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# FIRST INSTALLMENT

"SANFORD QUEST, CRIMINOLO-GIST."

The young man from the West had arrived in New York only that ofter moon, and his cousin town born and bred, had already embarked upon the task of showing him the grea city. They occupied a table in a somewhat insignificant corner of one of New great advantage, Ella." York's most famous roof garden res taurants. The place was crowded with diners. There were many nota bilities to be pointed out. The town young man was very busy.

Tell me." the country cousin in quired, "who is the man at a table by himself? The waiters speak to him as though he were a little god. Is he millionaire, or a judge, or what?" "You're in luck, Alfred," the New

Yorker declared. "That's the most interesting man in New York-one of the most interesting in the world. That's Sanford Quest." "Who's he?"

"Sanford Quest is the greatest mas ter in criminology the world has ever known. He is a magician, a scientist, the Pierpont Morgan of his profession.

"Say, do you mean that he is a detective?

"Yes," he said simply "you can call him that—just in the same way that you could call Napoleon a soldier or Lincoln a statesman He is a detec tive, if you like to call him that, the master detective in the world"

When Sanford Quest entered his house an hour later he glanced into two of the rooms on the ground floor, in which telegraph and telephone operators sat at their instruments. Then, by means of a small lift, he as cended to the top story and entered a large apartment wrapped in gloom until, as he crossed the threshold, he touched the switches of the electric lights. One realized then that this was a man of taste. Quest drew up an easy chair to the wide-flung window, touching a bell as he crossed the room. In a few moments the door was opened and closed noiselessly. young woman entered with a bund! of papers.

The criminologist glanced through the papers quickly. "No further in quiries. Laura?"

She left the room almost noiselessly

"THE TENEMENT HOUSE MYS TERY!

# CHAPTER I.

"This habit of becoming late for breakfast, Lady Ashleigh remarked, as she sat down the coffee pot, "is growing upon your father. Any news, dear?

Ella glanced up from a pile of correspondence through which she had been looking a little negligently.

"None at all, mother. My correspondence is just the usual sort of rubbish-invitations and gossip. Such a

lot of invitations, by the bye." "At your age," Lady Ashleigh declared, "that is the sort of correspondence which you should find interest-

"You know I am not like that, moth- master's chair, were simply riveted er." she protested. "My music is really upon the stones. A queer little feeling the only part of life which absolutely of uneasiness disturbed Ella for the appeals to me. Oh, why doesn't Delaknow, as he promised! . . . Here comes daddy, mum."

Lord Ashleigh loitered for a moment to raise the covers from the dishes upon a side table. Afterwards he seated himself at the table. "I heard this morning," he said,

"from your friend Delarey, Ella. He very luxurious car of Mrs. Delarey went into the matter very fully. The drew up outside the front of the Lesubstance of it is that for the first land hotel, a little after midnight. Ella year of your musical training he advises New York.

"Thave not finished yet. This cablefor your delightful dinner," she exgram," he went on, drawing a little claimed, "and for bringing me home. slip of blue paper from his pocket, As for the music, well, I can't talk "was brought to me this morning-" about it. I am just going upstairs He smoothed it out before him and into my room to sit and think."

The car rolled off. Ella, a large umbrella held over her head by the To Lord Ashleigh, Hamblin House, Dorset, England: I find a magnificent program arranged for at Metropolitan Opera house this year. Have taken box for doorkeeper, stepped up the little strip of drugget which led into the softly warmed hall of the Leland. Behind your daughter, engaged the best professor in the world, and secured an aparther came her maid. Lenora, and Macment at the Leland, our most select and comfortable residential hotel. Understand dougal, who had been riding on the box with the chauffeur. He paused your brother is still in South America, refor a moment to wipe the snow from turning early spring, but will do our b his clothes as Ella crossed the hall to to make your daughter's year of study as easant as possible. Advise her sail on the left. Lenora turned toward him. He whispered something in her ear. For a moment she shook. Then she

"On Saturday?" 'Ella almost screamed.

"I shall now." Lord Ashleigh said, tress upstairs. Arrived in her apartment, Ella "leave you to talk over and discuss this matter for the rest of the day. threw herself with a little sigh of con-At dinner time tonight you can tell me tent into a big easy-chair before the your decision, or rather we will dis- fire and gave herself up for a few mocuss it together." ments to reverie.

