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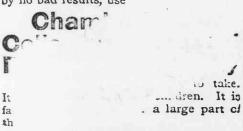
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HE MYSTER

By STEWART EDWARD WHITE And SAMUEL HOPKINS ADAMS

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

ine grouped themselves for Percy Darrow's sequel. Slade himself slouched low in the chair on Slade's right. Captain Parkinson had the other side. Convenient to Darrow's hand age, siy dn yoot ay alota ssaumip talked he rolled cylinder after cylinder in long, satisfying puffs.

to bury, as you know. He lies beside |-bury somoo uaqu dsuzs siq ui,, Handy Solomon. The others we shall probably not see. Any one of a score -ysk "sequesed not reword this bad side bad by bear of a score side." of ocean currents may have swept juni purisippun of su arom not od" them far away. The last great glow that you saw was the signal of their purps. on not tusions. I contour destruction. So the work of a great out we would not be used a great of men of men of a great of men scientist, a potent benefactor of the essent at explanation at the scientist, a potent benefactor of the essent at explanation at the essential at the estential at the essential at the essentia prought about the death of your friends 'penq a Lich pued, broad ad and of my enemies. The innocent and of my enemies. The innocent and of my enemies. and the guilty, the murderer with his some us grapples only establish an the guilty, the murderer with his some samples only the guilty, the murderer with his some samples only the guilty. fuous. Power! Unlimited, absolute Buitt Angle empe ame eno

own mind. You first saw the glow- significations as the glow- is the constant of same of same

"Night of June 2," said Barnett.

had time to think," he added grimly. ors' viewpoint," said Slade.

second pillar of fire?" Barnett nodded.

"So your men met their death. Then dus out pies "is 'pologianion foul,"

plosives claimed his attention, He regarded as tops. For a time high ex-I they had gathered to hear by source to be some of the most bound at the most bear by the source of Ralph Slade's tale, so now the lot fund oot offer weight southfunds state and the lot of depleted mess of the Wolver- concentrated, resistless energy. ed. One of them was the secret of enratied lines of activity that mind playsat directly across from the doctor's furm non Suoje-sivel uet 101 mintot assistant. Before him lay a paper cov- -- toy siq used earl usnoq 'Hesau woun ered with jotted notes. Trendon J. uop I-Moun not 10 auon 'sem ulou "You all know who Dr. Schermer-

lay the material for cigarettes. As he equ ui kiessey pewolf sign sign mrself, Just a moment." and petween sentences consumed them | to bradk alting m'I .essen noisiv te more practical dreamer and the great-"First you will want to learn of the eth most wold bemis siew end is fate of your friends and shipmates," | 1 non nou road-sissatelling he began. "They are dead. One of 'Arm sid at tool tennest to Towollo them, Mr. Edwards, fell to my hands v 'noon jests until until gentleman with a steel hook, which is the contract them.

ed Captain Farkinson.

And it was all true. Oh, quite!" race, a gentle and kindly old heart, has gons wearp r 'www. Slow.ing 'uoppos plunder, the officer following his duty, pue siq pin now is siq sem is now is blunder. practically. But they would be super- | defect and science is in the face of -ind would be supersuch tangled fates." He spoke low mould create them and it. He could create them and bitterly. Then he squared his anexes were interpretable and bitterly. Then he squared his assignment in the squared his assignment in the squared his assignment in the squared his assignment. shoulders, and his manner became Lead quote on se lemon dons to of a screw-oh, he was to be master call. The push of a button, the turn speau tuiod sur amen author, clearing up," he said. "It's a blind sin is seinces ent en of erem esent. trail at best. You've the right to see it unoun used see it see it unoun used see it see it unoun used see it see as plain as I can make it—with Slade's Lapun pur saalsap aldibarani ni ramod too much time. Light, heat, motive successions and and other There'll be plenty to answer, and some same pinow not of it suffine of usva never will be answered. Now, let me 'Algissod suni lie jo-suni sid jo Ailins get this thing laid out clearly in my unplaining the total thing laid out clearly in my unplaining the things are the things and the things are the things

being was centered on his discovery. It was-well, distrist. His whole force of "June 2," agreed Darrow. "That was propagation and propagation and the man and the end of Solomon, Thrackles & Co. s.tul 'entering Y resource and of of A very surprising end to them if they passas aH .moinguished to be about them if they from the first I was alone. The doctor "Surprising enough from the surviv- leomia Jinord if was different leomia and "Doubtless. They've had that story mon not plot sen epers Tent of emod they lived on the beach. With us in from you. I needn't go over it. This | I spall i 'lien's I 'lien's I to eath t ship picked up the Laughing Lass, de- - readdr 1sri add was not-raisi sidzin serted, and put your first crew aboard. owl it erw ro-light that bak" bead. That night, was it not, you saw the siq jo juomonom mois our in souchener Dadrow bowed with a suggestion of

