

# JACK O' JUDGMENT :-: By Edgar Wallace

**THE STORY SO FAR**  
**COLONEL DAN BOUNDARY**, fat, care-giving, but occasionally clever leader of a gang of crooks, has been arrested at the receipt of a letter of challenge signed "Jack O' Judgment" one of his exploits, all of which are subtly planned to enrich him without risking the law's wrath. He tries to outwit the police gathering around him by convincing them that he is innocent.

**STAFFORD KING**, of the London Criminal Intelligence Force, is a man of great force and attention as an actor, who "takes" him. She is

**MARIE WHITE**, daughter of Sally White, one of the gang who wishes to retire. She is interested in Stafford.

**SOLLIE MARSH**, disfigured but clever "girl" who acts as "tamp" of the black-wearing gang.

**"SWELL" CREWE**, once a gentleman, now a crook.

you have returned. But you're not to tell them about the house where they have kept you. You must not tell them about Silvia or anybody that was in that house. Do you understand?"

"But why?" she began, and he laughed softly.

"I am not trying to shield them," he said, answering her unspoken thought, "but if you give information you can only tell a little, and the police can only discover a little, and the men can only be punished a little. And there's so much that they deserve, so many lives they have ruined, so much sorrow they have caused, that it would be a hideous injustice if they were only punished a little. Will you leave them to me?"

She struggled to an erect position and stared at him.

"I know you," she whispered fearfully, "you are Jack O' Judgment!"

"Jack O' Judgment?" He laughed a little bitterly. "Yes, I am Jack O' Judgment."

"Who are you?" she asked.

"A living lie," he replied bitterly, "a misnomer, a nobody."

She did not know what impelled her to do the thing, but she put out her hand and laid it on his. She felt the silky smoothness of the glove, and then his other hand covered hers.

"Thank you," he said simply. "Do you think you can walk? We are just turning into Doughty Street. We've passed the policeman on his beat; he is going the other way. Can you walk upstairs by yourself?"

"I'll try," she said; but when he assisted her from the cab she nearly fell, and he half carried, half supported her into her room.

He stood hesitating near the door.

"I shall be all right," she smiled.

"How quickly you understand my thoughts!"

"Wouldn't it be well if I sent somebody to you—a nurse? Have you the key I gave you?" she asked suddenly, and he laughed again.

"Jack O' Judgment," he said mockingly. "Wise old Jack O' Judgment! He has everything and nothing! Suppose I send a nurse to you, a nice nurse, I could send the key to her by messenger. Would you like that?"

"I think I would," she said with a weak smile; "I am not quite sure of myself."

He did not take off the soft felt hat which was drawn tightly over his ears, nor did he remove his mask or cloak. She was making up her mind to take

closer stock of him, when unexpectedly he backed toward the door and with a little nod was gone. He had left her on the couch, and there she was, half dozing and half drugged, when the matronly nurse from St. George's Institute arrived half an hour later.

Stafford called in the afternoon and was surprised and delighted to learn that he could speak to the girl. He found her looking better and more cheerful. He bent over her and kissed her cheek and her hand sought his.

"Now, I'm going to be awfully official," he laughed.

"I want you to tell me all sorts of things. The chief is very anxious that we should lose no time in getting your story."

To be continued tomorrow  
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## CHAPTER XXII Maizie Tells Her Story

THERE is one fact which I would impress upon you," said Sir Stanley Bileon, addressing the heads of his departments at the early morning conference at Scotland yard, "and that is: that the criminal has nine chances against one which the law possesses. He has the initiative in the first place, and if he fails to evade detection, the law gives him certain opportunities of defense and imposes certain restrictions which prevent one taking a line which would bring the truth of his assertions or denials to light. It protects him; it will not admit evidence against him; it will not allow the jury to be influenced by the record of his previous crimes until they have delivered their verdict upon the one on which he stands charged; in fact, gentlemen, the criminal, if he is very intelligent, would score all the time."

"That's true enough, sir," said Cole, of the record office. "I've never yet met a criminal who wasn't a fool."

"And you never will tell me what you mean," said Sir Stanley. "You mean that the criminal has a good-natured smile, and the reason you do not meet him is because he is not a fool. But, gentlemen, every criminal has one quality which sooner or later he exposes the link in his armor to the sword of justice—if you do not mind so theoretical an illustration. Here again, I do not think that Boundary will make any such exposure, and one of you gentlemen has again brought up the question as to the prosecution of the Boundary gang, and particularly the colonel himself. Well, I am all in favor of it, though I doubt whether the home secretary or my public prosecutor would agree with my point of view. We have a great deal of evidence, but not sufficient evidence to convict. We know this man is a blackmailer and that he engages in terrorizing his unfortunate victims, but the more fact that we know is not sufficient. We need the evidence, and the evidence we have is not good. And that is where our mysterious Jack O' Judgment is going to score. He knows, and it is sufficient for him that he does know. He calls for no corroborative evidence, but convicts and executes his judgment without recourse to the law books. I do not think that the official police will ever capture Boundary, and if it is left to them, he will die sanctified by old age and ten years of comfortable retirement. He will probably end his life in a cathedral town, and may indeed become a member of the town council. Hello, King, what is the matter?"

