Pawned

Frank L. Packard

Not pawned things but pawned people!

By a curious turn of fate each character in this story finds himself pawned to another. None can act as he himself desires, but only as another dictates.

The strange developments which arise from this circumstance are of absorbing interest, swinging the reader from New York to the South Seas and back again to New York's lower East Side, in a story of adventure, love and rapid-fire incident.

Now On With The Story;

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ednesday 3 - Thursday 4 Matinee Wednesday 2.30 "WOMAN TO WOMAN" Betty Compost Drama full of human inter-

est and Pathos. Hodge Podge and Color Reel Friday 5 - Saturday 6 PRINCE OF DIAMONDS"

(Continued from last week)

I got in a fortunate swing and he went down for the count. I remember toppling the screen and the man behind it over on the floor as I jumped sideways for the window; and I re- I didn't get a chance. I guess the member a glimpse of his terrorized mate was sharper than I gave him credit for. After about four hours of wide open' as I took a headlong dive heat and stink down there below over the window sill. The stoker picked me up and we started on the run. the window after us. I didn't need to time. I was thrown off the steamer. PROFESSIONAL CARDS be told that there wouldn't be a happy time ahead if I were caught. Apar. do not call here every day. I wonder from that tout who, though I had no if you'll know what I mean when 1 thing to do with it, gave the affair a say I was beginning to be afraid of very serious aspect, I was good for myself and what might happen if 1 the limit on the statute books for re- had to stick it out much longer? That sisting arrest in the first place, and mangy cur I spoke of had me lashed for knocking out an officer in the second. But the stoker knew his way I tried it again tonight. Nanu fixed about. We gave the police the slip, it for me with one of the crew to and a little later on we landed up in hang that rope over the side, and a sailors' boarding-house run by a well, I believe you said you had seen one-eyed cousin of Satan, known what happened. I believe you said, Lascar Joe. We lay there hidden for

a while while the tout got better, and sailing with the mail boat, depending the Spanish hidalgo got sent up for upon my story." He laughed a little a long term for murderous assault. raucously. "I hope it's been interest-Finally Lascar Joe slipped the stoker ing enough to bail me out; anyway, aboard some ship; and a week or so that's all of it." later he slipped me, the transfer being made in the night, abard a frowsy tramp bound for New Zealand." The young man paused, evidently inviting ormment.

"Go on" prompted quill toothpick softly.

vivor from that tramp. She never got over the world on account of it. In to New Zealand; and that's how I other words, and what really intergot here to Samoa. She went down ests me, is that you are not what in a hurricane. I was washed ashore is commonly designated as a 'wanted' on one of this group of islands about man. Yes, I may say I am thoroughly forty or fifty miles from here. I do satisfied." not know much about the details; I The young man yawned and stretchwas past knowing anything when the ed himself. bit of wreckage on which I had lashed myself days before came to port.

There weren't any—I was going to back to the ship?"

There weren't any—I was going to back to the ship?"

The could be ship?" say white people on the island, but "I hope so." The quill toothpick was busy again. "The decision rests with you. I am not a philanthropist. God's green earth. I found that out. I am about to offer you a situationly with them, especially the old fel- I am satisfied you are that man. You drowned and unconscious on the beach my name, and though you have aland who took me into the bosom of his family. Then the missionary boat withhold that information until your

ing such a small space after all! I been—shall we use your expression figured that back here in Apia a ship-moon mad under the influence of the wrecked and destitute white man wonders of a tropic night." would get the glad hand and at least a chance to earn his stake. Maybe he young man softly, "that the situa- young man. He appeared to be fascinwould ordinarily; but I didn't. I had- tion is not an ordinary one." n't said anything to the missionary about that Honolulu escapade and I other quietly. "It is not only not or mouth. "Have you another toothpick of the mouth of the quilt toothpick in the other's men only in the world knew Gilbert I armon for what he was! One other was keeping it dark when I got here dinary, but is I think I may safely you could let me have?" he inquir besides himself! And that other was of my story over again. Queer, isn't its counterpart. I might mention in passing that I am not in particular-ly good health and the sea voyage I ly good health and the sea voyage I with the involvement and northern and norther the pasty face that I had toppled ovwas ordered to take explains my prewith the irrelevancy, and perhaps er with the screen in the old Chink's sence here. I am the sole owner of facctiounsess, of the request frowned faro dump. He was one of the big one of the largest, if not the largest, as he found himself handing over the gambling houses, and likewise the guns here,, and had been away on a business enterprises in America; cerpleasure trip and Honolulu had been tainly its turn-over, at least, is be- "Shall I sign?" His tone was sternpleasure trip and monomial had been tamely its turn-over, at least, is behis itinerary. That settled it. The yond question the biggest on the Amer. "It is understood that the signamissionary chap spoke up a bit for me, I'll give him credit for that, so ments in every city of any size in me, I'll give him credit for that, so ments in every city of any size in "Yes, sign it. It is quite under-that play as an arguing works in an both the United States and Canada stood." The young man spoke withthat play as an opening wedge in an effort to reform me later on. But I I offer you is that of my confidential grossed in carefully slitting the point had my fingers crossed. The whites representative. No connection what- of the quill toothpick he had acquirturned my back on the missionary.

