

THE GREEN CLOAK

(By Yorke Davis)

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young assistant in the district attorney's office, and I will add that he worked at the detection and prosecution of crime, con amore; it was not upon his salary that he lived at The Meredith.

The doctor leaned his elbows on the table and pointed a long finger at me. "Now, in the first place, all we know of Henry Morgan begins three years ago."

"Was Henry Morgan the name of the man who was murdered?" I asked.

"Yes—yes, at least it's the name he went by during the last three years of his life, which he spent at Oak Ridge. He got off the train there one morning with a hand bag and a check



"Half an Hour Later Some Passers-by Saw Him Striding Up and Down His Rickety Old Veranda."

for a small steamer trunk, both well-worn and both unmarked with any initials. He went straight to the real estate office of one James McCloskey and said he wanted to rent a house.

"McCloskey took him house-hunting, and, much to that gentleman's surprise, the only place in town that took Morgan's fancy was a large, dilapidated old house in one of its remotest quarters. The old place was in a state of considerable disrepair, and it contained a lot of rattle-trap furniture which the owner had never moved away. McCloskey had confessed that he had never expected to find a tenant for it. The question of repairs didn't seem to interest Mr. Morgan much, a patch or two in the roof and new lights of glass in the broken windows comprising all he asked for.

"When McCloskey asked him what family he had and when he expected them to arrive, Mr. Morgan answered that he had no family and intended to live alone. He did, in fact, live alone, without even the service of a house keeper, for a number of months, but finally engaged a respectable old woman, who lived in straightened circumstances not very far away, to come every day and cook his meals and keep his house in order. He let her in every morning in time to get breakfast, and she went away every night about seven o'clock after washing up the supper dishes.

"There, you have, practically, the story of his life in Oak Ridge, up to two nights ago. Two nights ago the old woman got supper for him for the last time, and went home as usual about seven o'clock. Half an hour later some passers-by saw him striding

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ing up and down his rickety old veranda, smoking a pipe. Yesterday morning when his housekeeper knocked at the kitchen door, there was no answer. Then she went around to the front of the house and rang the bell, also without result. She walked back a little way up the lawn and saw one of the windows in a sort of study he had on the third floor was open. "Well, it seems that she told various people about her fears that all was not well with her employer, but you know what a town of that description is like. There aren't any police. Most of the men in the place commute to town on the early trains, and with one thing and another, it was ten o'clock, or so, before the house was forcibly broken open. "The investigators found nothing disturbed either on the first floor or on the second but in the old gentleman's study, a finished-off room in the attic, with a couple of dormer windows, they found him dead in his chair. He was leaning back in a queer, unnatural attitude, and when they looked more closely, they found that he had been strangled with a catgut string from an old violin of his. An A string," he went on, with rising voice and finger that gesticulated only about six inches from my nose—"an A string that had been deliberately removed from the fiddle and slipped in a noose around his neck, while he sat there in his chair, and drawn taut. What do you say to that eh?" "I don't see why they call it murder," said I. "Why isn't suicide the more likely explanation?" "Oh, wise young judge," he mocked. "For just this reason, my boy; that the end of the string wasn't fastened

to anything. He couldn't have come and untied the knot behind the back of his neck. No, it's murder, and I could reach around after he was dead should be inclined to say a singular-

ly pure example of it." McCloskey ask for any references at "There's no connection whatever the time Morgan rented the house?" with his past?" I inquired. "Didn't (To be Continued)

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