

# The GREEN CLOAK

By YORKE DAVIS

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## STORY FROM THE START

Dr. Ronald McAllister, psychologist, undertakes to solve the mystery of the murder of a recluse, Henry Morgan. The dead man's papers reveal that he had been in New Zealand, where McAllister had lived in his youth. Will Harvey testifies to seeing a woman in a green cloak at the Morgan home the night of the murder. Doctor McAllister is asked to see a young woman patient in a hospital. In her delirium she mutters in a strange language which only McAllister understands. He suspects she may know something of the murder. A carefully hidden map is discovered by McAllister and Assistant District Attorney Ashton in Morgan's home. While they are searching a young woman enters the house in the darkness and escapes, leaving behind a green cloak. The name of Jane Perkins, a housemaid, is brought into the case and McAllister believes he has a clue.

## CHAPTER VI

After our conversation with Ashton in the morning, which had terminated with a practical declaration of war, on our part, upon him, his visit to our laboratory took us rather by surprise. I think, perhaps that he intended it that way, and that there may have been lurking in the bottom of his mind the idea that by coming upon us in that unexpected way, he might surprise some secret we were holding back from him.

"Well," he said cheerfully in answer to our greeting, "I just met Harvey coming away from here in Malloy's conveyance. I suppose with such an array of instruments as this," he waved his hand to include pretty much everything in the room, "you've succeeded in getting the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth out of him. How about it? Is he innocent or guilty?"

His mockery was perfectly good-natured, but the depth of his skepticism made it possible for Doctor McAllister to be perfectly frank with him. "He is innocent," said he. "He had no more connection with the Oak Ridge murder than you had."

"He says so himself, I presume," observed Ashton.

"Exactly," replied the doctor. The telephone bell rang just then and I answered it. I heard a voice from somewhere inquiring if this was Doctor McAllister's laboratory, and on my answering in the affirmative, the voice asked if Mr. Ashton had arrived yet.

"He's here now," I said. "Do you want to talk with him?"

Then I turned away and called Ashton to the phone. As he started across the room my chief spoke to him.

"I see an evening paper sticking out of your pocket," said he. "Let me have a look, will you, while you are at the telephone?"

Ashton handed it to him, then crossed the room and picked up the receiver.

The doctor beckoned to me. For the moment he seemed very little concerned with the news, for he turned the front pages rapidly, until he came to the lost and found section in the classified advertising. Once there, his eye pounced, like a hawk, upon the item he wanted. His long bony finger pointed it out to me:

"Found—A green cloak. Owner can have same by identifying and paying cost of this insertion."

"I wonder if that bait has brought any nibbles this afternoon," the doctor whispered.

Then, before I could reply, he gripped my arm tightly, and nodded toward Ashton.

"A woman, you say? . . . I heard him exclaim with every appearance of excitement. . . . 'Did she identify it?' . . . 'What sort of woman? Anything unusual about her?' . . . 'There was a little silence while he listened for the description. Then in an incredulous tone we heard him exclaim: . . . 'An English housemaid! And she gave her name as Jane Perkins! Did she identify the cloak beyond a doubt?'"

It over her arm. But the address—well, I admitted to myself, that reduced the whole thing to a farce.

For a moment all my belief in Doctor McAllister's theory, in the validity of the test we had performed upon Harvey, in every scientific law I had felt surest of ten minutes ago, tottered on its foundation. Some one, somewhere, in placid security from our suspicions, and from the possibility of our detection was directing this ghastly farce and was permitting himself to laugh at us. That girl in the hospital had been shamming; Harvey had been shamming; Jane Perkins, who had identified the cloak, was, perhaps, a myth altogether. I could imagine whoever played the part laughing, as she walked away with that cloak over her arm, and picturing the effect upon all of us when we should learn the address she had given.

But to the district attorney the situation had a very different look. He had no doubt at all—and on second thought I could not blame him—that we ourselves were the center of a plot to make him look ridiculous.

I got the shock of another surprise when I turned to look at Doctor McAllister. Instead of the indignant rebuke which I expected him to mete out to the young man who had just accused him, he spoke very quietly and with a mocking twinkle in his eye.