of Mr. Dante's delightful circles." He sat suddenly upright, a clenched fist flung outward. "Not a cent! Not a damned soulmarquee! Nothing but this torn shirt, and what's left of these cotton pants!

He lay back on the sand quite as suddenly again, and fell to laughing afraid, is suffering severely."

"Tck!" It was the quill toothpick. "But at that" said the young man, on the sand. "I'm not sure you could call me a cynic, though the more I see of my heart" said the tall man calmly. own breed as compared with the socalled heathen the less I think of-my own breed! I still had a card up my sleeve. I had a letter of introduction to a real gentleman and landed pro-said.

care of me on the other is the land." land that gave me the latter. It was a queer sort of letter, too but never "Splendid isolation! That's me for

The tanned fist closed fiercely over a handful of sand then opened and "No," said the young man, with a paper in the sait water."

The tail man made no answer. For through the fingers, and its owner I've got that left! I am beginning a moment he remained staring with through the fingers, and its owner to have a suspicion that it was in grim-set features at the other, then hell here in those two weeks. I guess I lost my manual? when the mail steamer put in yester-day. I hope I haven't idealised my so-journ here in a way that would cause you to minimize my necessity for get home, and my inforfation as to what ting away, no matter to where or by goes on there at least is fairly accurate.

Though not personally in evidence in black leters were slowly taking form just beneath his own signature. Presently he walked back up the beach to the young man and held out his hand. the ship in his outrigger. Perhaps I would have had better lack if I had up and down the sand.

"Let us get be bruce" he said. run into any other than the particular man after a moment, "that from a man after a moment, "that from a to work my passage. Perhaps my fame had already gone abroad—or in the moral status between one who fame had already gone abroad—or aboard. He invited me to make another excursion into Dante-land. But when he turned his back on me I slipped below and backed myself in behind some of the copra sacks they were loading. Once the steamer was away I was away with her and I was willing to take what was coming. But I didn't set a chance. I small the "The poince were scrambling thru he knew I had been there all the

o, that a chance still existed of my

The tall man sat for a moment in

the young man. He laughed shortly. fact your share in it was not so serious that the police would dog you all
"As far as I know I'm the sole surious that the police would dog you all
"Then, draw it!" he said short

There were only natives on that is- to fill which I have been searching a land I lived with them for about two good many years to find some one months and Igot to be pretty friend- who had the necessary qualifications. low who originally picked me up half do not know me; you do not know came along and I came back with it decision has been given. If you agree Apia here."

I will here and now sign a contract with you to which we will both affix denly, a jarring note in his mirth. our bona fide signatures; if you re-I don't suppose you've heard that fuse, we will shake hands and part original remark about the world be- as friends and strangers who have

"Something tells me," said the

erican continent. I have establish- tures are to be bona fide and —" ever will be known to exist between ed with his knife. us; your title will be that of a gen-That's about all there was to it. That them was about two weeks ago and for will be that of a genture that your duties the notebook.

The other signed both sheets from dealt with Gilbert Larmon alone and dealt was about two weeks ago and for will be more arduous. I regret to say The young man accepted the two

"The one that is nearest to your

"Gambling." The young man leaned slowly forward, staring at the other. "I wonder if I quite get you?" he

to quarrel with moral status?"

"Very well then," said the other; "I thing in life that you desire. You will night was still, and the moon rode decks that I had to grit my teeth to live as a gentleman of wealth sur- high and full. It was the same moon stand, he hauled me out as though rounded by every luxury that money that three months ago he had stared can precure for that is your role. You at from the flat of his back on the may gamble to your heart's content' beach at Apia. A smile, curiously ten, twenty, fifty thousand a night tight and yet curiously whimsical. in my houses. You will travel the touch his lips. If it had been "moonwill pay every expense. There is nothing that you may not have, nothing sandler king and himself that night that you may not do."

The young man was silent for a full minute; then, with his hands dug in his pockets, he fell to whistling

An almost sinister smile spread over the tall man's lips as he listened. "If I am not mistaken," he observed dryly, "that is the aria from Faust."