# CHAPTER II.

"I am to take it. I believe." Lord to her was a door which opened on Ashleigh began after dinner that evening, "that you have finally decided, the servants. Just as she was in the Ella, to embrace our friend Delarey's act of leaning forward Ella became suggestion and to leave us Saturday?" "If you please," Ella murmured, with glowing eyes.

"Go down and ask Macdougal to come up. I am going to have this thing explained." Something of her mistress' agitation seemed to have become communicated to Lenora She walked quickly to the back part of the hotel and ascended to the wing in which the servants' quarters were situated Here she made her way "You will take your own maid with along a corridor until she reached you, of course," Lord Ashleigh contin Macdougal's room. She knocked, and

oom. Ella pointed to the door.

"It is locked, my lady," she re-

knocked again. There was no answer.

She tried the door and found it was

turned at once to the sitting room.

"I am sorry, my lady—" she began.

Then she stopped short. The lift

boy, who had had a little trouble with

his starting apparatus and had not as

which broke from her lips, and a fire-

man in an adjacent corridor came run-

ning up almost at the same moment.

Lenora shricked, "She's fainted!

A doctor, hurriedly summoned, had

"This is your affair, gentlemen, not

The inspector made a careful exam-

"Tell me," he inquired, "is this the

young lady who owned the wonderful

"They've gone!" Lenora shrieked.

'They've been stolen! She was wear-

mine," the doctor said gravely. "The

young lady is dead. She has been

detective, entered

or ten minutes."

ination of the room.

yet descended, heard the scream

the door opened."

her mistress in triumph.

ued. "Lenora is a good girl and ) am sure she will look after you quite well. but ' have decided to supplement Le locked. Then she returned to the lift nora's surveillance over your comfort and descended once more to the floor by sending with you, also, a sort of upon which her mistress' apartments courier and general attendant-whom were situated. She opened the door do you think? Well, Macdougal. He of the suite without knocking and has lived in New York for some years, and you will doubtless find this a

Ella glanced over her shoulder a the two servants who were standing discreetly in the background. Her eyes rested upon the pale, expressionless face of the man who during the last few years had enjoyed her father's confidence.

Lengra was on her knees by her mis-For a moment a queer sense of aptress' side. Ella was still lying in the pro ension troubled her. Was it true, easy-chair in which she had been she wondered, that she did not like the seated, but her head was thrown back man? She banished the thought alin an unnatural fashion. There was most as soon as it was conceived. a red mark just across her throat. "You are spoiling me, daddy," Ella

sighed. And the diamonds—the diamonds have "If you think so now," he remarked, gone! "I do not know what you will say to me presently.' just completed a hasty examination

He laid upon the table a very fawhen a police inspector, followed by a miliar morocco case, stamped with a coronet. "Our diamonds!" Ella exclaimed

"The Ashleigh diamonds!" The necklace lay exposed to view, the wonderful stones flashing in the cruelly strangled within the last five

subdued light. "In New York," Lord Ashleigh continued, "It is the custom to wear jewelry in public more, even, than in this

country. Allow me!' He leaned forward. With long, capa-Ashleigh diamonds?" ble fingers he fastened the necklace around his daughter's neck. ing them when I left the room!"

"It is our farewell present to you, Lord Ashleigh declared Ella, impelled by some curious im

The inspector turned to the telephone "Mr. Marsham," he said, "I am pulse which she could not quite understand, glanced quickly around to afraid this will be a difficult affair. I am going to take the liberty of calling where the manservant was standing For once she saw something besides in an expert. That you, exchange? I want number one, New York city-Mr. Sanford Quest."

"Our Diamonds!" She Exclaimed, "The

Ashleigh Diamonds!"

the perfect automaton. His eyes, in-

stead of being fixed at the back of his

moment. It passed, however, as in

more attracted by the sparkle of the

CHAPTER III.

The streets of New York were cov

ered with a thin, powdery snow as the

leaned over and kissed her hostess.

'Thank you, dear, ever so much,

turned away and followed her mis-

A log stirred upon one fire. She

leaned forward lazily to replace it and

then stopped short. Exactly opposite

to a back hall. It was used only by

conscious of a curious hallucination.

