ORY of the EBONY MUSIC BOX.

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NE morning Barnes was handed a long official looking envelope State department, It was not unndence from the soat of government, but this was the first time he had been honored with a communication direct from the cabinet officer who controls the foreign relations of the nation. He tore the letter yet who, if driven into a corner, could exopen quickly and read it from beginning to end with avidity. It was long and important and held several enclosures. The revelations were unusual enough to make even such a seasoned veteran blink with perfumed and bejeweled person. astonishment. He read the letter very

wall beside his desk. 'Clancy, we've got to be in Fall River before 7 o'clock tomorrow night." The young man, accustomed to sudden

carefully a second time and as he con-

calls, saluted and said; "All right, sir; I'll go bome, pack my grip and meetf son in an hour."

Being expeditious, they made their conwith his most official manner;

"We are here to identify and shadow a man and a woman. The man is short and something out of the ordinary must have thick set, with a smooth face and a occurred to you while there." swarthy complexion. He carries a little with a royal crown The woman is tall, thin and angular, with sharp features and has a big Maltese cat, which is her inseparable companion."

'That's a bully description!" exclaimed Clancy, enthusiasm getting the better of ing of these was the adventure of the disrespectful demeanor. "A fellow would have tinguished foreigner and the consignment to be near-sighted to miss a couple like of Italian books.

While they were talking a stranger came along the pier, warbling a French song. check and in return received the key of a tion." reserved stateroom. He marched away, singing blithely.

Barnes rushed up to the little cubby hole, cigar. 'Who was that man?" he demanded. nesty of the question.

chief returned to his assistant, sat-

"It's our man all right," he said. "He's ask questions.

was intended for withering sarcasm, "that it wouldn't be a bad idea to get acquainted

came like a shot.

The two men procured a stateroom merely as a matter of form, because neither had any intention of sleeping that night. Presently the count's wife, with her Maltese cat, came aboard and was ushered into The count himself strolled about the boat, leaving clouds of cigarrette smoke in his wake. Everywhere he went he carried the little ebony music box with Clancy, who was naturally of a sociable disposition, soon managed to get into conversation with the titled foreigner. In ten minutes they were chatting away like lifelong friends. The count noticed that Clancy was looking at the box he carried, and he remarked in a nonchalant manner, with a shrug of the shoulder:

"Ah. my music box. I adore music, and so I carry this little instrument with me everywhere." Clancy, with glittering eyes, replied:

"I'm with you there, count; I love music too. Give us a tune."

The count was disconcerted; but he recovered quickly:

"I have not the key," he said, shrugging his shoulder. Then as an after tho "the instrument is out of order, and I must not touch it until it is fully repaired."

Barnes. The Count, who was loquacious, was delighted to meet such an amiable per-He said he was traveling for his health, and Barnes, much to his amusement, said he was traveling for the health of the community.

At this stage of the game Clancy noticed that the Chief carried a package way, and a knowing look came into his under his right arm. He was about to ask him what that meant when Barnes whispered huskily:

"The minute the Count lays down his music box, grab it and put it in our

ately. They were at the cigar stand. The Count lay down his box in order to pay for a box of cigarettes. Barnes simulcousty attracted his attention to something on the other side of the boat. Clancy stooped, picked up the box and darted off in the direction of his cabin. the package under his arm and deposited a duplicate box on the floor in place of the stolen one. It was identical with the first one in every detail, and when the Count eigarette he picked up the substituted box and, with a sigh of satisfaction, placidly

After the boat had left Fall River and started on its night run to New York ha favited Barnes and Clancy to join him in box nearly an hour had clapsed. A mass of books a very talented and, I might add, a "nichteap" in the little sitting room/attached to his cabin. They readily assented. It was the finest room on the boat, with this, in warlike array, was layer after layer stituted a propaganda of revolution among cushioned soats on both sides. The Count- of magazines for repeating rifles. The sec- the people. Now, I want you to know that ess we there with her cat. After the presentations had been made and the "night-

disposed of she exclaimed:

thoughful of men!" "Ah! you are teasing me," cried the all alike. Ploating like light clouds 'twist our gaze and heaven. I quote from memory, but my poet expresses the thought

