

THE PLAN THAT BACKFIRE^d

This file is part of the
Joe Hehn Memorial Collection
hosted at the Internet Archive
<https://archive.org/details/joe-hehn>

The Green Hornet
by Fran Striker

Number: 834

Date: 11/25/47

Britt, Kate, Case, Linda, Axford, Burke,

Grammarcy Smooth attorney, murderer

Fletcher " " " "

Miss Muffet Elderly, peppery

Voice

Voice 2

Orange and blue

The Green Hornet
by Fran Striker

Number: _____

Date: _____

(USUAL OPENING)

Annor; Britt Reid had spent the morning in the company of his father talking to attorneys in connection with a scandalous Congressional hearing that had been front page news for several days. It was nearly noon when he reached his office.

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

Case; Mr. Reid, I am glad to see you.

Britt; More so than usual, Miss Case?

Case; I've felt as if I were in solitary confinement for the past hour. It's strange to be in this office alone.

Britt; Strange?

Case; Yes. I've gotten used to a crowd.

Britt; You mean Axford and Miss Travis?

Case; I'm used to Axford.

Britt; (SLIGHT LAUGH) I see. Where is everyone?

Case; Axford's gone to police headquarters and glamor-puss -- uh -- er -- I mean Miss Travis went to see Little Miss Muffet.

Britt; Little Miss Muffet?

Case; It's the truth, so help me. That's her name. She telephoned for you, but Miss Travis talked to her.

Britt; Very well. () Miss Case, will you call the morgue and have them send down the file on that firm of attorneys, Grammarcy, Fletcher and Thorndyke?

Case; I have it right here --

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Here you are. Miss Travis sent for it before she went out

Britt; What did Miss Travis want this for?

Case; I don't know. She sent for the file when she'd finished talking to the character. She spent an hour studying the clippings and making notes. Then she left, saying she was going to sit on Miss Muffet's Tuffet.

Britt; *What connection?*
I wonder what Miss Muffet said about Grammarcy, Fletcher and Thorndyke.

Case; We ran a lot of articles about them during that Congressional hearing --

Britt; Yes. Dad and I were talking about them this morning. Miss Case, will you skin thru these clippings and give me a quick rundown?

Case; Miss Travis has already summarized them. I think she left her notes right here. (MUTTERS) Never puts anything away. Yes. -- here they are. I'd better read them to you. Her writing is almost illegible.

Britt; Just give me the highlights.

Case; During the war, Messrs Grammarcy, Fletcher and Thorndyke played fast and loose. They organized a couple of companies - dummy corporations. There was collusion between them and a few brass hats who were in a position to hand out war contracts. It was a gravy train while it lasted, but it didn't last. Uncle Sam got soaked hard, but instead of turning the other cheek, he called the three bad boys to Washington to answer a few questions...

Britt; Apparently they didn't have the right answers.

Case; There were no right answers.

Britt; According to what I heard this morning, there's not much the law can do to them.

Case; They took an awful swift kick in the bank roll.

Britt; They should be in jail.

Case; They won't be?

Britt; No, I'm afraid not.

Case; At least they're broke. They had to pay out a lot of cash -- and their reputation is shot.

(DOOR OPENS FAST)

Axford; Hey, Casey -

Case; Don't slam it, you creep!

(DOOR SLAMS)

Axford; Oooh! There I go again! Oh, hello, Reid. I'm glad you're here. Sufferin' snakes, I've just come from the cops headquarters, an' what do yuh think?

Britt; Axford, you're excited -

Axford; That I am, an' who wouldn't be wit' the Commissioner of Police talkin' nonsense!

Britt; Nonsense?

Axford; Reid, he called a number o' the plain clothes men an' captains intuh his office. I sort o' horned in on the meetin' -

Britt; Yes?

Axford; He got tuh talkin' about the Green Hornet, sayin' that he'd been goin' over the record, an' all the charges against the Hornet have been cleared up!

Britt; That's right.

Axford; He told the lads that if they seen the Hornet, they wasn't tuh start shootin'! The Hornet's not wanted anymore, dead or alive!

