

16. Forgive

1. page 293. **A Danish doctor was called....** Our account of Houdini's reaction to his mother's death is culled from Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: The Untold Story* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969), pps.137-138. There is a different version in Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), p.236, which draws on Bess's recollections but which is contradicted by Houdini's own writings (see below).

2. pages 293-294. **leaving Houdini alone with Jim Collins...next steamer."** Harry Houdini, *A Magician Among the Spirits – The Original Manuscript*, (Washington D.C.: Kaufman and Greenberg, 1996), p.393.

3. page 294. **"Others posited that hypnotizing the entire audience."** "Houdini Dies After Operation", unidentified clipping in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

4. page 294. **"You could have founded a religion..."** Quincy Kilby to Houdini, February 24, 1915, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

5, page 294. **in Denmark breach of contract....** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 236. Houdini's acknowledgement to

Herr Beketow can be found in the Houdini scrapbook 1908-1913 in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

6. page 294. **mother's last wishes and purchased...**Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 237.

7. page 294. **Cecilia had accompanied Hardeen to his...** Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: The Untold Story* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969), p.136. Also see item in "Between Ourselves", *The Magical World*, July 30, 1913, p.132.

8. page 295. **"She looked so dainty and restful..."** Houdini's diary entry of July 29, 1913.

9. page 295. **Sometime during the night he placed the new slippers inside the coffin.** Houdini's diary entry of July 8, 1913.

10. page 295. **"feeling a bit better" "...always in my mind."** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), p.239.

11. page 295. **"Act works beautifully...darling Mother."** Houdini's diary entries of September 16, 1913 and September 23, 1913.

12. page 296. **he jumped manacled into the Dutzend Lake twice...**“Eine Riesenblamage der Nurnberger Polizei,” unidentified Nurnberg Newspaper, September 28, 1913, from the Houdini Scrapbook 1908-1913, in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin. German translation in the notes deposited by Silverman in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

13. page 296. **Writing on black-bordered mourning stationary, he confessed...** Houdini to Will Goldston, July 22, 1913, letter in the Milbourne Christopher collection. The stationery has a black border of mourning on it.

14. pages 296-297. **“I’m working in a sort of mechanical way...worry her.”** Houdini to Dash [Hardeen, brother], September 23, 1913, letter in the Sid Radner collection, sold at auction on October 30, 2004.

15. page 297. **“Dash its TOUGH, and I...knowing.”** Houdini to Dash [Hardeen, brother], November 22, 1913, letter reproduced in Walter B. Gibson, *The Original Houdini Scrapbook*, (New York: Corwin Sterling, 1976), p.174.

16. page 297. **special graveyard that contained the bodies...** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 239-240.

17. page 298. **“My mother has been the one great love...”** Houdini was given the Clyde Fitch document by his lawyer Bernard Ernst according to a typed note by Houdini on the document. “Clyde Fitch left this letter in his effects and will...” Houdini wrote. The letter is in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

18. page 298. **“A Mother is a mother still...”** Houdini to Bess, March 23, 1913, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

19. page 298. **“That’s my father...”** “Houdini Is ‘Mystery Man’ Even To Aides And Wife”, unidentified Cincinnati Newspaper, 1916, from the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247, p. 258, in the collection of the New York Public Library.

20. page 298. **Although Leopold...sided with his older brother.** “Houdini Had Death Pact With Mother That Failed Like One With His Wife,” unidentified clipping in a Hardeen scrapbook in the collection of the Library of Congress.

21. page 298. **“In his heart he wanted to forgive...”** Ibid.

22. page 299. **“Just a Christmas letter on this day...”** Houdini to Dash [Hardeen, brother], December 25, 1913, in the Silverman files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

23. page 300. **The Crystal Cash Box...** Henry Ridgley Evans, *History of Conjuring and Magic*, (Kenton, IBM, 1928), p.166. Also see Jim Steinmeyer, *Hiding The Elephant* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers), 2003, 254-255.

24. page 300. **he had been quietly buying...the show of Dr. Lynn...** Houdini 1926 tour program, entry for Palingenesia, in the collection of Dr. Bruce Averbook.

25. page 301. **Back in November of 1913, Houdini wrote Goldston, whose wife...** Jim Steinmeyer, *Hiding The Elephant* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers), 2003, 253.
Jim Steinmeyer, *The Glorious Deception* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers), 2005, 362. Milbourne Christopher, *Magic:A Picture History* (New York: Dover Publications, Inc.), 1991, 135.

26. page 301. **“Re the big show, if I can get my mind on work...”**
Houdini to Will Goldston, November 12, 1913, letter in the collection of Milbourne Christopher.

27, page 301. **“a primitive hunter gorging on his slain wolf...”** Jim Steinmeyer, *Hiding The Elephant* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers), 2003, 253.

