

BLACKSHEP Gy Meredith Nicholson

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INTRODUCTION sister. A heavy storm forces him to uncles, and having sufficiently ex- asked he answered promptly. night he is awakened by footsteps, world he determined to eat lunch- ping at the Hotel Ganymede." is whisked across country in a stolen

car. . Sees story in newspaper of killing at Bailey Harbor and, frightened. he decides to say nothing but stick with his strange friend and await developments. At Cornford, N. H., Archie comes upon Isobel Perry at the hotel desk but she refuses to recognize him. The Governor, by a clever plan, switches stolen money for good money. Archie used as decoy-making love to niece of agent sent to meet eccentre Congdon here next day. Archie and the Governor drive away without creating suspicion and speed across state to deliver the \$60,000 to train-robber Leary at Walker's farm, where Archie gets new insight into workings of the crime world. . At the first opportunity Walker's daughter appeals to Archie to help her elope with a young farmhand. He decides to assist, cutting away from the Governor and taking the couple across state in a wild night ride. Seeing Sally onto the train-he is rewarded with a fond farewell kiss-and he turns to find Isabel Perry had witnessed the whole scene. Now read on-

whole scene. Isabel is not pleased at meeting Archie again and accuses him of spying upon her. She tells him that if he has really shot Putney Congdon as he claims, he has ruined a deepening conviction that the wo- "Mrs. George W. Kendall, 117 soon—I feel it coming. Our next "I must have at least one dance!" tel greatly mystified. Next morning dispiriting thought that there under It was incredible that any one Rochester." the Governor arrives—explains to his eyes, so close that the babble of could lie with so convincing an air. "Would you mind telling me just have the intermission." Archie that he has aided Sallie to the children occasionally reached He was satisfied that she was Mrs. what Rochester has to do with all He passed Ruth, returning to put

They proceed to New York to the Governor's home, where they are visited by Julia, the Governor's sister. Julia explains to Archie that her brother is passing through a strange phase—caused by a cruel shock some time before. Now read on:

CHAPTER V

and in an encounter with the intru- eon in the park restaurant. He "Business?" der, (who sees Archie's figure re- watched idly a young woman with "Broker, Nanonet Building, Bos- explanations followed and it was a of the conservatory. The Goverflected in the mirror and shoots. Ar- two children who occupied a table ton."

chie fires in return, wounding the in- directly in his line of vision. Chil- Mrs. Condgon had recoveded suf- The old man was as tickled with the chie saw her lift her head suddenly chie, fleeing, is afraid to tell the thoughts flying to Bailey Harbor. and exact. To Archie's surprise, said Archie, "when you hear what I tion. He moved forward as the Govtruth—falls in with "The Governor" He continued to inspect them with she gave her name as:

would hardly return before six. | ened for an instant to Archie's ex-

truder, who makes his escape. Ar- dren always interested him, and ficiently to tell her story, and to scheme as a boy with a new dog. He and her lips parted as though she chie plans flight to evade publicity. the boy was a handsome little fel- Archie's relief corroborated his now assists Perky to circulate the was about to make an outcry. Then He starts cross-country afoot in the low, but it was the girl who held own version in a manner to dispose spurious medium of exchange. Per- the Governor bowed low over her night. At dawn he is stopped on a Archie's attention, with a perplex- of any question as to his inno- ky say's he's a wonderful ally, en- hand, uttering explanations in a low lonely country road by "The Gover- ed sense that he had seen her be cence. Her composure struck Ar- dowed with all the qualities of a first tone. Her surprise had yielded to nor," master-mind criminal who mis- fore. The fine oval face, the eyes chie as remarkable and her replies class crook." takes him for a fellow criminal. Ar- dancing with merriment, sent his to the officer's questions were brief "You'll appreciate that better," an expression of relief and satisfac-



light. He read the two sheets to himself eagerly; then demanded a second match and read aloud:

He tore open

the envelope and

his fingers trem-

bied as he held

the note to the

meal hurriedly and were already eral machines offered to take her tain tile in a summer house where was happiness in her eyes. "How paying their check. He watched home, she glanced about uncertain- my adored promised to leave a mes- perfectly ridiculous you two men cry of a child in terror.