Britt; That's why the Daily Sentinel withdrew the reward for his capture -

Axford; Aw, phooey! I still say the Hornet's a crook! I've been runnin' down clues ever since I joined up wit' this newspaper, an' by golly, I'm goin' tuh get the Green Horne! if it's the last thing I do! What's more, I'm goin' tuh prove he's done a lot o' things the cops don't know about!

Case; (LAUGHINGLY) You're hard to convince, Michael.

Axford; You bet I am!

(DOOR OPENS FAST)

Axford; (CHANGING MANNER) Ohh-hhh-h... it's Miss Travis!

Linda; Hello, Mr. Axford. Mr. Reid, I'm glad you're here. I brought Miss Muffet -

(DOOR CLOSSES)

Britt; And this is Miss Muffet?

Muffet; That's right, young man! Matilda Muffet.

Linda; Miss Case, Miss Muffet -

AD LIB: I (ACKNOWLEDGEMENT)

Linda; And Mr. Axford -

Axford; Sure it's glad I am tuh know yez, Miss Muffet.

Muffet; How d'ya do.

Linda; Mr. Reid, Miss Muffet telephoned a little while ago. She's a client of Grammarcy, Fletcher and Thorndyke -

Britt; Indeed?

Muffet; Mr. Reid, I've been a Sentinal subscriber for many years. I wanted to talk to you because I like your style!

Britt; Thank you -

Muffet; Yes siree, I liked what you said about Grammarcy, Fletcher and Thorndyke! You called a spade a spade and a crook a crook!

Linda; After I talked to Miss Muffet, Mr. Reid, I thought I'd better bring her here.

Muffet; Those crooks are trying to murder me!

Axford; Holy Crow!

Linda; She's not fooling, Mr. Reid.

Britt; You mean Grammarcy, Fletcher and - - -

Muffet; I do! Y'see, my fater died a good many years ago and left me a tidy sum of money. The estate was in the hands of Mr. Grammarcy -

Linda; The father of the present Mr. Grammarcy -

Muffet; That's right. The old man was honest, but this son of his! I never did like him! Got a face like a ferret! I wasn't surprised when I read about the shady dealings that law firm was in! I didn't want anything more to do with 'em. So I asked for an accounting of my money -

Britt; Did you get it?

Muffet; Not yet! They've done nothing but hedge and stall!

Linda; They may have appropriated some of Miss Muffet's funds to pay up on that War Profits deal.

Muffet; That's how I size it up! I let 'em know a week ago that I wouldn't shilly-shally any longer! Told 'em I'd have an accounting by the first of the month or know the reason why!

Reid; You said something about murder - -

Muffet; The day after I made my ultimatum, I was nearly run down by a car.

Axford; That could of been an accident --

Muffet; It could have been an accident! Likewise it could have been an accident that my furnace gave off poisonous gas just after a man from the furnace company came to check it!

- Linda; Mr. Reid, that man was an imposter. The furnace company did not send a man.
- Muffet; I'd have died in my sleep if my dog hadn't roused me!
- Axford; By golly, maybe yuh've got somethin' ---
- Linda; There were several other things, Mr. Reid, all of them incidents that might have proved fatal to Miss Muffet.
- Muffet; Coincidence can only go so far, I always say!
- Britt; This is a matter for the police. They'll send a man to guard you.
- Muffet; I'm goin' to talk to the police, an' I'm goin' to hire a couple of guards, but I wanted you to have this story just in case something happens!
- Britt; I see.
- Muffet; Miss Travis here has offered to stay in the house with me until things are straightened out.
- Britt; With Miss Travis and police guards, you should be well guarded.
- Linda; If Grammarcy, Fletcher and Thorndyke can't settle up, there'll be a story, Mr. Reid.
- Britt; There will be, and I'll be interested in getting the facts.
- Linda; (POINTED) I thought you might be.
- Axford; When's the deadline?

Muffet; I told Grammarcy I'd wait until the first of the month for an accounting of my money. If I don't get it, those shysters will find I can be just as tough as that Committee in Washington!

