

The monster snarled and advanced hesitatingly toward Mr. Meeker who looked a bit startled. But suddenly he smiled in comprehension and clapped his hands.

"What an admirable stroke of genius. A spirit after my own heart." Mr. Meeker almost capered. "I am to be your first victim. Splendid! Splendid!

The wolf halted, stunned by this reaction.

Mr. Meeker's smile changed to a saddened look. "But I must admit I am a trifle grieved that a creature of your ambition does not realize just who I am. And this," said Mr. Meeker, regret softening his voice, "also grieves me."

With this statement, he pointed his cane at the apparition which promptly vanished in a flash of fire and brimstone.

Mr. Meeker coughed and vigorously fanned the smoke away. He stood a moment and then, with his cane swinging from his arm, turned back toward the walk.

"A pity," he murmured to himself, "but he had little talent. Besides, I could scarcely allow such an out-of-date agent to run amok in this day and age. My present methods are much too refined."

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A Dialogue (With Apologies to Socrates)

Alice Ashby

(The scene is laid in a private chamber in the Senate Office Building; and the whole conversation is narrated by Socrates, the evening after it took place, to the officials of the various television networks.)

I went to the Senate Office Building that I might converse with Polemarsky who had been examined the previous day by the Senate committee on un-American activities. He had succeeded in evading the basic loyalty question by invoking the fifth amendment.

Polemarsky entered; and after the usual preliminaries, I began.

Are you, or have you ever been a member of the Communist party?

I refuse to answer this question on the grounds that it might incriminate me.

Do you mean by "incriminate" that you could not answer this question with impunity?

If I were to answer that I had been affiliated with such a party, I would certainly be prosecuted or feel the repercussions of such a statement. It is the tendency of the people to allow their opinions to be swayed against a person because of his previous associations. Yes, that was my meaning.

Should you not justly fear unhappy results if there has been an association deemed undesirable by the majority of the people?

Certainly.

Thus, if you answered this question affirmatively, you would necessarily expect punishment of some type?

Yes.

Need you fear punishment if you answer that you are not or were never a member? Can the people validly prosecute you if there is not basis for the prosecution?

Certainly not.

And if you were to answer this question negatively, there would be no basis for this prosecution?

No.

Then, why do you not answer the question?

Why, on the grounds of the fifth amendment. If I were to answer this question, I would incriminate myself.

Then, Polemarsky, you are or were a Communist.

Why, Socrates, how came you about that idea? I have said nothing which would indicate that I am or am not a Communist.

I have inferred from your previous statements, and I think I have done so correctly, that you can be nothing but a Communist.

Nay, Socrates, I have said neither that I am or am not nor that I was or was not a member of the party.

But, you said that you need not fear punishment, or in your own words, "incriminate yourself" if you answered negatively. That to state you are not or never were a member of the Communist party would free you from any possible indictments. Is that not so?

To be sure.

You would only fear punishment if you answered affirmatively. This is by your previous statement. Am I not correct?

Why, yes.

Now, Polemarsky, by your own argument, you admit that by answering you would incriminate yourself. Do you not?

Yes.

Then, if you admit that you will by answering incriminate yourself, that is to say fear punishment, something you could not do if you answered negatively, you must answer affirmatively. Therefore, you are or were a member of the Communist party.

Polemarsky pleaded a forgotten appointment and left.

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Shilling Shockers of the Nineteenth Century

Lois Griffin

ONE of the most popular forms of literature of the nineteenth century was the "shilling shocker." Price was determined by length, not quality, with the most popular length selling for a shilling. These books were written in a highly stilted and Latinized language by hack writers. An engraving of an interesting scene