When the Governor, reappeared "Help! Help! Oh, Edith! Edith!

again alone for a few moments, she Rounding a curve in the path he For a few minutes she was busy now."

"If anything should happen to Archie redoubled his pace, passed searching gaze of her gray eys. him I should like to know. It was Mrs. Condgon and gained the car "You are a gentleman"; I am sure Your stars have certainly made a "You are beginning to believe at understood between us when he as the man with the child in his of that; and I feel that I can trust monkey of you this time! You talk last " called me by telephone this morn- armbs, jumped into it. The car was you. I am in a strange predica- like a nonsense book! How much luging that I was not to hint in any moving rapidly and a man's voice ment, and I'm forced to ask your gage are we taking?-way as to his identity, or mine, for bade the driver hurry. Within the help. The name and address I gave The Governor rang for Timmons much do you understand of it?" that matter, and I shall not break child's screams were suddenly stifl- the police were fictitious. I know to do their packing and fell upon "Precious little! Your Isabel and faith with him. I trust you com- ed, the door swung open for an in- it has a queer look; but I had to a time table. pletely. I shall be at that address stant, and a blow, delivered full in do it. I know perfectly well who They wrote themselves down on friends indeed. That's news to you,

Archie learned from Baring, who Congdon stood beside him moaning er-in-law who cordially dislikes me." had engaged by wire. A short for what I prefer you should hear brought up his breakfast, that the and wringing her hand. A mounted "Of course I'm not going to time later Archie found himself from Isabel—I got it from Ruth—

marry a notorious diamond thief— him across the intervening tables, Condgon, and that the child she this?" demanded Archie testily.

ection and chose a parallel course "Pardon me, but if I can serve post-office is at Rochester; there the Governor when they had found a Then a piercing scream, the shrill "Thank you," she said with reabout this time of year she's likely "It's nearing the end!" he said

until the first of October. You can the face, sent Archie reeling into the carried away my little girl. The the hotel register at Rochester as isn't it?"

dress I gave were both false."

brought into it."

planning mischief in secret.

"The little girl," he ventured; "you are not apprensive about her?" dren. It was quite like him to at- ered Archie's face. "Strike a match THANKSGIVING TURKEY tempt to carry off the little girl, al- before I perish." to put the children quite out of my to himself eagerly; then demanded a husband's way. It's rather odd, as second match and read aloud:

CHAPTER VI Refreshed by a nap and a shower, The match curled and fell upon a few minutes later.

able line of business."

park. The police had not yet learn- out," Archie remarked. ed that the two most important wit- "What! Leave this sacred soil affair, the two encounters with Isa- our wits to get us out alive. bel and his meeting with Mrs. Cong- He urged Archie, still resisting, don. His resolution strengthened through the grounds to the front enwhen the Governor appeared, dressed trance, where they were admitted

"Odd, you might almost say sin- hand.

gular! I've crossed old man Cong- "Mrs. Lindsay, my friend, Mr. Well, I met today one of the most along." remarkable of all the men I know "I should have been displeased if is his name—a jeweler by trade, he friend of yours, you know!" fell from his high estate and went on Other arrivals facilitated their es-Archibald Bennett, wealthy basch- Later he chose a stick with care planations, and, sounding his whis- the road as a yegg—then entered in- cape, and as they stepped into the elor, travels constantly in the inter- from a rack at the front door, tle, set off after the car at a gallop. to the game of boring neat holes in conservatory the music ceased and est of his health. He meets Isabel walked to the Avenue and turned Mrs. Condgon had fainted. Ar- the rim of twenty-dollar gild pieces, there was a flutter as the dancers Perry, who recommends a life of determinedly cityward, walking chie's nose bled from the rap in the leaving only the outer shell and fill- sought seats, or stepped out upon the crime, adventure, romance and ex jauntily. He grinned as he saw face and his back ached where he ing 'em up with a composition he in- lawn. Archie, acutely uncomfortcitement as a cure for his nerves. seated in the upper window of the had struck the earth. The sergeant vented that made the coin ring like able, heard the Governor stifle an ex-Archie goes to Bailey Horbor to in- most conservative of all his clubs plied him with questions which he a marriage bell. While he was still clamation. vestigate a summer house for his one of his several prosperous answered carefully. When his was experimenting he ran into old Eli- "That is she! Stand by me now! phalet sitting with his famous um- That chap's just left her. This is spend the night there. During the posed himself to the eyes of the "John B. Wright, Boston; stop- brella on a bench in Boston Com- our chance!" mon. Perky thought Eliphalet was A young woman was just seating

