

17. Fighting Our Way To The Grave

1. pages 311-312. **The last thing that the audience...hand-built brick wall.** From “Hammersteins” in *Variety*, no date, p.11, clipping in the Culliton Archives, now housed at the Conjuring Arts Research Center, and “Walks Through A Brick Wall”, *Boston Globe*, August 2, 1914. Also see Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 251-253.

2. page 312. **“Houdini gives the most remarkable...”** From an unidentified clipping from *The Billboard*, clipping in the Culliton Archives, now housed at the Conjuring Arts Research Center.

3. page 312. **Houdini had licensed the American rights from....** From *The Bradford Daily Telegraph*, Saturday, July 4th, 1914, reprinted in Patrick Culliton, *Houdini Unlocked, book two, the Secret Confessions of Houdini* (Kieran Press & Peter C. Mayer Rare Editions, Ltd., 1997), 147. Also see *The Billboard*, August 9, 1924, p.45.

4. page 312. **“There are people who have...in comparison.”** From “Houdini’s Own Story” in the *Toledo Blade*, January 7, 1915, found in the Robinson Locke Scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.

5. pages 312-313. **“I hold the memory of my visit to President...do the same.”** From the *Pittsburgh Leader*, fragment of clipping found in the Robinson Locke Scrapbook

#247 in the collection of the New York Public Library. Also see “Harry Houdini And President Wilson”, December 23, 1915, unidentified clipping found in the Randolph Douglas scrapbook, Buxton, England.

6. page 313. **“Houdini To Aid...For some time ...entertaining the people.”** From “Houdini To Aid U.S. Government”, *New York Evening Mail*, December 27, 1914, clipping found in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.

7. page 313. **“The Home is a Home...”** Houdini to Dr. Waitt, April 13, 1914, letter in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University

8. page 313. **“I have worked hard and faithfully...”** Houdini to AG Waring, July 5, 1915, transcription of letter in the Silverman notes deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

9. page 314. **“I have not recovered from my Mothers Loss...”** Houdini to Jacob Hyman, July 10, 1915. Copy of the letter in the Silverman files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

10. page 314. **“in which my Darling Mother went to sleep..”** *ibid.*

11. pages 314-316. **“Now I need three more gentlemen...a Houdini scrapbook.** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 260-264.

12. page 315. **“I have roamed all over the world...”** Letter cited in Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 264.

13. page 316. **“I am an American and I am...”** “‘I’m Ashamed of Willard as American,’ Says Actor,” unidentified newspaper clipping in a Houdini scrapbook in the collection of the Library of Congress.

14. page 316. **“He [Willard] was not only hissed out...”** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 264-265.

15. page 316. **“Honest, Gladys, I have received...”** Ibid.

16. page 316. **“Bess was in the wings...”** Ibid.

17. page 316. **“As you will have noticed from the papers...”** Houdini to Jack & Charmian London, December 4, 1915. Copy of the letter in the Silverman files in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

18. page 316. **a celebrity journalist he covered....** See Robert Greenwood, *Jack Johnson vs. James Jeffries: The Prize Fight of the Century*, (Nevada: Jack Bacon & Co., 2005).
19. pages 316-317. **Houdini and Bess had met....** Charmian London diary entry, in the collection of the Huntington Library, California, cited in Silverman notes deposited by Silverman in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
20. 317. **The Sea Wolf and The Call of the Wild...** For a short background on Jack and Charmian London see their entry in the PBS documentation of their Houdini documentary at www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/houdini/peopleevents/pande06.html
21. page 318. **“Charming Houdini....”** Entry in the Charmian London diary for November 26, 1915, from the collection of the Huntington Library, California.
22. pages 318-319. **Trav Daniel Sporting Goods store...to the cycle.** Art Ronnie, *Locklear: The Man Who Walked On Wings* (New York : A.S. Barnes and Co., Inc.), 1973, 26-27.
23. page 319. **On May 15, 1915, President Wilson....**Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, *American Espionage From Secret Service to CIA* (New York: The Free Press, 1977), 58. Also see G.J.A. O’Toole, *The Encyclopedia of American Intelligence and Espionage* (New York :

Facts On File), 1988, 413, and Christopher Andrew, *For the President's Eyes Only* (New York: HarperPerennial), 1995, 32.

24. page 319. **The German government had smuggled.....** “Uncover German Plot to Embroil Us With Mexico, *New York Times*, December 8, 1915, p.1.

25. page 319. **First Aero Squadron, stationed at Fort Sam Houston...** “Fliers to Aid in Chase”, *New York Times*, March 12, 1916, p.1.

26. page 319. **January of 1916, Houdini spent a week...** Ron Cartlidge, *Houdini Texas Tours – 1916 & 1923* (Austin : self-published, 2002), 44-45.

27. page 319. **Benjamin Foulois...** Fort Sam Huston typed report for the week of January 19, 1916, found in the Ernest Jones Aeronautical Collection at the National Air And Space Archives, Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.

