attention."



Gy Meredith Nicholson

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INTRODUCTION

crime, adventure, romance and excite- enjoyed her surprise. ey Harbor to investigate a house for business I should begin screaming. the handle of a penknife. his sister—and spends the night in How did you know the child's name? "Not many of those things in cir- don't assume that we shall ride all by footsteps during the night; the in- dons?' ed the man, but fearing the publicity, whisk the child away to your camp, Governor. plans to make his escape. In his flight when I ran into you. You had misshe meets "The Governor"—a master- ed connections with the mother and a fellow criminal. Archie, afraid to or frustrate you? I had troubles of tell the truth, falls in . with . "The my own and you couldn't have done Governor.' A series of events lead me a greater wrong!" him to believe he has shot Putney "Mrs. Congdon was in a panic, Congdon—the owner of the house. skipping about with the children to ed it back with a smile. They procede to New York, where avoid her husband; but it was really they are visited by Julia, the Governor's sister. . Archie promises her he will stick with the Governor through the strange phase she claims he is passing through. While strolling in the park, Archie sees Mrs. Congdon with her two children, and is witness to the kidnapping of the little girl, Edith. He learns from the Governor that the father-in-law of Mrs. Congdon—a very wealthy man—is engaged in the circulation of counterfeit twenty-dollar gold pieces. They go to Rochester, where the Governor receives a letter from Ruth, the girl he loves, in which she tells him he may be able to serve her. . At a dance at Ruth's home, Archie meets Isabel! Now read on:

"In spite of my warnings you continue to follow me!" said Isabel when they were established in the supper room.

"Are we to have another row? I don't believe I can go through with

"No; for rows haven't got us anywhere. And Ruth whispered to me a moment ago to be very nice to you. While the gentleman on the other side of me is occupied we might clear up matters a little."

"It's not in my theory of life to explain things; I tried explaining myself at Portsmouth and again at her father-in-law who was pursuing I had a couple of million just like Bennington but you were singularly her. Mrs. Congdon loves her hus- it." and tell me why you were skipping devoted to her, but the father-in-law the man remarked with a grin.

suspect everyone. When you said up in Michigan." you'd shot Putney Congdon you you did nothing of the kind!"

full justce. The people about us date." mustn't get the idea that we're discussing homicide. Now, to answer your question, I had shot Mr. Putmade me chatter like a maniac when ed he said:

I saw you."

remarked, and picked up the nap- gold piece on the show case. The as farm hands eager to step softly handle 'em all right."

mind criminal who mistakes him for thought I was trying to embarrass

Isabel Perry recommends a life of kin that slipped from her knees. He Governor purchased some cigarettes upon the yielding clod. We go by and while waiting for change nodded trolley a little way, and if you have ment as a cure for Archibald Ben- "If I hadn't been warned by Ruth to the stranger who absently respond- never surveyed the verduous Ohio nett's nerves. Archie goes to Bail- that you were to be trusted in this ed and began tapping the coin with Valley from a careening trolley car

the empty house. He is awakened What do you know about the Cong- culation nowadays," the Governor re- the way; it's afoot for us, Archie! marked, thrusting the cigarettes into We shall be tramps seeking honest truder fires at him and misses. Ar- "Volumes! Let my imagaination his pocket. The stranger carelessly labor but awfully choosey about the chie fires in return. He doesn't know play on your confession. You were inspected the two gentlemen in even- jobs we take!" whether he has killed or only wound- trying to find Mrs. Congdon and ing dress and handed the coin to the The first night they slept in a

The Governor turned the gold disk the light and then flung it sharply on the wooden end of the counter,

"The real thing, all right! Wish



"It occurred to me after the Ben- undetected. I was to run with Ed- set in, bearing us one."

edly, finding that Isabel knew noth- New England and the Government is in one direction; the Governor in If you will jump into the car you ing about him beyond a shadowy im- not ignoring the matter. ney Congdon and in edging away that he was a wanderer who had derived from Ruth that h from the scene of my bloodshed I that he was a wanderer who had don has been here lately?" asked An hour later, wandering idly catch you. You needn't have a fear was guilty of other indiscretions that charmed her fancy. When he finish- Archie.

