The Black Box

there is any news-of my skele

say," Quest replied. "Come in and shut

"Not yet, professor, I am sorry to

"There is a young lady here," he

sald, "who caught me up upon the

landing. She, too, I believe, wishes

He threw open the door and stood

on one side. A young woman came

a little hesitatingly into the room. Her

hair was plainly brushed back, and

she wore the severe dress of the Sal-

Quest asked

for you."

She held out a book.

Quest frowned a little.

tion to our funds."

her arm as she passed.

being in earnest about."

too, be permitted?"

your name?"

a pseudonym?"

will do."

"Want to see me, young lady?"

"My name is Miss Quigg," she said

"Very well, Miss Quigg, you shall

have a donation. I am busy today, but

call at the same hour tomorrow and

my secretary shall have a check ready

The professor laid his hand upon

"Young lady," he observed, "you

seem very much in earnest about your

"It is only the people in earnest,

sir," she answered, "who can do any

good in the world. My work is worth

"You compel my admiration. My

He drew out a pocketbook and

passed over toward her a little wad of

"It is so kind of you," she mur-

mured. "We never have any hesita-

tion in accepting money. May I know

"It is not necessary," the professor

answered. "You can enter me," he

added, as he held open the door for

her, "as a friend-or would you prefer

"A pseudonym, if you please," she

begged. "We have so many who send

us sums of money as friends. Anything

The professor glanced around the

"What pseudonym shall I adopt?"

the table started. Even Quest swung

suddenly around. The professor, as

though pleased with his fancy, nodded

"Yes, that will do very nicely," he

The girl took out her book and be-

gan to write. The professor, with a

little farewell bow, crossed the room

toward Quest. Lenora moved toward

"Let me see you out," she said to

Lenora opened the door. Both girls

started. Only a few feet away Craig

was standing, his head a little thrust

forward. For a moment the quiet self-

respect of his manner seemed to have

deserted him. He seemed at a loss for

"What do you want?" Lenora de-

"I was waiting for my master,"

"Why not downstairs?" Lenora

"I am driving the professor in his,

automobile," Craig explained. "It oc-

curred to me that if he were going to

be long here I should have time to go

and order another tire. It is of no

consequence, though. I will go down

Lenora stood at the top of the stairs

and watched him disappear. Then she

went thoughtfully back to her work

The professor and Quest were talking

"I was in hopes, in great hopes," the

professor admitted, "that you might

have heard something. I promised to

call at Mrs. Rheinholdt's this after-

"There is nothing to report at pres-

"Dear me," the professor murmured

"Not a ghost of one," Quest acknowl

edged. "I am as far off solving the

mystery of the disappearance of your

,"Mr. Quest," she asked, "do you be-

success," Quest replied, "to my pro-

lieve in inspiration?"

"this is very disappointing. Is there

no clue, Mr. Quest-no clue at all?"

ent, Mr. Ashleigh," he announced.

at the farther end of the room.

Quest shook his head.

asked suspiciously. "You did not come

decided. "Put me down-Black Box

five hundred dollars."

the girl pleasantly.

Craig explained.

up with him."

and wait in the car."

the door.

The girl smiled her gratitude.

"I want to ask you for a subscrip-

Photo Play of the Same Name. Produced by the Universal Film Manufacturing Company,

THIRD INSTALLMENT

SYNOPSIS.

In her apartment at the Leland Ella, daughter of Lord Ashleigh, is murdered and the Ashleigh diamond necklace stoien. The New York police place the case in the hands of Sanford Quest, known and feared as the master-criminologist of the world. He takes Lenora, Ella's maid, to see you." to his own apartments and through hynot'un and the use of electro-telepathic appliances discovers her connection with the crime, recovers the diamonds and arrests the murderer, Macdougal, Lenora's husband, though nearly trapped to his death in a tough tenement house while engaged in the work. Lenora becomes one of Quest's assistants. The detective is called in to investigate the theft of the skeleton escapes while on his way to prison. A string of diamonds is mysteriously stolen from Mrs. Rheinholdt during a reception.

THE POCKET WIRELESS.

CHAPTER VIII.