tional sentiments the count sank into the seat opposite his wife and gazed at her with sudden interest. with dreamy eyes. Curled up on the plush

arms folded, blinking and chuckling in the most disconcerting way. All of his features lent themselves in a startling manner to this resemblance to the most cun ning and sagacious of animals. It could be seen in the erect, pointed ears; in the long nose, which seemed to be perpetually containing the imprint of the on the scent of something; in the sharp eyes, at once observant and suspicious; in usual for him to receive corre- the shrewd countenance, which indicated not only intellectual capacity, but ingenuity and a fondness for strategy. A reader of character would have said that this was a man naturally of a timorous disposition, hibit a boldness bordering on courage. The soft, white hand with the pinkish finger nafls suggested effeminacy, as did the general makeup of this gentle, soft spoken,

The talk was of travels, and Clancy listened with open-eared astonishment cluded glanced at the big calendar on the while Barnes represented himself to the others as the great American travelor. He said there was no part of the civilized globe he had not visited, and spoke glibly of London, Paris, Madrid and St. Petersburg. Clancy was lost in admiration at the cleverness with which the chief played his part. Presently the countess begged leave to retire for a while. Her seat was taken nections and were in Fall River an hour by Jerome Harvey, a fellow passenger who before the appointed time. As they lounged had become acquainted with the count a on the wharf watching the boat get up short time before and who seemed fassicam preparatory to its all-night trip to cluated by the oily tongue of the nobleman, New York, the chief turned to his assistant Count Velasquez voiced the general desire to hear more of Barnes' travels.

"Tell us about Madrid," he said. "Surely

"There was nothing personal to me," reebony music box, which has a lid decorated plied Barnes, looking at the other out of half closed eyes. "Incidentally, though, I heard many queer stories"

> "Tell us one of them," said Harvey. "Perhaps," continued Barnes, as if the other had not spoken, "the most interest-

"That sounds interesting," cried Clancy. "Give us that."

"Weil," began Barnes, puffling away at a The watchers were all attention. The new- perfecto, "one day the society of Madrid comer tallied with the description given was increased by the arrival of a stranger, by the chief inspector. Around him hung a foreigner of distinguished appearance. the heavy aroma of musk. In his right He was cultured, agreeable and made hand he carried an ebony music box, with many friends. He spoke Italian fluently, a gilt crown on its lid. He walked on to although that was not his native tongue. the boat and, poking his head into the Not many weeks had passed before he unwindow of the purser's room, handed in a dertook to form a little class for instruc-

"That sounds all right," commented Harvey, as Barnes paused to puff at his

"It was all right," smfled Barnes, "for "Count Velasquez." replied the purser, a while, and then, as sometimes happens before he had time to consider the pro-metry of the question. There was an agitation going on in the provinces outside of Madrid. The peasantry, goaded to desperation by proverty. were holding secret meetings with a view traveling under the name of a Spanish of rising against the authorities. The milinobleman. We mustn't lose sight of him." tary and the police were constantly on the "Why?" asked Clancy, with full knowl- alert, so that the movement did not make edge of the fact that he had no right to much progress. About that time an Engage mentions lish vessel arrived at one of the outlying "You'll know before we reach New York. ports. It had been passed by the proper In the meantime, don't be surprised at my actions. And for the love of heaven, watch this court in the considered important in Spain and two inspectors were

"They found nothing out of the ordi-

The master of the vessel having nary. declared clean papers, the officials retired and made a report of their investigation. But on the following day, after part of the cargo had been transferred to a lighter, discovered that several cases into the hold of the vessel. The cases were They were invoiced to the distinguished foreigner whom I have already mentioned, but whose name I can-They were landed on the not recall. was to hunt up the history of the foreigner, was found, among other things, that with heavy black type he had organized a class in the capital for the study of Italian. So that made a shipment of Italian books in his name quite

reasonable." The count, who had been listening intently, moistened ht- lips with his tongue, seat by his side before answering. "But," continued Barnes, "once suspicion had been delivered, two members of the for many weeks." police force, in plain clothes, pushed their way into the house and informed the af- left in the house?" fable resident that they desired to purchase some Italian books. He glanced at the in-

face. The count pulled out his handkerchief and mopped the perspiration from his

truders and then at the boxes in the hall-

brow. "It was about dusk," said Barnes, tunning his story, "the distinguished foreigner was in evening dress. Before anthrowing his outer coat over his arm, said

