

22. Margery's Box

1. page 427. **explaining to reporters that he was being “watched” and “shadowed” by “hostile interests”**. “Houdini Shadowed Here”, *Boston Advertiser*, n.d. (probably August 29, 1924, clipping in a Margery scrapbook in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection. The story was picked up in “Psychic Defies Critics”, *National Spiritualist*, November 15, 1924.

2. page 427. **“Leave everything to me...”** Minutes from Margery sitting in Boston, August 25, 1924, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

3. page 429. **“Houdini, have you got... stop these phenomena?”** Ibid.

4. page 429. **“This is costing me...”** Ibid.

5. page 429. **“Where did you turn down...”** Ibid.

6. page 429. **“Where were those contracts...”** Ibid.

7. page 429. **“Comstock, take the box out...”** Ibid.

8. page 429. **“no precedent in psychic research...”** J. Malcolm Bird, *“Margery” The Medium* (London: John Hamilton, 1925), 427.
9. page 430. **“Houdini you are very clever...”** Harry Houdini, *Exposes the tricks used by the Boston Medium “Margery”* (New York: Adams Press Publishers, 1924), 17.
10. page 430. **“What did you do that for... unspeakable cad.”** Minutes from Margery sitting in Boston, August 25, 1924, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
11. page 430. **“The idea of your putting up a plant...”** L.R.G Crandon, *Margery Harvard Veritas : A Study in Psychics* (Boston : Blanchard Printing, 1925), 12.
12. page 430. **“You won’t live forever...”** Minutes from Margery sitting in Boston, August 25, 1924, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
13. page 430. **“Walter, if you will reflect...Goodbye.”** Ibid.
14. page 431. **“In Crandon’s version of the séance...”** Minutes from Margery sitting in Boston, August 26, 1924. Copy in the Silverman files in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin. See also “The ‘Scientific American’

Investigation”, *Light*, August 30, 1924, 549, and “Husband of Margery Assails Psychic Tests; Houdini in Hot Retort”, *Boston Herald*, December 18, 1924.

15. page 431. **“Oh, this is terrible...”** J. Malcolm Bird, “*Margery*” *The Medium* (London : John Hamilton, 1925), 433.

16. page 431. **“This is terrible. I don’t know anything about any ruler...”** “Margery Genuine, Says Conan Doyle; He Scores Houdini,” *Boston Herald*, January 26, 1925.

17. page 431. **“I’m not myself...”** Margery minutes from Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection. Doyle in his *Boston Herald* article of January 26, 1925 quotes Houdini slightly differently: “I am not well. I am not myself!”

18. page 431. **Who planted the ruler...and the medium.** William Lindsay Gresham, *Houdini : The Man Who Walked Through Walls*, (New York : Macfadden-Bartell Book, 1967), 219. See also Gabriel Citron, *The Houdini-Price Correspondence* (London : Legerdemain), 1998, 89. Milbourne Christopher maintained that Keating was sore at Houdini because Houdini was dismissive of Keating’s abilities as a psychic researcher. What Christopher never knew was that Keating was an active participant in numerous séances along with his friend Hereward Carrington, and that Keating had written a complimentary article about the Margery mediumship under his real name F. Serrano Keating, a copy of which is in the Margery archives in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud

Collection. Keating maintained contact with the Crandons and kept up a correspondence with them after his involvement in the séances.

19. page 432. **Eurycles of Greece** “Ventriloquism – An Ancient Art?” by The Rev. E.P. Schofield, *Magic Circular*, February, 1972, 92.

20. page 433. **“Hope is a perfectly...”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Houdini, August 22, 1922, cited in Bernard M.L. Ernst and Hereward Carrington, *Houdini And Conan Doyle* (New York : Albert and Charles Boni, Inc., 1932), 136.

21. page 433. **Some critics suggested that...** G.K. Chesterson on Conan Doyle, cited by Howard Kerr in *The Journal Of Magic History*, March, 1979, 134.

22. page 433. **“We are brothers....”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Pheneas Speaks* (New York : George H. Doran Company, 1927), 58.

23. page 433. **“If you misrepresent...”** Harry Houdini, *Exposes the tricks used by the Boston Medium “Margery”* (New York: Adams Press Publishers, 1924), 21.

24. page 433. **once stalking and smashing his walking...** “Two Prominent Men Fight In Tacon Theater”, unidentified newspaper clipping from the DeWyckoff scrapbook in the collection of Carolyn Withstandley.

25. page 434. **“I am not going to misrepresent you...”** **“Houdini, I wish you would go into a trance state.”** **“Some day, Houdini...”** **“Yes sir...”** Harry Houdini, *Exposes the tricks used by the Boston Medium “Margery”* (New York: Adams Press Publishers, 1924), 21.
26. pages 434-435. **“Something will happen...Pomodore”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Crandon, August 27, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
27. page 435. **“I would have given...”** Hereward Carrington to Crandon, August 27, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
28. page 435. **“All circumstances...’reach’ him.”** Dewyckoff to Crandon, September 4, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
29. page 435. **“We are quite content...”** Crandon to Dewyckoff, September 6, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
30. page 435. **“If Conant would quarrel...”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Crandon, September 14, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
31. pages 435-436. **“There is a great deal...”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Crandon, September 10, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.

32. page 436. **“Houdini is doomed...”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Crandon, September 15, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.

33. page 436. **“My husband’s fine guide told us...”** Lady Doyle To Margery, September 11, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.

34. page 437. **“Houdini Exposes the Tricks...”** Harry Houdini, *Exposes the tricks used by the Boston Medium “Margery”* (New York : Adams Press Publishers, 1924), 23.

35. page 438. **“Not many people...”** “Sisters’ Vivid Memories of The Great Houdini,” *Oakland Tribune*, February 17, 1967, 1,4.