know about the Condgon family. ernor tudned toward him. You've been mighty decent in not "Miss Hastings, Mr. Comly." pressing me for any account of my- "My name here," the Governor self, but you've got to hear my was saying, "is Saulsbury." story now. We'll probably both be "I think," said Archie, "that the things have happened since I left friend I must introduce you to." Bailey Harbor that you don't know "Oh, Isabel!" about, things that I haven't dared Following her gaze he was glad tell you, that I'm going to spout it of the slight pressure of her hand all now and here. If you want to on his arm. Here at least was somechuck me when you've heard it, well thing tangible in a world that totterenough; but I don't mind saying that ed toward chaos. For it was Isabel to part with you would hurt me ter- Perry who turned at the sound o' ribly. I never felt so dependent on Ruth's voice.

grown mighty fond of you, old man." "Oh, Mr. Comly!" There was "Thank you, lad," said the Gov- the slightest stress on the assumed tion. When Archie finished he rose Ruth back to the Governor. and clapped him on the shoulder.

with mock resentment. She will accost her. dawn upon your gaze again very "I am not to be eluded!" he said.

and that Sallie had deceived him was the family of the man he had called Edith was the original of the "My dear boy, Rochester is one ner. photograph he had seen at Bailey of the suburbs of Paradise. You "This is your punishment for com-The Condgons had eaten their Harbor. When the owners of sev- may recall that I told you of a cer- ing late!" laughed the girl. There

them move away toward the in- ly and her eyes falling upon him sage for me if her heart softened or are!" terior of the park, marked their dirseemed to invite his assistance.
she needed me. Well, the secret "Suppose we talk a bit," said the lief. "I must get away from this; to be there. And if you knew the solemnly. "There are other chang-Julia and Archie were seemingly in The cries sent him at a run to- He put her and the boy into a stand my calculations you'd see that is in sight. The whole thing was unthe midst of a leisurely discussion of ward the place in which he left the taxi, and instructed the driver to go your Isabel is likely to have some alterable from the beginning; it

> deep in thought, turned to met the that her business was all to be in bound together by ties not of earthnorthern Michigan this summer. ly making."

man and woman you say in the car Saulsbury and Comly and were "Most astonishing news!" Shortly after, she took her leave. When he gained his feet, Mrs. were servants employed by my fath- quickly in the rooms the Governor "And now I'll prepare you a little

drive to the Altmore, ladies' endential area where the Governor distinct pistol shot in the Congdon DR. H. C. HUGHES door and take another taxi. I'm continued afoot for sevral blocks. | me world!" only sorry your name had to be The Governor ran his stick along the top of a wall that grimly guard-

"You needn't bother about that ed the rear of the premises. He at all," Archie replied with a reas- caught the edge and was quickly Minute when he entered college." suring smile. "The name and ad- on top. When Archie hung back the Governor grasped him by the He looked at her covertly and they arms and swung him up and laughed with the mirth of children dropped him into a dark corner of the garden. Then he left him with send a telegram?" the injunction to remain where he

"Not in the slightest. My father- "Archie! Oh, Archie!" the Govin-law is most disagreeably eccen- ernor whispered excitedly, brushtric, but he is very fond of my chil- ing an envelope across the bewild-

ways a particular pet of his. I was He tore open the envelope and his shocked, of course, when it happen- fingers trembled as he held the note , ed. But I am not worried. I meant to the light. He read the two sheets Fure Pepper and Celery Seed Special Attention Given

understand that I promise nothing, This, uttered musingly, gave Ar- but it is very possible that you may chie a perturbed moment. But the be able to serve me. My aunt is car had reached the Altmore, and giving a party for me Thursday TOULSON'S DRUG STORE CHESTERTOWN, MD. how best to arrange for a short in-"Thank you, very much," she terview the day following. A very said, in a tone that dismissed him. dear friend needs help. The matter is urgent.