I suppose; there's a young blade azine. Congdon bought some stog- been smoking our pipes off yonder woman with a look of fear—jump-"My own nerves had gone to at the door looking for you now. Is ies at the cigar stand and changed in the woods. He says old Eli- ed himbly into the machine. pieces or I shouldn't have flared there any way I can serve you?" that twenty. "We're all loaded for phalet is more and more delighted

I am wholly satisfied that you weren't back to the hotel in the best of him and from his data we can keep ference with Perky and said so: trying to thwart my own criminal humor. As they cross the lobby the tab on the old boy. Dobbs knows "My dear boy, suspense is good things around the house probably adventures. When we met at Ports- Governor suddenly slapped his pock- nothing of the kidnapping; it's the for the soul; I'm merely cultivating refers to the furnace. mouth I was trying to meet poor ets and walked up to the cigar stand. gold piece that interests him. I over- in you the joy of surprise. The Mrs. Congdon somewhere to help A tall men in a gray traveling cap heard enough to know we're on the discipline of waiting will sharpen What a curiosity a picture of a

trains and searching hotel registers came here to meet Ruth, who is an lose!" he said when they reached daughter?" and manifesting uneasiness when pol- old friend of hers, hoping she might their rooms. "There will be cross- "Much as I hate to anticipate, occupied with her book and apparentbe able to deliver the little girl to me currents yet; but a strong tide has Archie, it's not only little Edith ly oblivious to the traffic on the road.

been unjust, but I was in a humor to Dreams, my girl's camp, you know, ernment specialist in counterfeitful to pass on the unwary. The old like honest men anyhow."

"Only a day or two ago! I picked to the Governor.

all over New England, darting thru is a malicious mischief maker! I "It doesn't seem possible we can plantation and kidnap his grand- drawing up under a tree at the road-

nington interview that I might have the bend ith as hard as I could for Heart O' "That chap was Dobbs, a Gov- to steal the old man too!" ers, and that twenty-dollar piece "I never saw a tramp yet that him. It passed the gate more rap-

"How stupid I am! With a word had almost the true ring, but not was worth his breakfast," snarled idly than on previous occasions, but frightened me to death. Of course you might have made unnecessary quite. The man who turned it out Grubbs, the foreman of Eliphalet slowed down at once and a familiar our two altercations! We have but showed me the difference only yes- Congdon's farm. "There's some voice said:-"This is wonderful chicken salad," a moment more, and I shall give you terday. Perky? Certainly! He said old hats in the barn; shed them pies "Edith—Miss Edith Congdon," he said, hastily. "I beg you to do it line tabloid form my adventures to Eliphalet Congdon had taken a bag- y' got on yer heads and try t' look said the Governor, smiling. "Your

over to your Isabel and my Ruth. A sparkling robe-" very pretty job, demanding our best "Leave me here! My God man,"

"But we're not leaving here un wilderness!"

"You were about to say that we quite so vociferous! This much I can't shake the dust of Rochester will import; tomorrow morning Perfrom our sandals before we've made ky will whisper to Eliphalet that the our party calls. Alas, no! We shall Government is wise to the gold piece not communicate with our ladies trick and that they are watched. again. First we must justify their Perky will throw a scare into him and confidence in us and find the Cong- then he'll advise him to beat it, and don child. It's still the open road the old chap will throw his arms THANKSGIVING TURKEY for us, Archie. Good-night and around Perky's neck and beg for propleasant dreams!"

constables go hang!"

At Buffalo the Governor made earnest efforts to rent a yacht, with- he leaves." out confiding to Archie just what use he expected to make of it. No yachts being in the market, the Governor set about hiring a tug, and did in fact lease one for a month from a dredging company, paying cash and the wages of the crew in advance, and reserving an option to buy. The Arthur B. Grover was to be sent to Cleveland and held there for orders. He might want to negotiate the lakes as far as Duluth, he told the president of the company, when the singular Mr. Saulsbury

intended to be prohibitive. "We must be ready for anything," he remarked to Archie. "The signs point to a disturbance of great waters, and there's nothing like being

as to his mentor's connection with headed for when you haven't told the underworld of which he talked me!" entertainingly was removed. Reaching the city at midnight the car was left at a garage downtown. at an ill-smelling boarding house. bless you!" Here, the Governor informed him, professions were received.