Britt; Maybe you can send them to jail -- in which case You'd be even tougher!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Anncr; Britt Reid knew why Linda Travis had brought the little old lady to his office. As one who knew that the young publisher was the Green Hornet, Linda felt that Miss Muffet's situation might prove to be a means of putting the unscrupulous attorneys in jail. It was several days later when Grammarcy sat in Fletcher's office discussing the firm's problem.

Grammarcy; We're in a jam, Fletcher. A real jam.

Fletcher; We've got to get a hundred thousand dollars to settle with that old lady.

Grammarcy; Yes, and within one week!

Fletcher; One week - confound it, why couldn't something have happened to her?

Grammarcy; We tried hard enough.

Fletcher; No use trying anything else with her.

Grammarcy; We'd have no chance. She has two guards on duty all the time in addition to that girl who's moved in with her.

Fletcher; Maybe Thorndyke would have an idea --

Grammarcy; Thorndyke! Bah! He's no help!

Fletcher; I suppose he can't raise any more money than we can -

Grammarcy; Not a dime. Fletcher, you and I have got to do something, and it's got to be drastic!

Fletcher; (COLD LAUGH) Drastic! Can you think of anything more drastic than the tricks we tried on Muffet?

Grammarcy; I came to your office because I have an idea ---

Fletcher; Let's hear it.

Grammarcy; We have partnership insurance. If one of us dies, the surviving members would get a hundred thousand dollars with which to buy his interest from his widow ---

Fletcher; Go on, Grammarcy -

Grammarcy; There's double indemnity on that policy. Accidental death pays two hundred thousand.

Fletcher; Which would mean we could not only buy Thorndyke's interest, we'd have a hundred thousand to settle with Miss Muffet. () Would the insurance be paid in time to settle with her?

Grammarcy; The death of a partner would justify postponing all action until we could readjust things.

Fletcher; Do you have a plan worked out?

Grammarcy; I have and it's foolproof. Tomorrow evening we'll take Thorndyke out on a little party, just the three of us. We'll go over to that roadhouse near Barnesville, and on the way home we'll stop at a roadside stand on Windy Hill. We'll have to time it carefully. There's a train that goes past there at one o'clock in the morning -

Fletcher; Go over it step by step, Grammarcy - - -

Grammarcy; All right. Now listen. Here's just the way I have things worked out. (FADE OUT) We'll have a big evening with lots of food and plenty of drinks - - - -

MUSIC: BRIDGE

(DISTANT TRAIN WHISTLE)

Annecr; On the following night, the fast Express was right on schedule, as it approached the crossing at the foot of a hill between the city and the town of Barnesville ---

(CAR COMING IN AND STOPPING AS:)

Fletcher and Grammarcy were on schedule, too. With their partner Thorndyke, they were on their way home from a roadhouse dinner followed by considerable liquor. Seated between the murder plotters, Thorndyke was asleep when Fletcher brought his car to a stop near a roadside stand on the hill top.

Grammarcy; Thorndyke, Thorndyke, are you asleep? (PAUSE) I guess he is.

Fletcher; He should be asleep after that last drink you fixed up for him.

Grammarcy; All right, Fletcher, let's get out of the car.

Fletcher; You get out first. You've got to put a block in front of the wheel.

Grammarcy; I have it.

(CAR DOOR OPENS)

(FADING BACK) Is anyone watching us from that hot dog stand?

Fletcher; No. Let me know when the block's in place and I'll release the emergency brake.

Grammarcy; (BACK) All set. Be sure the wheels are straight.

Fletcher; They are --

(GETTING OUT OF CAR)

(DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES)

(COUPLE OF STEPS ON GRAVEL)

(TRAIN WHISTLE BACK, BUT NEARER THAN BEFORE)

Fletcher; The train's right on schedule.

Grammarcy; We're in luck.

Fletcher; Let's get over to that stand.

Grammarcy; Just a second. I've got to straighten out the cord to pull the block away. () There we are. Let's go.

(A FEW STEPS)

(LOUD) Too bad Thorndyke fell asleep. He'd enjoy a hot dog.

Fletcher; He certainly would. (LOW) Pull the block out.

