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, coarse-grained but uncannily clever leader of a gang of crooks, has become alarmed at receipt of a knave of clubs, signed "Jack o' Judgment," after several of his exploits, all of which are subtly devised to enrich him without risking the law's penalties. He tries to disarm suspicions gathering around him by complaining to

STAFFORD KING, of the London Criminal Intelligence Force.

PINTO SILVA, a sleek man about town, forces his attentions on an actress, who rebuffs him. She is

MAISIE WHITE, daughter of Solly White, one of the gang who wishes to retire. She is interested in Stafford.

LOLLIE MARSH, a doll-faced but clever girl, who acts as "vamp" of the blackmailing gang.

CROOK CREWE, once a gentleman, now a thief.

AND HERE IT CONTINUES

CHAPTER XV

The Commissioner Has a Theory

FROM station to station throughout the night, the following communication was flashed:

"To all stations. Stop Ambulance Motor No. L K O 9945. Arrest and detain driver and any person found therein. Warn all garages and report. Commissioner."

Before the dawn nine thousand policemen were on the lookout for the motor ambulance.

"There's a chance, of course," said Stafford, "but it is a poor chance."

He was looking white and heavy-eyed.

"I don't know, sir," said Southwick, his subordinate. "There's always a chance that a crook will do the obviously wrong thing. I suppose you've no theory as to where they have gone?"

"Not out of town—of that I'm certain," said King; "that is why the quest is hopeless. Why, they'll have reached their destination hours before the message went out!"

They were standing in the girl's

"My theory, sir, is that she is Jack o' Judgment," said Stafford King

bedroom, which still reeked with chloroform, and all the clues were piled together on the table. There were not many. There was a pad of cotton wool, a half empty bottle of chloroform, bearing the label of a well-known wholesaler, and one of a pair of old wash-leather gloves, which had evidently been worn by somebody in his desire to avoid leaving finger prints.

"We've not much to go on there," said Stafford disconsolately. "The chloroform may have been sold a long time ago. Any chemist would have supplied the cotton wool, and as for the glove——" He picked it up and looked at it, then he carried it to the light.

Old as it was, it was of good shape and quality and when new had probably been supplied to order by a first-class glovemaker.

"There's nothing here," said Stafford again and threw the glove back on the table.

A policeman came into the room and saluted.

"I've circled over from the Yard, sir. We have had a message asking you to go at once to Sir Stanley Belcom's private house."

"How did Sir Stanley know about this affair?" asked Stafford listlessly.

"He telephoned, sir, about five o'clock this morning. He often makes an early inquiry."

Stafford looked around. There was nothing more that he could do. He passed down the stairs into the street and jumped on to the motorcycle which had brought him to the scene.

Sir Stanley Belcom lived in Cavendish Place, and Stafford had been a frequent visitor to the house. Sir Stanley was a widower, who was wont to complain that he kept up his huge establishment in order to justify the employment of his huge staff of servants. Stafford suspected him of being something of a sybarite. His dinners were famous, his cellar was the best in London, and because of his acquaintances and friendships in the artistic sets, he was something of a dabbler in the arts he patronized.

The door was opened, and an uncomfortable-looking butler was waiting on the step to receive Stafford.

"You'll find Sir Stanley in the library, sir," he said.

Despite his sorrow, Stafford could not help smiling at this attempt on the part of an English servant to offer the conventional greeting in spite of the hour.

"I'm afraid we've got you up early, Perkins," he said.

"Not at all, sir."

The man's stout face creased in a smile.

"Sir Stanley often gets up in the middle of the night and orders a meal."

Stafford found his gray-haired chief, arrayed in a flowered silk dressing gown, balancing bread on an electric toaster.

"Bad news, eh, Stafford?" he said. "Sit down and have some coffee. The girl is gone?"

Stafford nodded.

"And our unfortunate detective-constable who was sent to watch is half-way to the mortuary, I presume?"

"Not so bad as that," said Stafford, "but he got a pretty bad knock. He's recovered consciousness, but remembers nothing that happened."

Sir Stanley nodded.

"Very scientifically done," he said admiringly. "This, of course, is the work of the Boundary gang."

"I wish——" began Stafford between his teeth.

