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## Mystery

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# Mystery

The cover shows what you've bought:  
one man at another's throat,  
the gun just out of reach.  
Behind them, soft, a woman stands  
wrists bound with cord,  
knuckles to her teeth,  
elbows catching at her breast  
shreds of her filmy blouse.  
Who, asks the back, could she trust?  
Dynamite, says the *Times*.

Not like that, of course.  
She never wears red, never wavers.  
There is no gun. She hits the right man.  
The pictured incident lasts half a page.  
The blouse is never torn.

And even so, no way to explain  
the danger when I wrote it—  
alone, no man in sight,  
choking, choking,  
my hands tied.

NATHALIE ANDERSON