"Gentlemen, I have an engagement for a dinner party. I am already late; but Clancy, my man will open these boxes and you can look over the books and talk to me about the story itself." At the same instant Barnes whisked off them in the morning-unless you care to await my return tonight which will be in

> "Could anything be more polite or oblig master. He growled terribly at being called upon to open these heavily bound boxes at such an unsensonable hour. It took him about twenty minutes to find the implements with which to open the sases. When the boards were taken off the first of straw was on the top; then came a a very denserous woman appeared in the conting of heavy cardboard, and beneath disaffected section of the country and inoud hox was filled to the brim with am-

'Horrified at the discovery, the officers "My dear Edoua"d, you are the most immediately placed the man under arrest, lax. That is to say, there are periods and awaited the return of the master. Carnit shaving his feminine fingers at the know. Anyhow, he never returned. He of their rope before pouncing upon them "Von ladies, you ladies, you are must have proceeded to the railway station with the strong arm of the law. on leaving the house and taken the first Telegrams were train out of Madrid. sent to the frontier and to all of the stawas not apprehended. "What was he like?" asked the count,

"Well, the curious part of the story is



FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T; I'LL BE KILLED!" SHRIEKED THE WRETCH - ANOTHER BUZZING SOUND CAME FROM THE BOX AND THEN IT BROKE OUT WITH THE FAMILIAR STRAINS OF TVERVAORY WORKS BUT FATHER!

sent to make a scrutiny of the newly ar- leased for his stay in Madrid, but never cat." came face to face with the man himself." The count breathed easier, He turned cital affected his eyesight.

my man of mystery."

"Didn't the government have a description of him?" asked Harvey. "Oh, yes," replied Barnes. "They issued wharf and the inspectors, whose suspl- a circular offering a reward for his apprecions had been aroused, made immediate hension. I have one here now," and reac'ireport to their superiors. Their first act ing into his inside pocket, he pulled out a long red sheet of paper printed in Spanish The count's eyes fairly danced in his

> "How about the vessel that brought these boxes?" asked Harvey. Barnes laid the circular on the cushioned

"That was another remarkable thing. has been aroused, reasonableness does not he said. "When they went to find the count with the Spanish police. They said master of the vessel early the next mornin their minds, 'Why does this man smug- ing the craft had disappeared-disappeared gle in his shipment? Why does he need as completely as if it had dropped to the several cases of books? Why do those bottom of the sea. You can imagine how books appear so weighty?" Contrary to chagrined the officials felt. It was, percustom, the boxes were not selzed on the haps, the boldness of the thing that made wharf. The officers resolved to use a little it even a possibility. Of course the papers strategy. They would permit the consign- were permitted to print little or nothing ment to go to the house of the distinguished about it; but the facts leaked out, as such foreigner and then be present when the facts will, despite the rigor of Madrid boxes were opened. As soon as the boxes censorship, and it was the talk of the city

"What became of the servant who remain there for a long while, although no one-not even the Spanish police-believe him guilty of anything unlawful. believe he was merely the dupe of a de signing man."

rupted Harvey. "That may give us some ides of the man." The chief reached for his circular-and

it was gone. He bent over and looked on swering, he took his hat off the rack, and the floor, but there was no trace of it. All as it proved, she had gone a step too far. puredu. I won't intrude. I'll leave you." were puzzled at the queer disappearance of the bit of paper. "That's certainly strange," exclaimed

"Yes," said Barnes, dryly, "stranger than

"See here," exclaimed Harvey to customs officer, "wasn't there any sequel to your story? It seemed so romantle." "I can't say there was any sequel." ing? The police thought not. The man, marked Barnes, with his eyes glued on the had pocketed his change and lighted his however, was not so pleasant as his count. "but there is a little episode that is collateral to it, and it might be called the story of the Woman in Red."

