## The Bree Press Shart Story .

## THE YELLOW MASK

MAY EMERY HALL

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He, therefore, left the conversation

"I wasn't speaking of business oppor-

if you'll excuse my saying so, -Y-think

tence and Ronald was not sorry. At

of course," supplemented Sidney.

laboratory assistant, cook, and

wer. Right away."

you're not through lunch."

hough such a trip were in prospect.

We mentioned a village about five

alacrity. "But, Dad," objected, Ronald,

"I know, Son, cturned his father.

utes' delay might make considerable dif-

a word suspiciously like "Bunk!"

all-this-missionary-effort is-"

uddressed Sidney.

object of plty."

Ronald listened, tense.

HE last of Doctor Forrest's morn-plater. Had his mother lived, Ronald feling patients was just leaving sure she would have desired no better his office! in the missionary future for her son. compound as the doctor's son, Ronald, accompanied by Sidney Borden, turned mustly to the others at table, who were in at the gate. Sidney was Ronald's besides Doctor Forrest, Merle Carroll friend, on a week's visit from Shanghal. Mrs. Carroll, and Guy Oliver, a young Both young men spoke the native dialect Princton graduate. This was Guy's with case, having lived long enough-in arst missionary post and he brought to that section of China to have mastered it all the fresh enthusiasm and idealism

It was, therefore, in Sun Ming's own tongud that Ronald called out to him, -Well, how is the infected hand getting along, Sun Ming? Is my father still helping you?"

The keen, intelligent face of Sun Ming lighted up with gratitude. "Oh, much, very much," was his enthusiastic response. Turning to Sidney, "I am pleased to meet Mr. Ronald Forrest's honorable friend again," he added with formal pollteness.

Sidney acknowledged the deep bow of the young Chinese with a stiff nod, rejoinder. "He's never been sorry for . Not a word accompanied it, to Ronald's a minute that the oil people transferred embarrassment and disappointment. He him from the New York office." tried to make up for his friend's unaccountable coldness by throwing more tunities," went on the young missioncordiality than usual into his good-by. ary, "but of-" "You'll be around in the morning us usual, I suppose, Sun Ming? You're not dismissed-yet, are you?"--"It is yet one week," explained Sun

Ming, "that your honorable father doetor desires that I come to him."

"Well, so long, Sun Ming,." Ronald had amused himself by teaching his Chinese friend a few Americanisms.

"Song long, Mr. Ronald Forrest," re turned Sun Ming with unsmilling gravity The compound gate closed on the yellow-robed figure. Immediately Ronnid turned on Skiney, a flush of annoyance on his face. "Why couldn't you have been decent to him, Sid?" he inguired. "Sun Ming is a good sort Since he has been coming to father for treatment, he has become greatly interested in the mission-"

"You think he has," came the cool comment from his friend.

"I know it!" asserted Ronald hotly "Why, he would do anything-"

"To further his own interests," added Sidney . quickly. "Like all the yellow natives hereabouts. Don't let them take you in, Ron. What do you know about this Sun Ming, anyway?" "Oh, a lot!"

"Yes, but just what?" pursued Sidney. "How did he get that wound of his, for instance?"

"He didn't say," replied Ronald some what moodlly. "Where does he live?" came Sidney s

next question. "Across the river, temporarily, with a friend, so as to be near the clinic."

"Where's his real home?" went Sidney ... "Up the river." "That's definite!" came the sarcastic

"Is he poor, well-to-do, or what?" "They say that Sun Mine is really

possessed of considerable wealth," proudly declared Ronald. "Well, that part of the story I can well believe," hinted his friend.

"See here. Sid." suddenly flared up Ronald. "What's at the back of all this? If you'll excuse my saying so, I'm dead sick of your questionnaire."

"What's at the back of it?" echoed Sidney. "You won't like it if I tell "Oh, what is it?" impatiently demand-

ed Ronald. "Speak up!" Sidney looked cautiously about him before answering, and when he spoke. lowered his voice. "Your precious Sun

Ming is a bandit chief," he announced alowly. Por a few minutes Ronald merely stared at his friend in stupefied bewilder-

come, 8ld," he began. -"I'm telling you the truth," doggedly maintained Sidney. "I've had inside information and know what I'm saying.'

ment. Was Sidney going crazy? "Oh,

"Inside nothing!" rudely interrupted Ronald. "Do you really want to know how .I

know?" went on Sidney. Ronald sobered quickly. "No, I don't!" he exclaimed. "It's too absurd a charge to waste another word on."