tain, with simple pride. came the second finding of the empty ".vgibord that to srories awonding odd schooner. Captain Parkinson, they poors our uom david nood david isum

wanted to harness them. Once he got to the point of practical experiment. You can see the ruins yet-a hole in southern New Jersey. Nobody ever understood how he escaped. But there he was on his feet across a ten foot fence in a plowed field-yes, he flew the fence-and running, running, furiously in the opposite direction when the dust cleared away. Some one stop. ped him finally. Told him the danger was over. 'Yet I will not return,' he said firmly and fainted away. That disgusted him with high explosives. when he should get it out of the vol- was rather a complicated thing, with What secrets he discovered he gave to cano. the government. They were not without value, I believe."

"They were not, indeed," corroborat-

ed Barnett. "Next his interest turned to the natural phenomena of high energy. He an improved electric interrupter, since to stop these experiments, and the invention he considered trivial. Probaever been. He used to tell me that he matches. Thanks. often wondered why he hadn't taken we hear and those we see. It was natsults.

"'Pitchblende, no!" he would exclaim. 'It has not the great power. The mines are not deep enough yet!"

was to bring him success and cost him mental. his life came to him. The bowels of A light, please. Thank you.

a theory under it all. He believed to ask him about departure. that volcanic emanations are caused "'Not so long now, Percy,' he said in by a mighty and uncomprehended ener- his old, kind manner. 'Not so long. gy, something that achieves results The first real success. It iss made. We ascribable neither to explosions nor have yet under entire control to bring heat, some eternal, inner source. Ra- it, but it iss made.' dium, if you choose, only he didn't call "'And about time, sir,' said I. 'If it that. Radium, as known to our we don't do something soon we may modern scientists, he regarded as the have trouble with the men.' wasn't after force in pin point quanti- ged his great head confidently. 'We ar ties-he wanted results. Yet I believe armed.' that, after all, what he sought was a sort of higher power of radium. The phenomena were related. And he had stinately. 'Such as no man was ever some of that concentrated essence of pitchblende in the chest when we started. Oh, not much, say about \$20,000 worth. Maybe thirty. For use? No. Rather for comparison, I judge.

"Yes, we chased volcanoes. I became used to camping between sample hells of all known varieties. I got so that the fumes of a sulphur match have learned more of the great secret, seemed like a draft of pure, fresh air. Wherever any of the earth's pimples showed signs of coming to a head there were we, taking part in the trouble. By and by the doctor got so thoroughly poisoned that he had to lay off. Back to Philadelphia we came. There an aged seafaring person, temporarily stranded, mulcted the professor of a dollar-an undertaking that required no art-and in the course of his recital touched upon yonder little cesspool of infernal iniquities. An uncharted volcanic island-one that he could have all for his own. You may guess whether Dr. Schermerhorn was interested.

in vain sought, Percy,' he said to me in his quaint, link chain style of speech. 'A leedle prifate volcano laboratory to ourselves to have. Totally unknown, undescribed, not on the chart to be found. Tomorrow we start. I make a list of the things to get.'

"He began his list, as I remember, with three dozen undershirts, a gallon of pennyroyal for insect bites, a box of assorted fishhooks, thirty pounds of tea and a case of carpet tacks. When I hadn't anything else to worry over, I used to lie awake at night and speculate on the purpose of those carpet tacks. He had something in mind. If there was anything on which he prided himself, it was his practical bent. ized that my self entertainment was But the list never got any further. It ceased short of one page in the ledger, as you may have noticed. I outfitted friendly, but always a little doubtful, by telegraph on the way across the

"The doctor didn't ask me whether I'd go. He took it for granted. That's which one might work. Only Eagenprobably why I didn't back out. Nor did I tell him that the three life insurance companies which had foolishly and trustingly accepted me as a risk merely on the strength of a good constitution were making frantic efforts to compromise on the policies. They felt hurt, those companies. My healthy condition had ceased to appeal to them. What's a good constitution between earthquakes? No, there was there. I thought it was a myth of that stranded ancient mariner's imaged than the bad risk who now address-

was any kind of action for your mon- reputable firm of chemists. Finally he

half portions of molten lava ready to quite proud of that daily record and create in all the world's chemical labo- age of once a week. ratories-in fact, everything to make Dr. Schermerhorn. He brought along chemicals had got in their work on the in his precious chest besides the ra- hinges I don't know, but one day the as near as I could make out a sort of nized my existence by lugging his box

