

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE FOR NANCY DREW: THE MYSTERY OF THE VELVET MASK

Nancy, George and Bess are invited to a masquerade party at the home of Gloria Hendrick, whose father is a wealthy manufacturer and collector of art objects. Nobody but the girls and their escorts know what they are going to wear. Nancy, dressed as a ballerina, and Ned Nickerson, attired as a pirate, have a gay time.

In the garden of the Hendrick home, Nancy loses her mask. While hunting for it, she sees a strange figure in a flowing, black cloak, glancing up at the second floor of the mansion. When the figure sees Nancy and Ned, he quickly hurries back to the ballroom.)

(While hunting for her mask, Nancy finds a strange, black velvet mask, which she wears instead of her lost one.

While they are dancing again, the same, strange masquerader in the black costume cuts in on Ned and dances away with Nancy. He scolds her for not wearing the Oriental costume she was supposed to and says he might not have recognized her except for the black mask. Then he presses a note into her hand, just as Ned reclaims his partner. Nancy opens the note and reads a strange message, "Eastport Trellis Company offers secondhand window sash on easy terms. In case of rain every cloud has a silver lining." Nancy is sure the message is in code and tries to decipher it. After a few false interpretations by Ned, Nancy suddenly remembers ^{that} the figure in the garden was looking up at the second floor windows of the Hendrick library. Nancy decides something sinister is ~~underfoot~~ afoot and translates the message to mean: ^{Use} The trellis on the east side of the house, leading to the second floor window ^{which} is easy to ^{open} enter. The second sentence still has her baffled. The girl decides to inspect the library and seeks out Mrs. Hendrick, who is very gracious about having her guests look at her husband's collection of art objects. Nancy views some beautiful paintings, vases and other rare objects.

2 arranged in the library. Suddenly the second part of the coded message becomes clear to her. In a case she sees a collection of rare miniature silver. Not certain that someone means to steal the silver, Nancy hurries downstairs. ^{to a telephone to call the police.} Just as she does, she is confronted by ^{female} another masquerader in a Javenese costume, who seizes her wrists and holds her as the lights go out. There is panic and confusion, and Nancy is suddenly released. By the time the lights are ⁹⁰put on again, Mrs. Hendrick comes screaming from the second floor, saying someone ~~has~~ entered the library, ^{gagged her and} and stole the collection of rare miniature silver. While searching for clues in the library, Nancy finds a black velvet mask similar to the one she ~~is~~ ^{and the black-cloaked masquerader were} wearing and similar to the one worn by the strange cloaked figure who gave her the message. When she returns home that night, Nancy finds her father pouring over some papers in his den. He has been asked to defend the Lightner ^{Amusement} Needham and Company of River Heights. Suit has been threatened the company, which arranges entertainment, because after several such ^{parties} entertainments, things of value have been stolen from the homes ^{of the hosts.} at which the entertainments were given.

Early next morning Nancy calls Mrs. Hendrick and finds that the masquerade party had been arranged by the ^{Lightner} same company. ^{she} Nancy and her father discuss ^{his (Mr. Drew's)} the legal case. Is the ^{Lightner} company doing the stealing and ^{Mr. Drew being retained to defend thieves?} hiring Mr. Drew to defend a false case, or is the Lightner Company really honest? ^{the lawyer} Mr. Drew gives Nancy the job of finding out something about ^{Mr.} Lightner himself. ^{investigation} Nancy talks with the man and through other ~~research~~ decides he is honest. The girl thinks perhaps somebody in the company might be tipping off thieves as to the layout of valuables in the homes where the parties are given.

Mr. Drew is called out of town on another case. While he is gone, Nancy receives a threatening note, telling her to quit sleuthing. This note is ~~found~~ followed by a telegram, ostensibly sent by her father, telling

her to quickly come to see him in the ^{distant} town he is visiting. Nancy double-checks the telegram and gets a verification from the hotel at which Mr. Drew is staying. She decides to take a train to the place. George and Bess are fearful something will happen to her. They offer to go along to protect Nancy, But George says that if anyone should accost Nancy, they might be powerless to help her. Accordingly, George proposes a different play. She will masquerade as Nancy, and Nancy herself, along with Bess, will watch her on the train.