The maid hurried in from the next

"Lenora, come here at once."

jewels upon her bosom.

#### CHAPTER IV.

There seemed to be nothing at all original in the methods pursued by the great criminologist when confronted with this tableau of death and robbery His remarks to the inspector were few and perfunctory. He asked only a few languid questions of Macdougal and Lenora, who were summoned to his presence.

Macdougal then turned to leave the room. Lenora was about to follow, but Quest signed to her to remain.

"I should like to have a little conversation with you about your mistress." he said to her pleasantly. you don't mind, I will ask you to accompany me in my car. I will send the man back with you.'

and Quest handed the girl into his car. They drove quickly through the silent In a few minutes Lenora was in-

They descended in the lift together

streets. stalled in an easy chair in Quest's sitting-room

"Lean back and make yourself comfortable," Quest invited, as he took a chair opposite to her. "I must just look through these papers."

The girl did as she was told. She opened her coat. The room was delightfully warm, almost overheated. A sense of rest crept over her. She was rey make up his mind and let father glancing away her attention was once conscious that Quest had laid down the letters which he had been pretending to read. His eyes were fixed upon her. There was a queer new look in them a strange new feeling creeping through her veins. Quest's voice broke an unnatural

> "You are anxious to telephone someone," he said "You looked at both the booths as we came through the hotel. Then you remembered, I think. that he would not be there yet. Telephone now. The telephone is at your right hand. You know the number."

> She obeyed almost at once. "Number 700, New York city." "You will ask," Quest continued, whether he is all right whether the

jewels are safe." There was a brief silence then the girl's voice. Yes. "Are you there. James? am Lenora. Are you safe? Have ou the jewels? . . . Where?

You are sure that you are safe? No, nothing fresh has happened." "You are at the hotel," Quest said softly. "You are going to him." "I cannot sleep," she continued. "! am coming to you."

She set down the receiver. Quest eaned a little more closely over her. "You know where the jewels are idden," he said. "Tell me where?" Her lips quivered. She made no an-

"Very good." Quest concluded. "You need not tell me. Only remember this: At nine o'clock tomorrow morning you will bring those jewels to this apart-. . Rest quietly now. I ment. want you to go to sleep.'

She obeyed without hesitation Quest watched, for a moment, her regular breathing. Then he touched a bell by his side. Laura entered alwost at once.

gir! out of the room into a larger "Lenora, look outside. See if anyapartment. A single electric light was one is on that landing. I fancied that burning on the top of a square mirror fixed upon an easel. Towards this Lenora crossed the room and tried they carried the girl and laid her in an the handle. Then she turned towards easy chair almost opposite to it. "The battery is just on the left,

Laura whispered. Quest nodded.

"Give me the band." She turned away for a moment and disappeared in the shadows. When she returned, she carried a curved band of flexible steel. Quest took it there to rot!" from her, attached it by means of a firm, soft fingers slipped it on to Lenora's forehead. Then he stepped

"She's a subject. Laura-I'm sure of it! Now for our great experiment! They watched Lenora intently.

"Lenora," Quest said, slowly and firmly, "your mind is full of one sub-You see your mistress in her chair by the fireside. She is toying with her diamonds. Look again. She lies there dead! Who was it entered room, Lenora? Look! Look! the Gaze into that mirror. What do you see there?

The girl's eyes had opened. They were fixed now upon the mirror-distended, full of unholy things "Try harder, Lenora, he muttered,

his own breath laboring "It is there in your brain! Look! For a single second the smooth surface of the mirror was obscured. A room crept dimly like a picture into being, a fire upon the hearth, a girl leaning back in her chair. A door in the background opened A man

stole out. He crept nearer to the girl -his eyes fixed upon the diamonds, a thin, silken cord twisted round his Suddenly she saw him-too wrist. late! His hand was upon her lips, his face seemed to start almost from the mirror-then blackness! Lenora opened her eyes. She was

still in the easy-chair before the fire. "Mr. Quest!" she faltered. He looked up from some letters which he had been studying.

"I am so sorry," he said politely. really had forgotten that you were here. But you know—that you have been to sleep?" "Can I go now?" she asked."

