The BLACK BOX

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM

manded.

Novelized from the motion picture drama of the same name produced by the Universal Film Manufacturing Company. Illustrated with pho-tographs from the motion picture production.

a true one. The gamekeeper wel-

By his side, the picture of abject mis-

Twe imagined this little job. sir.

one of my poachers' pits, sir, and cov-

ered it over with a lot of loose stuff That got him all right When I went

to look this morning I saw where he'd

fallen through, and there he was walk-

ing round and round at the bottom like

a caged animal. Your servants have

telephoned for the police, Mr Ash-

Then he drew down the sheet.

in that your work?" he asked.

Craig, up till then, had spoken no

word. He had shambled to the bed-

side, a broken, yet, in a sense, a stolid

figure. The sight of the dead man.

however, seemed to galvanize him into

sudden and awful vitality. He threw

up his arms. His eyes were horrible

as they glared at those small black

marks. Hits lips moved backwards and

forwards, helplessly at first. Then at

"Strangled!" he cried. "One more!"

"That is your work," the criminolo-

Craig collapsed. He would have

fallen bodily to the ground if Middle

ton's grip had not kept him up. Quest

bent over him. It was clear that he

had fainted. They led him from the

suppose there is a safe place some

earth could escape from."

safe there.

of any mistake:

summons at once.

asked, eagerly.

madam.

The professor awoke from his

They led him down to the back part

"This place has been used before

of the house into a dry cellar which

now, in the old days, for malefactors,

CHAPTER XXI.

Quest stood, frowning, upon the

pavement, gazing at the obviously

empty house. He looked once more

at the slip of paper which Lenora had

Mrs. Willet.

157 Elemere Road,

This was 157 and the house was

empty. After a moment's hesitation

he rang the bell at the adjoining door.

A woman, who had been watching

him from the front room, answered the

She's moved," was the uncompro-

"West Kensington No. 17 Princess

"You're welcome!" was the terse re-

has become of her?" Mrs. Willet ob-

Mrs. Willet shook her head.

but I've seen nothing of her as yet."

"Isn't she here!"

moment's reflection.

There was no possibility

speak to you. How could you!"

We'd better lock him up until the

last he spoke

room.

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SYNOPSIS.

WINTH INSTALLMENT

CHAPTER XX.

LOST IN LONDON.

Quest, notwithstanding the unusual nature of his surroundings, slept that fessor. Then he turned to the keeper night as only a tired and healthy man can. He was awakened the next morning by the quiet movements of a manservant who had brought back his clothes carefully brushed and pressed Breakfast te served at nine o clock, sir. It is now hair past eight "

"I'll be right there" The man withdrew and Quest made sternly a brisk tollet. The nameless fears of the previous night had altogether dis-At the last moment he stretched out his hand to take a handkerchief from his satchel A sudden, exclamation broke from his lips. He stood for a moment as though turned to stone. Before him, on the top of the little pile of white cambric, was a small black box! With a movement of the fingers which was almost mechanical, he removed the lid and drew out the customary little scrap of pa-He smoothed it out before him gist said, firmly. on the dressing case and read the mes-

"You will fail here as you have failed before. Better go back. There is more danger for you in this country than you dream of."

His teeth came flercely together and his hands were clenched. His thoughts police arrive," Quest suggested. "I had gone like a flash to Lenora. Was it possible that harm was intended for where?" her" He put the idea away from him almost as soon as conceived. The stupor. thing was unimaginable. Craig was here, must be here, in the close vicinity of the house.

The atmosphere of the pleasant breakfast room to which in due course he descended, was cheerful enough. Lady Ashleigh had already taken her had the appearance of a prison cell. place at the head of the table.

She touched an electric bell under her foot and a moment or two later the professor remarked. "He'll be

the butler appeared "Go up and see how long your mas voice trembling, "Craig-I-I can't

ter will be?" Lady Ashleigh directed.

The man was backing through the was buried in his hands. They left doorway in his usual dignified manner | bim there and turned the key. when he was suddenly pushed on one The valet who had waited upon Quest, and who was Lord Ashleigh's own servant, rushed into the room. He almost shouted to Lady Ashleigh:

thing has happened! He won't move!

