



MARCH NEWSLETTER
2014-2015 NUMBER 7

Editor: Shirley Baugher
Designer: Norman Baugher

FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org

President's Message


CHRISTINE BERN,
President

Dear Friends of American Writers

As we await with anticipation the decisions of the two Literary Committees for their selections for our May Annual Awards program, I would like to remind the membership that our Patron's Fund is fully funded by contributions from our membership. The FAW Annual Award has gained prestige in the literary world and it is what sets FAW apart from other organizations.

In accordance with our by-laws, contributions to the Patron Fund are split equally between the Literature Awards and the Young People's Literature awards. If you would like your donation applied differently, you may designate how you would like the donation applied to each fund. Although you may contribute to the Patron's Fund at any time throughout the year, if you would like your name to appear in the Annual Awards Program book as a donor, your contribution must be received by April 8, 2015 and be a minimum of \$25. Contributions at a higher level are very much appreciated. Donations may also be made in memoriam or gifted in honor.

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Friends of American Writers. You may bring your contribution to the March, April or May meeting. Or you can mail your check to: Eileen McNulty, 4450 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630.

Thank you for your generosity and support to Friends of American Writers Annual Awards. 


MARCH PROGRAM Betsey Means Presents Dame Agatha Christie

ROBERTA GATES
Program Chair

Professional actress Betsey Means will portray Dame Agatha Christie at our March 11 meeting in a program Means calls "The Mystery of Living: Packing for Syria with Agatha Christie."

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was the prolific English author known as the "Queen of Crime." In a career spanning fifty years, Christie produced a staggering number of mysteries, most of which featured either Hercule Poirot, the eccentric Belgian detective, or Miss Jane Marple, a mild-mannered spinster with a penchant for meddling. Christie, whose books have sold in the billions, received the Order of the British Empire, Dame Commander, which is Britain's highest order, in 1971.

Betsey Means, who will introduce us to Dame Agatha Christie as she's packing to go to Syria with her archeologist husband, Max Mallowan, is a well-known Chicago actress who has performed at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare on the Green, Blue Rider Theatre, and Chicago Children's Theatre.

Steve Scott of The Goodman Theatre calls Means "one of our city's most eloquent performers," while Barbara Gaines of the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre says, "Don't miss an opportunity to see her perform." 



▲ Betsey Means as Dame Agatha Christie



Friends of American Writers Awards Luncheon

May 8, 2015

- The Fortnightly of Chicago
- 120 Bellevue Place
- 11:00 a.m
- \$45 per person

FAW is proud to celebrate the 85th Annual Awards Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and hear the remarks of our award-winning authors in the ambiance of the Fortnightly. Bring your friends to support and applaud these new authors and share in the fun.

- To reserve early, clip the following reservation form and send with your payment to:
Ms. Marion Sherlock
~~63650 Central Drive~~ **2650 Central Dr.**
 Flossmoor, IL 60422
- Or, turn in the reservation form and payment at the March or April luncheon meeting.

If you have questions, please contact Marion Sherlock, marion.sherlock@sbcglobal.net
Deadline for reservations (and cancellations) is Friday, May 1, 2015

FAW AWARDS LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____ phone _____

Please reserve _____ places at the Awards Luncheon at \$45 per person

Enclosed is my reservation and check payable to FAW Awards Luncheon for \$ _____ to cover lunch for the following people:

I would like to sit with _____

I would like a vegetarian lunch Yes No

Please call Marion Sherlock (708) 957-8139 if other food arrangements are needed



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luncheon Reservations

Luncheon reservations for the March 11, 2015 meeting of the Friends of American Writers are due **no later than 6:00 p.m.** on Sunday, March 8. Please note that this deadline is firm, and no reservations will be accepted following this date and time. To reserve, please call only Lorraine Campione (773-275-5118) or Vivian Mortensen (847-827-8339).

Luncheon will be served at 12:00 noon in the main floor dining room

of the Fortnightly Club of Chicago, 120 E. Bellevue Place. The cost of the luncheon is \$40 payable by cash or check to FAW in the front lobby on the day of the luncheon. Discount parking for FAW luncheon guests is available in the lot just west of the Fortnightly at 100 E. Bellevue Place. If you are reserving for a group, we ask that only one person make the group request to avoid confusion. Please note: if you make a reservation and find you cannot attend, you

must cancel no later than 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the meeting. Reservations not cancelled must be paid for by the member.