36. page 438. **Houdini’s interest in smuggling...** “Houdini In Scotland,” *Dramatic Mirror*, January 8, 1904.

37. page 438. **smuggled rum over the Mexican border...** “Discover Long Liquor Trail”, *Los Angeles Times*, September 19, 1921.

38. page 438. **“Houdini is mine!”** “Oh, What A Time We Had With Minnie And Hattie”, by Claire Leeds, unidentified newspaper clipping, July 8, 1964, from the collection of Sid Fleischman.

39. page 438. **“Bess took my hand...”** “Sister’s’ Vivid Memories of The Great Houdini”, *Oakland Tribune*, February 17, 1967.
40. page 439. **“& feel like a fool!...”** Charmian London Diaries, October 30, 1924, from the collection of the Huntington Library, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
41. page 439. **“Doyle thinks he is a Messiah...”** “Houdini Hits Conan Doyle”, *Los Angeles Times*, October 28, 1924.
42. page 440. **“I have been desired...”** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Eric Dingwall, October, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
- 43, page 440. **“Can you imagine any lady...”** “Margery’ Laughs Merrily At Houdini Cry Of Psychic ‘Fraud’”, unidentified newspaper clipping in a Margery scrapbook in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.
44. page 440. **“Houdini Gets Death Threat...”** “Harry Houdini Gets Death Threat, ‘Evil Spirits’ Put Curse on Him”, *New York Daily Mirror*, ca. December 22, 1924, clipping in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

45. page 440. **“Magician Conjured Story...”**, **“All talk by Houdini...”** “Margery’ Calls Houdini Black Magic Plot”, unidentified newspaper clipping from a Margery scrapbook in the collection of the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.

46. page 440. **“but one year more...”** “Margery’ Long Unconscious Of Psychic Power”, unidentified newspaper clipping from a Margery scrapbook in the collection of the Library of Congress.

47. page 441. **“I understand that he came...”** “Local Men Hold Houdini Unjust To Mrs. Crandon”, *Boston Herald*, December 19, 1924.

48. pages 441-442. **“I agree to forfeit the sum...before he drowns.”** “Houdini Defies ‘Margery’ To Prove Powers”, unidentified newspaper clipping from a Houdini scrapbook in the collection at the Library of Congress. See also “Houdini Answers Prof. McDougall With Fresh Challenge Of Ability”, *Boston Herald*, December 22, 1924.

49. pages 443-445. **Ladies and gentlemen...ghastly proportions.** “Houdini On Spiritualism”, lecture at Symphony Hall, Boston, January 3, 1925, transcript in the collection of the Library of Congress.

50. page 446. **“most estimable”** “Houdini Stirred By Article, May Sue Sir Arthur”, unidentified newspaper clipping in the collection of the Library of Congress. Clipping

also reproduced in the Culliton Archives, now housed at the Conjuring Arts Research Center.

51. page 446. “**His brother Bill had been...message that never came.**” Fulton Oursler, *Behold This Dreamer!* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1964), 188-190.

52. page 447. “**I have read, with a great...**” C.K.Tripp to Mrs. LeRoi G. Crandon (Margery), December 30, 1924, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection. [More information on Tripp’s relationship to Houdini TK.]

53. page 447. “**the first thing he told me...**” Thomas R. Tietze, *Margery* (New York: Harper & Row, 1973), 67.

54. page 448. “**Just to show you how matters...**” Houdini to Quincy Kilby, January 19, 1925. All three letters he wrote to Kilby that day are in the Quincy Kilby scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.

55. page 448. “**If at all possible, I would like to get a report...**” Houdini to Quincy Kilby, January 19, 1925. Letter in the Quincy Kilby scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.

56. page 448. “**I have just received warning...**” Houdini to Quincy Kilby, January 19, 1925. Letter found in the Quincy Kilby scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.

57. page 448. **Madame Diss Debar...** “Searching ‘The Temple’ – Some of Mme. Diss Debar’s Pictures Identified”, *New York Times*, April 20, 1888. “Mme. Diss Debar” *New York Times*, May 3, 1888. “These Weren’t Spook Pictures”, *New York Times*, May 11, 1888. For an informed discussion of Diss Debar see Joseph F. Rinn, *Sixty Years Of Psychical Research* (New York: Truth Seeker Company, 1950), 35, 43. Houdini also writes extensively on Diss Debar in his book *A Magician Among The Spirits* (New York : Arno Press reprint, 1972).

58. page 449. **“All materializing seances are fakes...”** Joseph F. Rinn, *Sixty Years Of Psychical Research* (New York: Truth Seeker Company, 1950), 112.

59. page 449. **“I want you to save this in case anything...”** Houdini to Dash [Hardeen, brother], February 13, 1925. Letter in the collection of Dr. Bruce Averbook.

60. page 449. **“had no history of association...”** “Scientific American Committee Decides ‘Margery’ Has Failed”, *Boston Herald*, February 12, 1925.

61. page 450. **“We dismissed them on January 20....”** “Holds Verdict As To ‘Margery’ Is Dishonest”, unidentified newspaper clipping in a Houdini scrapbook in the collection at the Library of Congress. Crandon also pasted this newspaper article into one of the Margery scrapbooks in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.

62. page 450. **“unhampered by a handcuff king...”** Ibid.

63. page 450. **“Oh Houdini won’t talk no more...”** From typed record of Margery séance of February 21, 1925, found in Box 5 of Margery material at the American Society for Psychological Research, cited in the Silverman files in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

64. page 450. **“We have only just begun...”** Crandon to Sir William Barrett, February 28, 1925, letter in the Libbet Crandon de Malamud Collection.