They all trooped out of the room and up the stairs, the professor leading the way. They pushed open the door of Lord Ashleigh's bedchamber. In the far corner of the large room was the four-poster, and underneath the clothes a silent figure. The professor turned down the sheets. Then he held out his hand. His face, too,

"Julia, don't come," he begged. "I must know," she almost shricked I must know!

"George is dead," the professor said

There was a moment's awful silence. broken by a piercing scream from Lady She sank down upon the sofa, and the professor leaned over her. Quest furned to the little group of frightened servants who were gath-

ered round the doorway. "Telephone for a doctor," he ordered; "also to the local police sta-

"He, too, approached the bed and reverently lifted the covering Lord ply. Ashleigh was lying there, his body a little doubled up, his arms wide out- taxi driver and was scarcely able to stretched. On his throat were two featrain his impatience during the long black marks.

lack marks drive. They pulled up at last before
They had led Lady Ashleigh from a somewhat dingy looking house. He the room. The professor and Quest fang the bell, which was answered by stood face to face. The former's ex-pression, however, had lost all his. "Ie Mrs Willet in?" he inquired. pression, however, had lost all his amiable serenity His face was white

"Quest! Quest!" he almost sobbed | mcmeut the door of the front room My brother - George, whom I loved like nobody else on earth! Is he real ty lady appeared. Iv dend?"

'Absolutely!" The professor gripped the oak pillar told her quickly. of the bedstead. He seemed on the heard your niece, Lenora, speak of

point of collapse. "The mark of the Hands is upon

his throat," Quest pointed out. Oh, my God!" the served "The Hands!

professor groated. "We must not eat or drink or sleep," Quest declared, flercely, "until we have brought this matter to an end. Craig Plymouth to say that she was coming.

must be found. This is the supreme The butler made an apologetic ap know," Quest reminded her, after a

arance. He spoke in a hushed whis-

You are wanted downstairs, gentle began. "After all, though," she went Middleton, the head keeper, is on thoughtfully, "I am not sure wheth-As though inspired with a common if she went up to Hampstead, anyone

a, both Quest and the professor hur- would tell her where I had moved to. out of the room and down the There's no secret about me." nd stairs. Their inspiration was "Lenora did go up to 157 Elsmere road yesterday." Quest told her, "They

Mrs. Willet demanded. Quest whose brain was working quickly, scribbled upon one or his cards the address of the hotel where he had taken reconst and passed it

Then what a become of the chief

Why Lenora dain't come on to you here I can't imagine." he said "However, I'll go back to the hotel where she was to spend the night after she arrived. She may have gone back there That's my address, Mrs. Willet If you hear anything I wish you'd let me know Lemera's quite a particular friend of mine and I am a little anx-

Quest had already opened the front comed them with a smile or triumph door for himself and passed out. He sprang into the taxt, which he had ery his clothes torn and muddy, was kept waiting

Cufford's hotel in Payne street." he told the man Middleton announced, with a smile of

He lit a cigar and smoked furtously all the way, throwing it on to the pove "How did you get him?" Quest dement as he harried into the quiet prisate botel which a fellow passenger "Little idea of my own," the game on the steamer had recommended as keeper continued "I guessed pretty being suitable for Lenora's one night well what he'd be up to He'd tumbled alone in town. to it that the usual way off the moor

"Can you tell me if Miss Lengta was pretty well guarded, and he'd Macdougal is staying to re? In asked doubted back through the thin line at the office. of woods close to the house I dug

The woman shook her bout "Miss Macdongal stayed here the night before last, the said, and her luggage is withing for orders. She left here sexterday afternoon to go to betsunt's, and promised to send for betthings later on during the day. There they stand, all ready for her' What time did she go

Quest suddenly whispered to the pro-"Directly after an early banch. It must have been about two o'clock" "Bring him upstairs, Middleton, for Quest hurried away. So after all there was some foundation for this I will just be in time." a moment," he directed "Follow us. queer sense of depression which has been hovering about him for the last out They passed into the bedchamber. Quest signed to the keeper to bring few days. Craig to the side of the four-poster. Scotland Yard, he told the taxt