"You can't expect me to pass my opinion on a joke, Ashton, until I hear it," he said.

"You know altogether too much about it already," said the attorney hotly. "This precious Jane Perkins of yours answers my advertisement for the cloak which you turned over to me. She identifies it, beyond any doubt, as anyone whom you had instructed in advance would be able to do—identifies it down to a missing button and a patch in the lining. How far back does the joke go? Did you find the cloak as you pretended you did, in Oak Ridge, near the Morgan house, or was the finding of it part of the game?"

A little gesture of rebuke and protest from the doctor checked him very abruptly.

"No, I withdraw that," he said. "That was an unwarranted thing to say. I believe that up to this morning, when you declared war upon me, you thought that by instructing the woman to give my own detective my own address as hers you were giving me a fair chance to detect the fraud. It would be, I suppose, if this were a game of chess. But this is serious business."

"We realize that as well as you do," I started to say, but my chief interrupted me.

"Can't you penetrate our fraud a little further?" he asked, and his tone now was openly derisive. "Does it occur to you that Phelps here, with the addition of a skirt and a shawl, might not be a sufficiently plausible Jane Perkins to deceive the astute gentleman you left in charge?"

There was a little pause there, for Ashton was too angry to answer.

The doctor's manner changed as he went on. "What Phelps says is true. We realize better than you do, I think, what is at stake here. We're not trying to thwart justice in the long run. We are attacking this problem in our own way, after giving you fair warning. We refused to guarantee that our way would not conflict with yours, and we told you, in so many words, that you'd do well to keep an eye on us. You've the law on your side. You've all the power of the state attorney's office, whereas we have no standing at all. If you think we've got the cloak, search us; search the laboratory. Where will you begin?"

Still too angry to make any reply, Ashton strode out of the room, not actually slamming the door after him, but shutting it decisively enough to suggest that he felt like slamming it, and the next moment we heard his motor chugging away down the avenue.

The doctor hurried to the window and looked out after him. Presently he turned toward me with a long breath of relief.

"We're all right so far," he said.

"What's that? Three—seven—0 Woodland! Why, you idiot, that's my own address! That's The Meredith. And you let her walk off with that cloak over her arm after she had given you that address!"

He waited for no answer, replaced the receiver on the hook, with a jerk, and whirled around upon us, his face red with anger.

"Gentlemen, don't you think you have carried this joke a little too far?" he demanded.

I suppose the unwarranted accusation might have made me angry if I had had leisure to indulge in such an emotion. But all my other feelings were swallowed up in astonishment. That one additional detail supplied by Ashton's conversation over the telephone stretched an already hardly credible coincidence to the breaking point. Jane Perkins not only had a green cloak with a high collar, but she had lost it; and seeing it advertised as found, had promptly gone and identified it, and had gone away with

"He's gone straight on without turning the corner. He isn't going back to The Meredith just yet. Come along. We'll have no time to lose even as it is. Ashton will have cooled down by dinner time, and when he's cool enough to let his mind begin working again, he'll become dangerous."

Already he was struggling into his overcoat. I turned to go to the other room for mine, when he called me back and sent me to the telephone.

"I think we had better have a taxi," he said. "I'll save some precious time and will enable us to take some of our traps up to the hotel with us."

"Traps?" I inquired. "Some of our instruments, do you mean?"

He nodded. "The chronograph and telephones," he said. "I fancy they'll be all we'll need for any real test we shall want to make, but it will be well to take something else for the purpose of diffusing attention. Here, this piece of heavy artillery will just serve the purpose. It's rather cumbersome, but that makes it all the better."

The instrument he indicated was one I had never seen before, it having come in only that day from the model makers. The doctor was always devising new instruments of one sort or another. This one looked interesting, and I should have questioned him about it had not my mind been so full of other things.

"You'd better telephone at once," he concluded. "If this sleet storm keeps up, the wires are likely to be down before night."

Both of us, I think, would have been a little surprised if we could have known how true that prediction was and how vitally it was going to concern us.

