

The Green Hornet

MERGER NOT PREFERRED

by Fran Striker

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Britt, Kato, Case, Axford, Lowry, Gunnigan.

Burke, as before.

Rollinsmiddle aged businessman.

Mrs. R.....his wife.

Marsden.....bit in opening.

Voicesmall part.

Voice 2bit

31

The Green Hornet

Number: _____

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(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr; Henry Marsden lingered in his office later than usual. His stenographers and secretary had left for the day. The middle-aged man looked fondly at pictures on his desk... A daughter in finishing school -- two boys-- one wearing the football gear of a leading university, the other the track suit of a fashionable Prep school.

Marsden; (MURMURS) Poor kids. Either way would be tough for them.

Annrcr; He walked to the open window, looked out at the city traffic fourteen floors below.

Marsden; (MURMURS) But my way is better.

Annrcr; He stepped to the radiator beneath the window sill, closed his eyes, then leaned forward --

MUSIC: RISING CRESCENDO, CUT SHARPLY INTO:

(CROWD NOISES)

(STREET NOISES)

AD LIB: He came from right up there! Does anyone know who he is? Get back! Get back, give us room.

Voice; I know him! It's Marsden! Henry Marsden. He has an office up there.

Voice; 2; (APPROACHING) Make way there and let us thru!

Voice 3; Get back. Let 'em thru with a stretcher!

Voice; I wonder if he fell or jumped!

AD LIB: (FULL UP)

MUSIC: SHARP STING

(CITY ROOM ATMOSPHERE)

Gunnigan; Tell them to hold page one for a replat.

(SLAM PHONE HOOK)

Lowry; Hey, Gunnigan, I got the file on Marsden.

Gunnigan; Go thru it, Lowry. Pick out the high spots. (SHOUTS)
Call the morgue and tell 'em to hurry up with the
Marsden obit.

Lowry; What's your theory, Gunnigan?

Gunnigan; City editors don't deal in theories, Lowry. We deal
in facts.

Lowry; Yeah, but do you think Marsden fell out of his window
or jumped?

Gunnigan; How do I know? Go talk to the Boss. He's got more
time to make wild guesses than I have.

Lowry; Does he know about this?

Gunnigan; I doubt it. The news just came in three minutes ago.

Lowry; I'll go tell him. He knew Marsden. He might have
some special angles.

MUSIC: SHARP STING, VERY SHORT

Lowry; -- -- Gunnigan is covering all the angles, Mr. Reid.

Britt; So Marsden is dead.

Lowry; Yeah and just when I began to get somewhere.

Britt; Get somewhere?

Lowry; Another week and I might have had evidence to show he was getting a cut back on a lot of contracts.

Britt; Just a minute.

(CLICK OF DICTO)

Case; (ON DICTO) Yes, Mr. Reid?

Britt; Come in, Miss Case.

(CLICK OF DICTO)

Lowry; He must have gotten plenty to keep one son in college, another in Prep school and a girl in Vassar. You don't do that on what the city pays.

(DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES, BACK, AS:)

Britt; I'm thinking about his children.

Case; (COMING IN) I just heard about the Marsden death, Mr. Reid. Didn't you see him just a few hours ago?

Britt; Yes.

Lowry; You did!

Britt; We had lunch together at the Civic Club.

Lowry; Holy Smoke! Say, did he give you the impression that he was getting fed up with things? Ruddy to cut loose from his crooked pals?

Britt; Why do you ask that?

Lowry; I wonder if he got shoved out of that window by someone that wanted to keep him from squealing.

Britt; I doubt it. () Miss Case, I want to see everything about Marsden before it's published.

Case; Yes, Mr. Reid.

Britt; Now that he's dead, there's no use making things too difficult for his family.

Case; I'll see that everything comes to you for a final okay.

Britt; And call my apartment --

Case; Yes sir.

Britt; Tell Kato I'm going to stay here until the next edition's out. I'll be late for dinner.