He thrust another cigar between his teeth, but forgot to light it. He was



Craig Escapes From the Cellar.

scious of fears and emotions of which Craig," he added, his he would never have believed himself capable. He gave to bis card, and after a few moments' delay he was There was no answer. Craig's face shown into the presence of one of the chiefs of the detective department. who greeted him warmly

She and I and Professor Ashleigh left you in the drawing room to London. She was staying at Clifford's hotel in Payne street for the night, and then going on to the aunt Well, I've found that aunt. She was

Where did this aget live " Thardaway inquired.

"No 17, Princess Court road, West Kensington," Quest replied. She had "what has become of the lady who used to live at 157-Mrs. Willet?" fust moved there from Ebenere road. Hampstead I went first to Hampstead. cenora had been there and learned her aunt's correct address in West Kensington I followed on to West quietly." "Do you know where to" Quest

Court road. There was a young lady here yesterday afternoon inquiring for have crept into Hardanas a matther Let me see," be said. If she left Clifford's hotel about two, she would Quest raised his hat. It was a relief, at any rate, to have news of Lenora have been at Hampstead about half-"I am very much obliged to you, past two. She would waste a few min-

Quest gave a new address to the tirve me at once a description of the young lady." he demanded. Quest drew a photograph from his pocket and passed it silently over. "Mr Cuest" he said. "It is just nos-

stole that your visit here has been an exceedingly opportune one. The maidservant stood on one side Come along with me," he conto let him pass. Almost at the same tinued. We'll talk us we go

They entered a taxt and drave off

opened and a pleasant looking elder "Mr. Quest," he went on. 'for two "I am Mrs. Willet," she aunounced. months we have been on the track of 'I am Mr Quest," the criminologist You may have suspect of taxing decoved ball a dozen perfectly respectable young women, and shipped them out to South Then perhaps you can tell me what

"The white slave traffic!" Quest

Something of the nort." Hardaway admitted. Well, we've been closing-"I had a telegram from her from brought to me upon which we are set-"You've changed your address, you watched and it seems that they were came. The brute!" sitting in a tea place about three. "I wrote and told her," Mrs. Willet o'clock vesterday afternoon when a young woman entered who was ob enid. You know where to find us." er she could have had the letter. But asked the woman at the desk the best Quest! It is the devil incarnate means of getting to West Kensington against whom we fight!"



"Stolen!" Mrs. Rheinholdt Spricked. without taking a fixicals. Her description tailies exactly with the place manded tograph you have shown me. The womdresped her and offered to show her on," he declared. "Why should the way. They left the place together. Hank of the secret passage," No My men followed them. The house one has used it for a hundred years has been watched ever since and we. He found it learned the trickare raiding it this afternoon. You and

He stopped the cab and they got A man who seemed to be stroll ing aimlessly along reading a newspaper suddenly joined them Well, Dixon" has chief exclaimed

The man glamed around "I've got three men round at the back, Mr. Hardaway," he said. "It's. impossible for anyone to mave the

Hardaway paused to consider a mobook here. Quest suggested, "they

know all of you, of course, and they'll never let you in until they re forced to im a stranger Let me go. I'll get in all right:

'All right, he assented. 'We shall follow you up pretty closely, though " Quest stepped back into the taxi and gave the driver a direction. When he merged in front of the handsome gray stone house he seemed to have become completely transformed. There was a faturous smile upon his lips. The cressed the pavement with difficulty, stumbilling up the steps, and hold on the knocker with one hand widle beconsulted a slip of paper. He had corrects rung the ball before a slightly parted curtain in the front toom fellogether and a moment later the door was opened by a man in the livery of a butler, but with the face and physique of a prize fighter:

"Lady of the house," Quest demand Want to see the lady of the

Almost immediately he was conscrops of a woman standing in the hall

You had better come in: she inatted. "Please do not stand in the Queek, however, who had heard the