"Yes" said the young man-and stored the other in the eye. "It is the aria from Faust."

lips were straight. "Yes," he said at last; I said quant les, then, he said souly. satisfied. Dressed as a gentleman, Faustus you know signed the bond." other details as go with the role, you again. His face was curiously white; iil toothpick softly.

"There isn't very much more" said affair in Honolulu. As a matter of his cheeks' like the mark of some

> The tall man took a notebook and a fountain pen from his pocket. He wrote rapidly, tore out the leaf and on a second leaf made a copy of the first. This, too, he tore out.

"I will read it," he said. "You will observe that no names are mention-"I'm delighted to hear it. I haven't ed; that I have still reserved the pried. This is what I have written:

"For good and valid consideration at the will of the first signatory erous still. These were realities! alone. And the first signatory to Mephistopheles at play! He had the second signatory as a stated dollars a month. He looked up. "Shall I sign?"

—and even in Mexico. The situation out looking up. He seemed to be en-

that in many cases I fear my local slips of paper, but refused the promanagers are not—er—making ac- ffered fountain pen. In the moonlight old Samian Islander playing its part very hard to check up. I would re- bert Larmon. His lips tightened a litquire you to travel from place to place the. It was a big name in San Franas a sort of, say, secret inspector of cisco—a name of power. Few dreambranches and furnish me with the ed perhaps where the sinews of that inside information from the lack of which my business at present, I am sower came from! He drew from his to the salt water test; and he had. dipped in the quill toothoick and with indeed, already used it in sewral of "And that business?" The young his improvised pen wrote with a masping himself to his elbow ing, spluttering noise beneath the that he had sent Larmon on some of other's signature on each of the two the branches. slips of paper. One of these slips he returned to the other—but beneath the tall man's signature there was no mark of any kind whatever.

man had been watching, and now his no necessity to explain the source of

"Let us get back to the ship John

THEIR STORY.

to his feet and switched off the "Very well then," said the other; "I lights, the saids to the window. The will go farther. I will give you every in a few strides to the window. The

madness" that had fallen upon the it had been a madness that was essed of unlimited wealth, as a man with unlimited funds always in his real purpose in their houses! possession or at his instant com- He yawned, and as though glorying mand.

The tall man nodded but now his if not moonmadness, perhaps the their full length above his head. God, "Yes," he said at last; "I am quite les, then," he said softly. "Doctor had been that other night, which he him; no restraint to know; no desire ing man squatted on the sand his mind scurrying backward over was wiped away. It was like some those intervening months. And yet, reincarnation in which he stood superhaps not; for there would come preme above his fellow men and they often enough, as now, moments of bowed to their god. And he was their "Then, draw it!" he said shortly. mind groping, yes, even the sense god. And if he but nodded approval of hallucination, when he was not they would lie, and cheat, and steal, quite sure but that a certain bubble fleating at one moment in dazzingly iridescent beauty before his eyes would dissolve the next into blank nothingness, and — Well, what would it be then? Another beach at

> Faustus again? He looked sharply behind bim ar the second signatory to this con- ound the darkened room, whose darktract hereby enters unreservedly ness did not hide its luxury. His into the employ of the first signa-shoulder brushed the heavy silk portory for a period which shall include the lifetime of one or other of the undersigned, or until such a roll of banknotes in his pocket, a time as this agreement may be dis- generous role, whose individual unsolved either by mutual consent or its were of denominations more gen-

> this contract agrees to maintain the left Larmon at Suva, Fiji. Thereafter second signatory in a station in their ways and their lives lay apart life commensurate with that of a -outwardly. Actually, even here in gentleman of wealth irrespective New York with the continent between of expense, and further to pay to them, for Larmon had resumed his salary the sum of one thousand life in which he played the role of a benevolent and retired man of wealth in San Francisco, they were in constant and extremely intimate touch

clearing house through which the profits flowed into Larmon's coffers: but to Maldeck. he. John Bruce, was exactly what he appeared to be to the world at large, and to the local managers of the gambling houses in porticular-a millioncire plunger to whom gambling was as the breath of life The "inspector of branches" dealt confidentially and secretively when found necessary, for it had ben agreed between Larmon and hunself that even the most innoc no

He shrugged his shoulders. The

whole scheme of his changed existonce had all been artfully simple-Through narrowing eyes the tall and emerbly efficient. He was under prietor here. His name was Nanu, "I am sure you do." The tall man was something of deadly coolness in smiled. "My business is a chain of his voice as he spoke.

face darkened ominously, and there his most except in his native city, was something of deadly coolness in constant. —and San Francisco was outside his

where, his wealth was "Splendid isolation! That's me for the last two weeks as a cross between a pariah and a mangy cur! What amazes me most is myself. The gentleman of the Chinese screen is still in the land of the living and walking blithely around. Funny, im't it? Thats one reason I was crazy to get away from here is inquired the other—and the quill the other—and the nemark:

The tanned fist closed fiercely over the deviliably complimentary."