MUSIC: SHARP BURST AND UNDER

NEWSBOY: SENTINAL PAPER! READ ALL ABOUT THE MARSDEN DEATH!
HENRY MARSDEN DIES IN FALL FROM OFFICE WINDOW! (ETC)
(AD LIBBING, FADE OUT)

MUSIC: SHARP BURST TO FINISH

Annrc; The Marsden death changed Britt Reid's plans for the evening. Instead of going on his usual round of playboy activities, he called Kato to his bedroom. The Filipino valet was the only person who knew that Britt Reid, publisher of the Daily Sentinal, was also the Green Hornet.

Britt; I met Marsden at the Civic Club, Kato. He told me a few things in confidence...

Kato; Yes, Mr. Britt?

Britt; There's only one way in the world I can use that information.

Kato; In role of Green Hornet?

Britt; Yes. We're going out tonight to call on John Rollins.

Annex; Stepping thru a secret panel in the rear of a closet in the bedroom, Britt Reid and Kato went along a narrow passageway, built within the walls of the apartment itself. This passage led to an adjoining building, which fronted on a dark side street. Though supposedly abandoned, this building was the hiding place for the sleek, super-powered Black Beauty - streamlined car of the Green Hornet!

(STEPS INTO CAR, CAR STARTING, BACK)

Britt Reid pressed a button - the great car roared into life. A section of the wall in front raised automatically, then closed as the gleaming Black Beauty sped into the darkness!

(CAR UP AND LEAVING)

(CAR SUSTAINING)

The Black car moved thru the streets to an exclusive residential area and stopped near the home of John Rollins.

(CAR STOPS)

Britt; Stay here with the car, Kato.

~~Annex; The Green Hornet made his way to the rear of the house.~~

Annrcr; ! The Green Hornet made his way to the rear of the house.
Thru a low casement window he saw Rollins seated at a
desk in his study absorbed in the Daily Sentanal --- the
story about Henry Marsden.

Rollins; (MUTTERS) For an opposition paper, this isn't bad.

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Annrcr; Rollins didn't hear the opening of the window behind
his back. He was started at a voice ---

Britt; Rollins ---

MUSIC: QUICK STING

(SHARP, SUDDEN RUSTLE OF PAPER)

Rollins; (GASPS)

Britt; Turn slowly and keep your voice down.

Rollins; (CUE) Th-that mask!

Britt; I don't want to use this weapon on you so don't make
a noise.

Rollins; Th-the Green Hornet.

Britt; It's an informal call. I didn't care to meet your
servants.

Rollins; Wh-what do you want?

Britt; Let's talk about the John Rollins Company and the Wendell
Corporation.

Rollins; What about my company?

Britt; The Wendell Corporation made a proposition to your firm, an offer to merge. That offer has been impending for ninety days. Why are you stalling?

Rollins; St-stalling?

Britt; The Wendell offer expires this week. Wendell has cooled off. The offer will not be renewed. You know that, don't you, Rollins.

Rollins; What business is it of yours?

Britt; Call me one of the small stockholders -- just one of the hundreds of little people who're hoping and praying you'll protect your investments by merging with Wendell. Every member of your Board of Directors hopes you'll accept Wendell's offer. But you haven't committed yourself and you hold the majority of the stock. Isn't that right?

Rollins; Yes, but --

Britt; Why are you stalling?

Rollins; Now look here, whoever you are --

Britt; There's no legitimate reason for you to oppose the merger. Yet, you haven't got to oppose it or face exposure as a crook.

Rollins; No! No!

Britt; It's a case of being exposed or face the wrath and questions of your directors and stockholders.

Rollins; You! The Green Hornet! Wanted for every crime in the book, call me a crook!

Britt; Yes and I'll tell you why. Your company has gotten a lot of City, County and State business. You've surrounded yourself with a coterie of crooked pals who are strong enough politically to give the Rollins Company that business. But the Rollins Company hasn't made much money out of it. You've had to pay too much in bribes and graft --

Rollins; That's a lie and you can't prove --

Britt; (CUTTING IN) Of course it doesn't appear on your books as graft and bribes. It's probably listed as lawyer's fees, entertainment expenses and things of that sort. But nevertheless, the money's been paid out. And big chunks of it have been kicked back to you as an individual.

