

Black Box

THE GREAT MYSTERY STORY PRODUCED BY THE UNIVERSAL FILM MANUFACTURING CO.

Shown in the LEADING THEATRES GREATER NEW YORK

CHAPTER VIII. AURA, who had been busy with some papers at the farther end of the room, came over and joined them.

"Say, it's a dandy little affair, that, Mr. Quest," she exclaimed. "I had a try with it, a day or so ago. Jim spoke to me from Fifth Avenue."

"We've got it tuned to a shade now," Quest declared. "Equipped with this simple little device, you can speak to me from anywhere up to ten of a dozen miles."

Quest rose to his feet and moved restlessly about the room. "This is the first time in my life I have been so fix like this. Two cases on hand and nothing doing with either of them. Criminologist, indeed! Whose house is this?"

Quest had paused suddenly in front of an oak sideboard which stood against the wall. Occupying a position upon it of some prominence was a small black box whose presence Laura seemed to him unfamiliar.

"Never saw it before in my life," she answered. "I'm not one of those who has been in the room, and it's empty for some time now. Well, let's see what's inside, anyway."

He lifted off the lid. There was nothing in the interior but a sheet of paper folded up. Quest smoothed it out with his hand. They all leaned over and read the following words, written in an obviously disguised hand:

"You have embarked on a new study—anthropology. What characteristic traits you most forcibly in connection with it? Cunning is the nearest might be where the skeleton is. Why not begin at the beginning?"

utes ago the professor's servant, Craig, was there, listening? "Inspector French has had his men watching Craig ever since the night of the robbery," quietly remarked Quest. "What's that? Answer the telephone, Lenora."

Lenora obeyed. "It's Inspector French," she announced. "He wants to speak to you." Quest nodded and held out his hand for the receiver.

"Hello, French!" he exclaimed. "Anything fresh?" "Nothing much," was the answer. "One of my men, though, who has been up Mayton Avenue way, brought in something I found rather interesting this morning. I want you to come round and see it."

"Go right ahead and tell me about it," Quest invited. "You know we've been shadowing Craig," the inspector continued. "Not much luck up till now. Fellow seems never to leave his master's side. We have had a couple of men up there, though, and one of them brought in a curious-looking object he picked up just outside the back of the professor's grounds."

"What is the thing?" Quest asked. "Well, I want you to see whether you agree with me," French went on. "If you can't come round I'll come to you." "No necessity," Quest replied. "We've got over little difficulties of that sort. Laura, just tuck on the phototelephone," he added, holding the receiver away for a moment. "One moment, French. There, that's right," he added, as Laura, with deft fingers, arranged what seemed to be a sensitive receiver to the instrument. "Now, French, hold up the article just in front of the receiver. There, that's right. Hold it steady. I've got the focus of it now. Say, French, where did you say that was found?"

"Just outside the professor's back gate," French granted. "But you're not kidding me?" "It's a finger from the professor's skeleton you've got there," Quest interrupted. Quest hung up the receiver. Then he turned toward his two assistants. "Another finger from the professor's skeleton," he announced, "has been found just outside his grounds. What do you suppose that means?"

"Craig," Lenora declared confidently. "Craig on your life," Laura echoed. "Say, Mr. Quest, I've got an idea," Quest nodded.

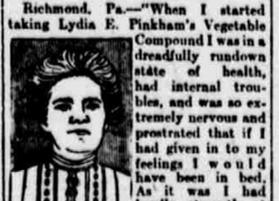
William Allen Jenner, member of the law firm of Wetmore & Jenner of No. 24 Pine Street, and a practicing attorney in New York since 1885, died yesterday at the Hotel New Weston, where he was spending the winter. The body was removed to his home, No. 128 East Sixty-third Street, which had been closed for the season. He was a descendant of Stephen Decatur.

Comtesse Jeanne de Madra, known in South Bend, Ind., as Mrs. Peter Veuve, is dead in a cottage where she made her home in the Indiana city. She was a schoolmate and intimate friend of the Empress Eugenie. Rudolph Buhgier, sixty-seven years old, inventor of electrical appliances, is dead of cirrhosis of the liver at his home, No. 316 West One Hundred and Thirtieth Street.

James Greenleaf Crowell, headmaster of the Brearley School and formerly President of the Schoolmasters' Association of New York, is dead at his home, No. 150 East Thirty-fourth Street.

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