"Save your breath, my friend"—Sir Stanley smiled—"wishing will do nothing. You could arrest every known member of the gang, and they'd have twenty alibis ready, and very good alibis, too.

"It is years since the colonel staged an outrage of this kind, but his right hand has not lost its cunning.

"Look at the organization of it! The men get into the house without attracting the attention of your watcher. Then, at the exact second that the ambulance is due, along comes their thug and knocks down the policeman on duty. I don't suppose the thing took more than ten minutes. Everything was timed. They must have known the hour the policeman on the beat passed along the street."

Sir Stanley poured out the coffee with his own hands, and relapsed back into his armchair.

"Why do you think they did it?"

"They were afraid of her, sir," said Stafford.

Sir Stanley laughed softly.

"I can't imagine Boundary being afraid of a girl."

"She was Solly White's daughter," said Stafford.

"Even then I can't understand it," replied the chief, "unless—by Jove. Of course."

He hit his knee a smack, and Stafford waited.

"Probably they've got some other game on; but I'll tell you one of the ideas of taking that girl—it is to bring back Solomon White. He disappeared, didn't he?"

Stafford nodded.

"That's the game—to bring back Solomon White. And whatever is the danger to himself, he'll be in London tomorrow, as soon as this news is known." Sir Stanley sat with his chin in his hand, thinking, his forehead wrinkled in thought. "There's some other reason, too. Now, what is it?"

Stafford guessed, but did not say.

"That girl will take some recovering before harm comes to her," said Sir Stanley softly. "Your only hope is that friend Jack comes to your rescue."

"Jack o' Judgment?"

Sir Stanley nodded, and the other smiled sadly.

"That's unlikely," he said; "indeed, it is impossible. I think I might as well tell you my own theory as to why she was abducted and why Boundary took so much trouble to capture her."

"What is your theory?" asked Sir Stanley curiously.

"My theory, sir, is, that she is Jack o' Judgment," said Stafford King.

"She—Jack o' Judgment?" Sir Stanley was on his feet, staring at him. "Impossible! It is a man."

"You seem to forget sir," said Stafford, "that Miss White is a wonderful mimic."

"But why?"

"She wants to clear her father. She told me that only a week ago. And then I've been making inquiries on my own account. I found that she was seen coming out of the Albermarle mansions the night that 'Jack' made his last visit to Boundary's flat."

Sir Stanley rose.

"Wait," he said, and left the room. Presently he came back.

"If Miss White is Jack o' Judgment, and if she was captured tonight, how do you account for this? It was under my pillow when I woke up."

He laid on the table the familiar jack of clubs.

To be continued tomorrow

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FLOWERS for FUNERALS
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Ends Foot Misery Quick!

Apply it in a minute—Three minutes later put on shoes, then walk and run all you like and work on your feet as much as you wish!

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Sold in this city by Liggett's, Geo. B. Evans, Jacob Bros., Woods Drug Store, MacPhees, Media Pharm., Co-operative Drug Co., Stanley Drug Co. Camden, Cowgill Drug Co.

Where Shall I Send My Child to School?

That question can be answered quickly and satisfactorily by consulting the Educational Bureau, on ground floor at Public Ledger Office, Independence Square. Here you may obtain complete and reliable information of any boarding school for boys or girls, military academy, business college, special schools for retarded children, conservatory of music, college or university. Our intimate knowledge of the advantages of the various institutions will enable you to make a wise choice.

This service is free and available to every one—everywhere.

Public Ledger Building
CHESTNUT at SIXTH
Walnut 3000 Main 1601

Week-End News : Wanamaker's Down Stairs Store

$22.50 $15 $16.75 $25 $10 $10

Autumn Frocks $10 to $25

Prices are certainly not any higher this season if these new frocks are any indication. As style after style came out of the boxes it gave one a bit of a thrill to see such interesting dresses of good materials at prices moderate enough to be called cheap.

$10 dresses are of crepe de chine in navy or black. Some have embroidered skirts in self-color, plain bodice, wide sash. Others have chain girdles and long sleeves. Not many women would like to buy the material and make them up at so small a price.