"Tell it," chorused the others Well, about the time the distinguished foreigner was organizing his closses in Italian and preparing for his consistent this Spanish government, which is usually severe, at times has lapses from this sewhen the government feels like permitting socialists and anarchists to go to the end "Twe heard of such things," said the

count, nodding his head knowingly, tions, but the amisble teacher of Italian continued Barnes, watching Veinsquez narrowly. "The woman went by the name of Louise de Mally, although no one hefleved that this was her real name. affected an eccentricity in dress which atwho had arranged to taken lessons from red rose on each side.

watch this count to see the effect of what

The count blinked at this, as

"In the beginning," said Barnes, "she count's pocket. He reached over and came along the corridor toward the cabin "And your distinguished foreigner, your delivered lectures to her followers, in which professor of Italian?" he queried taunt- she did not hesitate to suggest assassination as a remedy for political inequalities, cular we thought was lost." "Yes," interrupted Barnes, "was a revo- Indeed, it was said that she had from lutionist or the backer of a fillbustering her very youth devoted herself to the cause marked Italian books' had been smuggled expedition, or an anarchist, or whatever of anarchy and that only lack of opportitle you choose to give him. I call him tunity had prevented her from putting her doctrines into practical effect. Her theories were so dangerous that many who had gone with her at first gradually withdrew She never lacked money, and one of he receptions was attended by the distinguished foreigner who was so singularly connected with the strange shipment of the foreign books. Indeed, all the odd people of the locality participated in the affair. They included believers in socialism, poets, novelists whose books were frowned upon by the government, men of genius who never appeared to utilize their gifts, and, finally, some rich and influential Spaniards who thought the kingdom was misgoverned and who had the courage to proclaim the belief by their presence at this odd func-But the lion and the lioness of the occasion were the Italian book man and the woman with the red dress. Of course 1 speak from hearsay-from what has be told me-for I never n.et this remarkable woman and was as ignorant of what she actually looked like as I was of the personal appearance of the curious man who figured in the Italian book erisode.

"One night, at a largely attended meetfect frenzy. She said there was always work for pure hearts and willing hands. "He is still in prison, and will probably and as an illustration of this told in a melodramatic manger the story of the of something better to do." Paris commune. lafter that meeting the woman in red was carried about the sneering comment. crowded parts of the city amid the shouts and the cheers of the multitude. Imagine to keep his terror, and aching to get his "Let Barnes read his description," inter- this person-tail, thin, wiry, with coal black hands on the circular. hair earefully parted in the middle; the straw hat with its red rose on either side with an attempt at dignity, "were having and the big Maltese cat under her arm. a private discussion. All that night she harangued the mob; but, The police learned of it, and before midnight a warrant for her arrest was out.

the police force with loaded muskets pro- If he could not get ressession of the circu ceeded to her residence for the purpose of lar he would at least give these two men escorting her to the nearest unagistrate, a bad quarter of an hour. Hurvey had who was waiting to go through the for- raised his hand-the hand containing the mality of consigning her to juil. The door circular, Clancy turned on him like a flush. was locked. They pounded on it, but received no reply. They burst it open, and cular Barnes lest in found-an empty house.

"The bird had flown. But the peculiar part of it, to my mind, was the fact that her escape was coincident with the disapeigner. They were evidently working together for the accomplishment of a common purpose. The government must have had the same thought, for the fugitives were described in the same circular. "No: not in the same circular. It was

in separate circulars." Everyone turned around at this remark. which had come so unexpectedly from Count Valesquez.

"No," rejoined Barnes, delighted at this Barnes. You refuse?" interruption. "I recall it quite we'l, it was in the same circular." "Ah," said the count, with a flourish of the hand, "the gentleman means well, but

he is mistaken."

asked the chief, with brutal abruptness: 'were you there," For a moment it looked as if the count, be overwhelmed with confusion. But he

quickly recovered himself. cushlons, he instinctively suggested the the fact that I never set eyes on him. I tracted universal attention, wearing a at the time," he said, with that famous forchead. He did not return Harvey's willest of the four-footed family, the for heard of his arrival, conversed with those blood-red dress and a straw hat, with a smile which always displayed those re- glance. His lips were dumb.

for leaving the room for a moment. As clinched fingers of his right hand, Clancy they moved Harvey innocently noticed stood over him in a threatening attitude the missing circular sticking out of the like an avenging angel.

"Count!" he exclaimed, "here's the The nobleman betrayed extreme agita-

"Of course you're a friend of mine; are

'Well, then, destroy that circular.'

