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NO. KIP! THE SECRET.
OF THE BLACK HOOD.
S WORTH MORE THAN
EVEN MC. GINTY'S JOS!
HE'LL HAVE TO GET.
OLT OF THIS JAM
SY HINSELF AS
BEST HE CAN!















































































































































HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, HOOP," HOW RIGHT YOU ARE! YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF NEEDLEHOODLE YET. TOO MUCH, PERHAPS.."







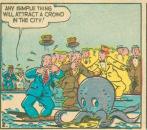
































































THE GREEN BEARD

A BLACK HOOD STORY

THE killer came upon Professor Robert Woodley at the proper time—when every student had gone for the day. He entered the school through an open cellar window and moved silently through the darkened halls until he reached Woodley's room. Then he opened the door and shot Woodley three times in the back.

The killer was a very ordinary looking man—almost. He had on a plain grey business suit, a plain grey topcoat, and his shirt and tie were in very good taste. Yes, the killer was a very ordinary looking man, except for one thing.

He wore a long green beard. . . .

Gerald Lane, red-headed young professor of Mathematics at Woodley's college, told The Hood about it, He met The Hood by appointment, and in a taxicab which slowly wended its way through the city streets, he told The Hood the entire story.

"There's no doubt," said Lane, "that the murder was committed by either Jenkins, Keller, or myself. That's why I've asked you to investigate the murder. Each of us insists that he didn't do it—but one of us is lying. We want you to find the murderer and clear the other two.

"Wait a minute," said The Hood. "Let me get this straight. You say a police officer saw the murderer enter the cellar window?"

"Yes," said Lane, impatiently. "The murderer first caught the policeman's eye because he was wearing a green beard—fancy that, a green beard! The officer started toward the murderer, thinking he was a maniac or something like that . . . but before he got halfway down the block toward him, the murderer had popped into the school building through the cellar window."

"I see," said The Hood. "Then the policeman jumped into the building after the green-bearded man, but lost him in the maze of rooms and stairways. Then, while he was looking around, he heard the shots coming from Woodley's room. Correct?"

"That's it," said Lane. "The officer followed the sound of the shots, and he arrived in Woodley's room just in time to see the killer, but lost him again in the maze of rooms. The school is fairly small, but an inexperienced man could get lost in it easily enough . . . so many stairways and rooms, you know." He paused for breath. "At any rate, the officer realized that he didn't stand much chance of locating the killer by himself, so he rushed downstairs, ascertained -luckily for him, I might add, there were people near the cellar window and the only entrance, at the front-ascertained that the killer hadn't escaped, and summoned more police. Then they searched the building, and found that only Keller, Jenkins and I were in the building. There was absolutely no one else there. Even the janitor had gone out some hours previous."

"I see," said The Hood, again. He seemed

lost in thought.

"That's the set up," finished Lane. "All three of us had motives for killing Woodley. We were in the building at the time of the murder to collect our papers and belongings preparatory to leaving for good. Woodley had fired all of us because our political beliefs differed from his. . . ."

The Hood sighed. "Tell me," he said, "didn't you or Jenkins or Keller hear the

sounds of the shots?"

"No," said Lane, decisively. "Our offices are located on the floor below. It would be physically impossible to hear the shots from where we were situated." He smiled, suddenly. "You'll note that I say our offices are located on the floor below. Since Woodley is dead, I'm quite sure that the new

school Dean will permit us to retain our positions,"

"Very interesting," said The Hood. "Another question now, please. What were your next moves—you three? I mean, where would you have gone had Woodley lived and you'd been forced to leave the school?"

"Well," said Lane, "Jenkins and Keller were entering the Navy as technical officers. Jenkins is an Engineering expert; and Keller is a very competent Chemistry man." He chuckled. "You know, this murder is an especial break for me. I don't know where I would have gone from here. I tried to enter the service along with Jenkins and Keller—and my Math experience would have gained me a commission, but the doctors rejected me on one minor physical point."

The Hood's eyes had lit up. Very casually, he said, "Tell me one more thing, Lane. Do

you drive a car?"

Lane looked at him narrowly. "No," he

said. "My license was refused."

"Well!" said The Hood. "Was your license, too, refused on a minor physical point?"

Before Lane could answer the taxi ground to a halt. "Here we are," said Lane. "I live on the fifth floor. Jenkins and Keller are waiting for us."

The two men took the self-operating elevator up, and entered a wide living room. Jenkins and Keller rose to great them.

"Sorry I took so long in arriving," said Lane, "but I had to explain the entire case to The Hood."

"And a very thorough job you did of it too, Mr. Lane," The Hood conceded. "Before I begin I want to ask one question." The Hood pulled a handkerchief out of his pocket. "Gentlemen, I want to ask you the collor of this handkerchief."