Grammarcy; (EFFORT) There. (LOUD) Thorndyke never could stay awake after a few drinks. (LOW) The car's starting to roll -

(DISTANT TRAIN WHISTLE, NEARER THAN BEFORE)

Fletcher; (SOFT) It should pile right into the train.

(STEPS HALT)

Voice; What'll it be, Mister?

Grammarcy; A couple of wienies with plenty of mustard and be sure they're well done.

Voice; Hey! Your car's rollin' down the hill!

Fletcher; What!

Grammarcy; (EXCITEDLY) Fletcher! Fletcher! Look! Your car!

Fletcher; That confounded emergency brake! I keep forgetting to get it fixed!

Voice; It's gettin' away!

Fletcher; (YELLS) Thorndyke! Thorndyke! Wake up! (SUSTAIN ADLIB)

Grammarcy; (YELLS) Wake up, Thorndyke! Stop that car! (SUSTAIN AD LIB SHOUTS)

(DISTANT TRAIN WHISTLE NEARER)

Voice; (EXCITEDLY) The train! The train's comin'! That guy in the car! He'll be killed! (YELLING) Hey, wake up! Wake up, mister! (FADING BACK)

ALL: (AD LIB SHOUTS) (FADING BACK)

(RR FADING IN)

MUSIC: SNEAK IN MOOD MUSIC TYPICAL OF CAR RUNNING & GAINING SPEED,
BUILD AS:

(TRAIN NEARER)

MUSIC: REACHES PEAK AS:

(TRAIN AT FULL VOLUME)

CUT MUSIC

(CASH, SPLINTERING GLASS, BENDING OF METAL, HISSING OF STEAM .. SEGUE INTO:)

MUSIC: SMASH, BURST — SHARP CUT

Newsboy; (AD LIBS) Sentinal, Extra, Paper! Read all about the train wreck! Attorney dies in crash! Read all about it! (SUSTAIN ADLIBBING AS:)

Fletcher; (CHUCKLES) (SOFT) We did it, Grammarcy! We got away with a murder!

MUSIC: BURST

Annecr; We'll continue our story in just a moment ...

(COMMERCIAL)

Annecr; A three-fold investigation got underway immediately following Thorndyke's death. Representatives from the police department, the insurance company and the Daily Sentinal, working independently of each other, called on everyone who might shed light on the accident. The man at the hot dog stand said: —

Voice; I heard one of the gents say Mr. Thorndyke never could stay awake after a few drinks —

Burke; Then you looked up an' saw the car startin' down the hill. Is that it?

Voice; Yeah. That's it, Officer. An' the guy — I guess it was the one that owned the car — said he'd meant to have that emergency brake fixed.

MUSIC: BURST AND UNDER

Voice 2; I'm the mechanic that serviced Mr. Fletcher's car. I've taken care of it for three years. If that brake was haywire, it's news to me!

MUSIC: BURST AND UNDER

Linda; Mrs. Thorndyke says it's the first time she can remember that those three went out together for dinner.

Amford; She said more'n that, by golly! She said Thorndyke never fell asleep from drinkin'. The more he drank, the livelier he got!

MUSIC: BURST AND UNDER

Annor; Bits of information from a dozen different sources came into the office of the Police Commissioner and the office of Britt Reid, of the Daily Sentinel —

MUSIC: FINISH

And then, one week after the tragedy, the young publisher called Linda Travis into his office and closed the door —

(DOOR CLOSES)

Britt; Sit down, Miss Travis.

Linda; Mr. Reid, you look rather grim.

Britt; We have an assignment.

Linda; Yes?

Britt; Commissioner Higgins is making the most of the fact that he knows the identity of the Green Hornet.

Linda; Oh —?