I understand it, then the price I am to pay for getting away from here is got it from my old native friend on our cities, following as guidance apparently but the whim of his suppose anything harmoned to him."

The tanned fist closed fiercely over two weeks.

I a drop of blood—and I thought. I'd carry a sort of analogy along a bit. That stuff's all right. I got it from my old native friend on our cities, following as guidance apparently but the whim of his supposedly roue inclinations, and he had tent I guess it stands for the drop of blood all right! Take it down there original source in the pockets of Gilbort and I was thought. I'd carry a sort of analogy along a bit. That stuff's all right. I got it from my old native friend on our cities, following as guidance apparently but the whim of his supposed where the other—and the quill the other—and the quill the other—and the nemark:

The tanned fist closed fiercely over the drop of blood all right! Take it down there original source in the pockets of Gilbort larges. that was all. So, skipping San Fran to the shore and dip that part of the bert Larmon, via the clearing house conducted by Peter Maldeck. It was extremely simple but, equally, exwe're only built to stand so much. I lost my money!"

Was about at the end of my rope when the mail steamer put in yester
That is how I came to know you. Though not nerrospally in evidence in black it up to the moonlight. Heavy these in each city, and, in turn, quite tremely systematic. The habitues of inevitably, would follow an introduction to the local "house"; and once introduced, the entree, then or on any subsequent visit to the city, was an established fact.

John Bruce laughed suddenly, softly, cut into the night. It had been a mod bargain that he had made with Mep stoph les! Walth, luxury, evervthing he desired in life was his. On the tril behind him in the cities he had already visited he had nightly lost or wen him sums of money unthe half he maknown as the mitlionaire olunger. It was quite true that inasmuch as the money, whother los or won, by nassed from his right to his left hand preket the pockets being represented by one Gilbert Larmon—the gambler craving within him was but ill served, almost in a sense mocked; but that phase of it had sunk into insignificance. The whole idea was a gigantic gamble—a gamble with life. The whole fabric was of texture most precarious. It exhilarated him. Excitement, adventure -ves, even peril-beckoned alluringly and always from around the cornstrangely free in its dev lopment er just ahead. He stood against the from hallucination! That diagnosis police; he stood a very excellent no longer held. It would be much chance of being discovered some morn under his breath very softly — but more apposite to lay it bluntly to the ing minus his life if the men he was dror of Mephistopheles! From the set to watch, and who now fawned moment he had boarded the mail upon him and treated him with awe steamer he had lived as a man poss- and an unholy admiration should get

> in his own strength flexed his great He whistled softly. It was, though, shoulders and stretched his arms to

> > (Continued next week.)

for Ontario's many "Sick Elda" by passing this information slong to the good-hearted people your newspaper serves you will interest them and at the same time or instrumental m promoting the continuance of this humane service it is a signatic under-

of help it can get Please note the toilowing official figures for the year which ended September 30, 1930 indicating the magnitude and rapid expansion of this mission of mercy. Potal number of cot patients in year, 6,970 an increase of 377 over the previous year; actual number of oatient days 132,716 an increase of 11.301: average days stay of all patients 19 These figures include the wonders tul country hospital at Phistietown. where the year's total of patient days was 36,876 and the daily average 101, in addition to this the out-patient department, at the main nospital and 58,705 attendances within the year, the largest number of patients treated in a single day being 317

taking and the nospital needs every bit

The uttle sufferers who are ministerea to in the dospital for Sick Chile iren come trom all over the Province of Ontario Chrouge this magnificent in titution for dealing the very poor child has an equal advantage with the very men in securing one conefit of the finest snown medical and surgical skill There are or strings to admittance of the child requirem dospital care daca. reed of circumstatices in tile make no filterence at we great Mother Charity, dvert year the trustees have to see that KINGERZALIEBERS IIC OC SALLY TOOM AND WEST VOICE OF THE TOOM OF THE CONTROL OF TH

2015 and the same stricken with displaced and the same stricken with a same stricken with same to: it veats the annua appea or funes is house made at the approach and a large what it over of fittie children wonto the contribute The Hospital tot Sies mater foce nos thare in the tunes of me foronte Pederation for Community Service persuse it serves the whole province Donations from the generous persons in

your territory are carnestly solicited. Parthfully yours.

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