The Hood smiled grimly at the bewildered faces of the three men. "You first, Mr. Lane. What is the color of this handker-

chief?"

"Uh . . . Why, it's uh . . . red," Lane stammered.

There was a split second of silence. And then Jenkins and Keller burst out, together, "Lane, The Hood's handkerchief is—"
They stopped together.

"Exactly," said The Hood, "My handkerchief is green. You understand now what I understood minutes ago. Lane killed Woodley!"

Lane said, "No!" once, his voice choked. "Yes," said The Hood. "The green beard started me on the solution. The beard was obviously false . . . admitted. Now the reason a man would wear a false beard when about to commit a murder is obvious: for disguise purposes, of course. But why a green beard?"

He looked around him. "There are only two possible answers. One, the killer was insane... but the methodical manner in which the murder was committed discounts the possibility of insanity. Then how about the other possibility? The killer wore a green beard... because he was colorblind!"

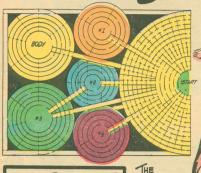
Lane cringed against the wall.

"Lane had a brilliant idea: he'd kill Woodley-but he'd do it from the outside, so that no suspicion would be thrown on him. He went into a masquerader's and selected a beard from the typical beard display you'll find in those shops. Lane has the most common form of colorblindness -where red seems green, and green seems red. So, Lane selected the green beard, and the masquerader, who is used to selling these for comic parties, sold it to him without comment. Then Lane, thinking he had bought a red beard to match his hair, proceeded to commit the murder. When he saw the policeman chasing him, he went to his office, and pretended to have been there all the time."

The Hood stopped speaking, and for a moment there was silence. Then Lane laughed, a short, bitter laugh. And as he laughed, he leaped . . . away from The Hood, right toward a nearby window. There was a splintering sound as he crashed through.

He was dead a minute after he hit the ground. His body was crushed, and blood was splattered all over the sidewalk—blood which, oddly enough, would have looked green to him, had he been alive to see it.

Black HOOD PUZZLE





HERE ARE FOUR, AND FOUR ONLY, WORDS HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE SCRAMBLE! PUT ON YOUR DETEC-TIVE SUIT AND SEE IF YOU CAN TRACK DOWN THE FOUR WORDS."

KIDNA PPING OF

VERA GUINEVERE DE LA VERE

VERA HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED AND KIP BURLAND THINKS SHE MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED! WHILE KIP IS RAPIDLY CHANGING INTO HIS BLACK HOOD COSTUME, TAKE YOUR PENCIL AND WHEN THE BLACK HOOD IS READY, MEET HIM WHERE IT SAYS "START"! THEN, TOGETHER, START LOOKING THRU THE MAZE FOR VERA!

MOLEAN.

- IF YOU END UP AT NO. I CIRCLE-START OVER!
- FATNO.2-
 - YOU HAVE A STUPIO PENCIL!
- LET YOUR LI'L BROTHER DOTH' PUZZLE!
- IF AT NO.4-THE BLACK HOOD FIRES YOU!

BUT-IF YOU FIND THE "BODY" CIRCLE, YOU WIIN!" AND THIS ENTITLES YOU TO EXTRA SOAR IN YOUR EYE WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR NEXT BATH!!!







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WELL, IT'S A START! AS A PRIVATE IT'LL BE GOOD PRACTICE TO

HUNT DOWN CUSTOMERS























WHY YOU, DIRTY... GET MC. GINTY ON THE PHONE, BABS!

COME NOW, HOOD, ALL THE POLICE WOULD! HARDLY CONSIDER THAT

A CRIME! WHY MC. GINTY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT

I HATE TO ADMIT

GOOD! NOW THAT WE UNDER STAND EACH OTH













































































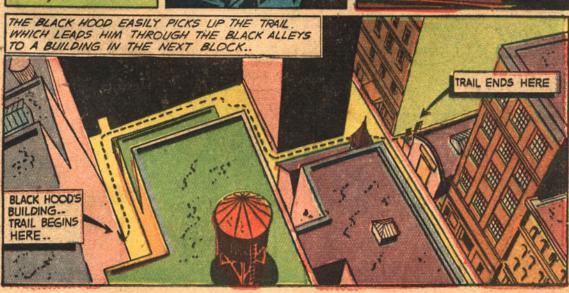
























THE WAY THINGS STAND NOW, IT COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT, IF I PLANNED IT WYSELF YOU BE A WANTED MAN, HOOD! IN FACT THERE'S EVEN A REWARD ON YOUR HEAD! SO NATURALLY, BEING A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN, I SHALL BE FORCED TO TURN YOU WA



































































































































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YOU POOR CHUMP ARE YOU GOING

TO GROW UP AND

BEAMAN!

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