"But if anything ever happens, Ron, warned Sidney, "don't blame me for not putting you on your guard."

"Nothing is going to happen," came the assured answer; "at least, as far as Sun Ming is concerned. I konw what's the matter. You've got Sun Ming mixed up with that rascally old river pirate. Kwong Loo, who's due for another visit about now. He terrifies the district periodically, you know."

Sidney remained adamant. "I'm not talking of Kwong Loo," he declared with decision, "but of Sun Ming."

The two went indoors for lunch, but there was a construined silence between them. Ronald knew perfectly well he should treat his guest with greater courtesy, but he could not quite forgive Sidney for his unfounded insinuations. Why they even reflected on his father who, according to Sidney, was making a futile sucrifice of himself for ungrateful, self-seeking natives! They reflected on himself, too, for he hoped to followin his father's footsteps a few years

tinctly alarmed and he knew that Sidney shared his uneasiness. None of the other mission workers, however, gave much thought to the doctor's absence, having accustomed themselves to the

vicissitudes of their daily program. The leaden hours dragged wearily on, each filled with horrors conjured up by break he was up and rousing Wah Yee. Ming? Take my boat and row across to Sun Ming," he ordered. "Tell him I must see him at 'once. Bring, him back with

The tcheme Ronald had in mind had not yet worked out in detail. general, he meant to ask Sun Ming's co-operation in locating his father. Impatiently he run down to the shore. of youth pledged to service. "Pity you Wah Yee was already on the way back. are not planning to be one of us he

Was there only one figure in the boat? Yes, he was alone! "Sun Ming-where Is he?" 'called out Ronald before Wah Yee had a chance to land. 'Pity?" repeated Bldney. Ronald could see that, he was a trifle nettled. "Gone," was the monosyllable answer.

Well, really, I don't consider myself an "Gone? Gone where?" "Up river, yesterday."

"But he was not to leave for a west "Oh, I don't mean that, exactly," Guy yet. He told me so himself." hastened to reply. "But the Orient, "Don't know," replied the kitchen boy China especially, offers such wonderful carelessly, as he pattered back to the yourself."

compound by Ronald's side. "That's what Dad thinks," came the ly. Wah Yee's carelessness was alto- he will explain," he relievated with dig- of ten or twelve feet of earth before it gether too apparent to be genuine. He nity. "If Mr. Ronald Forrest will honor can enter the well, and if the earth is in war putting it on!

Ronald assumed indifference in turn. about Sun Ming," he said. "The only thing that counts with you,

Wah Yee's face became a yellow mask Trave you heard them, too, I wonder Wah Yee?" went on Ronald. "About his being a bandit oblet " The yellow. He had no chance to finish his sen- mask twitched.

"Then they are true!" that moment Doctor Porrest's servant slowly.

Wah Yee nodded dumbly. approached the table. Chong Peng was "Why didn't you tell me before" the doctor's right-hand man, valet, boat- Ronald was thoroughly angry. Wah Yee hesitated, "Mr. Ronald and man. Whenever professional calls neces-

sitated travel by water, it was Chong Feng Sun Ming make friends," he finally

who did the rowing. It looked now as replied. Ronald's uneasiness concerning "Boy here," announced Chong Feng father's whereabouts crystallized with terse directness, speaking in the stantly into a determination to seek his imited English of which he was very parent. A murmur or two of disapproval proud. "Much sick father. Doctor up at the breakfast table falled to move Ronald, darkly.

"I'm with you, old boy," unexpectedly mile distant. The doctor rose with announced Sidney. "May I go along, too?" Guy Oliver since, he has been in touch with the then to guard it, but it is not a duty to asked his superior.