Mr. Sanford Quest sat in his favorite chair, his cigar inclined toward the left-hand corner of his mouth, his attention riveted upon a small instrument which he was supporting upon his knee. He glanced across the room to where Lenora was bending over her desk.

"We've done it this time, young woman," he declared triumphantly. "It's all O. K., working like a little peach."

Lenora rose and came toward him. "Is that the pocket wireless?"

He nodded "I've had Morrison out at Harlem all the morning to test it," he told "I've sent him at least half a dozen messages from this easy chair, and got the replies. How are you getting on with the code?"

"Not so badly for a stupid person." Lenora replied.

Laura, 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 or a

dozen miles." Quest rose to his feet and moved

he ruminated. "Shall I say that an oak restlessly about the room, sideboard gives you five hundred dol-"Say girls," he confessed, "this is lars Or a Chippendale sofa? Or," the first time in my life I have been he added, his eyes resting for a moin a fix like this. Two cases on hand ment upon the little box, "a black and nothing doing with either of them. | box?" Criminologist, indeed! Whose box The two girls from the other side of

is this?" Quest had paused suddenly in front of an oak sideboard which stood against the wall. Occupying a posi- as his fingers played with the lid. tion upon it of some prominence was a small black box, whose presence there seemed to him unfamiliar. Laura came over to his side and looked at it also in puzzled fashion.

"Never saw it before in my life," she answered.

Quest grunted

"H'm! No one else has been in the room, and it hasn't been empty for more than ten minutes," he remarked "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 words. over and read the following words, written in an obviously disguised hand:

You have embarked on a new studyanthropology. What characteristic strikes you most forcibly in connection with it? Cunning? The necklace might be where the skeleton is. Why not begin at the be-

The note was unsigned, but in the spot where a signature might have been there was a rough pen drawing of two hands, with fingers extended, talon fashion, menacingly, as though polsed to strike at some unseen enemy. Quest, after their first moment of stupefaction, whistled softly.

"The hands!" he muttered. "What hands?" Lenora asked. "The hands that gripped Mrs. Rheinholdt by the throat," he reminded

them. "Don't you remember? Hands without arms?" There was another brief, almost stu-

pefied silence. Then Laura broke into "What I want to know is," she de-

manded, "who brought the thing here?" "A most daring exploit, anyway,"

Quest declared. "If we could answer your question. Laura, we could solve the whole riddle. We are up against something, and no mistake."

skeleton and Mrs. Rheinholdt's neck-"The hand which placed that box lace as I have ever been." there," Quest continued slowly, "is The professor took a courteous leave capable of even more wonderful of them all and departed. Lenora things. We must be cautious. Hello!" crossed the room to where Quest was The door had opened. The profes

sor stood upon the threshold. "I trust that I have done right in

coming up?" he inquired. "Quite right, professor," Quest assured him. "They know well enough

to you. Come in." "I am so anxious to learn," the prossor continued eagerly, "whether

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

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

"No necessity." Quest replied. "We've got over little difficulties of that sort. Laura, just tack on the phototelesme," 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 sensitized mirror to the instrument. "Now, French, hold up the article just in front of the recelver. 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 grunted. "But you're not kidding me-" "It's a finger from the professor's

skeleton you've got there." Quest inmost respectful admiration. May I. terrupted. 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. "Go right ahead with it."

"Didn't the butler at Mrs. Rheinholdt's say that Craig belonged to servant's club up town? I know the place well. Let me go and see if I can't join and pick up a little information about the man. He must have a night out sometimes. Let's find out what he does? How's that?"

"Capital!" Quest agreed. "Get along, Laura. And you, Lenora," he added. "put on your hat. We'll take a ride towards Mayton avenue."

CHAPTER IX.

The exact spot where the bones of the missing skeleton was discovered. was easily located. It was about twenty yards from a gate which led into the back part of the professor's grounds. Quest wasted very little time before arriving at a decision.

"The discovery of the bones so near the professor's home," he decided, "cannot be coincidence only. We will waste no time out here. Lenora. We will search the grounds. Come

It was hard to know which way to turn. Every path was choked with tangled weeds and bushes. They wan



In Front of Them Crouched an Unrecognizable Creature.

dered about almost aimlessly for nearly half an hour. Then Quest came to a sudden standstill. Lenora gripped his arm. They had both heard the same sound-a queer, crooning cry, half plaintive, half angry.