"Certainly," Quest replied. "To tell you the truth. I find that I shall not need to ask you those questions, after 

very well-known gang of New York

"I may go now, then?" she repeated,

Quest escorted the girl downstairs.

opened the front door, blew his whis-

tle and his car pulled up at the door

wherever she wishes. Good-night!"

"Take this young lady," he ordered,

The girl drove off. Quest watched

the car disappear around the corner.

Then he turned slowly and made prep-

"Number 700, New York," he mut-

tered, half an hour later, as he left

his house. "Beyond Fourteenth street

He hesitated for a moment, feeling

the articles in his overcoat pocket-a

revolver in one, a small piece of hard

substance in the other. Then he

stepped into his car, which had just

lady?" he asked the chauffeur.

Quest nodded approvingly.

"No finesse," he sighed.

sense of impending danger.

ing into blackness. . .

boarded a cross-town car."

"Where did you leave the young

"In Broadway, sir. She left me and

CHAPTER V.

Sanford Quest was naturally a per-

son unaffected by presentiments or

nervous fears of any sort, yet, having

advanced a couple of yards along the

hallway of the house which he had

just entered without difficulty, he came

to a standstill, oppressed with the

There was no direct response, yet

from somewhere upstairs he heard the

half-smothered cry of a woman. He

gripped his revolver in his fingers. He

took a quick step forward. The floor

gave way beneath him. He was fall-

The fall itself was scarcely a dezen

feet. He picked himself up, his shoul-

arations for his adventure.

-a tough neighborhood."

returned.

his voice.

how to track them down all right.'

with immense relief.

"What About the Young Woman?" the Inspector Asked.

STATE TOWN

have come to the conclusion that a with a little exclamation.

tion has been here. He says they going off duty. He recognized Quest

criminals are in this thing. We know | Quest explained "so as to get away

from the mob."

her up."

here

armed?"

Quest nodded.

"Anyone here?" he asked, raising in a friendly manner.

prise at the clock.

this young lady?"

"My fault!" he exclaimed. "We are

slow. Good-morning, Miss Lenora!"

She came straight to the table. She

laid a little packet upon the table.

Quest opened it coolly. The Ashleigh

led Lenora to a chair and rang a bell.

diamonds flashed up at him. He

"Prepare a bedroom upstairs," he

Laura," he added, as his

ordered. "Ask Miss Roche to come

secretary entered, "will you look after

A few minutes later Inspecto

"Some coffee, inspector?"

The inspector whistled.

French was announced. Quest nodded

"I'd rather have those diamonds!"

Quest threw them lightly across the

"And now, French, will you be here,

please, at midnight, with three men,

"Here?" the inspector repeated

Together they carried the sleeping der bruised his head swimming a lit tle. Suddenly a gleam of light shone down. A trap-door above his neach was slid a few inches back. The flare of an electric torch shone upon his face, a man's voice addressed him. "Not the great Sanford Quest? This surely cannot be the greatest detec-

> "Any chance of getting out?" Quest asked laconically. "None!" was the bitter reply. "You've done enough mischief. You're

tive in the world walking so easily in-

to the spider's web!"

"Why this animus against me my coll of wire to the battery, and with friend Macdougai?" Quest demanded. "You and have never come up against one another before. ) didn't like the life you led in New York ten years ago, or your friends, but you've suffered aothing through me. "It i let you go, once more came

the man's voice, "I know very well in what chair shall be sitting before a month has passed. ) am James Macdougai, Mr. Sanford Quest, and I have got the Ashleigh diamonds, and I have settled an old grudge, it not of my own, of one greater than you. That's all. A pleasant night to you!' The door went down with a bang. "A perfect oubliette, he remarked

to himself, as he held a match over his head a moment or two later, "built for the purpose. It must be the house we failed to find which Bill Taylor used to keep before he was shot. Smooth brick walls, smooth brick floor, only exit twelve feet above one's nead. Human means, apparently, are useless. Science, you have been my mistress all my days. You must save my life now or lose an earnest disciple. Quest felt in his overcoat pocket

and drew out the small, hard pellet. He gripped it in his fingers, stood as nearly as possible underneath the spot from which he had been projected, coolly swung his arm back, and flung the black pebble against the sliding door. The explosion which followed shook the very ground under his feet. For minutes afterwards everything around him seemed to You've Had a Rough Time, Lenora rock Then Sanford Quest emerged, dusty but unhurt, and touched a con- have him here at the time I to stable on his arm.

