

11. Kill Thy Father

1. page 199. **On October 26, the day of the attack in his town....** According to the accounts, Weiss returned home either shortly before, at, or shortly after midnight. So the actual attack took place in the early minutes of October 26th.

2. page 199. **It was his brother Leopold, who closely resembled....** *New York Times*, October 26, 1907, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, October 27, 1907, *New York Times*, October 27, 1907, *Washington Post*, October 27, 1907.

3. page 200. **“fumbling among my papers.”** From “Has Hundred Razor Cuts” in the *Boston Daily Globe*, October 27, 1907.

4. page 200. **“We have records for five generations...”** Address given by Houdini before The Club of Odd Volumes in Boston in 1922, reprinted in *The Sphinx*, October 1936, p.205.

5. page 201. **In 1906, he took steps to achieve both...** From *The Sphinx*, July 15, 1906, p.50.

6. page 201. **he began to publish a thirty-two page monthly...** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906.

7. page 201. **When Houdini returned from Europe in 1905....This led to a long-standing bitter feud...** See “Genii Speaks”, *Genii*, April 1937, p.5

8. page 201. **With a staff that included most of his family, and editorial contributions from friends like Joe Hyman...** Houdini, Theo Hardeen, and Joseph Hyman (who used the stage name Hayman) actually wrote for the magazine, as did Houdini’s manager Harry Day. Leopold was credited as an editor in 1908. In the September 1907 edition of *Conjurers’ Monthly*, p. iii, Houdini credits his brother William with being “a member of the office staff”. Silverman says that even brother Nat helped out with the magazine but we have found no independent verification of that, other than noting ads for business ventures that Nat was involved with.

9. page 201. **Hardeen-“The King of all Handcuff Kings....”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906, p.31

10. page 201. **“supplant...” “no axes...” “grafting’ catalogues”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906, p.4

11. page 201. **“In addressing your audience do not....”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906, p.27

12. page 202. **“Knocker. To H—I with you....”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, October 15, 1906, p.53

13. page 202. **“we feel sure that the Government’s sleuths will...”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, December 1907, p.119

14. page 202. **“the American Illusionist, who...”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, April 15, 1907, p.244

15. page 202. **“Miller does not believe...”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, June 15, 1907, p.330

16. pages 202-203. **On May 24, 1921, Houdini was visiting...key ring chain.** From “Among The Magicians” by Bernard Ernst, *The Sphinx*, October 1936, p.210

17. page 203. **In the September 1907 issue of Conjurers’ Monthly...** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, September 1907, p.29-30.

18. pages 203-204. **Billy Robinson wrote a book called...so it could shoot a cap...** William E. Robinson, *Spirit Slate Writing And Kindred Phenomena*, (New York: Munn Company, 1898)

19. page 204. **Clayton Hutton, one of the major creative forces.... troops escape from the Nazis during World War II.** From Clayton Hutton, *Official Secret*, (New York: Crown, 1961), p. 178.

20. page 204. **“magicians can secretly correspond with one another....”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, March 1908, p.196.

21. page 204. **“often...has been the means of giving...”** From Walter B. Gibson & Morris N. Young, eds., *Houdini On Magic*, (Pennsylvania: Fleming, 1953), p.274

22. page 204. **“windowed cipher” to communicate secret messages...Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine**, March 1908, p.218.

23. page 204. **In the June 1908 issue...“Raymeen” Stone.** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, June 1908, p.299.

24. page 204. **Houdini went to a local synagogue where he recited the Kaddish...**
“Sat through a whole service. Heard Rabbi preach and say the Kaddish,” Houdini diary, October 5, 1907. Houdini also honored his father’s request to say Kaddish for him, no matter where he was. “Since his death, I have never failed to do his bidding. I have said Kaddish in twenty-five different parts of the world. Quoted in “Houdini Unmasks Spiritualism”, *The American Hebrew*, June 13, 1924, p. 173

25. page 205. **Elizabeth Akers Allen called “Rock Me To Sleep”** Allen’s original ode to her mother can be found in Thomas R. Lounsbury, ed., *Yale Book of American Verse*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1913). Houdini’s modification of the poem is

in a scrapbook in the collection of John Gaughan. There is an alternative version of Houdini's poem appended to a letter to Houdini from Quincy Kilby dated October 16, 1917 that is in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University. Just who wrote this alternate version, either Houdini or Kilby, isn't clear.