28. page 301. **During Summer, a beautiful “Fairy Queen Gardener” was produced from a pyramid-shaped box.** Broadside for Empire Theatre, Friday, June 12, 1914 from the collection in the Derbyshire Museums at the Buxton Museum, England. Also

see Jim Steinmeyer, *Hiding The Elephant* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers), 2003, 254.

29. page 301. **A more startling production...De Kolta's Marvelous Cube.** Broadside for Empire Theatre, Friday, June 12, 1914 from the collection of the Derbyshire Museums at the Buxton Museum, England.

30. page 301. **"If the English want escapes, they can have them..."** Will Goldston, *Sensational Tales Of Mystery Men* (London : Will Goldston, Ltd.), 1929, 124.

31. page 302. **January 1915 he planned to... using a specially designed huge car....** "How Harry Houdini Picked the Lock of Success", *Dramatic Mirror*, July 8, 1914.

32. page 302. **Carletee...** David De-Val, *The Escapology Secrets of David De-Val* (England : David De-Val Magic Company), 2000, 49-53. The fact that Carlette used his real name, Howes, to challenge Houdini was determined from a copy of the challenge that is in the Randolph Douglas scrapbook in the collection of the Buxton Museum, Derbyshire, England.

33. pages 302-303. **In 1917, he challenged the Atlantic...singularly risky.** Apparently Houdini filmed this to be used in his "Houdini Sub Sea Miracle" film that never materialized. See his letter to Kilby of August 6, 1917 in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University. That same summer he allowed the Atlantic

City lifeguards to lash him to a seven-foot plank on the stage of the Keith's theatre. The challenge is in the Houdini pressbook 1894-1899 in the collection of the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

34. page 303. **“bridge jumpers.”** Hardeen's actual quote was "the problem wasn't in releasing ourselves from the cuffs after we were in the water; the problem was keeping the cuffs on until we hit the water." Hardeen's quip was relayed to Pat Culliton by Jackie Flosso, a friend of the escape artist. Houdini and Hardeen's use of “bridge jumpers” or “jump cuffs” was reported in Walter B. Gibson & Morris N. Young, *Houdini's Fabulous Magic* (New York : Bell Publishing Company, 1961), 23. For an informed discussion of “jump cuffs” see “Steranko's World Of Escapes,” *Genii Magazine*, October, 1964, 75 and 109.

35. page 303. **American Chicle Co....** See the actual challenge broadside (overlaid on an earlier 1911 challenge) in the Houdini's Challenge scrapbook, 1903-1913, in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

36. page 303. **Randolph Douglas...his audience of two.** “Man Who Helped Houdini”, Saturday, May 28, 1938, unidentified newspaper clipping found in the collection of the Magic Circle Library, London, England.

37. page 304. **The world of magic is made up....** For an amplification of this view see Oscar S. Teale, *Higher Magic : Magic For The Artist* (New York : Adams Press Print), 1920, 70-71, 464-465.

38. pages 304-307. **Now it was time for Houdini...genuine or not.** We learned of the other entertainers on the bill from the show program, reproduced in Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), 152. The account of Houdini's mystification of Teddy Roosevelt was culled from Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 244-248 and "Jail Breaking with Houdini, 'the Escape King'", *The Literary Digest*, June 16, 1928, p.41, 44.

39. page 307. **"It was hokus pokus..."** Transcription of Houdini's dictated account of his Emperor performance with Roosevelt, in the collection of Tom Boldt, repeated in *The Literary Digest*, June 16, 1928, p.44.

40. pages 308-309. **It was a brilliantly executed...New York papers.** See "The Thrills in the Life of a Magician," *American Magazine*, fragment of article in the Robinson-Locke scrapbook #247, #3, in the collection of the New York Public Library and Harold Kellock, "Houdini's Conquest of American", *American Magazine*, June 1928. For the information on transmitting the story by the ship's wireless operator see Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), 154.

41. page 309. **After collecting 707 marks, half of which went...** From a letter from Houdini to a "S.C.", on Emperor stationary, June 22, 1914, transcribed in Silverman notes deposited at the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
42. page 309. **assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand...***Chicago Daily Tribune*, June 29, 1914.
43. page 309. **Houdini had foreknowledge...**"Houdini Secrets For \$25, But No Buyer" unidentified newspaper clipping from the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University. See also "Notes Of The Stage", *Indianapolis News*, March 12, 1915, found in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247,196, in the collection of the New York Public Library.
44. page 309. **Robert Goelet...Military Intelligence section in Washington.** Herbert O. Yardley, *The American Black Chamber* (New York : Ballantine Books), 1981, 152-153. We have mistakenly stated that the private yacht that picked up Roosevelt was owned by Goelet. In fact, it belonged to another Roosevelt crony, Senator William H. Childs. Childs later sold the yacht to the U.S. Navy.
45. page 309. **By 1908, the Hamburg-American Line ...Royal Navy.** Thomas Boghardt, *Spies Of The Kaiser* (Oxford : Palgrave Macmillan), 2004, 18.