"What's that?" he exclaimed. Lenora still clung to his arm. "I hate this place," she whispered. "It terrifies me. What are we look-

"I attribute a large amount of my ing for, Mr. Quest?" "Can't say that I know exactly," the "Then let me tell you," Lenora con- find out where that cry came from.

tinued, "that I have one, and a very Sounded to mean commonly like a hustrong one. Do you know that when man effort." I went to the door a few mint tes ago | They had made their way up

See Motion Pictures of This Story at the WHOLF FAMILY IDEAL Theatre, Monday and Tuesday



"The Hut, Professor! The Hut Is on Fire!"

far as the hedge, which they skirted | "You need sleep no longer," Quest for a few yards until they found an | said. "Wake up and be yourself." entwined with rushes. The only apol- ly through the door. ogy for a window was a queer little hole set quite close to the roof.

They walked around the place, but need a little explanation."

"Must we stay?" she murmured. don't think I want to see what's inside. Mr. Quest! Mr. Quest!"

opposite the little aperture which served as a window, and at that moment it suddenly framed the face of cal in expression.

"Say, that's some face!" he remarked. "I'd hate to spoil it." Even as he spoke it disappeared.

Lenora," he announced, stepping for | most of awe.

turns of the wrist and the door yielded. Keeping Lenora a little behind him. Quest gazed around eagerly. Exactly in front of him, clad only in a loin cloth, with hunched-up shoulders, ing eyes and ugly, gleaming teeth, crouched some unrecognizable creature, human, yet inhuman, a monkey, and yet a man. There were a couple of monkeys swinging by their tails from a bar, and a leopard chained to a staple in the ground, walking round and round in the far corner, snapping and snarling every time he glanced towards the newcomers. The creature in front of him stretched out a hairy hand towards a club, and gripped it. Quest drew a long breath. His eyes were set hard.

"Drop that club," he ordered. The club was waved around his head. "You will sit down in your corner. You open. He looked like a bewildered

The club slipped from the hairy fin- he spoke. gers. The tense frame, which had been already crouched for the spring. was suddenly relaxed. The knees of my rivals?"

"Back to that corner," Quest or-

dered, pointing. Slowly and dejectedly, the ape-man crept to where he had been ordered and sat there with dull, non-comprehending stare. It was a new force. this, a note of which he had felt-the superman raising the voice of authority. Quest touched his forehead and found it damp. The strain of those few seconds had been intolerable. "I don't think these other animals

will hurt," he said. "Let's have a look around the place." The search took only a few moments. The monkeys ran and jumped

around them, gibbering as though with pleasure. The leopard watched them always with a snarl and an evil light in his eye. They found nothing unusual until

they came to the distant corner, where a huge piano box lay on its side with the opening turned to the wall. "This is where the brute sleeps, I

suppose," Quest remarked. "We'll turn it around, anyway." They dragged it a few feet away read it."

from the wall, so that the opening faced them. Then Lenora gave a little cry and Quest stood suddenly still. "The skeleton!" Lengra shricked. "It's the skeleton!"

It was a skeleton so old that bones had turned a dull gray. Quest glanced towards the hands. "Little fingers both missing."

"Remember the message?" she exclaimed. Where the skeleton is. necklace may be also." Quest nodded shortly. "We'll search."

They turned over everything in th place fruitlessly. There was no sign of the neckface.

"You get outside," Lenora," Quest directed. "I'll just bring this beast as Quest finished the letterround again and then we'll tackle the "Now, perhaps you can understand," full of cotton-wool. On the top were Quest turned towards the creature.

"Look at me," he ordered.

frame seemed to grow more virile and I shall-" natural

opening. Then Quest gave vent to a | The effect of these words was inlittle exclamation. Immediately in stantaneous. Almost as he spoke, the front of them was a small but, built | creature crouched for a spring. There apparently of sticks and bamboos, | was wild hatred in its close-set eyes, with a stronger framework behind. I the snarl of something fiendlike in its The sloping roof was grass-grown and | contorted mouth. Quest slipped quick-

"Anyone may have that for a pet!". he remarked grimly. "Come, Lenora, There was a rude-looking door, but | there's a word or two to be said to the Quest, on trying it, found it locked. professor. There's something here will

found no other opening. All the time | He lit a cigar as they struggled back from inside they could hear queer, along the path. Presently they reached scuffling sounds. Lenora's cheeks the untidy-looking avenue, and a few minutes later arrived at the house.