- Britt; He's morally certain that Thorndyke was murdered. But with the evidence at hand, he could never get a conviction -
- Linda; What do you think about it?
- Britt; I'm just as certain as Higgins.
- Linda; That there was a murder?
- Britt; Yes.
- Linda; There certainly was motive for murder. Grammarcy and Fletcher will collect enough insurance to take them over the hump.
- Britt; I think Thorndyke was drugged, even though an autopsy doesn't show it. I think those creeps took him out to dinner for the express purpose of drugging him so they could send him coasting down hill into the one o'clock train.
- Linda; Well, Mr. Reid, what's the Green Hornet going to do about it?
- Britt; I've been wondering.
- Linda; You created the character to get men like Grammarcy and Fletcher, who laugh at the law.
- Britt; Linda, I have a plan. I'm going to need both you and Kato.
- Linda; You know you can count on me.
- Britt; Kato and I will pick you up tonight at nine.
- Linda; I'll be waiting, Mr. Reid -- waiting and watching for the car of the Green Hornet!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Anncr; That evening, Britt Reid called his faithful valet Kato to his room ---

Britt; Take this bundle of clothing, Kato. It's for Linda.

Kato; Yes, Mr. Britt.

Britt; This gun, too.

Kato; May be fireworks tonight?

Britt; I expect there'll be plenty! Let's go!

Anncr; 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 served as the hiding place for the sleek, super-powered Black Beauty, streamlined car of the Green Hornet!

(STEPS INTO CAR, CAR STARTING, BARK)

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!

(MUSIC BURST)(FADE UNDER)

(CAR STOPPING)(DOOR OPENS)

Linda; You're right on time!

Britt; Slide into the back seat, Linda. We're going to call on Grammercey.

Linda; (GETTING INTO CAR) Right. () Hello, Kato.

Kato; Evening, Miss Travis. () These are for you.

(CAR DOOR SLAMS) (CAR START & SUSTAIN AS:)

Britt; You can get those dungarees over your slacks. Tuck your hair beneath the cap and put on the coat.

Linda; I'm to be disguised as a man?

Britt; Kato has to stay with the car, so you'll have to help me inside Grammarcy's house.

Linda; What's the program?

Britt; I'm going to warn Grammarcy. While I'm with him, you're to slip into the kitchen. We'll hear you; you'll rush out as we come in, but you'll leave the door of the refrigerator open and drop this bottle on the floor. That's all you have to do, Linda. Get out of there and run to the car. Leave the rest to me.

MUSIC: BURST TO FINISH

Grammarcy; My patience is nearly at an end! How many more people is the Commissioner going to send to question me? What's the idea, Sergeant Burke?

Burke; Well, it's on account o' what yuh might call "loose ends." It wasn't like Thorndyke tuh fall asleep after dinner -

Axford; Or like the three of yuh tuh go out together!

Grammarcy; So what?

Burke; What's more, Mr. Grammarcy, we got pretty good evidence that Fletcher's emergency brake was in perfect condition --

Grammarcy; Then how could the car roll down hill?

Axford; That's what we been wonderin'.

Grammarcy; Has it occurred to you that Thorndyke might have committed suicide?

Axford; Huh?

Grammarcy; Perhaps he made believe he was asleep in the car, then when Fletcher and I stepped out, he may have released the emergency brake himself --

Axford; Oh golly! I hadn't thought o' that!

Grammarcy; He was unhappy after the Washington affair. We took him to dinner to try to cheer him up. Think that over! Now get out, and tell the Chief not to bother me any more!

Burke; Come on, Axford!

(DOOR OPENS)

Axford; Good evenin' Mr. Grammarcy. We'll tell the Chief what you said.

(DOOR SLAMS)

MUSIC: SLIGHT "PING" OF HORNET THEME

Annor; Grammarcy turned from the door and paused. He had a vague feeling of uneasiness -- a feeling that he was not alone. Then a door on his left opened --

(DOOR OPENS)

Grammarcy; (GASPS) What the ---

Britt; I've been waiting in your library, Grammarcy.

Grammarcy; Th-that mask! You're the Green Hornet! Put that gun down!

Britt; Very well, Grammarcy. I'll put it away. After all, I'm here as a friend. I came to warn you.

Grammarcy; You - you --

Britt; Don't try to give Fletcher a deal like Thorndyke got. You won't get away with it!

Grammarcy; What - what do you mean? What are you talking about?

Britt; Partnership insurance is still in force on you and Fletcher. Fletcher's afraid you might have learned how easy it is to collect!

Grammarcy; I don't know what you mean!