Nominating Committee Board Recommendations

The Nominating Committee makes the following recommendations for FAW Board officers for 2015-16. The current Board approved the slate at its February 11, 2015 meeting. The slate will be presented to the membership for approval at the March meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Roberta Gates

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Christine Spatara

Secretary

Vivian Mortensen

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Doris Roskin

Eileen McNulty

Newsletter Editor

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Literature Awards

Tammie Bob

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Revisions

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Yearbook

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Program Committee

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Christine Bern

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Carol Eshaghy

Roberta Gates

Foundation Trustee Committee

Lorraine Campione

Corene Anderson

Linda Gustafson

News From Our Sustaining Clubs

This month, the FAW newsletter is introducing a feature in which we will share news from our Sustaining Clubs. Members and officers of

these clubs have graciously consented to provide the information. I know that our readers will be happy to learn about the activities of these groups.

From the Flossmoor Book Club

It is my pleasure to share what the Flossmoor Book Club has planned in the next few months.

Next week author, Margaret Jones Scott is reviewing her book, *Living Lessons*.

In March FAW's own Roberta Gates will return to review "Catherine the Great."

At our April spring luncheon Leslie Goddard returns to entertain us with "Jane Austin and her Women."

After each program our Library Committee gives mini-reviews of the new monthly selections to our club's lending library.

I met Mary Kubica, author of "The Good Girl" at the Frankfort Library. I enjoyed her book and hope she can speak to the Flossmoor Book Club in the future.

MARTHA FAHEY, *FBC President*

Woman's Reading Club of Riverside : A Brief History of the Organization

The Woman's Reading Club of Riverside (Illinois) was organized in 1885 for the purpose of study and mutual improvement. Over the course of our 130-year history, our mission remains unchanged. We meet twelve times a year between

October and April. Each member hosts one meeting a year and presents a program of her choice. Unlike other reading clubs, we do not read the same books. Our backgrounds and interests are varied and our programs reflect that uniqueness. If there is no planned program, members gather for informal "All Share" sessions, which allow each person to present a five or ten minute mini-program on any subject of interest. This year members have presented programs on architectural house styles, a Japanese garden in Minnesota, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and the book "The Girls of Atomic City."

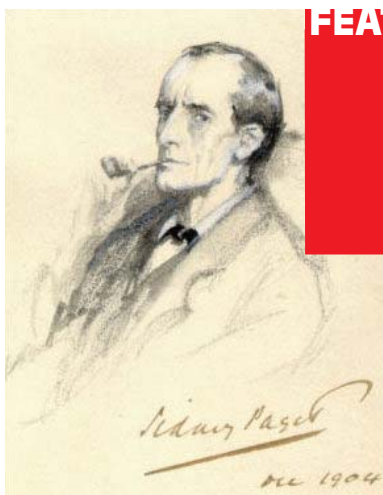
SUZANNE BARTHOLOMEW
Women's Reading Club of Riverside

Renaissance Art Club

The Renaissance Art Club, organized in 1915, meets on the second Monday of each month September to June, excluding January. We lunch first (now at the Tesori Restaurant) and most months enjoy a lecture or gallery tour at the Art Institute. These programs are conducted by various department personnel of the Art Institute and feature current programs and exhibits. Our programs for December and June take place at other Chicago art venues.

Call for more information. Hope you will join us. The group is great!