Rollins; How do you know all this?

Britt; I knew a man who was going to squeal. He told about one deal in particular -- a contract he got for the Rollins Company. He was paid ten thousand dollars for getting it. He had to return six thousand dollars.

Rollins; (GASP) You - you know about ... (BREAK OFF)

Britt; Yes, Rollins, I know about Marsden. He changed his mind about squealing when you let him know that you'd smash every member of his family --

Rollins; He was insane! He was a mad man! He ---

Britt; He leaped from his office window but not because he was insane. He did it because it was his only way out.

Rollins; Why did you come here? What do you want?

Britt; You.

Rollins; But I -- I --

Britt; You're going to a board meeting tomorrow and you're going to vote for the merger inspite of the promises you've probably made your corrupt political friends.

Rollins; Now wait -- let's talk this over. If the merger goes thru, the truth will become known. I'll be ruined!

Britt; Exactly. And you'll have to deal with the law. If you vote against the merger, you'll have to account to the members of the board of directors, and the small stock holders. And you'll also have to account to me. Take your choice, Rollins. After tomorrow's meeting you're going to face either the law or the Green Hornet! (EFFORT) Here's something to make you remember what I've said.

(SLAP DESK)

Rollins; (STARTLED GASP) What the --

Britt; There you are, Rollins, when you look at your desk, let that little green seal remind you that the Hornet was here, representing the small stockholders. (FADING BACK) You vote for that merger when your directors meet tomorrow or I'll be back.

Rollins; Wait! Wait, let me talk to you!!

Britt; (BACK) There's nothing more to say. Goodnight, Rollins.

(SLAM FRENCH DOOR)

Rollins; (TO HIMSELF) Good heavens! The Green Hornet! He called it! I can't vote for the merger and now -- -- now I don't dare vote against it or he'll be back. () I think there's a way out. Yes - uh - I think I know the way.

(HORNET CAR, OUTSIDE START & FADE)

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annex; The directors' meeting of the John Rollins Company was scheduled for three o'clock. Britt Reid waited in his office for word that the controlling vote, to be cast by Rollins himself, would bring about the merger with the Wendell Corporation. He became impatient. He paced the floor, then went to the outer office.

(DOOR OPENS)

Britt; Miss Case, hasn't there been any word?

Case; Not a thing, Mr. Reid.

Britt; Does Gunnigan know I'm waiting for news?

Case; He knows.

Britt; Is Axford covering the meeting?

Case; No. He's on his usual assignment....

Britt; Police headquarters?

Case; Uh-huh. Lowry's at the Rollins building.

(DOOR OPENS)

Gunnigan; Hey, Boss --

Britt; Gunnigan! What's the word?

Gunnigan; Now listen, Boss! I tried to get the right answers before I reported to you.

Britt; What do you mean? What about the Rollins meeting?

Gunnigan; There is no meeting.

Britt; What?

Gunnigan; Rollins disappeared!

Case; Oh gosh!

Britt; Disappeared?

Gunnigan; Yes, and I checked as many angles as possible. He didn't appear at the meeting. The directors got worried -- checked his office.

Britt; Had he been there?

Gunnigan; No. Lowry shot over to his house and found his wife in a tailspin. Rollins was abducted last night.

Britt; Last night!

Case; Abducted!

Gunnigan; That's what I said! Made off with! Snatched!

Britt; By whom?

Case; Why?

Gunnigan; Don't ask me why. Lowry's on his way in with the story.

Britt; Did Mrs. Rollins notify the police?

Gunnigan; She didn't know what to do until Lowry got there.

Case; He'd tell her.

Gunnigan; He did. She ignored the threat and called the police.
She's turned the ransom note over to them.

Britt; What ransom note?

Gunnigan; The one that was left beside his bed.

Britt; How was the note signed?

