon Nancy finished pressing her clothe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         se you two go into the liv
ing room and wait," she
                                     suggested. "I'll bring in the cake and tea." Nancy followed Allison to the adjoining room. Although it was comfo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 the room did not contain much furniture. The floor had been painted and was scantily covered with handmade
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          rag rugs. With the exce
                                      sofa, an inexpensive table, a few straight-backed chairs and an old oil stove which furnished heat in cold we
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               here was little else in the room. However, dainty white curtains covered the windows, and Nancy realized that all
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         hough the Hoovers were
                                    to make their home attractive. "Do you two girls live here alone all the time?" Nancy inquired. Allison nodded

. "Grace and I have been living here since Father died. That was two years ago. Mother passed away just before that," the girl a ses took every penny we had." "I'm terribly sorry," Nancy remarked sympathetically. "It must be dreadfully hard for two girls to run the farm by themselves." "Our farm isn't as large as it once was," Allison said quietly. "We have only a few acres left. I ancy. Grace helps a dressmaker at Masonville whenever she can get work. She makes all her own clothes and mine too. And I raise chickens." From just beyond the doorway suddenly came the strains of "Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!
poor, they had tried hard
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         dded with a slight catch
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          know you are too polite
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         s time Nancy had joined
                                           aday to you. Happy Birthday, dear Allison. Happy Birthday to you!" Grace set the cake with eighteen lighted candles on the table. She and Nancy sang the second verse with the words "May you have many more!" Tears stood in Allison's eyes. Wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         en the song ended, she
                                                  emendous hug. Then she gave Nancy one. "This—this is the nicest birthday I've had in years," she quavered. "And it's one of the most enjoyable I've ever attended," Nancy said sincerely. Suddenly Allison began to sing a tuneful o Nancy listened entranced to Allison's clear, bell-like tones. When she finished, Nancy applauded, then said: "That was perfectly lovely. You have a beautiful voice, Allison!" The singer laughed gaily. "Thank you, Nancy. I've alw
grasped her sister in a tr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ld English ballad about t
he birthday of a village lass
                                                       tty expensive." At that moment Grace brought in a tray of fragrant tea. As she poured three cups, Allison blew out the candles and served the cake. "I've never tasted anything more delicious in all my life," Nancy said enthus
but as you know, voice training is pre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         iastically. The three girls chatted like
                                                       gh the clouds. As Nancy rose to leave, she noticed an unusual picture on the wall opposite her and commented on its beauty. "Uncle Josiah Crowley gave it to us," Allison told her. "If he were only alive now, things would b
old friends. Finally the sun broke throu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e different." At the mention of the nam
                                                        g to pick up a clue to the possibility that Mr. Crowley had made a later will? "He wasn't really our uncle," Grace explained. "But we loved him as much as though he were a relative." Her voice broke and for a moment she c
e, Nancy sat down again. Was she goin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ould not go on. Then, gaining control of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ou never minded his peculiar ways afte
herself, she continued, "He lived on th
                                                         farm next to us—that was when Mother and Father were alive. All of Allison's and my misfortunes seemed to come at once." "He was the dearest man you ever saw," Allison added. "Some people thought him queer, but y
                                                         good to us. He always told me that he'd back me in a singing career." "Yes," Grace added. "Uncle Josiah used to say Allison sang as sweetly as a bird and he wanted to pay for lessons with a famous teacher. But after he
r you knew him. Uncle Josiah was very
