



Frozen with fear, Karen
waited

Novelette—
Complete

Black Panther

By JUDSON P. PHILIPS

Author of "Fence-top Duel," etc.

*Fifty savage jungle beasts loose in a tranquil Catskill artist colony
—and the man who freed them was a murderer*

CHAPTER I.

WILD ANIMALS.

OLD Adam Barth's eyes twinkled as he looked at the three guests sitting at the luncheon table on the terrace of his magnificent house. Steve Blake and Karen Marsh were in love with each other, and it pleased old Adam to have them around to remind him of his own lost youth. Lucien Stone, gray, fifty-five, with a deeply lined face, was a newcomer in Stockford, and as such old Adam had to find out about him. Stockford was an artist colony, and the grim-faced Mr.

Stone, who walked with a pronounced limp, was certainly not an artist.

"I don't see anything queer about it," old Adam said.

Karen Marsh laughed. "It doesn't seem queer to us, Mr. Barth," she said. "We're quite used to it by now. But I don't blame Mr. Stone for feeling a little odd about having cages full of man-eating wild animals located so close to his house."

"You must admit, sir," Steve grinned, "that you hardly expect to find lions and tigers located in a peaceful Catskill village."

"But they're pets!" old Adam pro-