Why? Because it will only implicate some

As if hearing he had overdone his part, he changed his tone. 'My dear Harvey," he exclaimed.

great affability, "there is the circular; of ette and leaned back on the cushion of course, as you said, you are going to de- his seat with a placid mile on his face,

"Yer, yes," said the other, irritably. "I to himself, But he looked admiringly at promised you, and my word is good; but the man who could be so calm in such a want to take another look at it.' While Harvey was trying to read the

circular, printed in a language he scarcely from the count by a burffing at his finger understood, the count drummed nervously with his finger tips on the sill of the cabin window. Once or twice be hummed there was a quaver in his voice which rendered it ludicrous and untuneful. continued for some minutes, when both a newcomer. Harvey made as if to conceal the circular, but it was too late, so he held it down defiantly while he gazed erative-in an inscient manner. "Well?" asked Harvey.

"Oh, nothing," replied Clancy. sin:nly walking around the boat for "Oh, you were, were you"" was the "Yes," responded the other, determined

"Oh!" exclaimed Clarcy. He turned on his beet to go away, but almost in the same instant resolved that "Early next morning four members of he would not be dismired in that way,

"Hello!" he exclaimed, "there's the c'ryou've found it. How lucky. If you'll chances. Why did you let him get his give it to me I'll see that he gets it." He extended his arm in the direction of the circular. Harvey drew back and held have on him." pearance of the distinguished looking for- the procleus hit of paper toward the floor. "You're importment," he said hourse'y. "Why den't you mind your own business?" "My dear sir," said Clancy, determined

not to lose any advantage. "I don't res onny occasion for anger. You have in your possession a bit of property belonging to my friend Barnes. I presumed that you had found it. I didn't suppose it had come any event I ask you to let me return it to

"Why! Why!" he spluttered "Simply because I intend to hand it to "Then," shouled Clancy, with triumph in

"What do you know about it, count?" once, for Barnes is coming here now."

Harvey was aghast. He wondered, wildly what he could do or say. He looked questioningly toward the count. generally so self-contained, was about to quer was the picture of death. His face was as white as snow-even to the lips. His eyes had a dull, glassy appearance. "I-I-read about it in the French papers. The sweat stood out in little beach on his

In the meantime Harvey, glued to his

chuckled Clancy, "and lost the circular in Barnes laughed softly and with real en-

joyment. The ussistant turned on him like a flash. You don't mean"-he began, Barnes nodded his head and laughed

Clancy was explosive. "That-that," he stuttered; "the circular

was a fake?" "Just so," grinned the chief.

Where did you get it " in subdued, earnest tones. Oh, I picked it up before we started for Fall River, It was a Spanish proclamation of some sort. But the color of the paper was just right, and it fitted in here as nice

and casy as an old shoe," Clancy didn't go to bed; he rested on a cushioned bench in the main saloon, in a corner that gave him a full view of the door of the count's cabin. Barnes, in his state room, with wide open eyes, clung closer than a brother to the little black music box, with its gilt crown on the lid. It was 7 o'clock in the morning when the Fall River boat docked in New York. The count and his wife were early risers and were the first to go down the gangplank, he clutching the black box, she em-

bracing her Maltese cat. "We've got to act quickly and decisively," whispered Barnes to Clancy, as they followed at the very heels of the couple,

At the foot of the wharf the count stooped down to adjust his shoe lace, and a packet of letters dropped from his pocket to the ground. Barnes picked them up instantly, and, glancing hastily at the superscriptions, turned to the swarthy faced

"Mr. Jean Leskus, I'll trouble you to The man paled at the mention of the

name of the notorious European anarchist. "This is a joke," he said, feebly. "It's deadly earnest," retorted Barnes. "That's not my name," protested the

erstwhile count. "Then you shouldn't have letters addressed in that name," said the chief, handing him the papers.