"You are going to make some tests up in our rooms in The Meredith?" I asked.

"I imagine," he said soberly, though his eyes sparkled with excitement as he spoke, "I imagine that our room will be about the only place where we will be secure from interruption. I could see it in Ashton's eye that meant business, and I'm pretty sure that if we attempted to come back here after dinner and bring anybody with us, our little party would sustain a rude interruption."

All the while he spoke, he was busy gathering things together, and as soon as I had finished telephoning, I helped him. Haste spoke in every movement he made, and it was not long before I was thoroughly infected with his excitement, although I had only a vague idea what it was all about.

Not until we were seated in the cab with a suitcase full of instruments at our feet, did he say anything that tended to clear up any part of the mystery.

"It was a great piece of luck," he observed then, "we were able to send Ashton away in such a rage. It won't occur to him for some time, to begin making inquiries about The Meredith."

"You mean," I exclaimed, "that the address four—seven—0 Woodland avenue was given in good faith, by a real Jane Perkins, who is actually employed there?"

He only laughed and told me to wait and see; but the infection of his voice and the eager expectancy in his eye made it clear that that was what he did believe.

"But," I protested, "even if it were possible to imagine Jane Perkins having any possible connection with the crime, it is inconceivable that she would go and risk answering the advertisement in order to reclaim the cloak and then give her own address."

He vouchsafed no word of explanation or argument, but I could see that my objection had not shaken him in the least. So, perforce, I waited with what patience I could assume to see what would happen when we reached The Meredith.

The doctor turned over our bag to a hall-boy, with instructions that it be taken to our apartment. Then he led the way straight toward the dining room. It was barely six o'clock, a full hour earlier than we usually dined, and the room was almost empty.

"It won't entirely destroy your appetite to sit down to dinner in tweeds, will it?" he asked. "We really haven't time for frivolities of that sort this evening."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## Broken Heart Cause of Pyorrhea Attacks

According to Dr. Hans Sachs of Berlin, one of Germany's most eminent dentists, the jolts of life and worries loosen teeth and are the real cause of pyorrhea. Keep your soul in song comfort and harmony, he says, and your teeth will be free of the modern plague of pyorrhea. Doctor Sachs has devoted the last ten years to the study of the influence of psychological factors on teeth, says the Pathfinder Magazine. He believes that pyorrhea develops most easily in teeth affected by tartar.

"I have established through a series of tests that under strain of emotion and worries tartar settles on teeth much more rapidly than under normal condition," he claims. "Another cause for pyorrhea is gnashing of teeth, especially when asleep. Psychoanalysts know that gnashing of the teeth is only a reaction of the subconscious mind trying to free itself of burden-

some impressions of daily life. Consequently, here, too, is a psychic cause leading to pyorrhea. Most pyorrhea patients belong to the depressive type discovered by Freud. Take the depression away and the pyorrhea will improve. It may sound foolish to laymen, but there is no doubt that a broken heart may cause pyorrhea and the subsequent loss of teeth."

## Origin of "Horse-Radish"

In the names of plants and fruits the word "horse" is frequently used to denote a large, strong or coarse variety. For instance horse beans are a coarse variety of common beans used in feeding horses and cattle. It is supposed that the word was originally used in "horse-radish" for the same purpose; namely, to indicate what was regarded as a coarse kind of radish.

# DAIRY FACTS

## BIG FACTORS IN PRODUCING MILK

Because of the prevailing high prices of feeds much stress has been laid on weeding out the poor cows and keeping only those that produce at a profit. "This is sound policy, only if the cows have been properly fed and cared for, states E. A. Gauntt, assistant dairy specialist at the New Jersey College of Agriculture.

"Two factors must be considered in milk production, namely, inherited ability of the cow to produce milk, and feed and care. The importance of proper feeding was proved recently by the Minnesota experiment station, which purchased four poor cows from a member of a cow-testing association. This man thought he had fed his cows properly. He bought large quantities of mill feeds. He fed a mixture of 90 parts of bran, 80 of middlings, 18 of ready-mixed feed and 4 of oil meal. He fed five pounds of this to each cow daily. The cows were on pasture six months. This feed cost him \$49.46 a cow and the average milk production was 4,962 pounds of milk and 182 pounds of fat. His net profit was \$37.90 per cow.