26. pages 205-207. **In the fall of 1903, Houdini stood.....continued the interrogation.**
Conjurers' Monthly Magazine, January 1908, p.133-168

27. page 205. **Wiljalba Frikell...** Houdini, a notoriously poor speller, spells "Frikell" two different ways. The first, correct way, with two 'L's', appeared in the *Dramatic Mirror* November 28, 1903, and in subsequent articles by Houdini in his *Conjurers' Monthly*. The second version, with one 'L', appeared in *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, March 1908, p. 214.

28. page 206. **"much annoyed by the staring..."** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, February 1908, p.166.

29. page 206-207. **"There we stood...the much-desired meeting."** Ibid., p. 168.

30. page 207. **In Europe in 1902, when he had begun his research...** Recollection by Houdini in his article, "Unknown Facts Concerning Robert Houdin", *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906, p. 6

31. page 208. **"I stood with my hat in my hand..."** Ibid., p. 8

32. page 208. **On April 17, 1903, a little over a year later...** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, October 15, 1906, p. 37. There is an error in the book, the month should read "March" instead of "April."

33. page 208. **entertained President Polk in the White House...***Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, October 15, 1906, p. 37, and Harry Houdini, *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin*, (New York: Publisher's Printing Company, 1908), p.235.

34. page 208. **"Had he risen from a grave..."** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, October 15, 1906, p.38.

35. page 208. **"I had no desire..."** Ibid., p.41.

36. page 208. **Ein moderner Zauberer (The Modern Magician)** Houdini in *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, October 15, 1906, p.38, incorrectly calls the book : "Der Moderne Zauberer".

37. page 208. **"the best book..."** *Mahatma*, June, 1903, p. 137

38. page 208. **"Both extending to each other..."** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, October 15, 1906, p.41.

39. pages 208-209. **“I have brought...” “as if I had been dazzled...” “I felt as if the King...”** *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin*, (New York: Publisher’s Printing Company,1908), p.23

40. pages 209-210. **“The combined opinion of these men...”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906, p.6

41. page 210. **“My opinion of Robert-Houdin...”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, December 15, 1906, p.113.

42. page 210. **“Look at the various Arts and Professions...”** *Ibid.*, p.133.

43. page 210. **Houdini dedicated the book to his own father...** *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin*, (New York: Publisher’s Printing Company,1908), dedication page.

44. page 210. **“I am actuated only by a desire...”** *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, March 15, 1907, p.213.

45. page 210. **The French magic community was justly outraged....** “The French magicians raved and tore their hair, and filled the newspapers with articles claiming that their hero had been cruelly maligned. It is the truth that hurts!” an unrepentant Houdini wrote in *MUM*, March 1918, p.8. For an example of the outrage at the time and Houdini’s response see his column “Reading and Rubbish” in the February 15, 1907 issue of

Conjurers' Monthly, p. 189. After noting that his friend E. Raynally wrote to him in protest of his treatment of Robert-Houdin, Houdini notes “[he] requests us to stop telling the truth about Robert Houdin. He takes pains to inform us, for our own sake that it is best to pause! No! We shall not pause, and there is nothing that will make us stop, unless we can be convinced that it is not the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth that we are publishing.”

46. page 212. **“In the Robert-Houdin articles...”** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, September, 1907, p.4-5.

47. page 213. **Bert Kilby, wrote him and timidly...** B. Kilby to Houdini, November 10, 1907, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

48. page 213. **“as I claim to have the honor...”** *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, September 15, 1906, p.27.

49. page 213. **“it will be to retire...”** From *Kansas City Post*, November 4, 1907.

50. page 213. **“perhaps the LAST TIME!”** Houdini to Waitt, November 17, 1907, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University. There is an error in the book here. This letter was 13 days later, not ten.

51. page 213-214. **On January 6, 1908, Houdini began.....mistaken, Mr. Tate,” he said.** The seeds for this vignette were taken from Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), p.200-202.