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      went to live with the Tophams, he neve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  d it with the Tophams, though," Allison e used to slip away to visit us." "Uncle Jo
declared. "They weren't kind to him, and h
siah often said that we seemed like his own children," Grace spoke up. "He brought us many nice gifts, but we loved him for himself and not his money. I remember, though, the very last day we saw him alive, he told us 'I have planned a big surprise to make you girls happy. But I can't tell you now what it is . You'll see it in my will.' Those were his very words." "And then the Tophams got everything," Allison said. "He must have changed his mind for some reason." "It's hard to believe he would forget his promise to us," Grace said sadly. "Oh, wouldn't it be wonderful if a later will could be found!" Allison excla imed. "Yes," Nancy replied slowly. "I've heard that Mr. Crowley told other people he was leaving money to them. The Turner sisters, for instance. Do you know them?" "Slightly," Grace answered. "My dad," Nancy went on, "is a lawyer and he and I are very much interested in this case. He even mentioned y
ou girls, and to tell the truth I was on my way here to talk to you." Allison impulsively grasped Nancy's arm. "You say your father to help us prove this!" Then a sad look came over her face. "But I'm for getting—we wouldn't have any money to pay him if we should lose the case." "Don't let that worry you," said Nancy kindly. "This is your birthday and you must be happy, Allison. My special wish for you is that before you're one year older, you'll inherit some of the Crowley money, so that you can take the ose singing lessons!" CHAPTER VI An Exciting Appointment THE HOOVER girls walked out to the barn with Nancy. "Do come to see us again," Grace called, as the young detective climbed into her car. "Yes, please do," Allison added. Nancy promised that she would. "As soon as I have some news," she s
aid. Although the weather had cleared, the River Road remained muddy and slippery. Nancy found it necessary to drive with extreme care for the next two miles until she reached the main highway. "No wonder this River Road isn't used much," she thought. "And how do Grace and Allison get to town?" Na
ncy wondered. She had not seen a car at the Hoover home and knew that no bus passed their door. "I certainly wish," she thought, "that I or somebody else could locate a later will of Josiah Crowley's by which the Hoovers and the Turners would receive some much-needed money. I must tell Dad about th
s latest development." She decided to see if her father was in his office and drove directly there. Nancy parked the car in a nearby lot. She surveyed the convertible ruefully as she climbed out. "Poor thing! It certainly needs a bath!" Nancy found Mr. Drew in. As she entered his private office, he arose from the
e desk chair to kiss her. "I'm glad you're here—and safe," the lawyer said. "I was worried about you when that violent storm came up. When Hannah phoned me that you weren't back, I began to regret I'd sent you on the errand." His daughter grinned. "I'm back, all in one piece. I delivered the papers to Judg
e Hart and learned that he and his wife saw Mr. Crowley in Masonville a couple of times. Also, I talked to the Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." She described her meeting with Allison and Grace Hoover girls." 
Drew suggested that she invite the girls to his office for a little conference. "Perhaps if I ask them some questions, it will recall helpful incidents." The lawyer studied his desk calendar for a moment, then looked up at his daughter. "How about tomorrow afternoon at two-forty-five? I can give them about half
an hour." For answer, Nancy gave her father a hug and then asked if she might use his telephone to call the Hoovers at once. Grace and Allison eagerly accepted the Drews' invitation, and Nancy said she would drive out to bring them to the conference and take them home afterward. "You're a doll!" cried A
llison, who had answered the telephone. "Nancy, I just know you're going to solve this mystery!" Suddenly an idea came to Nancy. She asked Allison how long the girls would be able to stay in River Heights. "Oh, as long as you need us," Allison replied. "Good. Then I'd like you both to stay and have suppe r with us," Nancy said. "Sorry I can't join you," Mr. Drew told his daughter as she hung up. "I have a dinner engagement and conference in the evening." Just then, the mayor of River Heights was shown into the lawyer's office, and Nancy arose to leave. She spoke to the mayor for a moment, then said, "See
you later, Dad." Before Nancy returned home, she stopped at an old-fashioned house on a side street. It was the home of Signor Mascagni, a famous voice teacher who had retired to the small city the year before, but took a few outstanding pupils. Nancy introduced herself to the white bushy-haired, florid-
