

By Alexander Fraser

# BLACKMAIL

Holly Goodyear, a successful businesswoman, is confronted by her maid, Lucy. Lucy shows Holly a photograph. Holly is horrified and begs Lucy not to show the photo to anyone. Lucy agrees--for the payment of \$2000 a month. Holly reluctantly agrees but insists on having a reason, to show her CPA, why she is sending such sums to Lucy.

Lucy is a painter, so they agree that each month she will send a picture to Holly. Six months later, Holly is visited by Joseph Blumenthal, an art gallery owner, and his assistant Jenny. Joseph is ecstatic about the paintings and buys two from Holly for \$25,000. Each.

Eventually, Time Magazine sends a reporter to interview Holly. She knows that, once the story is printed and Lucy sees it, she will get no more paintings. She successfully stalls the publication but the story does come out.

Victor, who had been Lucy's boyfriend, shows up to confront Holly. He's angry but has brought back the fateful photograph, as well as some "pretty pictures" which Lucy had painted for him before her untimely death.

Joseph and Jenny arrive and tell Victor what they think of the pretty pictures. Holly emerges triumphant.

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