Gunnigan; The note wasn't signed, but hang on to something, Boss.
Beneath the demand for ransom there was a little hunk
of paper --- --- --- green paper.

Britt; (TENSE) Green paper?

Gunnigan; Yeah. The mark of the Green Hornet.

Case; Goodness!

Britt; But hold on, Gunnigan, what -- I don't -- why would --

Gunnigan; Yeah, Boss. That's just how it hit me.

Case; Do you suppose the Green Hornet wanted to block the
merger?

Gunnigan; Why should he?

Case; I don't know. But the merger can't go thru without
Rollins. Or can it?

Gunnigan; No, of course it can't.

Britt; The merger is a dead issue unless Rollins gets back
before the end of the week.

Case; The Wendell Corporation might extend the time.

Gunnigan; Not a chance. They've gone cold on the merger. They're
hoping Rollins won't go thru with it.

Case; Then that's it.

Gunnigan; What's it, Miss Case?

Case; Don't you see? Perhaps the Wendell Corporation abducted Rollins. (TURNING) What do you think of that idea, Mr. Reid?

Britt; Not very much. The Wendell Corporation doesn't do business that way. It's a conservative, solid outfit.

(DOOR OPENS FAST)

Axford; (EXCITEDLY) Hey, Reid.....

Case; Don't slam the door, Michael!

(DOOR SLAMS)

Axford; Too late. Reid, listen! It's the Hornet! The Green Hornet! He was in action last night. Hello, Gunnigan. Did yez hear the news?

Gunnigan; Lowry called it in.

Britt; What do you have to add, Axford? Anything?

Axford; I was at the cops headquarters when Mrs. Rollins called up. I went to Rollins' place wit' Burke.

Britt; Did you see the ransom note?

Axford; That I did, Reid and I saw the green mark o' the Hornet.

Britt; We've got to be sure of our ground. There have been cases where people counterfeited the Green Hornet seal so he'd be blamed for things.

Axford; This wasn't no counterfeit, Reid. It was the real McCoy. We compared it tuh the ones that was on file at headquarters

Gunnigan; Hey, what am I ~~am~~ waiting for? This calls for a banner in the next edition. I've got to get going. Casey!

Case; Huh?

Gunnigan; Be a sweetheart. Call the composing room for me. Tell them to hold page one.

Case; Right.

(SNATCH DOOR OPEN)

Axford; Hey, wait a minute, Gunnigan.

Gunnigan; (SLIGHTLY BACK) If you know anything, Axford, give it to rewrite and make it fast.

Axford; (FADING) Right. Wait for me!

(DOOR SLAMS)

Case; G-gosh, Mr. Reid --

Britt; You'd better call the composing room, Miss Case as Gunnigan said. I'll be in my office and I don't want to be disturbed.

Case; (BACK) Very well.

(PHONE HOOK, BACK)

(FADE BACK FARTHER) Sally, connect me with the composing room right away.

(DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES)

Britt; (ALONE) So the Green Hornet is blamed for Rollins abduction. He certainly used the sticker I left on his desk to good advantage.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annex; That evening, Britt Reid made sure that Michael Axford would be out of the apartment so he and Kato could act on certain plans.

Britt; Axford will probably be tied up for most of the night Kato.

Kato; At Police Headquarters?

Britt; ~~Yes~~ His friend Sergeant Burke has been assigned to the Rollins case. Axford will stick close to Burke. ~~Yes~~ Burke will probably be at the Rollins home, ready to set a trap for the Green Hornet.

Kato; Why you think Rollins disappear?

Britt; By disappearing, there'll be no necessity for him to vote on the merger.

Kato; You think he disappear of his own accord?

Britt; I'm sure of it.

Kato; And blame Green Hornet.

Britt; Yes. One more crime charged to the Green Hornet. ~~Well~~ It was Rollins idea. We're going to make him regret it.

Kato; There we go?

Britt; I've got to get a message to Mrs. Rollins.

Kato; Another message from Green Hornet?