Decemper of the others behind him, lot-You're the lady whose name is on

this piece of paper" he demanded "My name is thardaway," the latter - This place is all right, ch-"I really de not know what you

Lenora Macdongal, has disappeared! If you will come instal I will talk with the steamer at Plymouth and traveled. Onest, as though stambling against

up in the boat traffs. It was slopped, the front door, had it now wide open, at Hamblin road for the professor and and in a moment the half seemed full. myself, and Miss Macdengal came on The woman shricked. The butler said deal) sprang upon the last man to enter and sent him spinning down the steps. Almost at that instant there was a scream from apstairs. Quest expecting the girl but the girl never took a running jump and went up the stairs four at a time. The batter, who find so for defled arrest, suddenly seatched the revolver from Hard away's hand and fired blindly in front of him, missing Quest only by an inch-

collect out. "The game's up. Take II Craig that I made no end of impor-

Years more the shrick rang through Kensington and toqual that the aunt the house. Quest racked to the doct of the room from whence it came, tried. A new interest seemed suddenly to the handle, and found it locked. He Laura replied ran back a little way and charged it volces. White with rage and passion he pushed and kicked madly. There him is a shot from inside, a bullet came ates to making inquiries, then she through the door within an inch of his probably left Hampstead for West head then the crash of broken crock see and a man's group. With a finalfort Quest dashed the door in and turnered into the room Lenora was standing in the far corner, the back. Professor what about you" out of her dress torn and blood upon her lips. She held a revolver in her fesser declared hand and was covering a min whose head and hands were bleeding Around | firmly, as she caught at Quest's arm. were the debus of a broken jux

"Mr Quest" she screamed "Don't so near him-live got him covered case they care to send a man down. Quest drew a long breath. The manwho stood glaring at him was well too where they were jutied by a man dressed and still young. He was un trum Scotland Yard. The little party

rined, however, and Quest secured him to a moment "The girl's mad!" he said softenly inc up the stairs. Quest relinquished down the water.

his religioner and went over to Lenors sobbed. They got me in here—they by cutch her. I'm afraid," he abled the net around this interesting couple. told me that this was the street in and last night I had information which my aunt lived and they ing this afternoon. We've had them horrible. And this afternoon this man Quest turned to Hardaway.

"I'll take the voong lady away." he Lenors had almost recovered when see, the time his in exectly if your as they reached the hotel. Walking up sistant decided to atop on her way to and down they found the professor Rensington and get some tea. She "My friend!" he exclaimed - "Mr. "My friend!" he exclaimed-"Mr

"Stolen There in the Conservatory!" "What do you noun?" Quest de

The professor wrong his hands. I put hom to our James II pris "You mean." Quest cried-

'He has escaped!" the professor broke in Craig has escaped again' They are searching for him high and low, but he has gone!

Quest's arm tightened for a moment In Lenova's. It was curious how be seemed to have lost at that moment all sense of proportion. Lamora was the relief of that one thought overshadowed everything elein the world The fellow can't get far." he mut-

Who knows" the professor reilled, dolefully

They had been standing together in a little recess of the hall. Suddenly Lenora, whose face was turned to ward the entrance doors, gave a little She took a quick step forward "Laura!" she exclaimed, wonder

"Why, it's Laura!" They all turned around. A young woman had just entered the hotel followed by a porter carrying som bookage. Her ager was in a sting and there was a bandage around her forhead. She walked, too with the helof a stick. She recognize I them at once and waved it garly

"Hullo, you people" she eried Soon run you to earth, ch" founded. Lenors was the great to unwords that when did you start Laura" she asked. "I thought you

The girl smiled contemptionsly I left three days after you on the Kalser Frederic," she replied was some trouble at Plymouth and we came into Southampton early this morning, and here I am. Sav. before

rang."
"We've had him Quest conferred triates where he had been conferring T.W. MASSAN J. A. WORREL, and lost him again. He caraged last with the other.