$16.75 dresses are of canton crepe de chine or tricotine in navy blue and some black as well as all-black satin. Here and there is a gleaming metal placque with color. Sometimes sleeves are long, skirts are generally rather wider and often they have draped or pleated side panels. The satin ones are interestingly draped as shown in the picture.

$22.50 tricotine dresses have elaborately embroidered sleeves and side drapery on the skirts; navy only.

$25 dresses are of satin-finished crepe effectively draped or with pleated Georgette crepe panels; either navy or black.

Autumn Dresses in Extra Sizes Are $25

Uncommonly simple dresses of the kind always hard to find. Made of canton crepe in navy or black and in sizes 42½ to 50½.

(Down Stairs Store, Market)

$3.40 $3.40 $3.40 $3.40 $3.40 $3.40

All These White Shoes Have Been Repriced Today $3.40

All of them were one to three dollars more until today and some were more than double this new price a little earlier in the season.

Standard styles made for our regular stocks so that they can be depended upon, of course, to give satisfactory service this year or next.

Mostly white canvas lined with white leather. One style is of leather which looks like buckskin.

Round toes, low and medium heels, plain and ankle straps, some with perforations.

1000 pair. Practically all sizes and widths for women.

(Down Stairs Store, Chestnut)

Mill's Riddance of 7200 Pair Women's First Quality Good Silk Stockings at 65c

Is it possible for a good silk stocking to be only 65c? Come and see! These are first quality pure silk of a light to medium weight, which, because it is a pure silk, will wear better than a heavier appearing kind that is loaded in the dyeing.

They are a third less than the standard price because we took over the incomplete assortments that the mill had on hand.

Plenty of black, also nude, cordovan, light and medium gray. Sizes 8½ to 10. Shaped seamed backs. Mercerized tops and feet.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Girls' Summer Clothes at Lower Prices

Hurrying out just in time to benefit late vacationists, and in readiness for the preparation of school wardrobes.

As low as $1 for gingham and voile frocks. Pretty checks and plaids, with organdie or plain chambray trimmings. Sizes 6 to 14 years.

As low as $1.25 for voile dresses; they have been just lowered to this price. Light and dark challis patterns. Sizes 7 to 14 years.

As low as $2, $2.50 and up to $5 for a wide choice of voile dresses. Light and dark figured and dotted patterns. Crisp organdie trimmings. Sizes 7 to 14 years.

As low as $2 for dark blue gingham skirts, pleated on bands of white cambric bodies. Sizes 6 to 16 years.

Middy Blouses, $1

White mercerized cotton with convertible collar and cuffs of checked gingham or figured percale. Sizes 8 to 20.

(Down Stairs Store, Market)

Summer Clearaway Gloves for Women

Long and short ones—chamois lisle and silk. Styles and lowered prices that will appeal alike to the woman who remains in town and the going-away vacationist.

Two-Clasp Chamois-Lisle Gloves, 15c
Mostly gray and black. Not all sizes. Embroidered backs and really determined snaps.

Two-Clasp Silk Gloves, 35c
White, pongee and beaver in broken sizes.

Two-Clasp Silk Gloves, 50c
Backs with three rows of heavy embroidery. Double-tipped fingers. Not all sizes; in white, pongee and beaver.

Strap-Wrist Silk Gloves, 65c
White and sable. Not every size in both colors.

Sixteen-Button Silk Gloves, 85c
All sizes in pongee. Broken sizes in other good shades.

Chamois-Lisle Gloves, 85c
Sixteen-button length in gray, mode and sand in all sizes. Large sizes only in white. Twelve-button length in black.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Baronet Satin Skirts at $4.50 a Real Discovery!

Styles popular all season. Shirred, with delightful variations as to pockets and belts. Of lustrous, shimmering fiber silk Baronet satin in navy, brown, black, Copenhagen, gray, pink and white. So heavy and well hung that the wearer appears her slender, most graceful best. The white skirts in extra sizes only. All others in regular and extra sizes, but not each size in every color or style.

$4.50

(Down Stairs Store, Market)

$8 $5 $5 $5

Going-Away Luggage

That just describes it—going-away luggage! New lots constantly arriving from the makers seem scarcely to pause in the Down Stairs Store. Out they go with well-pleased vacationists or with school and college planning students, who are seemingly delighted with such attractively durable luggage at moderate cost.