Britt; Yes. And this one won't be a fake.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annex; Marjorie Rollins, wife of the man who had disappeared, sat in her library surrounded by servants and police as well as a few favored representatives of the working press, including Lowry and Axford from the Sentinel.

(SOFT BACKGROUND)

The room was fairly quiet, but the atmosphere seemed charged with tension.

Axford; (LOW) Lowry, if yuh smoke that cigarette much harder, it'll burst intuh flames.

Lowry; (LOW, TENSE) If something's going to happen, I wish it'd come within the next ten minutes.

Axford; Ten minutes? Why's that? You got a date or somethin' ?

Lowry; (DISGUSTED) No, Axford - no date. We work for a newspaper, the Daily Sentinel. Remember? It's like most other newspapers - that is, there's a new edition every now and then, generally several times a day -

Axford; Aw-w

Lowry; A new edition means Deadline - see? Do you know what a deadline is?

Axford; All right, Lowry, all right. Stop rubbin' it in!

Lowry; I'd like a new lead for the Rollins story.

Axford; How about reportin' that Mrs. Rollins has got all the cash together like the Horney told her to, an' she's waitin' for word as tuh what tuh do wit' it so's Rollins will be turned loose.

Lowry: If you'd read the Sentinal once in a while, you'd know we already published that.

Axford. Oh.

Lowry: I've got to get something in before the next edition.

Axford; You oughtta get a photograph o' Sergeant Burke an' Mrs. Rollins. Look at the two o' them - an' the way Burke is lookin' at the bag that holds the cash -

Lowry; Let's go over there. Maybe I can get a statement from Mrs. Rollins.

Axford; She sure is takin' this wit' a lot o' poise -

Lowry; (THROAWAY) Yeah -

Mrs R; (COMING IN) Oh Mr. Lowry, I want your opinion. Do you mind?

Axford; Of course he don't. And if yuh want tuh know what I think -

Lowry; (ASIDE) Quiet, Axford.

Mrs/ R: I - I was just telling Sergeant Burke, here - I'm afraid I have been unwise.

Burke; I say she done the right thing in notifyin' the cops about the message from the Hornet.

Lowry; Of course you did, Mrs. Rollins.

Mrs R; The Hornet ordered me not to go to the police.

Axford; Phooey! Who's the Hornet tuh be givin' orders?

() Oh golly, what'm I sayin' ?

Mrs R; He may change his plans! Perhaps he wont communicate with me again - rather than risk capture, he might kill my husband!

Axford; As a law-abidin' citizen, Mrs. Rollins, yuh had tuh do what you did!

Burke; Axford is right!

Axford; It was brave of you, by golly! Wasn't it, Burke?

Burke; Sure thing. It gave us the chance tuh plan a trap.

Lowry; Burke, did you say a trap?

Burke; Yeah! Just wait'll the Hornet sends instructions fer deliverin' the money. We're all set! We'll nail him fer keeps. If more people would cooperate like Mrs. Rollins has done, we'd soon wipe out crooks like the Green Hornet!

(START HULLABALOO OUTSIDE)

(ADLIB: (EXCITEDLY BUT UNINTELLIGIBLY, BACK(

(HORNET CAR, START AND FADE-OUTSIDE)

Axford; Hey! Did yuh hear that?

Mrs R; What's going on?

(RUNNING STEPS ON CARPET)

Burke; Axford! Stop shovin' me! Who d'yuh think you are?

Axford; Open the door, Burke! Stop beefin' an' open the door!

Mrs Rl Oh Dear! What is going on out there?

(SNATCH DOOR OPEN)

(COMMOTION. POLICE CARS, BACK, STARTING)

ADLIB: (EXCITEMENT, BACK)

Mrs R; Who are all those men?

Burke; Cops! Our men from headquarters! They were watchin' the house!

Lowry; Those cars -

Burke; Police cars! We had 'em here - ready an' waitin'!
(SHOUT) Hey, Moran - Doyle - what's goin' on?

Voice; (BACK) Hey Burke - look at this!