Archie was dressed and waiting for Archie's fingers. A tense silence the Governor at seven, who arrived lay upon the garden. The Governor clasped Archie's hand tightly. "Here's an extra I picked up "It has come as I always knew it

downtown. The scream of the eve- would come! And something tells ning is a kidnapping-most deplor- me I am near the end. Even with all my faith, boy, it's staggering. And While Archie waited for the Gov- this is the very night of the dance." ernor to dress, he carefully read the "It's about time for us to clear

nesses had given fictitious names. | when she's here? Not on your life, | In spite of the Governors' fre- Archie! I shall not leave till I've account of the kidnapping in the had speech with her." The festal quently avowed assertion that he occasion offers an ideal opportuwished to know nothing about him, nity for the meeting! It's going to Archie felt strongly impelled to make be a big affair and we can merge a clean breast of the Bailey Harbor with the happy throng and trust to

with his usual care and exhilarated with several other guests who arrivby his day's adventures. Baring re- ed at the moment. The stately old tired after the dinner had been serv- lady in the drawing room lifted a ed, and the Governor, in cizy accord lorgnette as they approached, smiled with his migar, remarked suddenly: affably and gave the Governor her

don's trail again! You recall him- Comly. He arrived unexpectedly the old boy we left to the tender an hour ago and I thought you mercies of Seebrook and Walters'. wouldn't mind my bringing him

who camp outside the pale. Perky you had hesitated a moment-any

a stool pigeon for a con outfit, but herself in a chair at the farther end case of infatuation on both sides. nor moved toward her quickly. Arwhat Archie, loitering behind, thought

more comfortable if I don't tell you moment has come for me to retire." my name, but you shall have that, "We shall not turn you adrift!" too, if you care for it. So many cried Ruth. "I have a very dear

any man as I do on you; and I've "Miss Perry, Mr. Comly!"

name. "After this dance-"

He listened patiently, nodding oc- She slipped away, leaving him casionally or throwing in a ques- staring, and Archie, in a daze, lead At the conclusion of the number, "By Jove, you've tossed my stars Isabel remained, to Archie's dis-

around like so many dice! I've got comfiture, at the farther end of the to consult the oracles immediately." platform, and when he hurried for-He darted from the room, and ward in the hope of detaching her when Archie reached his study the from the group that surrounded her Governor was poring over a map of she did not see him at all, which was wholly discouraging. A partner "Your Isabel's all tangled up in sought her for the next dance and as our affairs!" declared the Governor the music struck up he made bold to

move is outlined—we must go to "My card is filled—but I am re-

business in that neighborhood just makes little difference what we do slipped a sealed envelope into his saw a man rushing down the road comforting the child and Archie, "Rubbish! I happen to know have brought it all about. We are

"I don't know what to believe,"

Archie answered slowly. "Just how my Ruth are friends, quite intimate

Governor had left the house, and policeman rode upon the scene, list- Brooklyn. Please tell the man to whisked away to a handsome resi- you're not quite finished yet with

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

"My son changed his name to "What for?" "Minutes always pass."

Harold: "What will it cost to Telegraph Clerk: "Where to?" Harold (softly): "Ruth."

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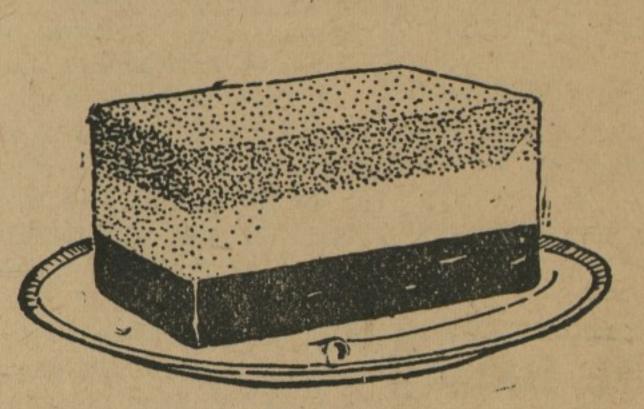
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