Dull Fabric Suitcases, $5

Particularly good looking in a quiet, conservative way. Snap catches at either end. Attractive linings and shirred pocket in lid. 18, 20, 22 and 24 inch sizes.

Shiny Enameled Suitcases, $5

Good, deep cases in 24 and 26 inch sizes. Short leather straps. Reliable center lock and handle. Shirt pocket in lid.

Round Hat Boxes, $5

Shiny black-enameled hat boxes that have proved tremendously popular, not only for hats, but for all sorts of "little things." Black or black with tan leather bindings. Center lock and handle and two side catches. Two removable hat forms. 18 inches across.

Extra-Deep Black Enameled Suitcases, $8

Splendidly capacious! Made over sturdy frames, with two reinforcing leather straps all 'round sewed corners and extra strong handle. 8 inches deep. Sizes 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Clearaway of Summer Fashions

Hundreds of women's dresses, hundreds of skirts, a few coats, a few suits.

Prices decidedly reduced in order to make up for the incomplete size assortments and the more or less handled appearance of most of the garments.

Cloth dresses down to $2.50, $5, $10; some need a few stitches or a little freshening as to collar and cuffs.

Silk dresses down to $7.50 and $10; these also show marks of handling.

Voile dresses in light and dark colors are down to $1.50, $2, $3, $5.

Gingham dresses are down to $1, $2, $3 and $4

Organdie, dotted swiss, lace, plain-colored voile and various novelties are all substantially reduced. $7.50 to $20.

Tweed suits are down to $6.50, $7.50 and $10.

Wraps and sport coats are down to $16.50 to $75.

(Down Stairs Store, Market)

These Are the Very Latest Autumn Hats at $6

Nearly a hundred entirely new hats at $6 will be on display in the Down Stairs Millinery Salons tomorrow.

Any woman will like to try them on because the shapes and colors are quite different.

Some are newly large, others are newly small. Many have velvet facings and satin or faille brims and a number are trimmed with great choux of the material occasionally with a glistening bit of old silver or rhinestones.

Some very pretty small ones are of embroidered felt with velvet edge. Smart turbans are of shirred velvet, quite tiny in size but with a huge chou of the velvet in front.

Isn't it fun to wear an Autumn hat before every one else does?

(Down Stairs Store, Market)

Breakfast Jackets, $3.50

Impetus for a "good day" may be found in a daintily flowered voile breakfast jacket, trimmed with lace insertion and edging. Tiny woven black dots contrast prettily with the delicate colors. Ribbon bows finish the soft collar and suggest a sleeve line on the slit sides. Orchid, light blue, and flesh. 36 to 44.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Women's Underclothes Specialized at $1

Just an even dollar will add practically any one garment needed for vacation baggage. Really pretty ones. All brand new and daintily fresh.

$1 for two-piece pajama suits of soft batiste. Slip-on tops and trousers with elastic casings at waist and ankles. Orchid, flesh and white, with contrasting stitchery.

$1 for cool pretty nightgowns. Soft white cotton ones without sleeves are stitched in color. Others in white, flesh or orchid nainsook, dainty with feather and hemstitching.

$1 for novelty dimity and voile envelope chemises in white trimmed with color, or flesh, blue and orchid. Straight-top styles.

$1 for good white sateen petticoats with double hems 18 inches deep. Elastic tops.

$1 for white sateen Princess slips that have plain-tailored tops.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Silk All-Over Laces and Flouncings $2.25 Yard

The shimmery richness of these silk laces tells at once that they are specially priced. Shadowy patterns, dainty close designs or bold sharply cut ones.

36 inches wide. Black and white.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Men's All-Wool Suits With Two Pair Trousers, $25

The whole story in a sentence. Men who know clothing values will realize its significance.

ALL-WOOL SUITS of good fancy mixed cheviots and a few serges.

TWO PAIR TROUSERS, meaning practically the life and serviceability of two suits in one.

Single-breasted one and two button coats. Conservative styles. Weights for now and later. $25.

Men's Mohair and Palm Beach Suits Marked Down to $11.50

Mostly grays and other dark mixtures. Not all sizes in every color. Tropical weights.

