

**THE AUTHORS' HANDBOOK SERIES. THE
PLOT OF THE SHORT STORY: AN
EXHAUSTIVE STUDY, BOTH
SYNTHETIC AND ANALYTICAL, WITH
COPIOUS EXAMPLES, MAKING THE
WORK, A PRACTICAL TREATISE**

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The Authors' Handbook Series. The Plot of the Short Story: An Exhaustive Study, Both Synthetic and Analytical, with Copious Examples, Making the Work, a Practical Treatise by Henry Albert Phillips

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HENRY ALBERT PHILLIPS

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MAKING THE WORK

A PRACTICAL TREATISE

(Revised to include a Syllabus for Teachers)

BY

HENRY ALBERT PHILLIPS

FORMERLY ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE
METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE

Author of "Art in Short Story Narration," "The Photo Drama,"
"The Universal Plot Catalog," "The Feature Photo Play," etc.

INTRODUCTION BY

MATTHEW WHITE, JR.

EDITOR OF THE ARGOSY

Third Edition

THE HOME CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

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THE HOME CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

TO
MY WIFE
MY BEST CRITIC
I DEDICATE
THIS LITTLE VOLUME

ANOTHER VOLUME IN
THE AUTHORS' HAND-BOOK SERIES

The Art of Short Story Narration

BY

HENRY ALBERT PHILLIPS

Author of "A Complete Course in Short Story Writing,"
"The Plot of the Short Story," and formerly
Associate Editor Metropolitan Magazine

INTRODUCTION BY REX BEACH

This is not a book for beginners any more than it is one for advanced writers. It is written with all serious students of the Short Story in mind. It is designed to meet a practical and every-day need.

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INTRODUCTION

FROM my point of view, surprise is the prime factor of the model, marketable short story—at least for American consumption. In England, editors appear to believe that their readers like to forecast outcomes in fiction, and find that they have proved themselves true prophets. Not so with our magazine purchasers. They demand the twist, the unsuspected trend to the story which shall keep them on the alert, and guessing, to the very end. And yet, the perfection in plot building of this sort, if you ask me for a sample, is supplied by England itself, in a story by one of its master minds in fiction. That it is a long novel, and not a short story, does not alter its value for my present purpose.

The story to which I have referred, with the model surprise plot, is Dickens's "Great Expectations." Pip has a fortune left him which he has every reason to believe—as has the reader—comes to him from Miss Havisham, whose peculiarities are set forth with sufficient distinctness to make the mystery sur-