W. L. LONG, Rosnoke Eap ds. N. C.
W. L. LONG, Rosnoke Eap ds. N. C. Sand lost him again. He escaped last, with the pilot

Where from " I aura asked "Hamblin house

"Say is that anywhere near the south coast" the girl demanded ex

"If y not far neary" treest roulied. quickly. "Why?"

I'll tell and why," Laura explained I was as sure of it as anyone could be. Craix passed me in Southampton. to a steamer. Not only that, but he recognized me. I say, him draw back couldn't believe that it was really be-I was just coming down the gameway. and I nearly fell into the sea, I was no margemed?

Quest was already furning over the pages of the timetable.

What was the steamer" he de-I found out:" Laura tolit him "I tell you. I was so sure of it's being It was the Barton bound for

India, first stop Part Said " When does she sail" Quest asked Tonight somewhere about seven."

Quest glanced at the clock and

threw down the timetable. He turned toward the door. They all followed

"I'm for Southampton," he announced. "I'm going to try to get on Lenora, you'd beffer go upstairs and he down. They'll give you a rount "I shall accompany you." the pro-

"And nothing," Lenora declared. "would keep me away " "I'll telephone to Scotland Yard in

Onest decided They caught a train to Southamp-

"Where does the Harton start to one wanted to do not any harm." from " Quest taked the purmanter The man pointed out a little way

drove as quickly as possible to the

'She's not in dock, sir," he said "She's tring out rotalet. You'll bure glaneing at the clock They harmed to the edge of the

"Look here," Quest cried, raising his voice, 'I'll give a ten-pound note to anyone who gets me out to the Barton before she sails." The little party were almost thrown

into a fug, and in a few minutes they CTO BE CONTINUEDO were skimming across the smooth steamer, however, she began to move "Drut 'em" and 'dod rot 'em "Run up alongside," Quest ordered said to be contractions of May the

The captain came down from the gods outrout them."

HUSBAND RESCUED DESPAIRING WIFE

After Four Years of Discouraging I had gotten so weak I could not stand, Conditions, Mrs. Bullock Gave Up in Despair. Husband Came to Rescue

Catron, Ky.-In an interesting letter tiring me, and am doing all my work."

ment relieved my for a while but t was mend it. Begin taking Cardui today.

and I gave up in despair.

At last, my husband got me a bottle of Cardui, the woman's tonic, and I com+ menced taking it. From the very first dose, I could tell it was helping me. I can now walk two miles without its

from this place, Mrs. Bette Hannek. It you are all run down from womanly writes as follows: "I suffered for four froubles, don't give up in despair. Try years, with woman's troubles, and during Cardin, the woman's tonic. It has helped this time, I could only sit up tor a unite more than a million women, in its 50 while, and could not walk anywhere at years of continuous success, and should all. At times, I would have severe pages surely help you, too. Your druggist has sold Cardui for years. He knows what The doctor was called in, and his freat of will do. Ask him, He will recom-

reson confined to my bed again. After Will to Chartenings Medicine Co. Latter to Chartenings, France to Special that, nothing seemed to do me my good.

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as from the side there."

Quest Secures Him in a Moment

hourd your steamer." Quest explained

Are you from Scotland Yard or he had thate you got your warrant?

he are from America," Quest un

am seer on hour late." he said.

It I take you on heard, you'll

but I is course not fifty pounds a

less and the fellow before we've

Wife coming exptain. Quest de

A rope ladded was let down. The

said, "Pat Port Sald is a most inter-

swered for seeve got a Sextian

The exercise shook his head.

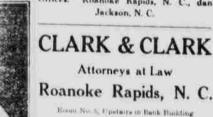
Buffigs the sent "tery

steamer began to slow down.

upon them all.

The variant shock his head

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Stores For Rent

Two Store Buildings, located in The captain spoke once more to Rosemary for rent. Apply to pilot and came down from the Rosemary Bank & Trust Company. One Brick Store Building, good to cross the bar," he told Quest, "I'm corner location, Roanoke Rapids, sorry but the tide's fast on the turn. Apply quick to First National Bank They looked at one another a little of Roadoke Rapids, N. C.

is them and the ways understood," he w. T. ROWLAND

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