MARION M. GOUVIS
President, Renaissance Art Club

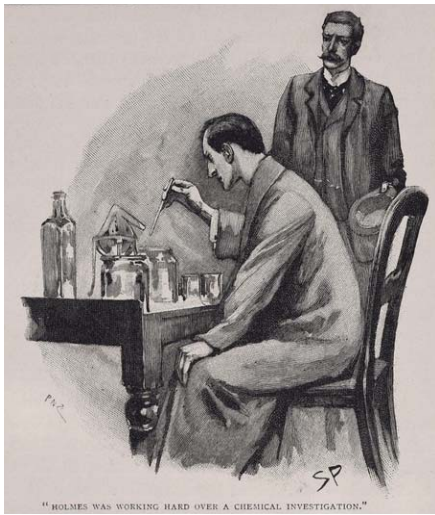


FEATURE **ELEMENTARY** **The Inimitable Sherlock Holmes**

BY SHIRLEY BAUGHER

Sherlock Holmes is one of the great fictional characters of all time. He was created by the Scottish author and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. Not only did Doyle give Holmes incredible detection gifts (an unbelievable talent for logical reasoning and an ability to adopt almost any disguise), he applied his medical knowledge to allow Holmes to solve crimes using forensic science, long before the various iterations of CSI on American television. He used trace evidence such as shoe and tire impressions, ballistics, and handwriting analysis to test his theories.

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He found a new method for detecting bloodstains. And he complained loudly when the police or bystanders contaminated a crime scene. Now crime scene integrity is standard investigative procedure.

Doyle said Holmes was inspired by Joseph Bell, a surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh who was known for his ability to draw broad conclusions based on minute observations. Bell was

flattered, but replied, “You are Sherlock Holmes, and you know it.”

Who Was Sherlock Holmes?

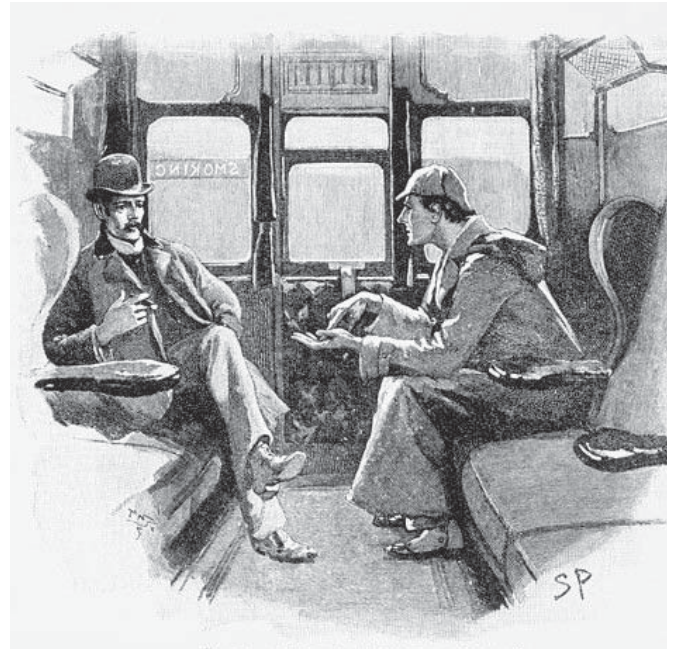
Doyle was not very forthcoming about Holmes’ private life. What little we know, we have to glean from his books and stories. It seems he was born in 1854. He mentions his parents briefly in only one story, noting that his ancestors were country squires. His older brother Mycroft, who appears in a number of the Holmes books, has a civil service position that gives him knowledge about all aspects of government policy.

Holmes began using deductive reasoning as an undergraduate student. He solved cases either recommended by or involving his fellow students. After the father of one of these students encouraged him to become a detective, he set up a private agency in London. Although he was a good detective, he was not good at making money, and this lack of money led him to share his lodgings at 221 Baker Street with Dr. John H. Watson. Thus the famous collaboration began.

Holmes and Watson

Holmes and Watson worked together for 23 years. Watson roomed with Holmes until 1887, when he married. After the death of his wife, he returned to 221 Baker Street. Forming the third of their triangle is, of course, their landlady, Mrs. Hudson, who cares both for the house and her famous charges.

Most of the Sherlock Holmes stories are narrated by Watson, who presents them as summaries of the detective’s cases, with a little sensationalism added for popular interest. Holmes did not care for the embellishments. He thought that detection was a



▲ John Watson and Sherlock Holmes

science and should be treated in a cold, unemotional manner. The most exciting part of the story should be the deductive process—going from effects to causes in order to unravel a case.