Stafford King had rushed in. He was dusty and hot on face, and there was a light of excitement in his eye.

"She's found, sir; she's found!"

"She's found?" Sir Stanley frowned.

"To whom are you referring—Miss White?"

Stafford could only nod.

With a gesture the commissioner dismissed the conference, then he asked: "Where was she found?"

"In her own flat, sir. That is the amazing thing about it."

"What? Did she come back herself?"

Stafford shook his head.

"It is an astonishing story, sir. She was, of course, detained and held prisoner somewhere, and last night—she will not give me any details—she was carried from the house where she had been kept prisoner. She had an awful experience, at which she only hints, poor girl. Apparently she fainted, and when she came to she was in a motor car, being carried along rapidly. And that is about all she'll tell me."

"But who brought her away?" asked the commissioner.

Again Stafford shook his head.

"For some reason or other she is reticent, and will give me no information at all. It is evident she has been drugged, for she looked dreadfully ill, of course. I haven't pressed her for further particulars."

"It is a strange story," said the commissioner.

"I have a feeling," Stafford went on, "that she has given a promise to her unknown rescuer that she will not tell more than is necessary."

"But it is necessary to tell the police," said the commissioner, "and even more important for the young lady to tell her—hence, I hope, King?"

The young man reddened and smiled.

"I agree with you that it is not the moment when you can cross-examine the girl, but I want you to see her as soon as you possibly can and try to induce her to tell you all she knows."

Maizie White lay on the sofa in her own room. She was still weak, but oh! the relief of being back again and of ending that terrible nightmare which had oppressed her for—how long?

Even the depressing effect of the drug could not quench the exaltation of finding herself free. She went over the details of the night one by one. She must do it, she thought. She must never lose grip of what happened or forget her promise.

First she recalled seeing the weird figure of Jack O' Judgment. He had lifted her from the bed and had laid her on the floor. She remembered seeing him slip beneath the blankets, and then Pinto had come, and then the cracked voice of her rescuer, his fantastic language.

She had awakened to consciousness to find herself in a big car which was passing quickly through the dark and deserted streets. She had no recollection of being carried from the room or of being handed to the thick-set man who stood on a ladder outside the open window. All she recalled was her waking to consciousness and seeing in the half light the gleam of a white silk handkerchief.

She was too dazed to be terrified, and the soft voice which spoke into her ear quelled any inclinations she might have had to struggle. For the man was holding her in his arms as tenderly as a brother might hold a sister, or a father a child.

"You're safe, Miss White," said the voice. "Do you understand? Are you awake?"

"Yes," she whispered.

"You know what I have saved you from?"

She nodded.

"I want you to do something for me now. Will you?" She nodded again.

"Are you sure you understand?" said the voice anxiously.

"I quite understand," she replied.

She could of almost smiled at his consideration.

"I am taking you to your home, and tomorrow your friends will know that you are safe."

## 50 FAIL TO PASS TEST FOR AUTOIST'S PERMIT

Applicants in Camden Must Know How to Start, Turn, Back and Stop

Within twenty-four hours in Camden more than fifty applicants who took the tests for automobile driving failed to pass. It was said more than 200 passed the examination this week.

"This is an unusually large number to fail," said Inspector Charles Pedigree, yesterday, "and is due very largely to over-angerness of new purchasers of machines to get the right to drive the cars."

It is apparent that there is no cessation in the purchasing of automobiles by the public, for cars just out of the shop as well as those of ancient vintage were in the long line with their new owners anxious to get the coveted license.

Here, you may obtain complete and reliable information of any of the following institutions for the purpose of consulting the Educational Bureau, an around floor at Public Ledger Office, Independence Square. Here, you may obtain complete and reliable information of any of the following institutions for the purpose of consulting the Educational Bureau, an around floor at Public Ledger Office, Independence Square.

The State inspectors demand that every New Jersey operator know at least how to start and back and turn around as well as to stop. When it is found that even these rudiments are not known well enough to hazard a trip over a back country road, there is nothing to do but send the applicant back for more practice.

Plan Mine Parley in Pennsylvania

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