Merle Carroll gave a lukewarm con-This is a hurry call, and a few min- sent. "If you can spare Wah Yee," Ronald addressed Mr. Carroll, "I'd like him for

Just then Ronald glanced at Sidney. a fourth. He'll be worth more than the three of us put together, knowing, as he He was sure that his friend's lins formed does, how to reach that treacherous Sun stand his half-hearted looting for fear Following lunch. Ronald and Sidney Ming's home in the hills." A second consent, reluctant like the carefully avoided all mention of the disputed subject of missions. They took first, was given.

Within a short time, the youthful quarlong walk out in the country, and, upon returning to the compound around tette was rowing swiftly up stream four o'clock, Ronald suggested a bite to Soon a little cluster of native houses our destination, we were surrounded and allay their keen appetites until dinner. near the-water's edge revealed their ob- overpowered by that rascally river pirate, The two boys stretched themselves out jective close at hand. A few moments

side porch after Ronald had given in- ly beached. Ronald eagerly sprang to shore first, knocked-me-unconscious. Sun Ming, it structions to Wah Yee to serve them there. A bountiful tray was soon forth- He looked about him, and that which seems, had got word of the plot to capcoming. "Oh, Wah Yee," called Ronald he saw only deepened his sense of vague ture and hold me for a ransom. Sumas the kitchen boy was about to with- alarm. If ever there was a descried moning his former band, he launched a draw, "ask Dad if he can take the time village, the one that lay before him was plucky counter-attack and-well, here I it. Not a soul was in sight.

"Doctor Forrest is not back yet," explained Wah Yee in his native dialect. sel with his companions, but the mystery has provided a special escort." "What!" Ronald frowned as he con- only deepened. Their backs to him, the sulted his watch. "Why, he should other three appeared to be listening in I hope!" exclaimed Ronald. have been here over an hour ago. I tense silence. He listened, too, and presently from some near-by woods, back the doctor. "At their chief's orders Ronald was more worried than he heard an unmistakable and stealthy they were patrolling the neighborhood cared to admit. There was always some rustle. Before he could even formulate and rather too literally over-interpreted degree of danger from river pirates, es- any guess as to the cause of it, a band his instructions. But Sun. Ming. by pecially when the old robber, Kwong of Chinese dashed into the open. There probably saving my life at risk of his Loo, was known to be lurking in the were only eight of them, but that meant own, has certainly retrived himself. Do two to one! Ronald felt an iron grip you not agree with me, Son?"

his friend. "It's much too early to do Yee were similarly selzed. ber, was 'much sick,' according to Chong attempted to wrench himself free from

Feng. Your father'll surely be back by his captors. "We have done nothing." sively broke in Sidney, "where do you No notice was taken of his outburst Doctor Porrest, however, was not back beyond a tighter pressure on his wrist. leader of the gang, gave the order to

Further outcry, Ronald realized, futile. Slient acquiescence was the best policy. That they were at the mercy of a bold bandit chief, who had sent It was a shepless night for Ronald. his scouts to spy out the land, was next to certain. It explained the deserted perwrought | imagination. At day- object. Could that bandit chief be Sun

The kitchen boy, heavy with sleep, tion. Would they never reach the end in such a wild setting, appeared a pretentious house, roomy and comfortable-

> Through a wide gateway the captors the nine is enticiently scaled to the rock also that the top of the pipe is sealed led the four youths, then across a courtyard to the main entrance of the house. to the cover. Otherwise surface water The door opened, revealing Sun Ming! He hurried forward, sharply ordering the well. the band to release their captives. Amazed consternation was written in walls of the well should be made imperhis face. This gave way to a friendly vious to an adequate depth. smile of greeting.

"It will take some explaining to square

At that, Sun Ming drew himself up face of the ground. By this means, Ronald studied his companion curlous- with hurt pride. "Sun Ming has said surface water must filter through a depth

him by entering his humble dwelling-" "I've been hearing some funny things the way, although still thoroughly distrusting him.