Quest searched in vain for a bell. They walked round the piazza. There were no signs of any human life. They She clung to his arm. They were came back to the front door. Quest tried the handle and found it open. They passed into the hall.

"Hospitable sort of place, anyway," a creature, human in features, diaboli- he remarked. "We'll go in and wait, Lenora."

They found their way to the study, which seemed to be the only habitable room. Lenora glanced around at its "We've got to get inside there, strange contents with an expression al-

A small motor car passed the win-She followed him silently. A few dow, driven by Craig. The professor descended. A moment or two later he | wine." entered the room. He gazed from Quest to Lenora at first in blank surprise. Then he held out his hands. "You have good news for me, my a necklace around its neck, with blaz- friends!" he exclaimed. "I am sure of

tle time. Lenora soon recovered her color. She even had courage to speak it. How unfortunate that I was not at of the events of the afternoon when home to receive you! Tell me-don't they re-entered the automobile. keep me in suspense, if you pleaseyou have discovered my skeleton?" "We have found the skeleton," Quest announced.

For a single moment the newcomer stood as though turned to stone. "My skeleton!" he murmured. "Mr. Quest, I knew it. You are the great-

est man alive. Now tell me quickly-I want to know everything, but this first of all. Where did you find the skeleton? Who was the thief?" "We found the skeleton, professor," The creature suddenly sprang up. Quest replied, "within a hundred yards

of this house." "Drop it," Quest repeated firmly. | The professor's mouth was wide

child. It was several seconds before

"Within a hundred yards of this house? Then it wasn't stolen by one "I should say not," Quest admitted. "Where? exactly did you find it?"

the professor insisted. "I found it in a hut," Quest said, the sideboard, "hidden in a piano box. I found there, also, a creature-a human being, I must call him-in a state of cap- the direction of his gaze. Exactly is

"Hidden in a piano box?" the professor repeated wonderingly. you mean in Hartoo's sleeping box, then?"

"If Mr. Hartoo is the gentleman who tried to club me, you are right," Quest admitted. "Mr. Ashleigh, before we go any further I must ask you for an explanation as to the presence of that person in your grounds?"

The professor, hesitated for a moment. Then he slowly crossed the room, opened the drawer of a small escritoire, and drew out a letter. "You have heard of Sir William Raysmore, the president of the Royal

society?" he asked. Quest nodded. "This letter is from him," the professor continued. "You had better

The criminologist read it aloud. nora looked over his shoulder:

To Prof. Edgar Ashleigh, New York.

My Dear Professor: Your communication gratifies and amazes me. I can say no more. It fell to your lot to discover the skeleton of the anthropoid, a marvelous thing, in its way, and needing only its corollary to form the greatest discovities of the skeleton of the anthropoid. ery since the dark ages. Now you tell me that in the person of Hartoo, the last of the Inyamo race of South America, you have found that corollary. You have sup-plied the missing link. You are in a po-sition to give to the world a definite and explanation of the evolution of man. Let me give you one word of warn-ing, professor, before I write you at greater length on the matter. Anthropologists are afflicted more, even, than any other race of scientific men, with jealousy, Guard your secret well, lest the honor of this discovery should be stelen from you. WILLIAM RAYSMORE.

The professor nodded deliberately

he said, "why it was necessary to keep a few lines of writing and beneath Hartoo absolutely hidden. In a them the signature of the parted which crouched still huddled up in its month's time my papers will be ready. hands. He read the form out slowly Then I shall electrify the world. shall write not a new page but a new Drop all investigation. The hands that return these jewels command it. The creature obeyed. Once more its | volume across the history of science.

The door was suddenly thrown open

Craig sprang in, no longer the selfcontained, perfect man-servant, but with the face of some wild creature.

