APR 12 1922

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THE VERDICT

Photoplay in two reels

Story and scenario by George Morgan

Produced by Albert Russell

Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62)
Universal Film Mfg. Co. Inc. of the U. S.

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"THE VERDICT"

SILAS GRAHAM, a miserly recluse, has one interest in life—his collection of live bugs and insects, which he keeps in a room in the top of his house.

Elsie Graham, his niece, a drudge in her uncle's house, has two suitors. One is Bob Strong, editor of the Pleasantville Bugle. The other is Daniel Steele, Graham's lawyer. Steele knows the contents of the old man's will and hopes to benefit by marrying Elsie, his heiress. Elsie refuses Steele in spite of the fact that it is her uncle's wish. Strong arrives while Steele is smarting from her refusal. He accuses her of being in love with Strong. Elsie resents his manner and orders him from the house.

Graham flies into a passion at sight of Strong, orders him from the house, turns on Elsie, and orders Steele to draw up a new will cutting off his niece.

Later Graham is found dead in bed, with the door and windows of his room locked. Examination shows no mark on his body but a small puncture near the temple that might have been done with a hatpin. Steele takes advantage of this to threaten Elsie with the murder of her uncle unless she marries him. Elsie defies him and he has her placed under bail pending the inquest. Strong mortgages everything he owns to furnish her bail.

Ned Hargreaves of the Daily News, assigned to the case, trying to see Elsie is blocked by Steele. Steele hires a roughneck to follow Ned, but Ned discovers that he is being shadowed, and traps and thrashes the roughneck.

A Night of Horror

The mystery seems to have no solution. Ned's pity for the brave girl has changed to a deeper feeling, and in desperation he determines to spend the night in the room where the miser had been killed—the Room of Death.

Mysterious sounds cause him to abandon his attempts to rest on the bed, and he prepares to sit up the rest of the night. With difficulty he keeps from falling asleep. Then he sees something that causes him to start in horror. From the ceiling a spider slowly suspends itself until it alights on the pillow of the bed. Ned realizes the cause of Graham's death and what might have been his. It was the deadly spider Graham had been examining when interrupted by the quarrel. The evidence frees Elsie.

Elsie's admiration for Ned threatens to grow deeper, but Ned, discovering the misery it would cause Strong, sacrifices his own chance of happiness with her, content with another scoop.

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