A Most Unusual Man

Watson describes Holmes as a bohemian who was obsessive about personal cleanliness, but who had absolutely no use for order or tidiness. He kept his cigars in the coal bin, his tobacco in the toe of a slipper, and his notes attached to the fireplace with a jack-knife. His room was filled, ceiling to floor, with stacks of manuscripts which no one was allowed to touch. While the room seemed an unmitigated mess to Watson and Mrs. Hudson, Holmes could dive into it and come up with exactly what he needed to solve a case.

As disorderly as his physical surroundings were, Holmes’ mind was absolutely orderly. Watson said his thought processes were the neatest and most methodical known to mankind. He was not so meticulous about his dietary habits. He rarely ate breakfast and often, in the midst of a case, ate nothing at all. He did keep up his physical conditioning because he believed he worked more effectively when he relied only on his physical strength.

One of the most familiar images of Sherlock Holmes shows him in his famous deerstalker cap with a pipe in his mouth. In fact, he did not smoke very much—mainly because Watson disliked the habit and thought it created a poisonous working

environment. The vice Watson hated most, however, was Holmes' use of addictive drugs—especially cocaine, which he injected in a seven-percent solution with a syringe that he kept in a Moroccan leather case. Watson believed that cocaine had a negative effect on his friend's mental health and his thinking. Although Holmes dabbled in morphine, he had a strong disapproval of opium. Both morphine and opium were legal in late 19th century England.

Holmes did not have a very high regard for women. He was interested in them only as clients, and once a case was solved, he had no further use for them. Doyle said that he was as "...inhuman as a calculating machine and just about as likely to fall in love." He did tolerate Mrs. Hudson, and she was very fond of him because of his gentleness and courtesy toward her.

Despite popular opinion, Sherlock Holmes was never in love with Irene Adler, a retired American actress and opera singer. She appeared in only one of the Holmes stories, and Sherlock never referred to her by name. He called her merely "the woman." Holmes met Irene in connection with a case in "A Scandal in Bohemia." The Crown Prince of Bohemia hired Holmes to retrieve a photograph of himself with Irene Adler with whom he had conducted an affair. The Prince had become engaged to the daughter of the King of Scandinavia, and he feared the engagement would be jeopardized if the photograph came to light. Holmes discovered that Irene was a formidable adversary, with intellectual abilities equal to his own. Their battle of wits is revealed in the way Holmes discovers where Irene has hidden the photograph and how Irene manages to get the best of him. In the end, Irene disappears, leaving behind a photograph of herself—but not the one Holmes was after. The photograph showed her alone in an elegant ball gown. Holmes handed over the photograph to the Prince, with an apology that he could not have brought the matter to a more successful conclusion. The Prince assured him that he had been completely successful and that he knew Irene would not use the photograph to blackmail him. When he was offered a valuable jeweled ring as payment for his services, Holmes declined. He asked only for the photograph, which he kept as a reminder of Irene's cleverness. Read the story—I think you will enjoy it.

Tools of Sherlock's Trade

Sherlock Holmes was a master of acting and disguise, and he used both to great advantage in solving

his cases. He was so good at disguise that often even Watson failed to recognize him ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). In the aforementioned "Scandal in Bohemia," Holmes convincingly feigned an injury to gain entry to Irene's house and to find out where she kept the incriminating photograph. He was so convincing that after the case was over, Watson declared, "The stage has lost a fine actor."

Both Holmes and Watson carried pistols and knew how to use them. They fired at the Andaman islander in "The Sign of the Four," shot at the "Hound of the Baskervilles," and pistol-whipped "Killer" Evans in "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs." Holmes often used a cane, a riding crop, and a sword as weapons. He proved himself an expert swordsman in "A Study in Scarlet." He used his riding crop to knock a pistol from the hand of an adversary in "The Red-Headed League," and again to drive away a snake in "The Adventure of the Speckled Band."

In addition to his deductive skills, Holmes had almost super-human strength. He was such a good bare-knuckle fighter that one character said he had missed his calling. He could have, in Brando's words, "...been a contender." Watson declared him, "...one of the finest boxers of his weight that I have ever seen." Holmes himself bragged that he used martial arts to throw Moriarty to his death at the Reichenbach Falls.