Burke; (SHOUTS) Bring it here! What is it?

Axford; Was it the Hornet we heard?

Mrs. R; With so many police around, there Hornet would never come here!

(STEPS COMING UP WALK AND STAIRS, FAST)

Voice; (APPROACHING, FAST) Burke, I think we got what we were waiting for!

Lowrt; Give out! I gotta call the Sentinel!

Voice; (COMING IN) Listen, here's what happened! We were watchin' like you told us to, Burke!

Burke. Go on!

Voice; A car came along, slow and quiet. We didn't think anything of it. When it was in front of the house, this stick was tossed out - right at my feet -

Burke; Then what?

Voice; Then that car took off like a rocket! Only not up! Itvshot down the street like a- like -

Axford; Like the Green Hornet!

Voice; Yeah! That's it!

Mrs. R; No no -

Burke; (EFFORT) Gimme that stick-

Voice; There's a note tied to it!

Axford; Let's see what the note says- I'll help with that string-

Burke; (EFFORT) Axford, get your hands away!

Axford; I'm only tryin' tuh help -

Burke; Turn on the porch light so's we can see.

Lowry; I'll get it.

(SWITCH)

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Mrs R; The- the Hornet w-wouldn't come here- so many police-

Voice; Burke, what's the note say?

Lowry; Isn't it addressed to Mrs. Rollins?

Burke; Yeah, it is!

Lowry; Gimme it. (EFFORT)

Burke; Hey--

Lowry; Here Mrs. Rollins. The message is for you.

Mrs R; B-but I -

Burke; Open it up ma'am- let's hear what it says-

(RUSTLE PAPER*)

Mrs. R; (TREMBLING) I - I c-can't believe - I - I never thought -

Lowry; What's the matter Mrs. Rollins? Didn't you expect to hear from the Hornet?

Burke; What's it say? (

Mrs R; It- it tells where to - to deliver the money -

Axford; Good Gravy!

Burke. That's it! That's what we've been waitin' for!
Now we can take steps tuh get the Green Hornet for keeps!
Let me have the message, Mrs. Rollins.

Mrs R; Y-yes - of- of course.

Burke; One of the boys from headquarters is all set to go in your place! Dressed like a woman. He'll take a dummy package.

Mrs. R; B-but the risk -

Burke; That's why one of our men will go in your place, Mrs.
Rollins-

Mrs R; The - the risk to my husband- if - uh -

Burke; Don't you worry! We'll have plenty o' men on hand.
Kelsey'll wear a wig an' woman's clothes, an' drive your
car! Get ready, boys! Make it fast!

MUSIC BURST AND UNDER

CARS IDLING. SHUFFLING STEPS ETC.

ADLIB: (LOW, SUBDUED TENSION)

Burke; Here's the handbag, Kelsey. Handled it just like it
was full o' money.

Voice; O.K. Burke-

Burke; The rest o' you guys know the plans. You, Kelsey, remember
this is Mrs. Rollins car an' you're tuh drive like she
would. This has gotta be done right.

Voice; I know-

Burke; Don't shove the wig back off yer forehead like you do
yer hat. Don't light up a cigar, an' don't scratch yer
nose!

Voice; How about speakin' ?

Burke; Keep yer trap shut! Now you other guys get in the back
seat -

Axford; (CLOSE) Oh golly, Lowry, this looks like the Hornet'll get the works.

Lowry; Yeah - () Come on, Axford. Let's get into our car.

Axford; Three guys in the back seat wit' sawed off shot-guns. Sufferin' snakes, them riot guns will blow him tuh smithereens if he don't surrender-

Burke; That's it. Now keep down on the floor out of sight.

Voice 2; (SQUIRMING) (THROWAWAY) Move over an' gimme a little room.

Voice 3; (SQUIRMING) Get yer feet over-

Burke; Keep those guns out of sight. Kelsey, don't look back at these boys.

Voice I know -

(CAR DOOR SLAMS)

Burke; Now get goin'. The rest of us will trail along at a distance.