George does a skillful job of makeup ^{and Nancy poses as George. She} and carries Nancy's suitcase, ^{onto the train} bearing the initials ND. She sits at one end of the car, while Nancy and Bess sit at the other. ^{As they near the next station} Nancy notices two men and a woman come into the car. ^{One} The men stroll down the aisle toward Nancy and Bess. The ^{and the second man sit opposite} woman sits next to George. Suddenly George ^{seems to} faints. The ^{man and} woman attempts to carry her out. ^{telling other passengers they are her parents} Nancy and Bess try to rush to her aid, but are blocked by the ^{man in the aisle} two men. ^{By this time the train has stopped. George's} As they near a station at this time ^{man + woman} the woman carries George off ^{the train and put her in an auto. Nancy tussles with the second man, but} and speeds away in her automobile. (George has been kidnapped) by people who think she is Nancy. ^{over it *}

~~In struggling with the two men in the train car, Nancy rips off one of their neckties. Getting the laundry mark from it, she follows the clue to a cheap hotel and sets up a watch for the man. Apparently, however, he has been disguised and she does not recognize anybody.~~

△ Meanwhile the ^{kidnappers,} crooks ^{the} ensensed by finding they have seized by wrong girl, write threatening notes to Nancy, Mr. Drew and also to George's parents, saying that if Mr. Drew and Nancy both do not drop the case, something dire will happen to George.

Nancy now has a double problem on her hands. Not only must she find George and get her back unharmed, but she also must ^{and continues working on the Dept. Store Case} track down the crooks. The police are helping on the kidnap case, but are getting nowhere, ~~as~~ ^{now} Nancy decides to familiarize herself with miniature silver. In her research she ~~has~~ ^{recent} found that several other ^{in the area} thefts have had to do with silver, some of it miniature. Nancy checks on trademarks and hallmarks, and finally discov

* Nancy remembers seeing one of the men drop something near the tracks and searches for a clue. She finds a metal charge tag issued by a R. H. dept. store. Run over by the train, the name has been obliterated, but Nancy makes out the words "Hessie Account B". One of the abductees works for the dept. store. Nancy visits it, and is told by the manager that it will be quite a job to find the owner of the tag among the 150 employees. Nancy suggests he call in all the employees' charge coins under the pretext of issuing new ones. The one who does not turn his in will be the guilty man.

over at Δ

a small piece of miniature silver in the office of the Lightner Company.

4 It is part of the silver stolen from the Hendrick home. Mr. Lightner denies any knowledge of it, as does his assistant, ^{Peter Tombar:} Nancy becomes suspicious who looks like a person she thought she saw at the dept store. She checks ^(over) of the assistant, ^{Meanwhile} the Lightner Company continues to arrange more parties and after each one there ^{is} has been a theft. ^{police (over + **)} Finally, he receives ^{AD necessary} fewer and fewer orders to run parties and his business is threatened with extinction because of the thefts.

Nancy ^{finds that foam extinguishers are not used by the dept. store. Only one place in town} continues to work on the necktie clue. She finds that the

~~hotel operates a group of summer tourist cabins not far from River Heights.~~

~~They have just been closed for the winter months. Nancy does some sleuthing~~

~~at the cabins and finds her ^{own} scarf, which George had worn, floating on a near~~

by pond. As Nancy looks in the windows of the ^{hotel} cabin, she is seized from behind and carried off. Bess, who had been with her, picks up a clue which

finally leads Mr. Drew and the police to a wooded area. Apparently, ^{it was} a

^{planted,} false clue, because Nancy cannot be found there. At the same time, Mr.

Drew, the police and Bess discover that George apparently had been held a prisoner ^{at the hotel} in one of the summer cabins, but she is now gone.

After Nancy had been seized, she finds herself in a strange, ^{carried away blindfolded} windowless ^{base, straw} room,

^{It contains all kinds of merchandise as well as samovars} which contains chairs, dishes, punch bowls, etc.

By building a fire in one of the samovars and ^{framing} handling the smoke through a crack in the ^{of} door, Nancy tricks her abductor into rushing in,

thinking it is a fire. She overpowers him by tripping him. It turns ^{a man who looks like Peter Tombar, when he is overpowered} out to be Mr. Lightner's assistant. As Nancy does this, she hears a

strange tapping apparently from the room nextdoor. She breaks it in to find George. They are in the ^{marking rooms contained in a one-story} quarters of the Lightner Company and been

^{building behind the dept. store} held in the storage rooms there. As George and Nancy try to get out, by

~~means of a secret cellar door, they are set upon by several men and a~~

woman. ^{wearing black velvet masks. As they begin to overpower the girls,} These are the thieves who have been working in conjunction with

Lightner's assistant, the finger man in the cases. Just then Mr. Drew,

^{the dept. store manager} and the police arrived, and after a battle subdue the crooks. The stolen

* dept store files, but find nobody by name of Tombar.

over at Δ

** Reasoning that the silver thieves are holding George, Nancy
decides to catch them. She poses as a servant and guards
a home at which a party is given, catching glimpse of a
black-masked intruder. After the party the home is robbed &
Nancy, aided by Ned, speaks after the robbers. They lose
sight of them in an alley near the dept. store, but Nancy
finds a dept. store label near where the thieves car had
been parked.