Elementary, My Dear Watson

You might be disappointed to learn that Sherlock Holmes never uttered the words, "Elementary, my dear Watson" in any of the sixty stories written by Arthur Conan Doyle. He did observe that his conclusions were "elementary," and he often called Watson "My dear Watson," but he never put the two together. Something close was used in a 1929 film, "The Return of Sherlock Holmes." The actor playing Holmes said, "Oh, this is elementary my dear fellow." It was not until 1953 that the exact phrase was used in a short story by Conan Doyle's son Adrian, "The Adventure of the Red Widow."

Sherlock on Film

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Sherlock Holmes is the most portrayed detective on film. More than seventy actors have played the part in over 200 films since he made his first screen appearance in 1900. He has also appeared in many foreign language films, including a Russian television mini-series. Among the first Holmes/Watson actors

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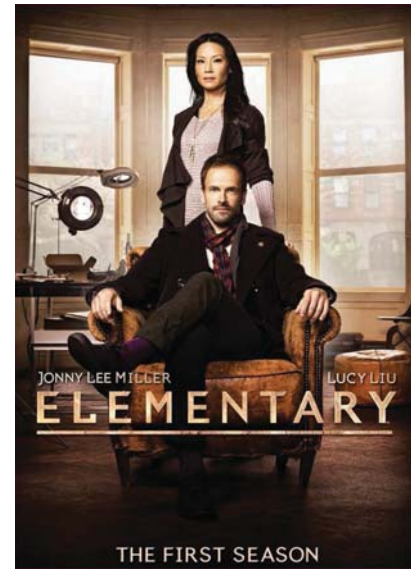
to capture public imagination were Basil Rathbone (Holmes) and Nigel Bruce (Watson). They played the roles in fourteen films from 1939 to 1946.

Jeremy Brett commanded the role on British television from 1984 to 1994 and was considered by many reviewers to be the definitive Holmes—until recently, when popular actor Benedict Cumberbatch brought the character up to date. “Sherlock” premiered on BBC in 2010 with Cumberbatch as Holmes and Martin Freeman as Watson. They do their sleuthing in contemporary London. As Holmes, Cumberbatch uses modern technology (texting and blogging) to help solve crimes, and he refers to himself as a “high-functioning sociopath.” Nicotine patches have replaced the pipe as an aid to his cognitive functioning. Scotland Yard and



Inspector Lestrade play a part in helping Holmes find whodunit.

Across the pond, CBS launched its own thoroughly modern Holmes/Watson series, “Elementary,” starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu. In this interpretation of the story, John Watson is now Joan Watson; Scotland Yard and Inspector Lestrade have been replaced by the NYPD’s Captain Gregson (Aidan Quinn) and Detective Bell (Jon Michael Hill).



▲ **Top** Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson
Above Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes

▲ **Clockwise from Top** Benedict Cumberbatch as Holmes, Martin Freeman as Watson, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson

The Reading Corner

Moriarty
 Anthony Horowitz

Review
 SHIRLEY BAUGHER

If you are a fan of Sherlock Holmes, both the PBS series and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s books, you will enjoy this book. Horowitz takes up the Holmes/Moriarty story after their fateful meeting at the Reichenbach Falls. Initially, Conan Doyle wanted the incident at the Falls, in which the famed antagonists met their respective demises, to be the end of Sherlock Holmes. But the reading public would not have it; and

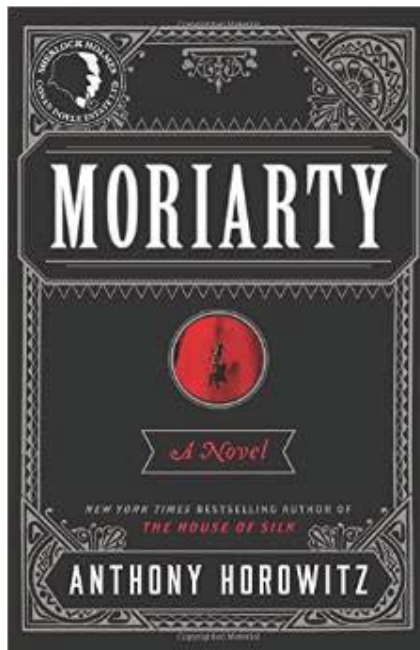
so, because of the outcry at the thought of Holmes’ death, and because he needed money, Conan Doyle brought his famous sleuth back. Now, more than fifty years after the author’s death, Anthony Horowitz has done the same.