His shout was one almost of agony.

fire!" he cried.

"The Lut, professor! The hut is on

His appearance on the threshold

ing feet down the hall, and without

a moment's hesitation they all followed. The professor led the way

down a narrow and concealed path.

but when they reached the tittle clear-

ing in which the hut was situated,

they were unable to approach any

nearer. The place was a whirlwind

of flame. The smell of kerosene was

almost overpowering. The wild yeal

of the leopard rose above the strange,

half-human gibbering of the monkeys

and the hoarse, bass calling of anoth-

er voice, at the sound of which Le-

nora and even Quest shuddered. Then,

as they came, breathless, to a stand-

still, they saw a strange thing. One

side of the hut fell in, and almost im-

mediately the leopard with a mighty

spring, leaped from the place and ran

howling into the undergrowth. The

monkeys followed but they came

straight for the professor, wringing

their hands. They fawned at his feet

as though trying to show him their

scorched bodies. Then for a single

moment they saw the form of the ape-

man as he struggled to follow the

others. His strength failed him, how-

ever. He fell backwards into the burn-

The professor bade them farewell,

an hour later, on the steps of the

house. He seemed suddenly to have

"You have done your best, Mi

Quest," he said, "but fate has been too

strong. Remember this, though. It

is quite true that the cunning of Har-

too may have made it possible for

him to have stolen the skeleton and

to have brought it back to its hiding-

place, but it was jealousy-cruel, bru-

tal, foul jealousy which smeared the

walls of that hut with kerosene and

set light to it. The work of a life-

time, my dreams of scientific immor-

tality, have vanished in those flames."

and re-entered the house. Quest and

Lenora made their way down the ave-

nue and entered the automobile which

was waiting for them, almost in si

lence. The latter glanced toward his

you," he remarked. I'll have to call

somewhere and get you a glass of

"Say, this has been a bit tough for

She tried to smile but her strength

was almost gone. They drove to a

restaurant and sat there for some lit-

"Mr. Quest," Lenora murmured

"who do you suppose burned the hut

"If I don't say Craig, I suppose you

They were greeted, as they entered

Quest's room, by a familiar little tick-

"It's the pocket wireless," he de

He spelled it out to Lenora, who

Have joined Servants' club disguised as

ten years ago, comes now occasionally

Thursday evenings most likely time. Shall

"Good girl, that," Quest remarked.

He turned away from the instru-

ment and was crossing the room to-

ward his cigar cabinet. Suddenly he

stopped. He looked intently towards

He did not answer. She followed

the same spot as before reposed an

other but somewhat larger black box

"Say, who put that there?" he do

Lenora shook her head.

out." she assured him.

"I locked the door when we

Quest raised the cotton-wool.

neath lay Mrs. Rheinholdt's necklace!

(TO BE CONTINUED)

previous one.

"What is it?" Lenora asked.

wait here on chance of seeing him.

"She's a rare sticker, too."

clared. "Let me take down the mes

ing. Quest smiled with pleasure.

will," he remarked. "I wonder wheth-

er Laura's had any luck."

stood by his side:

down?"

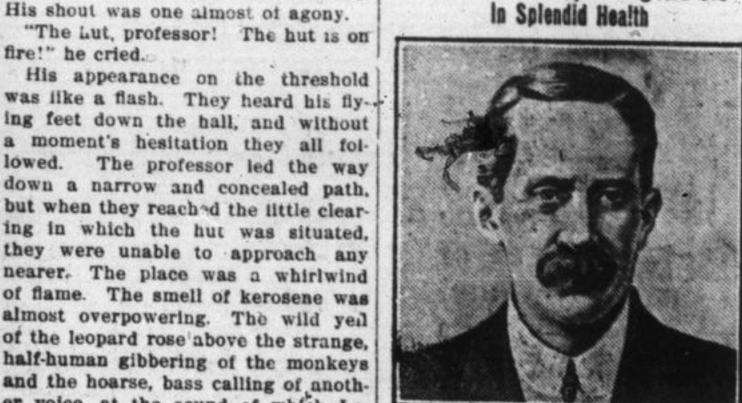
companion, as they drove off.

He turned slowly away from them

ing chasm.

aged.

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