¶ Next day Nancy gets permission to look over shipping
dept of the store. Someone squirts a foaming fire extinguisher at
her, blinding her temporarily. Now she is ~~sure~~ certain the culprit
works somewhere in the back of the dept. store. Nancy finds
~~the culprit~~ ~~It is not the Red the store~~

¶ Meanwhile Mr. Lightner is
(over at ΔΔ)

*** Making smudge by burning a handful of incense,
Nancy blows smoke under the door with an electric fan.

over at ΔΔΔ

5/ things are restored to their owners. Mr. Lightner is exonerated.

George has a joyful reunion with her parents.

The manager had found that everybody turned in metal change coins except one John Snecker, a half-brother of Peter Tambor. Tambor had been "casing" the bones for Snecker, head of the "Phantom gang," wanted by the police. Silver loot is found ~~in the~~ ~~not~~ hidden in the marking room.

Dept. Store mgr. thank Dr. for cleaning up the gang, what he ~~thinks mgr. had~~ ~~leave~~ finds had the store marked for future thefts. Mr. Lightner is cleared + stolen silver restored to owners, who withdraw ~~suits~~ lawsuits. Henry is joyfully ~~return~~ returned to parents, also ~~is~~ jokingly remarks, 'It is dangerous to look like Dr. D.'

finds letter -
dept. Store -
provided them to
Lynch Co.

when shipping can
hide in dept Store warehouse.

Train car

Favorite having big because of deep which follows the parties
appear to be from the same old records
Preliminary Outline for the Nancy Drew Story

THE MYSTERY OF THE VELVET MASK

Nancy Drew, George Fayne and Bess Marvin eagerly discuss the masquerade party to be given that night at the home of Gloria Hendricks. Nobody but the girls' escorts will know the costumes they will wear. Nancy says it will be a real mysterious party because everyone will wear the (new) type masks which cover the entire face.

That evening Ned Nickerson calls for Nancy. He is dressed as a swashbuckling pirate with a long sword dangling from his waist. Nancy is dressed as a ballet dancer. Mr. Drew and Hannah Gruen roar with laughter when the young couple don their masks. Nancy's mask is that of a sweet-faced ^{Chinese} Korean. Ned's mask is a frightful face with a long red nose and drooping moustache.

When they arrive at the party only the mother of the hostess reveals herself. She says that the couples are to exchange dances and mingle, but that they will not unmask until eleven o'clock. Nancy has a fine time with Ned and is intrigued as she tries to unfathom the mystery of the other guests. She spots Bess Marvin but can't find George Fayne. While they dance, Ned's sword becomes loose and he says he must return to his car for a pair of pliers to tighten the wire holding the sword.

He and Nancy step off the dance floor and go to the long line of parked cars. As they approach their car, Nancy sees a masquerader in a black cape sneak off to the trees ahead of them. It looks strange but she thinks nothing more of it.

As Ned repairs his sword, Nancy takes off her mask to get a breath of fresh air. When they are about to start back, Nancy finds she has lost her mask. What to do about it. As they search along

arranged on the buffet at the wide of the room has disappeared. The guests by now unmask and Nancy finds that the Chinese Goddess and the phantom in the black velvet both are missing. The police arrive and ~~interrogates~~ ^{interrogate} the guests. Nancy tells them of the two strangers and gives the best description she can. When all the guests have left, Nancy searches for the scrap of paper. She finds half of it.

Next morning she shows it to her father and tells about the story of the night's happenings. Mr. Drew says he would like to help her, but he must go to New York on a case. This is the case: a woman in town who runs a gift shop has bought a large consignment of miniature silver made in England. After she had put the rare pieces on display in her showcases, a man arrived to claim them, saying they had been stolen from him. The woman had been reluctant to give up the silver. Nevertheless, faced with a damaging charge of being a fence, she had appealed to Mr. Drew.

"Truth is always the best defense in a case like this," the lawyer said. "I am going to New York to find out who it was who sold the miniature silver to Mrs. Princep."