Horowitz, the BAFTA-award winning creator of Foyle’s War and author of the best-selling Alex Rider children’s series, was first contacted by the Conan Doyle Estate in 2011 to write a

new full-length Sherlock Holmes novel with their complete endorsement, the first time that they had given their seal of approval for a new Sherlock Holmes novel. Anthony Horowitz created *The House of Silk*, a brilliant mystery written in the original style of Conan Doyle. In it, the narrator Dr. Watson, reminisces about his friend Holmes, who has died a short while before. Watson tells us about the particulars of their first meeting, including the circumstances of the Afghan War and circumstances of the case that was “too shocking to be revealed until now.”

The *House of Silk* was so well received that Horowitz decided to return to Holmes four years later with another story of his adventures. Interestingly, this new work, “*Moriarty*,” is a Holmes novel without either Holmes or Watson. Instead we have Frederick Chase, an American private investigator from the famous Pinkerton’s Detective Agency; and Athleney Jones, a top detective inspector from Scotland Yard. Chase and Jones meet at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. Chase has come from America to investigate the death of a colleague, Jonathan Pilgrim, and to meet with the infamous Moriarty. He plans to warn him of a scheme by the deadly American criminal Clarence Devereaux recently arrived in England either to hook up with Moriarty or to take over his territory. Unfortunately, Chase arrives too late. Jones has been sent to Switzerland by the Yard to return Moriarty’s body to England.

The two men travel to London and the “game is afoot.” They become embroiled in one grisly murder after another. Chase knows Devereaux is behind them and is determined to catch him. Jones



▲ Holmes and Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls

has been designated by Scotland Yard to lead the investigation into the murders and allows Chase to tag along. They make a good team—so good, in fact, that they consider forming their own detective agency—a new Holmes and Watson-like partnership.

From the beginning, the two are faced with one almost insurmountable problem. They haven’t the slightest idea what Devereaux looks like. No one has ever seen him. Nor do they have a clue

where to find him. But Jones, an avid Holmes fan who has learned everything there is to know about his hero, uses his deductive powers to find clues at each crime site that, assembled, will lead the pair to their prey. They go first to Bladeston House, home of Scotchy Lavelle, purportedly a Devereaux lieutenant. Scotchy is not forthcoming, but before the pair can return with a warrant, the entire household is slaughtered: the cook, a kitchen boy, a woman whose name was, perhaps, Henrietta, and Scotchy. All had been drugged and brutally murdered.

They are next led to a seedy barber shop where a hurdy gurdy man with absolutely no talent for playing the accordion sends a tuneless racket into the air. He gives the men a card advertising Horner’s special hair tonic. Inside the filthy shop, they meet Silas Beckett, whose haircut alone would drive away anyone who walked in. Beckett, too, proves no help.

The action intensifies. Chase is nearly run over by a horse drawn carriage. There is an explosion within Scotland Yard that destroys the telegraph room next to Jones’ office. Many are wounded and Jones’ secretary is dead. It was obvious that Jones was the intended victim. A scheme to tunnel into a vault holding gold, silver, jewelry, and cash is foiled. Two nefarious partners in crime to the wily Devereaux are killed. Jones’ seven-year old daughter is kidnapped. Jones knows everything is connected—but how?

Chase and Jones eventually find themselves at the American Embassy, headed by “The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary” Mr. Robert T. Lincoln, son of President

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CHRISTINE BERN
1028 S. Butternut Circle
Frankfort, IL 60423



Abraham Lincoln. They enter the Embassy under false pretenses, having stolen an invitation to a soiree from the effects of the late Scotchy Lavelle—an act that will cost Jones his job. While they do find the infamous Devereaux hiding in the Embassy under an assumed name, they cannot touch him because, as an American, he is protected by international protocol; and they have no proof of his wrongdoing.

Before Jones is discharged, however, he manages to fit most of the puzzle pieces together and find sufficient proof to arrest Devereaux. “We’ve done it,” exclaims Chase, “The bloodiest criminal who ever came to this country is in our custody, thanks to your and your genius. Finally, it is over.” Or is it?

Far be it from me to say more. For the denouement, you will have to read the book. 