"In the first seven months he puttered around the little fumers, with an That I conjectured was designed to occasional excursion up to the main hold some chemical compound or salt. crater. It was my duty to follow on There were many minor openings, too. and drag him away when he fell un- each guarded by a similar hollow door. conscious. Sometimes I would try to My business was with the heavy top studied lightning in an open steel net- get him before he was quite gone. cover. work laboratory, with few results save Then he would become indignant and a succession of rheumatic attacks and fight me. Perhaps that helped to lose gently,' explained the professor. 'So. me his confidence. More and more he Not with-a-grating-sound-to be-accomadopted by one of the great telegraph withdrew into himself. There were panied,' he added, with his curious efcompanies. The former obliged him days when he spoke no word to me. It fect of linked phraseology. was lonely. Do you know why I used to visit you at the beach, Slade? 1 bly the great problem of getting at the suppose you thought I was keeping at a considerable angle, when it would secret of energy led him into his at- watch on you. It wasn't that; it was fall and lock. Only on the outer shell tempts to study the mysterious elec- loneliness. In a way it hurt me, too, was there a lock. That one was a good trical waves radiated by lightning for one couldn't help but be fond of bit of craftsmanship. flashes. At any rate, he was soon as the old boy, and at times it seemed ence as his countryman, Hertz, had don me if I may trouble you for the

"Matters went very wrong at times. up this line before-the world of ener- The doctor fumed like his little craters, gy he now set out to explore, waves in growled out long winded, exhaustive that tremendous range between those German imprecations; wouldn't even eat. Then, again, the demon of work ural that he should then come to the would drive him with thong and spur. most prominent radio-active elements. He would rush to his craters, to his uranium, thorium and radium. But, laboratories, to his ledger, for the purthough his knowledge surpassed that pose of entering unintelligible comof the much exploited authorities, he mentaries. He had some peculiar conwas never satisfied with any of his re- trivance, like a misshapen retort, with which he collected gases from the craterlets. Whenever I'd hear one of those smash I knew it was a bad day. Meantime the volcano also became "Then suddenly the great idea that well, what you might call tempera-

"It got to be a year and a quarterthe earth must hold the secret. He a year and a half. I wondered whether took up volcanoes. Does all this sound we should ever get away. My tobacco foolish? It was not if you knew the was running short, and the bearing of man. He was a mighty enthusiast, a the men was becoming fidgety. My born martyr. Not cold blooded, like the visits to the beach became quite interrest of us. The fire was in his veins. esting-to me. One day the doctor came running out of his laboratory "We chased volcanoes. There was with so bright a face that I ventured

harmless plaything of people with time "'So?' said he in surprise. 'But they hanging heavy on their hands. He could do nothing-nothing.' He wag-

"'We are armed,' he repeated ob-

"Oh, yes, armed. So are they."

armed are we armed.' "He checked himself abruptly and walked away. Well, I've since wondered what would have happened had the men attacked us. It would have been worth seeing and-and surprising. Yes; I'm quite certain it would have

been surprising. Perhaps, too, I might and yet I don't know. It's all dark-a hint here, theory, mere glints of light. Where did I put- Ah, thank you!"

CHAPTER XXXIV.

OR some moments Darrow sat. gazing fixedly at the table before him. His cigarette tip glowed and failed. Some one suggested drinks. The captain asked Darrow what he would have, but the question went unnoted.

"How I passed the next six months I could hardly tell you," he began again, quite abruptly. "At times I was bored-fearfully bored. Yet the element of mystery, of uncertainty, of "That iss for which we haf so long underlying peril, gave a certain zest to the affair. In the periods of dullness I found some amusement in visiting the lower camp and baiting the nigger. Slade will have told you about him. He possessed quite a fund of voodooism. He possessed more before got through with him. Yes: if he had lived to return to his country I fancy he would have added considerably to Afro-American witchlore. You remember the vampire bats. Slade? And the devil fires? Naturally I didn't mention to you that the devil fire business wasn't altogether as clear to me as I pretended. It wasn't, though. But at the time it served very well as an amusement. All the while I realnot without its element of danger too. I remember glances not altogether a little awed. Even Handy Solomon, practical as he was, had a scruple or two of superstition in his makeup on Slade, I mean-was beyond me there. You puzzled me not a little in those "Did I say that I was sometimes an-