The look on the man's face was that of a fox in a corner. Clancy was on the other side of Leskus

as they marched toward the nearest police station. The countess, with the Maltese cat in her arms, followed, weeping. As they acared the doorway of the house of detention the prisoner suddenly jerked away from his captors, and, reaching into his pocket, pulled out an ugly looking knife. Instantly Clancy put out his right foot, and the murderous one tripped and fell heavily on the sidewalk. It took but

curity his wrists were slipped between a pair of shining handcuffs. A few words of explanation to the sergeant in charge of the police station and

a second to disarm him, and then for se-

the party was excerted into a small room at the end of a corridor. "I'll make the final test here," whispered Barnes to Clancy, as they passed into the apartment. The prisoner was placed on a wooden bench and his feet fastened together. The ebony music box was laid carefully on the floor a few yards away. The room was cleared of all but the anarchist.

and the iron barred door closed with a "What's the meaning of this?"

shricked. "Nothing; only that you can go to sleep with the rapidity of fate. Once again Harwith your adored infernal machine," replied the chief. pantomime. Why did the man not speak?

"What are you going to do?" walled the Why did he not utter one word of instruction? The seconds ticked by with the weight of hours. When all seemed over medicine," said Barnes, grimly. the count moved his bulky form. Harvey

"Let me out! Let me out! Won't you breathed. The count was coming to his let me out?" begged the malefactor. relief. Velasquez put his hand in his "I'm going to make the punishment fit the crime," was the calm retort.

pocket and produced-a cigarette. Harvey

ignored all of this, and, stooping down with

of his shoe and then calmly lit his cigar-

"What does he mean?" grouned Harvey

But the count magnificently

could have screamed with angry disap-

deliberation, struck a match on the

by the eye of some terrible snake.

and produced his eigarette case.

tuct and never falling courtes;

night Clancy turned to Barnes.

hands on that circular?"

me the honor of smoking one of

After the party had dispersed for

pile of charred paper.

crisis.

"For God's sake don't; I'll be killed:" shricked the wretch. His face worked convulsively; the cold

sweat beaded his forchead. A whirring sound came from the little black box. The craven one cricd aloud in his agony, and drew himself up into a trembling ball of humanity prepared for the frightful ex-Another buzzing sound came plosion. from the box, and then it broke out with the familiar strains of Suddenly his attention was distracted Everybody works but father. He sits round all day— And so on to the insane end. While the

tips. He looked down and found the circular in a blaze. He let it fall from his wretch was still trembling from the rescorehed fingers onto the floor between action. Barnes brought in the real box himself and the count. The count. too, that had been taken from him on the boat looked down with a fixed stare. Clancy's and carefully opened it for the benefit of first impulse was to stamp out the half the police. It was an infernal machine of burned paper, but some irresistible power the most approved type. The inside was men were startled by the appearance of held him back. So the three men gazed packed with nitro-glycerine and finely puldown on that tiny blaze as if fascinated verifed burnt clay. A delicate clockwork As arrangement was so adjusted as to set the Barnes came up and looked over Clancy's thing off at a given signal. shoulders the last scrap was burned and "He's the fellow," said the chief, point-

nothing remained on the floor but a little ing to the culprit with his foot, "who threw the bomb in the royal procession in Mad-Harvey breathed a deep sigh expressive rid." at once of pain and relief. Clancy looked "I thought this was a free country,"

as if a torrent of profanity might relieve snivelled the prisoner. his anger and disgust at the manner in "Not for such as you," retorted Barnes which he had been tricked, while Barnes hotly. "We haven't got much time for monarchy in the United States, but we

gazed on all of them wonderingly. The ount alone was calm and perfectly at have a great deal of consideration for huase. The color had returned to his face, manity-wherever it may happen to be, He moistened his pale lips with his red The secretary of state has given a lot of tongue. He was again the imperturbable attention to your case. He has already Velasquez. He made a rapid movement and your wife sail immediately for Spain; "Gentlemen," he said with a smile, "do where you will be turned over to the minister of foreign affairs." What made you play that awful trick

And they each dumbly accepted one on the poor devil?" asked Clancy as they without having the power to mumble a started home.

word of thanks to this person of infinite "That's an invention of my own for the punishment of bomb throwers," smiled the Barnes. "If it was adopted by all nations we'd soon stamp out anarchists."

"For a bright man you take all kinds of Barnes is a modest man, but occasionally he shows his intimate friends the insignia. of the Order of the Royal Piecce, which, "I wanted to see what effect it would as the inscription states, was bestowed upon him for "distinguished services to the "Well, you've found out all right," erown of Spain."

Some Illustrated Proverbs

