

= The Vote That Counted =

The Vote That Counted is a 1911 American silent short drama film produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on a state senator who disappears from a train and detective Violet Gray investigates the case . Gray manages to find that he was kidnapped and that it was done because he opposed a powerful lobby . She manages to free the state senator in time for him to cast the deciding vote to defeat the lobby . The film was released on January 13 , 1911 , it was the second of four films in the " Violet Gray , Detective " series . The film received favorable reviews from Billboard and The New York Dramatic Mirror . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

The Moving Picture World synopsis states , " State Senator Jack Dare , one of the reform members of the legislature , starts to the state capitol to attend an important session of that body . That he took the midnight train from his home city is clearly proven , for his aged mother was a passenger on it , and besides the conductor and porter are certain that he retired for the night . In the morning , however , his berth is empty , although some of his garments are found there . The case puzzles the railroad officials and the police , and Violet Gray is given a chance to distinguish herself . She learns from the conductor and porter , who had happened to spend the night awake at opposite ends of the car , that the senator did not go by them . Consequently this leaves only the window as his means of egress , and she knows that he must have gone that way . Violet discovers that Dare is a hearty supporter of a bill that a powerful lobby is trying to defeat . The fight is so close that his is the deciding vote . Dare cannot be bribed , so his opponents spirited him away in a novel fashion . But the girl finds where he is hidden and brings him back , although he is much injured . He reaches his seat in time to cast the needed vote , and to astound and defeat the lobby . "

= = Cast and production = =

The only known credit in the cast is Julia M. Taylor as Violet Gray . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not cite any scenario or directorial credits . At this time the Thanhouser company operated out of their studio in New Rochelle , New York . In October 1910 , an article in The Moving Picture World described the improvements to the studio as having permanently installed a lighting arrangement that was previously experimental in nature . The studio had amassed a collection of props for the productions and dressing rooms had been constructed for the actors . The studio had installed new equipment in the laboratories to improve the quality of the films . By 1911 , the Thanhouser company was recognized as one of leading Independent film makers , but Carl Laemmle 's Independent Moving Picture Company (IMP) captured most of the publicity . Two production companies were maintained by the company , the first under Barry O 'Neil and the second under Lucius J. Henderson and John Noble , an assistant director to Henderson . Though the company had at least two Bianchi cameras from Columbia Phonograph Company , it is believed that imported cameras were also used . The Bianchi cameras were unreliable and inferior to competitors , but it was believed to be a non @-@ infringing camera , though with " rare fortune " it could shoot up to 200 feet of film before requiring repairs .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on January 13 , 1911 . This would be billed as the second in the series following the successful Love And Law film . The two later releases would be The Norwood Necklace and The Court 's Decree would conclude the " Violet Gray , Detective " series . Apparently the film series made an impact because the Lubin Manufacturing Company released a film under the title Violet Dare , Detective in June 1913 . The film received a positive review from The Billboard for its interest plot , good acting and photography . The New York Dramatic Mirror found the film to be a good melodrama , but found fault in that a

woman detective was used to resolve the case when the part would have had more dignity and realism if the case was resolved by a man . The film would be shown in Pennsylvania and be advertised by theaters even a year after its release .