> except for a single figure at the farthest tillzer within the vicinity. robe and turban. No, it was not a turban, but a bandage. The man thus

joy, Ronald rushed to him. Exclama- secreey, you did not foresee that your tions, breathless questions followed. "But you are hurt, Dad!" cried Ron- the ulterance of that very secret. Secre's

been for Sun Ming, though-"

"Perhaps my life-" of it. There may be occasions when it "But how? Sun Ming is a bandit." Doctor Forrest shook his head, "Not is a sacred duty to receive a secret and mission," he explained. "And before be lightly assumed, or even sought for that, his banditry was of a variety as curiosity's sake. Be as conscientious

receive it. astonished echo. "I didn't say exactly that," remonstrated his father. "But I can under-

"But what happened yesterday?" "It was a decoy message that brought me up river," resumed the doctor, "When Chong Feng and I had about reached Kwong Loo, and his men. I unwisely comfortably in bamboo chairs on the later the light boat was easily and quick- put up a fight, and for my pains, received a stinging blow from an oar which am. Chong Feng is busy with prepara-

"Oh, come now, Ron," Sidney rallied on his wrist, Sidney, Guy and Wah "So much so, Dad," responded Honald soberly, "that I hesitate to ask his forany worrying. The patient, you remem- "Let me go!" Desperately Ronald giveness for my rash judgment of him."

think I come in?" "I've made a coffiplete turn-about on

the subject of missions," confessed Sidney. "I guess there are other things SAFEGUARDING PURITY Next in importance to the location

of the form well, which should be far removed from likely sources of contam-Up and up the narrow rough ravine matten, are the protective measures moved the young prisoners and their which may be taken to safeguard to guards, slipping sliding back, struggling purity of the water. The first step after for a new foothold, panting with exerdigging or drilling the well is to protect t from the entrance of the surface of the trall? At length came a clearwater. The well must have a good cover ing. Beyond it, strangely out of place of concrete, stone or wood. If the well

"Sun Ming will explain-"

tinued upwards one foot above the sur-

a reasonably clean condition, the water Ronald motioned Sun Ming to lead thus becomes purified.

Into a large hall he and his compan- well, fencing to prevent the approach of ions followed Sun Ming. It was empty animals, and refraining from using fer-

swathed turned. "Father!" In an agony of relief and troubles. When you promised one friend

are like a nest full of complications and "Not so badly as you think, 'Son," conflicts of duty-all ready to hatch returned Doctor Forrest. "Had it not If a man is entrusted with money, and he finds that its administration clouds "Do we ove him anything?" inquired his honor or threatens other duties, he can usually return it; but he cannot re-

about entrusted information as about nearly excusable as banditry can be." "Excusable banditry!" came Ronald's trusted money, and at least as slow to

of being looted himself."

The young man turned to take coun- tions for the return journey. Sun Ming

"If you misjudged him, Ron," impul-

THE GREAT ENERGY FOOD Both young men looked questioningly at Sun Ming, whose face was eloquent with the delicious Flavor with good-will and understanding.

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the area immediately surrounding the

THE PROMISE OF SECRECY

A keeper of secrets is a bearer of

duty to another friend might require

turn entrusted information and be free

Discipline, like the bridle in the hand is deep, it should be titled with a gala good rider, should exercise its invanized fron pipe reaching to the bottom fluence without appearing to do so: care being taken that the lower end of hould be ever active, both as a support and us a restraint, yet seem to lie easily in hand. It must always be ready to check or to pull up, as occasion may may trickle down outside the pipe into require; and only when the horse is a runaway should the action of the curb If the well is shallow and wide, the

DEFINED

"Now Tommy," said the teacher, "Can ou tell me what a quack doctor is?" "Oh, yes; he's a vet that cures ducks be

PATE DEAL

"Yesterday I got a parret for my "Um! I wouldn't mind an exchange

Leave On World Hitch Hike

like that."



DONALD CAMERON AND BILL SELBY

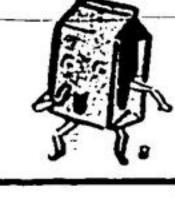
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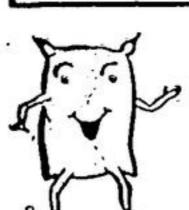
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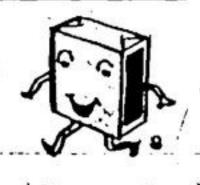


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