

Was the phone call a phoney?

whether it was a man or a beast. Another interesting fact was that Demster had been about to take from his safe something which he had wished to show Terhune, when he had been murdered by the unknown killer.

Demster had hinted that it had something to do with Hargreaves, but the secret would now never be known, for the safe had been blown to pieces by a mysterious explosion the night after Demster's death.

"Whoever are at the back of this, certainly cover their trails well," mused Terhune. "If we are dealing with a pack of Egyptians, I take my hat off to them for setting such a puzzle in this country."

Just then the telephone rang. The voice at the other end was so excited that Paul Terhune scarcely recognised it as that of Detective-Sergeant Woods.

"Terhune, I've got it!" said the Yard man. "I've got an explanation of the whole thing."

"You mean you've found Bailey?" demanded Paul Terhune.

"Yes, but that's not all. In addition, I've got hold of information that tells us everything we want to know. It's

more astonishing than anything you could ever imagine. Can you come over here at once?"

"Where are you?"

"I'm at a warehouse known as Moody's, on the east side of the docks. Ask for a cafe called the Green Dragon, turn into the next alley after it, and the warehouse is the second on the left. The door to the yard is open. Come straight in. I'll be waiting for you inside."

"I'll be over right away," declared Terhune, and would have rung off if the Yard man had not added—

"Where's Hargreaves at the moment?"

"In the next room. Why?"

"Tell him to stop where he is, and on no account to leave the hotel. Tell him—tell him his life will be in danger if he goes out."

"Right," grunted the mystified detective, and he grabbed his coat and hat before going into the next room.

Rapidly he told Hargreaves there had been unexpected developments, and that he had to hurry down to the docks to meet Woods in a warehouse and also that the Yard man had advised Hargreaves not to leave the hotel that morning.

Hargreaves' pale face became flushed with excitement.

"I don't like it!" he gasped.

That part of the docks is a bad region. How do you know the phone message wasn't a trap?"

"Because I recognised Wood's voice."

"But someone might have imitated it. They might be luring you to an empty warehouse with the idea of killing you, Terhune. If anything happens to you, Terhune, I know I won't have much chance afterwards," protested Hargreaves.

"Nothing will happen to me. I can look after myself. Anyway, I'm armed," said the detective grimly. "Look after yourself and don't worry about me."

Hargreaves still held on to Terhune's sleeve.

"Well, to please me, will you take Mamoud along as a bodyguard? Once he has seen you meet Woods, he can come back to me. Just to please me, Terhune. He's a good man in trouble. I've seen it proved."

Paul Terhune was anxious to leave. He had delayed too long as it was. Although he did not want to have the

Egyptian trailing him, he agreed to let him come if he would get ready immediately.

Mamoud hurried, and in a short time emerged from the next room muffled in a heavy coat. He felt the cold of the British climate continually, and even when the days were warm and sunny he wore that heavy coat.

With a deep salaam, he said he was ready to leave at once.

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Murder Attempt

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A FEW minutes later Paul Terhune and his strange bodyguard were side by side in a taxi which was carrying them swiftly across Bristol.

The detective could not help feeling curious. What had Woods found out? It was something important or he would not have sounded so excited over the phone.

Detective-Sergeant Woods was not the sort of man to show his feelings easily.

He had not said he had actually spoken with Bailey. Maybe he had not yet arrested Bailey, and he was waiting for Terhune to be present before

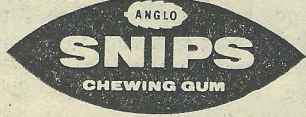
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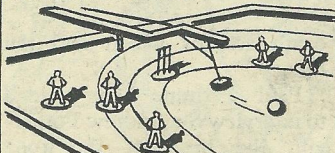


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