

**THE AUTHORS HAND-BOOK SERIES. THE
PLOT OF THE SHORT STORY: AN
EXHAUSTIVE
STUDY, BOTH SYNTHETICAL AND
ANALYTICAL, WITH COPIOUS
EXAMPLES, MAKING THE WORK**

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Synthetical and Analytical, With Copious Examples, Making the Work by Henry Albert
Phillips

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HENRY ALBERT PHILLIPS

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THE PLOT OF THE SHORT STORY

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MAKING THE WORK

A PRACTICAL TREATISE

BY

HENRY ALBERT PHILLIPS

FORMERLY ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE METROPOLITAN MAGAZINE

INTRODUCTION BY

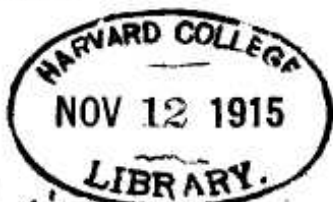
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TO
MY WIFE
MY BEST CRITIC
I DEDICATE:
THIS LITTLE VOLUME

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 A FAMOUS AUTHOR

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