aced man, then said: "Signor Mascagni, would you be willing to listen to the voice of a friend of mine and give your honest opinion as to whether or not she might become a great singer? If she might, and she can obtain the money for lessons, would you be able to take her as a pupil?" Signor Mascagni stu
died Nancy for several minutes before replying. Finally he said, "You do not look like the kind of girl who would come here on a foolish errand. Ordinarily I do not accept beginners. But in this case I would be willing to hear your friend sing." He laughed. "Mind you, I will give you nothing but the truth, and it
your friend does not measure up, I hope her feelings will not be hurt too deeply." Nancy laughed too. "I like honesty," she said. "As a matter of fact, this girl knows nothing about what I am asking you. Coming here will be a complete surprise to her. I'm probably no judge of voices, but I think she's a natural However, we will both appreciate having your opinion, and will certainly abide by it." She arranged for a meeting the following afternoon at four o'clock and left Signor Mascagni's house in an excited mood. "Maybe I'm going way out on a limb," Nancy mused, "but this is another one of those hunches of middle by it." She arranged for a meeting the following afternoon at four o'clock and left Signor Mascagni's house in an excited mood. "Maybe I'm going way out on a limb," Nancy mused, "but this is another one of those hunches of middle by it." She arranged for a meeting the following afternoon at four o'clock and left Signor Mascagni's house in an excited mood. "I like honesty," she said. "As a matter of fact, this girl knows nothing about what I am asking you. I like honesty, "she said." I like hones
ne that Dad talks about, and I must carry through." When she picked up the Hoovers the following day, Nancy did not mention the appointment with the voice teacher. The three girls went directly to Mr. Drew's office and at once he began to guiz Grace and Allison about Mr. Crowley. "I understand that he wa
s a rather eccentric man," the lawyer began. "Suppose you tell me everything you can remember about what Josiah Crowley did and what he said which would help us figure out where he might have secreted a later will." "Uncle Josiah was rather absent-minded," Grace spoke up. "I often saw him hunting for his heyer began. "Suppose you tell me everything you can remember about what he said which he had pushed up on his head." "Did he ever hide things?" Mr. Drew asked. "Oh, yes." Allison laughed. "Uncle Josiah was always putting articles away in what he called a safe place. But the places were so safe he never could find the things again!" "Then," Nancy spoke up excited
```

Nancy Drew: The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene. ™ & © 1987, 1959, 1930 S&S, Inc. All rights reserved. CHAPTER I The Rescue NANCY DREW, an attractive girl of eighteen, was driving home along a country road in her new, dark-blue convertible. She had just delivered some legal papers for her ather. "It was sweet of Dad to give me this car for my birthday," she thought. "And it's fun to help him in his work." Her father, Carson Drew, a well-known lawyer in their home town of River Heights, frequently discussed puzzling aspects of cases with his blond, blue-eyed daughter. Smiling, Nancy said to lesself, "Dad depends on my intuition." An instant later she gasped in horror. From the lawn of a house just ahead of the house, was barely fifty feet away from her. As the driver vigorously sounded the

orn in warning, the child became confused and ran directly in front of the van. Miraculously, the little girl managed to cross the road safely and pull herself up onto a low wall, which formed one side of a bridge. But the next second, as the van sped away, the child lost her balance and toppled off the wall out of sight! "Oh my goodness!" Nancy cried out, slamming on her brakes. She had visions of the child plunging into the water below, perhaps striking her head fatally on a rock! Nancy leaped out of her car and dashed across the road. At the foot of the embankment, she could see the curly-haired little girl lying motionless, the right side of her body in the water. "I hope—" Nancy dared not complete the harrowing thought as she climbed down the steep slope. When she reached the child, she saw to her great relief that the little girl was breathing normally and no water had entered her nose or mouth. A quick example to the child, she saw to her great relief that the little girl was breathing normally and no water had entered her nose or mouth. A quick example the child, she saw to her great relief that the little girl was breathing normally and no water had entered her nose or mouth. A quick example the child, she saw to her great relief that the little girl was breathing normally and no water had entered her nose or mouth. A quick example the child, she saw to her great relief that the little girl was breathing normally and no water had entered her nose or mouth.