

The Way We Die Now



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t was a busy morning
>miracles
I answered it
>I got a phone call. Since I believe in
>"Albert Samson
>"Samson
said a very loud voice
a lady's voice.
>"Here
>it is. What I wanted to know was your rates. How much
>you charge for investigating on a case.
>"That depends on what sort of case and who I am
>working for.
>"My name is Mrs. Jerome."
She emphasized the
>"Mrs."
so that she would be sure to qualify for my married
>lady's discount.
>"And I don't
appreciate being fenced
>with. You must have a basic :working rate you figure
>from."
>"Thirty-five dollars per eight-hour day plus expenses."
>"I see"
she said.
>"And the eight-hour day
how do you
>count that? Is it what you actually spend working? Or do
>you include the time you take getting to and from places?
>And does it include payment for a lunch hour?
>"With or without burp?
I never take an hour for lunch
>Mrs. Jerome.
>"No need to be flippant. And references? Do you have
>references?
>"Should I agree to take your case and you require
>them
I can provide references."
I write them myself.
>"I see. Thank you
Mr. Samson. I have twelve more
>agencies to call
and when I have gotten their particulars
I
>shall make my decision.
>"I just hope it's not a matter of life and death
Mrs.
>Jerome.
>For the first time she hesitated. My right ear
>appreciated the rest.

Then she said"¼Œ \"In one sense it is a

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