"Arrest me," he ordered. "I am Sanford Quest. I must be taken at once to headquarters."

They found a cab without much difficulty. It was five o'clock when they a cigar, and so long, inspector. They reached the central police station. all. A messenger from the police sta- | Inspector French happened to be just

"Got your man to bring me here,

"Our friend," he said "is going to be mad enough to walk into nell even, when he finds out what he thinks has nappened.

"It wasn't any oi Jimmy's lot?" Santoro Quest shook his head. "French," ne said, "keep mum but ? was the elderly family etainer Mac dougal. ' felt restless about nin-He has tost the girl-he was marrier to her, by the bye and the jewels No fear of his slipping away. I shall



"You've a way of your own of doing these things, Mr. Quest, the inspec tor admitted grudgingly.

"Mostly lucky," Quest replied. want me to talk to Chicago on a other little piece of business

It was a few minutes before mid night when Quest parted the curtains of a room on the ground floor of his house in Georgia square and looked out into the snow-white street. Then he turned around and addressed the figure lying as though asleep upon the sofa by the fire

"Lenora," he said, ") am going out. Stay here, if you please, until I re-

He left the room. For a few moments there was a profound silence. Then a white face was pressed against the window. There was a crash of glass. A man covered with snow sprang into the apartment. He moved swiftly to the sofa, and something black and ugly swaved in his hand.

"So you've deceived me, have you?" he panted. "Handed over the lewels. chucked me, and given me the double cross! Anything to say?"

Macdougal forward, white face distorted with passion. The life-preserver bent and quivered behind him, cut the air with a swish and crashed full upon the head.

The man staggered back. The weapon fell from his fingers. For a moment he was paralyzed. There was no blood upon his hand, no cry-He silence inhuman, unnatural! looked again. Then the lights flashed out all around him. There were two detectives in the doorway, their revolvers covering him-Sanford Quest, with Lenora in the background. In the sudden illumination Macdougal's horror turned almost to hysterical rage. He had wasted his fury upon a

dummy! "Say, you've been in trouble!" the "Take him, men," Quest ordered. inspector remarked, leading the way "Hands up, Macdougal, Your number's

into his room. "Bit of an explosion, that's all," The handcuffs were upon him be Quest replied. "I shall be all right fore he could move. when you've lent me a clothesbrush." "What about the young woman? "The Ashleigh diamonds, eh?" the the inspector asked.

inspector asked eagerly. Lenora stood in an attitude of de-"I shall have them at nine o'clock spair, her head downcast. She had this morning." Sanford Quest promturned a little away from Macdougal. ised, "and hand you over the mur Her hands were outstretched. It was derer somewhere around midnight." as though she were expecting the

. . . . . handcuffs Quest slept for a couple of hours "You can let her alone," Sanford Quest said quietly. "A wife cannot had a bath and made a leisurely toilet. give evidence against her husband. At a quarter to nine he sat down to and besides, I need her. She is going breakfast in his rooms. "At nine o'clock," he told his serve to work for me."

Macdougal was already at the door, ant, "a young lady will call. Bring between the two detectives. He swung around. His voice was calm, almost The door was suddenly opened. Lenora walked in. Quest glanced in sur-

clear-calm with concentration of hatred. "You are a wonderful man. Mr Sanford Quest," he said. "Make the most of your triumph. Your time is nearly up, there is one coming whose

away, Sanford Quest, like a fly. Wait a few weeks." "You interest me," Quest mur "Tell me some more about mured this great master?"

wit and cunning, science and skill are

all-conquering. He will brush you

"I shall tell you nothing," Macdougal replied. "You will hear nothing, you will know nothing. Suddenly you will find yourself opposed. You will struggle-and then the end. It is cer-

They led him away. Only Lenora remained, sobbing. Quest went up to her.

"You've had a rough time, Lenora," he said, with strange gentleness "Perhaps the brighter days are com-

COO BE CONTINUED.)

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