

# THE DARK KNIGHT

By WILLIAM T. SMITH

(Continued from Page Three)

The youth decided that it was now or never, but suddenly the glare of a searchlight flashed into the car, and strange gruff voices began shouting. "Halt! Hands up! Don't any of you move!"

Wolf cursed savagely, as he tried

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vainly to shield his eyes from the blinding glare.

Someone was opening the door. "Climb out!" a voice commanded.

With raised hands the driver, Wolf, Rod and the other man got out of the machine. The bright light still blinded them. Rod felt hands searching through his pockets and patting him in search of weapons. He heard Wolf expostulating as someone evidently took his gun from him.

"Who are you?" a stranger was demanding. "I'm Wolf Thomas. You'd better let me alone! Gimme my gun back!"

"Sit up and be quiet, or I'll tap you one," one of the strange voices answered. The light was snapped off. After a bit, Rod saw that they were surrounded by a group of men who were busily searching them. The search finished, two of the men went to the car and searched it, throwing its cushions out on the ground.

"You'd better tell me who you are," Wolf fumed. "I know my rights."

A man, evidently the leader of their captors, flashed a small pocket lamp on his own breast, displaying a gold badge. "We're federal agents—prohibition department, Mr. Wolf," he informed him drily. "And if you've got any liquor in that car you're gonna go to headquarters."

Seeing his chance, Rod spoke up quickly. "He was taking me for a ride, Mister—"

"Don't pay that double crossing rat any mind," Wolf spoke hurriedly. "He's just afraid he may have to take a rap for this—"

"Wait a minute—wait a minute," the government man ordered. He turned to Rod. "Now, what were you saying, young fellow?"

"I said that this Wolf guy was taking me for a ride because I beat him up the other night," Rod explained breathlessly. "He said he was going to kill me when he got me out here—"

"Don't listen to him," Wolf interrupted harshly. "I tell you he's just trying to get out of this."

The men who had been searching the car returned to the group. "Didn't find any booze, chief," one of them announced.

"Gimme my rod back," Wolf demanded. "You guys are gonna get in hot water about this. I've got drag—"

"Shut your mouth!" the leader of the agents grated tersely. "and get back in that bus of yours and hit the concrete."

Wolf's two benchmen started at once for their car as though they were relieved at the turn affairs had taken, but the gang leader was persistent. Grabbing Rod's arm he said with sham kindness, "Come on, kid, I'll forget your little stall. These guys aren't going to arrest you. Come on."

Rod knocked his arm away. "I'm not going with you!" he cried. "Do you think I'm a fool?"

He turned to the federal men. "Please let me go with you fellows, or else stay here. I'm not telling a lie. This guy really wants to kill me!"

"I believe this kid is telling the truth," the leader of the agents said. "You stay here with us," he bade Rod. Then he took a threatening step toward Wolf. "You get the hell on away from here, Mr. Tough Guy, or I'll give you something to yelp about!"

"I'll make you lose your job," Wolf

muttered, as he slunk sullenly toward his car. The man he addressed started toward him, but Wolf increased his pace and leaped into the machine, which began backing up with great rapidity.

(Continued on page five)

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