"After the college purchased them their feed was changed to a balanced ration and instead of feeding each cow five pounds, they were fed according to the amount of milk they produced—in other words, the more milk they gave, the more feed they were given. The cows were kept on pasture only five months instead of six, and got alfalfa hay and corn silage instead of timothy. This change boosted the average to 6,375 pounds of milk—an increase of 36.7 per cent. The butterfat increase was 77 pounds per cow. The feed cost was \$61.42 instead of \$49.46, but the profit per cow was \$62.90 instead of \$37.90. This means that by proper feeding the owner could have increased his net profit \$25 per cow, which would not have been a bad investment."

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# POULTRY

## SAVE LEGUME HAY FOR WINTER FEED

Save about six pounds of good legume hay for every bird in your poultry flock for use this winter.

For legume hay, especially if it is leafy and of good quality, makes an excellent winter substitute for the succulent green food hens like so well during the summer. Feeding trials at the Ohio agricultural experiment station, Wooster, have demonstrated the truth of this, according to the experimenters, D. C. Kennard and R. M. Bothke.

Alfalfa, red clover, and soy bean hays appear to be about equally valuable. Regardless of the kind, it is necessary that the hay be made of the immature plant, so as to carry a large proportion of leafy material, especially valuable for chickens.

The hay must be carefully cured without getting wet, the scientists suggest, so that it will hold its bright green color. This insures retention of its valuable water-soluble constituents. Usually the second or third cutting of alfalfa and clover is best. Soy bean hay is best cut when the seeds are just beginning to form in the pods.

Perhaps the best way to feed hay to poultry is to cut it in half-inch lengths. It can then be put into a wire-netting basket feeder and kept before the birds all the time. Uncut hay may be put into feeding racks made of plaster lath placed vertically 2 inches apart. Still another way is to tie the hay in a bundle and suspend it from the ceiling so as to be 5 or 6 inches from the floor.

## Examine Bands on Wings and Legs of Chickens

Don't forget the pedigreed stock these days. They are your best chicks. Examine the legbands and wingbands to see that they are not cutting into the flesh and that none of the bands have worked loose and are likely to be lost.

Some breeders use legbands for the first few weeks of the chicks' lives and later transfer these bands to the wings. If this practice is followed on your farm, see that this rebanding time has not gone too long and that the bands are not cutting into the shanks. If it is not convenient to change these bands to the wings just now, loosen them enough so the legs will not be injured and the bands will not drop off.

Other breeders put the bands right in the wings when the chicks are hatched. Catch up these chicks and look over the condition of these wings and bands. They may have been pinched too tightly at the start or for some reason may be partly torn out. Many of these bands may have to be loosened and some may have to be tightened. Make a practice of examining the condition of the bands every three weeks.

## Big Advantage to Have Youngsters Roost Early

Early roosting does not cause crooked breast bones, as was formerly thought by many. This is caused by poor bone development due to a deficiency in those elements that are necessary for strong bones. A proper mineral supply, plenty of direct sunshine, or the use of cod liver oil will prevent this condition.

It is to the poultry keeper's advantage to get young stock to roost as early as possible, for if they do not get this habit, it is difficult to teach them when they are put in the laying house. The use of small roosts in the brooder house when chicks are only four or five weeks old will help to start this habit early. These roosts can be hinged to the walls of the brooder house about a foot from the floor. They may be raised during the day to give the chicks full benefit of the floor space, and lowered to the floor in the evening. By having these roosts on all sides of the house, there will be sufficient room for the chicks to spread out and they will all be equidistant from the brooder stove, providing the stove is in the center of the house.