Britt; I think you do. But it doesn't matter. I've come to tell you that Fletcher has left a letter -- to be opened in the event of his sudden death from any cause -- "accident" or otherwise. So don't kill him, Grammarcy! If you do the truth about Thorndyke will come out!

Grammarcy; See here, how did you get in?

Britt; A window?

Grammarcy; Why did you come here? Why are you telling me about Fletcher?

Britt; Fletcher's not anxious to die. His chances of survival are better if you know how his death would implicate you.

Grammarcy; I don't believe a word you --

Britt; I thought you were home alone.

Grammarcy; I am. At least, I was until you --

Britt; (LOW) What's beyond that door?

Grammarcy; (LOW) The kitchen. Why?

Britt; (LOW) Someone is there. () Hear that? () We'd better have a look.

MUSIC SOFT TENSION BG

Anner; Knowing that Linda was in the kitchen, setting the scene for Grammarcy, Britt went ahead of the lawyer to be sure the girl would have a chance to escape...

Grammarcy; (LOW) I hear someone. Open the door.

JERK DOOR OPEN FAST.

Linda; (STARTLED) Oh!

Britt; There he is!

(DROP DISH. START RUNNING STEPS)

Come back here!

(SHOT)

Linda; (GASP)

Britt; Hold it!

(FALLING BODY)

Grammarcy! You shot that-

Grammarcy; Stand still or I'll shoot you! () Didn't know I had a gun, did you?

- Britt; I've got to see how badly he's hurt.
- Grammarcy; Stand still!
- Britt; But Grammarcy --
- Grammarcy; I said stand still! Your concern for that intruder is significant. I wonder if you came here together.
- Britt; Together!
- Grammarcy; Perhaps you came to occupy my attention while an accomplice poisoned the food in that refrigerator.
- Britt; Poisoned food --
- Grammarcy; That's how it looks to me. Just as we came in the intruder was doing something to that dish of food. That box of white powder that's spilled might be poison!
- Britt;(POINT) I understand there was a poisonous white powder used on some of Miss Muffet's food.
- Grammarcy; You warned me about trying to murder Fletcher. I think Fletcher tried to murder me!
- Britt; Perhaps you should leave a letter just as Fletcher did, and let him know he'll be named if something happens to you. I -- (BREAK OFF ABRUPTLY AS:)
- Grammarcy; (CUTS IN) (FRANTIC) That window!
- (TWO SHOTS, CLOSE TOGETHER)
- (SMASHING GLASS)
- (GASPING)
- Britt; Grammarcy!

(COUPLE OF FAST STEPS ON BROKEN GLASS)

(FALLING BODY)

Anncr; As Grammarcy crumpled to the floor, Britt rushed to the window and looked out, but in the darkness he could see nothing - -

(FAST STEPS)

A glance at the bullet hole between the lawyer's eyes told the masked man that Grammarcy was beyond help. Britt hurried to the side of Linda Travis...

Britt; Linda! Linda --

Anncr; He tensed as he heard someone approaching from the back hall. Looking up, he saw Kato.

Kato; (COMING IN) It is girl. She is hurt!

Britt; We've got to get away from here in a hurry!

Linda; (SOFT MOAN)

Britt; Take it easy, Linda. You're going to be all right.
(EFFORT) I'll carry you to the car --

(STEPS SUSTAIN)

(POLICE SIREN STARTS FADING IN)

Anncr; As Britt hurried thru the darkness near the Grammarcy home, he heard the familiar siren of a police car in the neighborhood ...

Linda; You needn't carry me, Mr. Reid. I can walk. I'm all right, now.

Britt; Just a couple of seconds, Linda.

Kato; Here is car.

(CAR DOOR OPENS)

Britt; (MUTTERS) Police coming.

Kato; Perhaps someone hear shots and call them.

Britt; (EFFORT) There you are, Linda. () You drive, Kato. Get away from here and keep moving. We'll see about that wound.

(CAR DOOR SLAMS)

Linda; I -- I'm all right.

Britt; We'll make sure of it.

