

JACK O'JUDGMENT

By Edgar Wallace

An Unusual Story of a Blackmailing Gang and a Mysterious Avenger, by the Author of "Green Rust," "The Daffodil Murder," "Clue of the Twisted Candle"

THE STORY SO FAR. COLONEL DAN BOUNDARY, fat, red-haired, and generally clever, was a member of the society of the "Green Rust," a society of which he was the only member who was not a member of the society.

CHAPTER VII. The Colonel Conducts His Business. A MERRY little dinner party was assembled that night in a luxurious apartment in Alhambra House. It was a bachelor party, and consisted of three persons—the colonel, a young man in evening dress, and a middle-aged man whose antique dress coat and none-spontaneous linen certainly did not advertise their owner's prosperity.

There was something more than luck in that meeting, as the colonel knew. "I could have told you that all," said the Yorkshireman. "I must say it looked very black against you, colonel."

"Well, I'm not saying you're a criminal," said the colonel, looking at the Yorkshireman. "I'm not saying you're a criminal, but I am saying you're a criminal."

"That's where you're mistaken," interrupted the colonel calmly. "It was all right."

"The charge was perfectly sound," said the colonel, playing with his fruit. "For twenty years I have been riddling money by selling houses at about a twentieth of their value and selling them again."

"Where are you going? What are you going to do?" the man's voice asked the colonel. "I'm going to face a judge, a jury, and when friend Croft introduced me to you, I hadn't any more than your name."

"Why not?" asked the colonel. "After all, business is a gentleman's game. I prefer those scandals which verge on the criminal," the colonel went on.

"Lightning starts fire. Damage estimated at \$20,000 is caused near Reading. Reading, Pa., Aug. 2. In a terrific electric storm early this morning a large barn owned by the Reiffman Dairy Company at Reading, Pa., was struck and burned to the ground. The loss will be about \$20,000."

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