(CAR STARTS AS_-)

(FADING BACK) Pile in the other cars, boys-

(ADLIB, CAR DOORS, CARS START AND FADE AS_-)

Anncr; The Green Hornet was nearer than anyone realized. He had eluded the cars that started in pursuit, and had doubled back to watch the remaining cars leave in accordance with Burke's plan.

Britt; There they go, Kato. That should leave Mrs. Rollins alone.

Kato: There might be servant-

Britt; We can handle that situation.

Kato: Good thing you knew police plans-

Britt; It's a good thing Axford talks as much as he does.

MUSIC TENSION.

Anncr; Moving like a shadow, the Green Hornet made his way thru the darkness and gained entry to the Rollins home. He saw Mrs. Rollins in the library, waiting near the phone. And then a servant saw the masked man -

Voice 2; (STARTLED GASP)

Britt; (SHARPLY) Sorry! Take this!

Voice 2; (ADLIB GASPS)

Mrs R; (STARTLED CRY) In the name of Mercy -

(FALLING BODY)

Mrs R; Robert! Robert! What has-

Britt; Just gas, Mrs. Rollins!

Mrs R; You! The Green Hornet! What do you -

Britt; I'll talk! You listen!

Britt; It was quite a shock when you saw the REAL message from the Green Hornet, wasn't it?

Mrs.R: I - uh -

Britt; But what did you expect? People have pay for the use of my identity. My - name!

Mrs R: The- the use of your name?

Britt; You know what I mean, Mrs. Rollins. I called last night to give your husband a few orders. I left my seal. It gave him an idea. He wrote a message to explain his disappearance and signed it with my seal.

Mrs. R: B-but I - I didn't -

Britt; You knew all about it. You were instructed by Rollins to report to the police. You'd never have dared do so if you'd thought the abduction was bonafide.

Mrs R; How- How that is -

Britt; How do I know? Perhaps I waited around last night - to see what Rollins would do about my threat.

Mrs R: (GASPS) Oh -

Britt; A few minutes ago, I saw the police leave here. One of them drove your car - he wore a wig.

Mrs R; (PANICKY) You know that?

Britt; I find it pays to be well informed. Did the police take the cash with them?

Mrs R: I - uh -

Britt; Did they? Or did they take a dummy package?

Mrs R: The- the police took a- er -

Britt; (CUT IN SHARPLY) Don't lie!

Mrs R: A dummy package.

Britt; Where is the cash you drew from the bank?

Mrs R: Oh- p-please-

Britt; Where is it?

Mrs R: R-right here...I have it here.

Britt; Fine. It's about time Rollins contributed to a few worthy causes. (EFFORT) I'll take charge of the money.

Rollins: (BACK) No you wont!

Mrs R: Oh John! Thank goodness!

Britt; Well! John Rollins himself!

Rollins; (COMING IN) Exactly! Keep your hands above the shoulders.

Britt; So you never left home! Lots of hiding places in a house this size, isn't there?

Rollins; Marjory, get your .32 from the desk. We'll shoot him with that.

Britt; Murder, eh, Rollins?

Rollins; My wife will get a nice reward for you, Mister. ~~Dead or~~
~~alive~~, The reward will be paid for you... Dead or alive.

Mrs R; John! You can't kill a man like that! You -

Rollins; We can't let him talk to the police! Get that gun!
Quickly!

Mrs R; Y-yes John - Right away. I - (STARTLED GASP)

Rollins; What's the matter?

Mrs R; John! Behind you! Another masked -

Rollins; (STARTLED) What the -

Britt; (SHARPLY) Get him!

Rollins; (SUDDEN EFFORT) You †

Mrs R; (SCREAM)

(BLOW)(FALLING BODY)

Britt; Good work! Now I'll use the gas!

Mrs R; (PANICK) No no -

Britt; Sorry!

Mrs R; (ADLIB COUGHING SPASM)

Britt; Come on! It's our move!

MUSIC BURST*

SOUND POLICE CAR RUNNING FAST. FADE UNDER

Axford; But listen Burke, what d'yez make of it?