## Coccidiosis Symptoms

Weakness, ruffled feathers, droopiness, and sometimes bloody droppings, are outward symptoms of coccidiosis. Perform a post-mortem and examine the intestines. If the blind pouches are enlarged and filled with a firm cheesy material, that is an additional symptom of coccidiosis. Some feeding experiments have proven that a diet of nothing but buttermilk may be helpful in controlling this disease. A practical method is to kill all badly diseased chicks.

## Soft-Shell Eggs

Soft-shelled eggs may be prevented first by seeing the hens get plenty of minerals. This is accomplished by having both oyster shells and cracked rock known as hens' grit in front of the hens constantly and by feeding a dry mash which contains about 20 per cent beef scraps. In case you are using milk in place of beef scraps, add about 5 per cent of what the packers call raw bone meal. This will keep indefinitely if kept covered up.

# Horticultural News

## ANNUAL PRUNING OF APPLE TREES

Bearing apple trees in fairly vigorous condition in the well-kept apple orchard need a light but thorough annual pruning to keep them in proper shape, says A. Freeman Mason, fruit specialist of the New Jersey Extension service. If the trees are properly pruned each year, they will never become thick and bushy, and the pruning job will be relatively simple.

This annual pruning will consist principally of the removal of water sprouts and small interfering branches. The latter occur principally in the outer portions of the tree, where heavy crops have caused branches to be permanently bent down or across other limbs. Twigs which hang down underneath, or arise from the top and loop over along the branches, should be removed first. This thinning out of small branches should be very thorough.

Occasionally it will be necessary to remove one or two large limbs, but usually the pruning can be accomplished by cutting branches not larger than an inch in diameter. When in doubt about any cut, it is generally advisable to remove the branch.

If the tree has reached a height of twenty feet or more, any upright branches in the top running above this height should be removed in order to limit the tree to an economical size. Occasionally it will be desirable to head back lateral branches for the same reason. All dead and diseased wood should be removed, although the amount of such wood will be very small unless the trees are quite old or have been badly neglected. Pruning may be done at any time until growth starts in the spring.

## Thin Raspberry Canes for Good Crop Next Year

The taste of fresh raspberries is still with us. "Start right away if you would have a big crop next summer," says C. L. Kuehner, fruit specialist at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, in giving a few simple directions for the care of the bushes.

Remove all canes which bore fruit in the summer is the first recommendation. Also remove all new growth which is affected with anthracnose and cane borer. Borer-infected canes can be detected by the borer holes. Anthracnose can be recognized by the small spots which are gray in the center and reddish and slightly raised on the edges. A spray solution of one gallon liquid lime-sulphur to nine gallons of water, applied in the spring, is also useful in controlling this disease.

Red raspberries should be left in rows, removing all except the huskiest canes and allowing four to five inches between canes in the row.

## Neglected Vineyards Hit by Parasites and Fungus

One of the several insect and disease pests which was serious in neglected vineyards during the past season was the grape berry moth, according to A. S. Colby, University of Illinois. In some of the older vineyards this pest was found at work in the fruit clusters. By working into and through the grapes, the larva of this insect made the bunches unfit for sale.

Another insect which must get more attention in some vineyards next year if the most profitable crops are harvested is the phylloxera, a tiny root louse which also causes galls to form on the leaves of the vine. This insect is spreading slowly through the commercial grape growing regions on susceptible varieties such as Janesville and Bacchus. Seasonal conditions seem to have some influence on its spread.

## Horticulture Facts

Prune gooseberries and currants directly the fruit is picked.

Because apple prices are good this year and there is little sales resistance, the "Apples for Health" campaign should not be allowed to lag.

Grape vines produce fruit from the buds on the growth of the preceding year. If this is kept thoroughly in mind it is reasonably easy to prune grape vines.

More than 200,000 known kinds of insects attack trees. In the United States alone it is estimated the loss from caterpillars, beetles, borers and other insects amounts to \$100,000,000.

Trees that are unhealthy because of crown gall should not be used for grafting purposes, but should be destroyed.

For the planting of blackberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries, and strawberries, spring planting is generally preferred.

Before putting the orchard or garden spray machine away for the season it is a good idea to clean the tank and working parts, oil the pump and oil and loosen all threaded parts.