days, Slade. Wellnoyed by the doctor's attitude? Yes. It seemed that he might have given me a little more of his confidence, but one can't judge such a man as he was. Among the ordinary affairs of life he had relied on me for every detail. Now he was independent of me. Independent! I doubt was no use telling the doctor. It if he remembered my existence at would only have worried him. Be- times. Even in his blackest moods of sides, I didn't believe that the island depression he was sufficient unto himself. It was strange. How he did rage the day the chemicals from Washination. When it rose to sight at the ington went wrong! I was washing proper spot, none were more astound- my shirt in the hot water spring when he came bolting out of the laboratory and keeled me over. I came out pretty "Yet I must say for the island that indignant. Apologize? Not at all. He it came handsomely up to specifica- just sputtered. His nearest approach tions. Down where you were, Slade, to coherence seemed to indicate a deyou didn't get a real insight into its sire that I should go back to Washingdisposition. But in back of us there ton at once and destroy a perfectly

ey-geysers, hell spouts, fuming its- calmed down and took it out in entersures, cunning little craterlets with ing it in his daily record. He was serve hot, more gases than you could remembered to write in it on an aver-

"Then the chest went wrong. Wheththe place a paradise for Old Nick and er it had rusted a bit or whether the dium some sort of raw material; also professor, of his own initiative, recogcage or guardianship scheme for his out in the open and asking me to fix concentrated essence of cussedness it. Previously he had emptied it. It in inner compartment over which was n hollow cover, opening along one rim.

"'It should shut and open softly.

"Half a day's work fixed it. The lid would stand open of itself until tipped

"'So, Percy, my boy,' said the docdeep into the subject of electrical sci- as if he weren't quite himself. Par- tor kindly, 'that will with sufficient safety guard our treasure. When we obtain it, Percy. When it entirely finished and completed shall be.'

"'And when will that be?' I asked. "'God knows,' he said cheerfully. 'It progresses.'

"Whenever I went strolling at night he would produce his curious lights.



About his waist flickered a sort of aura of radiance.

Sometimes they were fairly startling. One fact I made out by accident looking down from a high place. They did not project from the laboratory. He always worked in the open when the light was to be produced. Once the experiment took a serious turn. The lights had flickered and gone. Dr. Schermerhorn had returned to his laboratory. I came up the arroyo as he flung the door open and rushed out. He was a grotesque figure, clad in an undershirt and a worn pair of troucers fastened with an old bit of tarred rope in lieu of his suspenders, which I had been repairing. About his waist flickered a sort of aura of radiance which was extinguished as he flung himself headforemost into the cold spring. I hauled him out. He seemed dazed. To my questions he replied only by mumblings, the burden of which

"'I do not understand. It is a not to be comprehended accident.' It appears

Her hand this man could not get, His health was not as it should be, He had not used the "best as yet," Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. -Allison's Drug Store.

that he didn't quite know why he had taken to the water, or if he did he didn't want to tell.

"Next day he was as good as new. just as silent as before, but it was a smiling, satisfied silence. So it went for weeks, for months, with the accesses of depression and anger always rarer. Then came an afternoon when returning from a stalk after sheep I heard strange and shocking noises from the laboratory. Strict as was the embargo which kept me outside the door, I burst in, only to be seized in a suffocating grip. Of a sudden I realized that I was being embraced. The doctor flourished a hand above my head and jigged with ponderous steps. The dismal noises continued to emanate from his mouth. He was singing. I wish I could give you a notion of the amazement, the paralyzing wonder with which- No, you did not know Dr. Schermerhorn. You would not understand.

"We polkaed into the open. There he cast me loose. He stopped singing and burst into a rhapsody of disjointed words. Mostly German, it was a wondrous jumble of the scientific and poetic. 'Eureka' occurred at intervals. Then he would leap in the air. It was weird; it was distressing. Crazy? Oh. quite! For the time, you understand, If any of us should suddenly become the most potent individual in the world, wouldn't he be apt to lose balance temporarily? One must make allowances. There was excuse for the doctor. He had reached the goal.

"'Percy, you shall be rewarded,' he said. 'You haf like a trump card stuck by me. You shall haf riches. gold, what you will. You are young: your blood runs red. With such riches nothing is beyond you. You could the ancient tombs of Egypt explore. It is open to you such collections as have never been gathered to make. What shall it b-scarabs, missals, prehistoric implements? Amuse yourself, mein kind. We shall be able the bills with usurious interest to pay. What will you haf?

". said I d like a vacation if conrenient

"'Presently,' he replied. 'There yet remains the guardianship to be perfected. Then to a world astonished and respectful we return. Tonight we celebrate. I play you a rubber of pinochle.'

"We played. With the greatest secret of science resting at our elbows we played. The doctor won. My mind was not strictly on the game. In the morning the doctor sang once more. I shall never hear its like again. Was it a week or a month after that? I cannot remember. I fancy I was excited. Then, too, there was something in the atmosphere about the laboratory. I don't knaw; imagination possibly.

Continued on page 6 The World's Best Climate

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