Burke; How do I know, Axford? You heard the radio call that
come in from headquarters!

Axford; Yeah - but all it said was that we should forget about the plans we had an' git back tuh the Rollins' house tuh pick up the Green Hornet!

Burke; That's right.

Axford; But what's he doin' there? How'd he know the cash was there?

Burke; Don't ask me!

Axford; It wasn't till the last minute that yuh decided tuh send out a dummy package.

(CAR STOPS) (SECOND CAR STOPS, BACK)

Burke; We'll soon know what's what. () Get out.

Axford; (GETTING OUT OF CAR) Right.

(DOOR OPENS) (RUNNING STEPS AS)

Burke (SHOUTING) You guys go around an' cover the rear door.

(RUNNING STEPS HIT STAIRS)

Axford; I got me gun out an' ready. By golly, I sure hope this isn't another false alarm. () Look, the door is open.

Burke; Come on, Axford.

(STEPS INTO ROOM)

Mrs Rollins! Where are yuh?

Axford; Hey - there's a servant by the door - he's out like a mackerel!

(STEPS ON CARPET)

Burke; The Hornet's work, by golly!

Lowry; (BACK) Hey Axford, what's up?

Axford; Come on, Lowry! We'll see what's in the library!

Burke. Get back, Axford. I'll go first!

(DOOR SNATCHED OPEN)

(SHARPLY) Stick 'em up!

Lowry; Who you talking to, Burke?

Burke; Well uh-

Lowry; Look!

Axford; It's Mrs. Rollins! O^ut cold! Oh-h-h golly, that spalpeen wit' the Green Mask. I - (BREAK OFF) (YELL)

Burke!

Burke; WOW.!

Axford; There. Back o' the chair! It's him- The Hornet! We got him at last!

Burke; I see him!

ADLIB; (STIR)

Voice; Is he dead?

Burke; Take no chances boys. Keep him covered while we pull off his mask!

Axford; I'll unmask -

(SLAP)

Axford; Ouch!

Burke; Well get yer hand away. I'll do the unmaskin'. I'm
the one that's wit' the cops!

Axford; Then do it, an' stop the talk.

Burke; I" uh- golly- the Hornet at last -

Lowry; Take the mask off!

Burke; Here goes! (EFFORT) (CUE) Well I'll be -

Lowry; Hey! It's John Rollins!

Axford; Sufferin' Snakes! John Rollins! So he's the Green
Hornet!

Lowry; Like fun he is, Axford! The Green Hornet just left
his mask on Rollins face to show he'd been here.

Burke; An' he brought Rollins back!

Axford; An(I'll bet all the tea in China that the Hornet got
away wit' the cash! How in blazes does the Hornet do
these things!

MUSIC BURST.

Kato; Oh, Mr. Britt, you home for dinner early -

Britt; I was tired, Kato. Last night was rather trying- and
today was a busy day. There was a lot of news after
John Rollins return - last night. A lot of news to handle

Kato; (SMILING) Yes sir.

Britt; Rollins signed the merger papers this afternoon.

Kato; He chose wisely. eh?

Britt; Yes, he did. He'll be exposed and he'll be in trouble up to his neck, but he'd have been in even greater trouble if the truth of his abduction became known.

Kato; You take blame for abduction, Mr. Britt.

Britt; Well - what's one more crime, Kato? Besides, I was well paid for it. There was twenty five thousand dollars in that package- Mrs Rollins will have to do without some
jewels

Kato; A lot of money.

Britt; (CHUCKLES) Rollins himself fixed the amount, when he wrote the first note. () And that reminds me, Kato - we must arrange for the delivery of that cash.

Kato; To whom?

Britt; It will make a swell gift for the cancer fund.

MUSIC INTERLUDE.

Newsboys; (ADLIB) Sentinel paper- extry paper- Rollins & Wendell merger confirmed. Rollins released in time to vote on merger - Green Hornet sought in abduction. Read all about it- Green Hornet still at large.