The next day Nancy returns to the home of Mrs. Hendricks and asks her a lot of questions, seeking a clue. She finds that the party had been staged by the Funlite Amusement Company. This organization, apparently old and reputable, was arranging many parties of all types in River Heights and vicinity. Nancy suddenly remembers something and goes to the local newspaper and examines their files. She finds that another theft had taken place two months before. She also finds that the Funlite Company (also) had staged this party. Strangely enough, silver had been stolen.

Nancy goes to the Funlite Company in the guise of a prospective client. She finds that the place looks entirely reputable, as she speaks to the owner, one Mr. Tipton. As she leaves however, he grasps her

the path they had taken, Nancy finds a velvet mask, but it is not hers. It is a strange mask of a skelton's head. Nancy tries it on, and Ned gets a big kick out of seeing the incongruous effect of the ballet dancer with a skelton's head.

Nancy causes quite a stir when she reappears on the dance floor with her new mask. Suddenly the same stranger they had seen near the parked cars approaches her and cuts in on Ned. Beneath his long, flowing, black cape, he is attired in a tight-fitting, velvet suit. * (over) The stranger also wears a skelton mask (also) made of velvet. When he dances with Nancy, he squeezes her hand hard and says: "That's not the costume you were going to wear. What became of the Chinese Goddess?"

Nancy sensing a deep and dark mystery answers in muffled tones. Her black phantom partner appears highly displeased but says: "Here are the instructions" and he presses a note into Nancy's hand. Just as he does, Ned Nickerson cuts back in again, and he and Nancy dance off.

Nancy whispers to Ned who guides her beneath a floor lamp where she reads the note. In strange and cryptic language it instructs Nancy to stand by the main entrance and block the exits of guests when "it happens."

"When what happens?" Ned asks. Nancy determines to find out. With the note still in her hand, she approaches the entrance to the dance floor. Suddenly she is startled to see another masquerader in the costume of a Chinese Goddess approach her. The figure quickly snatches the note from her hand. In the milling throng Nancy finds it hard to follow. The Chinese Goddess dashes to the door. Suddenly the lights go out. There is screaming and milling about. After five minutes someone brings in candles. The lights are repaired, but when order once again is restored, it is found that Mrs. Hendricks' silverware

* Ned was reluctant to give up his dancing partner. In mock anger he whips out his pirate sword as if to duel with the black-robed stranger. In his enthusiasm, Ned accidentally cut a rent in the black robe, profusely apologized, sheathed his sword, and gave up Nancy to the stranger.

hand in a handshake that nearly squeezes her fingers off. The man has an iron grip, the same as the person with whom she danced at the masquerade. Nancy remembers the cut in the black velvet cloak, and follows that clue. She visits several costume rental places in vain, but at the last place she visits the man is opening a bundle wrapped in brown paper. It contains a black velvet cloak. Nancy inquires about it; the man says he has to repair a tear. A real clue for Nancy! The man tells her it was brought in by a small boy who will call for it later.

Nancy posts George and Bess to watch the place. A small boy comes for the package. The three girls follow the boy, who puts the package in a street corner refuse can. Immediately a young woman walks from the front of a store, hurriedly scoops out the package, and hurries down the street. Nancy, George, and Bess follow, but George trips and falls on the sidewalk uttering a cry. The woman turns around, sees she is being followed, and begins to run. She dashes into an alleyway and disappears into a building, slamming the door behind her. George tries the door and finds that it is locked.

Nancy says they must approach the building from the front. Much to their amazement they find the building is the same one which houses the Funlite Company. They ask Mr. Tipton if he has seen anyone come in. He denies it. He is very affable. He asks them if he can throw a party for them. That night as Nancy is studying the torn paper for a possible new clue, she finds that the printing on the paper is very heavy, possibly made by a heavy hand. As she studies it, Togo barks. The outside cellar door slams. Hannah Gruen comes flying down the stairs. Together with Togo, she and Nancy tiptoe down the cellar steps. As they do, they hear a crash. A stone with a message attached to it has been thrown through the front window. Before they can reach the first floor the stone thrower escapes in the darkness.

The message is a warning to Nancy to mind her business and not worry about the thefts at the masquerade party. Hannah urges Nancy to notify

the police, but the girl decides to await the return of her father. Later that night, the telephone rings. There is an urgent telegram from Mr. Drew. He asks Nancy to come to New York at once because of strange developments in his case.

The next morning, Nancy telephones to George and Bess. When they arrive at the Drew home, she tells them of the night's happening, and of her forthcoming trip to New York. George tells Nancy she should be very cautious, and suggests Nancy contact her father to verify the telegram. Nancy does this, telephoning the hotel in New York where Mr. Drew is staying. The lawyer is out, but the clerk says has left a message which verifies the telegram. (S till George and Bess are worried. Nancy finally comes up with an idea which satisfies them both. All three will make the trip.)