Next morning Archie was dragged from the hardest bed he had eve slept in.

"No more scented soap!" cried the Governor. Here's where we get down to brass tacks and let our whiskers flourish!"

He threw a rough suit of clothes on a chair and bade Archie get into it as quickly as possible.

you have a joy coming to you. But

barn, without leave, begged a "What d'ye think of that?" he breakfast and walked until Archie cried for mercy. At the end the fourth day as they kicked their the place. heels against the pier of a bridge that spanned the Sandusky, watchwhere it rang musically. He hand- ing the stars slip into their places in the soft tender sky, the Governor's only another ironic turn of fate. The

bedestrian approaching from the where, that's Perky. A punctual for our meeting, and he should bear tidings of interest in our affairs." The man, who was dressed like on the abutment.

pasture?" the Governor inquired. "The little lamb is not happy. The this was either the Governor's New father is expected tonight. I've got York chauffeur or some one who orders to chop wood while he's on bore a strikingly resemblance to him. the reservation."

trick and you drop into the back- he passed her. There could be no

"The son has been long on the road. What caused him to linger?" again—this time in a more powerful has it; and repairs have been made caught a glimpse of the Governor eastern sea."

willing hands? Shall we find, wel- car was making their circuits of the come as laborers keen for the har- farm to enable the occupants to get vest?" asked the Governor. "The slave driver weeps for lack jously the next appearance of the

of help and the pay is high. You machine. When at the end of a will be welcome. When the sun quarter of an hour it shot into view makes its shortest shadow tomorrow Archie was at the farthest point from you will sign papers for the voyage." the gate indicated by the woman as "Do I understand," Archie ask- the range of Edith's exercise. unsympathetic. Please be generous band and from what Ruth says he's "It's a good thing you haven't!" ed at length, "that tomorrow we're "That girth needs pulling up a lit-

we're going to kidnap! We're going Archie pretended to be having trou-

CHAPTER VII

as I did at Portsmouth and I was "Ruth has explained all that to Eliphalet, Archie. After you told with his work. The more he's deeven more irresponsible when I saw Mr. Saulsbury by now. She felt me your kidnapping story, I tele- lighted the better the sport for us." An examination would probably you in that parlor car at Bennington. sure that he would help; and, be- graphed to Perky for all the possible "I don't see where the sport reveal that a woman's handbag con-And please don't think that because lieve me, I have confidence in you." places where the old man might be. comes in!" said Archie testily. He tains about as many useless things I am showing you so much tolerance Archie and the Governor walked Perky has ranged the country with resented his exclusion from the con- as a man's pocket.

was talking earnestly to the clerk, right track. Eliphalet Congdon your wits, which is important, as winner of a beauty contest wearing "Edith—a lovely child," Archie meanwhile spinning a twenty-dollar owns a farm in Ohio. Perky spent a I mean to honor you with consid- clothes would be.

I'm not going to be stranded in this

"Patience, little brother, and not tection. And Perky with a reputa-The new car which the Governor tion for never deserting a pal, will purchased proved to be a racer seize him firmly by the hand and Pure Pepper and Celery Seed and he drove it with the speed of a away they'll go. Next, I take the litking's messenger bearing fateful tid- the girl into my care and start for the "We ride for our ladies! Let the to watch Mr. Putney Congdon. The lighest Quality Rubbed Sage part I'm assigning you flatters your intelligence. You are to watch Put-

> "Cut that rubbish and listen to TOULSON'S DRUG STORE me," said Archie, his voice quavering with anger; "you think I'm go-

ney Congdon and follow him when

stays all summer!" "He won't." the Governor answered. "He's going to follow that child of his if it leads him to kingdom come! If you want to see your Isabel again, follow Putney Congdon. You will of course be a model of discretion, but-" "Do you mean to say you'll tell who was surprised and chagrined him where you're taking his child?" "I shall not of course spoil the readily accepted a figure that was joy of the kidnapping by taking Putney into my confidence, but after the child's well out of the way I shall send him a wire telling him where his daughter may be found—a gentle hint, but sufficient to tease his cur-