28. page 319. **attacking ground troops with dummy bombs...** “Aeroplanes on Scout Test”, *New York Times*, February 5, 1911, p.1.

29. page 319. **Montraville Wood, spent most...** Montraville M. Wood to Houdini, April 30, 1911, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

30. page 319. **Wood's airplane company....** Montraville M. Wood to Houdini, July 22, 1911, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

31. page 320. **Houdini entertained soldiers from Fort Sam...** Ron Cartlidge, *Houdini Texas Tours – 1916 & 1923* (Austin : self-published, 2002), 49.

32. page 320. **“one of the heroes of the Panama-California expo...”** “Keith’s Theatre”, unidentified newspaper clipping, Providence, Rhode Island, ca.1916, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University. We determine this clipping to be around 1916 due to other clippings on the page clearly marked as 1916. The Panama-California Expo was in 1915.

33. page 320. **“I’m an American, first, last, and all the time....”** “Personal Interview Letter Series” by Joe Mitchell Chapple, Boston, Massachusetts, 1917, 3, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

34. page 320. **“Human beings don’t like....”** “The Thrills in the Life of a Magician”, by Harry Houdini, *American Magazine* , ca.1920, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #248, 31, in the collection of the New York Public Library.

35. pages 320-321. **Munsey Building in downtown Washington....** *Washington Times*, April 19, 1916, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247, 262, in the collection of the New York Public Library.

36. page 323. **September of 1915 in Kansas City...** “Harry Houdini – His Latest Escape” in Will Goldston’s *The Magazine of Magic*, October, 1915, 17.
37. page 323. **“String me up just as high as you can....”** “Can Hard Knots Baffle Houdini”, ca.1916, clipping from the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247, 214, in the collection of the New York Public Library.
38. page 324. **In Oakland, California, after he had freed...** “Dying For A Living” by Harry Houdini, *American Magazine* , ca.1920, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #248, in the collection of the New York Public Library.
39. page 324. **“I’ve about reached my limit...”** “They’ll Hang Houdini From Munsey Building at 12:20 Today”, *Washington Times*, April 19, 1916, clipping from a scrapbook in the collection of Pat Croce.
40. page 324. **President Wilson, who was continuing to try...** “President Sees Houdini Escape From Water Tank”, *Washington Times*, April 23, 1916, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.
41. page 324. **Vice President Thomas Marshall...** Ibid.

42. page 325. **“I nearly cried, as she was a pal....”** Houdini’s diary entry for April 30, 1916.
43. page 325. **“It grieves me more now....”** Houdini diary entry for May 20, 1916.
44. page 325. **“If you had 28 years...”** Ibid.
45. page 325. **As a tribute to his parents, Houdini commissioned...** “Actor Rears Loving Tribute to Parents”, *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, no date, clipping in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
46. page 325. **“which if it only materializes...”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, May 26, 1916, letter in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
47. page 325. **“You are old enough to know that there is a vast...”** August Roterberg to Houdini, September 11, 1916, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
48. page 325. **By 1917, the guardians of the language...** “Houdini In The Dictionary”, article in the Houdini promotional brochure for “The Master Mystery”, in the Quincy Kilby scrapbook in the collection of the Boston Public Library, and, “Minister Uses Houdini’s Act For His Sermon”, *Dayton News*, December 14, 1916. Also see “Dubs Daniels ‘Houdini’”, *Washington Post*, August 19, 1916, p.2.

49. page 326. **“Your Love bestowed upon me is Duly...”** Houdini to Bess, June 22, 1916, note in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

50. page 326. **“Your gift is far more welcome...somewhat empty.”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, December 22, 1916, letter in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

51. page 326. **“Keep up your courage...world’s goods.”** “The Love Letters Of Houdini,” by Ada Patterson, *Washington Post*, August 17, 1930.

52. page 326. **often writing up her exploits...** For example, see Houdini’s column in the *Dramatic Mirror*, July 4, 1903.

53. page 327. **“This completes the story...”** Quincy Kilby to Houdini, March 23, 1917, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

54. page 328. **“Houdini, you are a wonderful...”** “Houdini – The Master Magician” by Harold Kellock, *American Magazine*, March, 1928, clipping in the collection of the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

55. page 328. **“Good heavens, Madame....”** Harry Houdini, *A Magician Among the Spirits*, (New York: Harper and Row, 1924) cited in Houdini’s Introduction.

56. page 328. **Houdini would often brag that without...** “Confessions of a Jail-Breaker” by Harry Houdini, 1919, reprinted in Walter B. Gibson, *The Original Houdini Scrapbook* (New York: Corwin Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.), 1977, 172-173.

57. page 329. **Leopold had scandalized the family by....** “Leaves Secrets to Brother”, *Boston Transcript*, November 12, 1926, clipping in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

58. page 329. **On that day, President Wilson...** See, for example, the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, April 6, 1916.