The girls go back to the costume shop and get a blonde wig which George wears. Nancy gets a dark one, the idea being that George will pose as Nancy while Nancy herself and Bess keep a watch on the train.

When they arrive at the station George, made up very skillfully to look somewhat like Nancy, takes Nancy's initialled bag and boards the train. Nancy herself and Bess follow at a distance, seating themselves at the other end of the car. They are not very far from River Heights when a slender and distinguished looking middle-aged ^{woman} makes ^{her} his way from the car ahead and walks slowly down the center of their car, glancing at the baggage rack. When ^{she} spots Nancy's initialled bag, ^{he} stops and sits down beside George. Nancy and Bess see ^{her} him strike up a conversation, then suddenly George seems to faint, and the ^{woman} man tries to assist her from her seat.

Nancy and Bess rush up to their friend. As George slumps to her seat, her wig comes off, and the stranger, seeing the disguise, rushes from the car. With Bess taking care of George, Nancy chases the ^{woman} man, ^{who shouts "Help, a thief!" and then talks on Nancy.} But the train slows down for the next station, and the ^{woman} man escapes. When Nancy gets back to George and Bess, she learns that the ^{woman} man ^{who she is and gets}

*) Nancy proposes that the girls accompany her on the trip
and watch her from a distance in case a trap is laid
for her. G + B say they might not be much help in an
emergency, suggest that H. was general as Nancy was
now, + Bill keep watch. This is agreed.

who had been smoking a cigar, ^{woman a woman, leaves town H. an quite southern} puffed some of the smoke into her face, ^{from the} causing her to faint. This was apparently a strange gas, and the ^{woman} man had been trying to kidnap George, thinking it was Nancy.

As Nancy is telling the conductor what happened, the train stops at the next station, and a plainclothes policeman boards it. When he finds Nancy, he tells her to get off the train and go back to River Heights. Her father had arrived home, and discovering that the New York telegram had been a ruse, had advised the police to stop Nancy on her trip. When the three girls return to River Heights, they tell Mr. Drew of their experience. Nancy thinks that the stranger might have been the same one who gave her the message at the masquerade party, Although Nancy has a detailed description of him, she feels that he too, like George, may have been made up to resemble someone else.

Mr. Drew tells Nancy about his case in New York. The company which supposedly sold Miss Princep the silver did not exist. The address was an empty loft on Thirty-second Street. Mr. Drew had learned that it had been occupied occasionally by mysterious persons who came to pick up mail at that place.

"I guess that Miss Princep really has purchased stolen goods," the lawyer said. "But the man who accuses her still has to prove the identity to show the silver is his.

Meanwhile, Nancy finds out that the Funlite Company is putting on a party at the Country Club. She, Bess and George buy tickets and attend it. A very entertaining program is put on with a juggler, singer and a dance team. Finally a magician comes on to do his act, and the house lights are turned very low. As the magician shows his "dancing cobra", the lights are turned even dimmer, and the audience responds heartily to the clever act. However, as the show ends, a woman in the back row screams that her necklace has been stolen. Several other people jabber at the same time. A clever thief has been among them when the lights were dim, and has taken bracelets, necklaces, watches, wallets etc. etc.

Suddenly Bess discovers that her purse is missing. There was nothing in it of value except a few dollars, a compact and a new French ^{sachet} perfume given to her for her birthday. After the police have come and gone, the three girls stop off at a sandwich shop for a snack. Bess suddenly comes alert, tells Nancy not to look, but the girl sitting in the next booth is wearing the same ^{sachet} perfume that was stolen in her purse. Nancy carefully peers over, and sees the girl who had lifted the package containing the repaired cloak and had disappeared down the alley.

Nancy decides the only thing she can do is confront her. This she does. The girl is indignant, as is her middle-aged male companion who threatens to charge Nancy with slander. Nancy, through her clever argumentation, forces the girl to reveal her name. This is all Nancy needs to find out more about her. The woman's name is Donna Treng. The next morning, Nancy goes to her apartment house. She finds that Miss Treng has lived there for about six months. She queries the superintendent further, and finds that Miss Treng receives many packages from New York. Nancy asks the man if he can find where the packages come from. He says he will try.

Nancy hurries to her father's office to tell him of the new developments. He is in conference, but when he hears Nancy is waiting, he has her ushered in. The man he is talking with, is the man who claims the silver in Miss Princep's shop. Nancy is startled to see he is the same one who had been talking with the woman in the booth.