"You'll wire him where you're

"I'll just whisper the address in your ear and you'll do well to remember it. Heart o' Dreams Camp, their trunks expressed to Chicago, Huddleston, Michigan! post office, and they arrived by a devious course Calderville. Good-bye and God

But the Governor's blessing failed only the aristocracy of the preying to dispel the gloom that settled upon Archie as he crept through the shed where the laborers were housed and found his cct. The morning opened auspiciously

> with a raking from Grubbs, who, finding the Governor had decamped, most ungenerously held Archie responsible for his departure.

Look here, he asked suddenly, d'ye know anything about horses?" "Oh, I've always been around "We shall leave this thriving city horses," said Archie. Guess I can

"Well, go to the barn and clean up the pony, and clap on a boy's saddle you'll find there; and there's a sorrel mare in the last stall on the left you can take. The old man's granddaughter wants to ride. I gotta waste a horse right now so a grown man can play with a kid! Guess all them Congdon's got something wrong with 'em! The old man's skipped this morning without sayin' whether he'd ever be back again-not only that, but he's took a scrub I was usin' as handy man on

Archie set off stolidly for the barn. His appointment as groom for the daughter of Putney Congdon was quick ear detected the step of a child came running into the barn lot followed by the woman who had been a party to her abduction, and danced "Unless we've missed a turn some- joyfully toward the pony. The woman, after watching for a moment chap; this is the exact time and place or two, was satisfied that the groom was a master horseman and sat down

on the grass by the gate to read. Archie, in his anxiety to save a farm laborer, responded careless- the child from mishap, had given ly to the Governor's greeting, and little attention to the traffic on the swung himself to a seat beside him road until he awoke to the fact that the same touring car had pass-"What news of the lamb in the ed twice within a short period—and it flashed upon him in a moment that The woman's attention was wholly re-"The son is not wise to the metal laxed and she scarcely glanced up as better opportunity for the seizure, as "The true word has been spoken. the laborers were widely distributed

over the farm. The gray-clad chauffeur passed "A broken arm, so the old man car. He made no sign but Archie in a hospital at Portland by the busily talking with a strange man. Convinced now that the Governor's "Is there work in the fields for plans were culminating and that the their bearings, Archie awaited anx-

going to find jobs on Eliphalet's tle; let's dismount here," said Archie, ble with the saddle as he filled in the time necessary for the car to reach

Of the Governor he spoke guard- boy had changed a lot of them in After supper Perky strolled away and I've come to take you to her. another, and Archie, left to his own will see her very soon. We must about the premises, he stumbled in- in the world. Will you trust me?" "We can't stay here any longer, that up while I was buying my mag- "Mooning? Perky and I have then glancing at the approaching

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

The man who brags about running

## month there boring out gold pieces. erable responsibility and leave you What we've got to do, Archie, is to here when I depart, which will be find the Congdon child and turn her tonight as dewy eve spreads her

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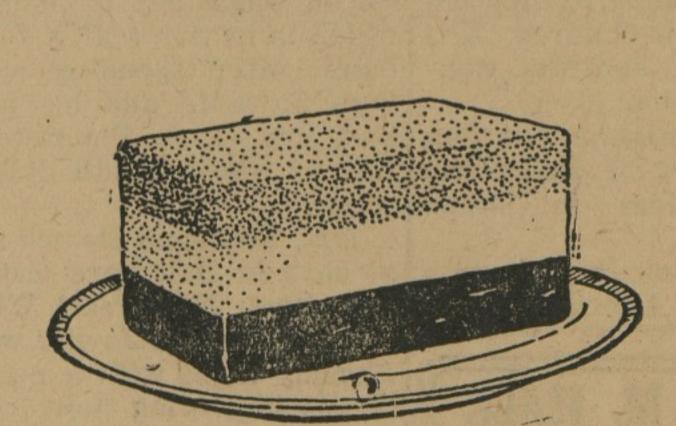
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