(CAR STARTS, SUSTAINS)

Annccr; In the rear seat of the Black Beauty, Britt Reid opened built-in compartments which held all manner of first aid equipment. Linda slipped off the man's overcoat. Britt cut away the sleeve of her blouse, then bathed the wound with water from a thermos container.

Britt; Not as bad as I thought --

Linda; It's really just a scratch --

Britt; I know a doctor --

Linda; I'm a trained nurse, Mr. Reid. That scratch doesn't amount to a thing. Please believe me.

Britt; I'd ought to be kicked for getting you into this. You might have been killed.

Linda; Well I wasn't, so don't worry about it.

Britt; I have some antiseptic and bandage ---

Linda; That's all I'll need. Did your plan work out?

Britt; No. It went completely haywire. I had hoped we could frighten Grammarcy into writing a letter that would tell everything --- I even told him Fletcher had prepared that kind of a letter.

Linda; Perhaps you can try again.

Britt; You didn't know it, Linda. You were unconscious. Grammarcy is dead.

Linda; Dead!

Britt; Confound it, Kato, why didn't you shoot to wound him?

Kato; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Mr. Britt, I did not shoot!

Britt; You didn't? I thought you fired thru the window when you saw Grammarcy holding a gun on me.

Kato; (SLIGHTLY BACK) No sir. I hear shot, then as I run toward house, I see figure at window. He fires, then runs away. It was too dark to identify him.

Britt; Great scott! That makes it even worse! The killer saw me there! He'll frame the Green Hornet for that murder!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annecr; It was two hours after Britt Reid had left Linda at her home. He paced the floor of his apartment, thinking over the evening's disastrous events.

Kato; Worry will not help, Mr. Britt. Perhaps if you go to bed ---

Britt; Just a minute, Kato. Someone's coming. It's either Axford or my father.

(DOOR OPENS, BACK)

Axford; (BACK) Hey, Reid!

Kato; (MUTTERS) Is Mr. Axford.

(DOOR SLAMS BACK)

Axford; (COMING IN) Oh golly, Reid! I'm glad you're still up! Things was poppin' around the cops headquarters!

Britt; (TENSE) Yes?

Axford; I was in Burke's car. We had just finished talkin' wit' Grammarcy an' gettin' no where, an' was drivin' around when we got a radio call tuh go back there.

Britt; Why?

Axford; One o' the neighbors called headquarters tuh report a shootin', an' it was Grammarcy!

Britt; Grammarcy shooting?

Axford; Grammarcy was dead on the kitchen floor. In his desk we found a latter sayin' it was tuh be opened if anything hap pened tuh him!

Britt; A letter!

Axford; Yeah, an' what d'yez think? It told all about how he an' Fletcher had schemed the murder o' Thorndyke!

Britt; Great day!

Axford; It said tuh pick up Fletcher if Grammarcy was found dead from any cause.

Britt; Did you pick up Fletcher?

Axford; That we did. And Reid, he squealed! He told everything! He was afraid that Grammarcy would try tuh get him! He went tuh Grammarcy's house intendin' tuh warn him ---

Britt; But he shot him?

Axford; Deader than a mackerel! In his confession he says he didn't intend tuh shoot him until he looked thru the window, tuh see if he was alone. He saw Grammarcy holdin' a gun on the Green Hornet. He hoped tuh frame the Hornet fer the murder, but he didn't have a chance. We got tuh him too quick fer him tuh do any framin'.

Britt; (LAUGHS) Well what do you think of that?

Axford; Huh?

Britt; Grammarcy did leave a letter!

NEWSBOY: (STARTS AD LIBBING OUTSIDE)

Britt; Axford, you have news! Did you call the Sentinel?

Axford; That I did, Reid, that I did! An' I told 'em the Green Hornet was tuh blame fer the shootin'.

Britt; The Green Hornet to blame?

Axford; Sure. Fletcher wouldn't of shot Grammarcy if he hadn't thought he could frame the Green Hornet!

NEWSBOY: (FADING IN) Sentinel, extra Paper! Murder plot exposed! Double-cross traps lawyer! Green Hornet named in murder confession! Read all about it! Sentinel, extra, paper!