The Black Box

SHOWN IN THE LEADING PICTURE THEATRES OF GREATER NEW YORK

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

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

[illegible]

CHAPTER XIX.

(Continued.)

THERE was a brief silence. The port had been placed upon the table and coffee served. The servants, according to the custom of the house, had departed. The great apartment was empty. Even Quest was impressed by some peculiar significance in the long-drawn-out silence. He looked around him uneasily. The growing regard of that long line of painted warriors seemed somehow to be full of menace. There was something grim too in the sight of those empty suits of armor.

"I may be superstitious," Lord Ashleigh said, "but there are times, especially just lately, when I seem to find a new and hateful quality in silence. What is it, I wonder? I ask you, but I think I know. It is the conviction that there is some alien presence, something disturbing, lurking close at hand."

He suddenly rose to his feet, pushed his chair back and walked to the window, which opened level with the ground. He threw it up and listened. Then the others came over and joined him. There was nothing to be heard but the distant hooting of an owl, and farther away the barking of some farm house dog. Lord Ashleigh stood there with straining eyes, gazing out across the park.

"There was something here," he muttered; "something which has gone. What's that? Quest, your eyes are younger than mine. Can you see anything underneath that tree?"

Quest peered out into the gray darkness.

"I fancied I saw something moving in the shadow of that oak," he muttered. "Wait."

He crossed the terrace, swung down on to the path, across a lawn, over a wire fence and into the park itself. All the time he kept his eyes fixed on a certain spot. When at last he reached the tree there was nothing there. He looked all around him. He stood and listened for several moments. A more utterly peaceful night of more utter peace it would be hard to imagine. Slowly he made his way back to the house.

"I imagine we're all a little nervy to-night," he remarked. "There's nothing doing out there."

They strolled about for an hour or more, looking into different rooms, showing the guests the finest pictures, even taking him down into the wonderful cellars. They parted early, but Quest stood, for a few moments before retiring, gazing about him with an air almost of awe. His great room, large as an apartment in an Italian palace, was lit by a dozen wax candles in silver candlesticks. His four-poster was supported by pillars of black oak, carved into strange forms, and surrounded by the Ashleigh armour and war-trophies. He threw his windows open wide and stood for a moment looking out across the park, more clearly visible now by the light of the slowly rising moon. There was scarcely a breeze stirring, scarcely a sound even from the animal world. Nevertheless, Quest, too, as resolutely he made his preparations for retiring for the night, was conscious of that queer sensation of unimagined and impalpable danger.

CHAPTER XX.

QUEST, notwithstanding the unusual nature of his surroundings, slept that night as only a tired and healthy man can. He was awakened the next morning by the quiet movements of a man servant who had brought back his clothes carefully brushed and pressed. He sat up in bed and discovered a small china tea equipage by his side.

"Say, what's this?" he inquired.

"Your tea, sir."

Quest drank half a cupful without protest.

"Your bath is ready at any time, sir."

"I'm coming right along," Quest replied, jumping out of bed.

The man held up a dressing gown and escorted him to an unexpectedly modern bath room at the end of the corridor. When Quest returned his toilet articles were all laid out for him with prim precision, the window was wide open, the blinds drawn, and a soft breeze was straying through into the room. Below him the park, looking more beautiful than ever in the morning sunshine, stretched away to a vista of distant meadow lands and cornfields with here and there a little farm house and outbuildings gathered snugly together. The servant, who had heard him leave the bath room, reappeared.

"Is there anything further I can do for you, sir?" he inquired.

"Nothing at all, thanks," Quest answered him. "What time's breakfast?"

"Breakfast is served at 8 o'clock, sir. It is now half past eight."

"I'll be right there."

The man withdrew and Quest made a brisk toilet. The careless fears of the previous night had altogether disappeared. To his sunny morning imagination the atmosphere seemed somehow to have became cleared of that cloud of mysterious depression. He was whistling to himself from sheer light-heartedness as he turned to leave the room. Then the shock came. 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 paper. He unfolded it and, leaning against the dressing chest and read the message.

"You will fail here as you have failed before. Better for you if you had never been born. There is more danger for you in this room by than you dream of."

(To Be Continued.)

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Lime Treatment in Tuberculosis

In the May 25, 1912, issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association appeared this statement concerning calcium (lime) medication in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption):

"Under the systematic, continued and persistent regime of calcium assimilation, Van Gieson has seen a number of his patients improve, undergo an exudation or partial consolidation in the lung, which then resolving would appear to contribute to the walling off and closing of the lesions. Hand in hand with this course of events, the sputum clears up of tubercle bacilli, which finally disappear, and the patients are discharged with healed pulmonary tuberculosis."

Ethical medical journals seldom speak so positively about a remedial agent, yet this testimony coincides with that from many consumptives who have secured like results through the use of Eckman's Alterative.

Since calcium is a constituent of this remedy for pulmonary tuberculosis and allied throat and bronchial affections, its healing power may in some measure be attributed to the manner in which this element is so combined with other ingredients as to be easily assimilated by the average person and it does not irritate the stomach.

Eckman's Alterative contains no opiates, narcotics or habit-forming drugs, so it is safe to try. If your druggist is out of it, ask him to order, or send direct to Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia.—Advt.

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TAMMANY MAY MOVE.

Murphy Element Favors Location With More Class.

The proposition to move Tammany Hall uptown will be discussed to-night at the annual meeting of the Tammany Society, but no decision will be reached. A big fight is expected when the matter is finally voted on. It was predicted to-day.

It appears there is a strong element headed by Charles F. Murphy and his closest lieutenants that believe the Wigwam should follow the trend of metropolitan development and get into a region with more "class." Others want to remain in Fourteenth Street. It is believed the Murphy wing will win and that within a year Tammany Hall will be at some central point in Manhattan.

Sites talked of are between Forty-second and Sixtieth streets and Third and West avenues. Union Square, Fifth Avenue and Madison Square are not favored.

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Park Theatre, Ozone Park, L. I.
Proctor's Theatre, Port Chester, N. Y.
Proctor's 23d St., 23d St., between 6th and 7th Aves., City.
Park Theatre, 55 Pary av., B'klyn, N.Y.
Whitney Theatre, Bennington, Vt.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20.

Manhattan Theatre, 1059 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Liberty Theatre, 408 E. 116th St., City.
Proctor's Theatre, Port Chester, N. Y.
Proctor's 23d St., 23d St., between 6th and 7th Aves., City.
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