(Men's Gallery, Market)

Men's New Neckties Exactly Half-Price 25c

From the manufacturer who makes a large percentage of our standard twice-as-good neckwear. He used all his small pieces of better silks and silk mixtures in these ties, so they are specially good quality and in an unusually large assortment of colors and patterns. Satins, embossed silks, basket weaves and novelties in stripes, figures and mixed effects. Plenty of conservative dark ones.

(Men's Gallery, Market)

Men's Suits Made to Measure With Two Pair Trousers

$37.50 $43

A notable aggregation of fine, all-wool tailoring fabrics from which to make selection. Plain patterns, mixtures, herringbone weaves and pencil stripes—and most of them are hard-finished worsteds.

Cut to a man's individual measure and carefully tailored. The fit is guaranteed, and no additional charge is made for extra sizes.

Business and professional men value the distinction of made-to-measure clothing. It is seldom that such fine fabrics and good workmanship can be secured for so moderate an outlay as they are fully realizing.

(Men's Gallery, Market)

Men's Athletic Union Suits 65c

Men come back for more of these madras athletic union suits with the comfort-giving knitted waist band. Satisfaction is worth buying at 65c.

Sizes 34 to 44.

Men's Cotton Half Hose 12½c

Good stuff in these black, cordovan and gray cotton half hose. First quality. Sizes 9½ to 11½.

(Men's Gallery, Market)

Children's Underclothes 25c to $1.60

A special midsummer purchase makes possible these low prices for well-made underthings for the children.

Muslin Drawers, 25c to 50c
Most home women would almost want 25c for making the 6 buttonholes in the waist band! Full cut of strong muslin; narrow ruffle at gathered-in knee. Sizes 2 to 12 years.

Drawers with hemstitched ruffles, embroidery or beading edge and lace-trimmed ruffles, 35c to 50c. Sizes 2 to 12 years.

Princess Slips, $1 to $1.60
Ribbon-run, lace-trimmed neck and armholes and tucked ruffles make a child's nainsook slip dainty as well as practical. 10 to 16 years. $1.

With embroidery straight across top and straps and tucked embroidery ruffle. 10 to 16 years. $1.50.

With lace-trimmed round neck and scalloped ruffle, or embroidery top and tucked embroidery ruffle. 10 to 16 years. $1.60.

Crepe Nightgowns, $1
Pink banded neck, sleeves and pocket give the touch of color a child likes to full-cut cotton crepe nightgowns. 4 to 12 years.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Oddments of Corselettes, $1

These ideal foundations for the sports costume or bathing suit come in a variety of styles. Basket weaves, cool nets and novelty checked ginghams in sizes 36 to 42, but not in each style. Some with two, some with four hose supporters. Some with brassiere tops and hip confiners. All to go out at $1, though that is a third to half less.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

Women's Cotton Crepe Kimonos, $3

Oriental ones whose flowing pocket sleeves, bow in the back, gay figures and crinkly material are all suggestive of Japan. So are the colors, splashes of black and contrasting shades on gray, rose, blue, tan or purple grounds. Sizes 36 to 44.

Solid-colored kimonos have a double ruffle trimming that runs around hem, neck, sleeves and both sides of the front. It even ripples across the pocket.

Rose, Copenhagen, light blue, lavender and pink. 36 to 44.

(Down Stairs Store, Central)

CENTRAL AISLE

Clearing Away Women's House Dresses at $1.50 and $3.75

$1.50 for voile dresses in many styles and colorings. Most of them are less than half their former prices and, though they are a bit mussed, a slight pressing will do wonders. Sizes 36 to 46 in the lot, though not in each style.

$3.75 for checked gingham and a few ratine dresses now priced less because sizes are broken. 34 to 52 in the lot, but not in every kind.

Blouses Specially Priced, $1.45

Peter Pan, roll collar, tuxedo front—in voile, dimity, gingham and batiste trimmed with frills, ruffling, lace edging, embroidery and folds of contrasting color. Many were originally more than double this price. Broken sizes from 34 to 54.

Brassieres and Bandeaux, 25

In broken sizes from 34 to 46, but none the less excellent value at this low price.

Basket weave, broche, batiste trimmed with lace or embroidery, mercerized silk poplin and other materials. Some a little soiled from handling.

(Central Aisle)