

19. Art Imitates Life

1. page 349. **“Papers here report Jack’s...”** Houdini to Charmian London, November 23, 1916, telegram in the collection of the Huntington Library, California.
2. page 349. **“Did I ever send you a snap shot of us both...”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, November 28, 1916, letter in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
3. page 349. **“I refuse to be beaten...”** Charmian London to Houdini, October 18, 1917, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
4. page 350. **“declaration” that Houdini...shakes me up.** Charmian London diary entry for January 24, 1918, diary in the collection of the Huntington Library, California.
5. page 350. **Some of the passages are even written...** Kenneth Silverman, *Houdini!!! The Career Of Erich Weiss* (New York : Harper Collins), 1996, 229. Silverman cites, in addition to the Charmian London diaries from the collection of the Huntington Library, Clarice Stasz, *“American Dreamers : Charmian and Jack London* (New York, 1988).
6. page 350. **“too swept still...I’m mad about you....mother-about you.”** Charmian London diaries, February 26, March 2, March 13, 1918, in the collection of the

Huntington Library, California, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

7. page 350. **“Am I never going...he had feared.”** Charmian London diaries, April 2, April 21, 1918, in the collection of the Huntington Library, California, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

8. pages 350-351. **“A plot with international...”** “Houdini’s Life to Be Attempted”, *Cleveland Leader*, December, 1918, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247, 236, in the collection of the New York Public Library.

9. page 351. **“He said it was the only game nowadays...”** Robinson (Soo) to Houdini, November 12, 1912, letter in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

10. page 351. **“Your value in vaudeville...”** E.F. Albee to Houdini, June 17, 1913, letter in the Egyptian Hall Houdini scrapbook in the collection of George Daily.

11. page 351. **“I am afraid I want too much money...”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, February 18, 1915, letter in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

12. page 351. **“Expect to leave for Bahaman Islands...”** Houdini to Kellar, March 31, 1917, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

13. page 352. **“I want to call attention to the fact...”** “Escape Artist, Houdini, Signs with Williamson”, *Motion Picture News*, 2664, ca. April, 1917, clipping in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

14. page 352. **“I am doing this because....”** *The Washington Post*, April 15, 1917.

15. pages 352-353. **Houdini had been tracking...way to the docks.** “The Marvelous Adventures of HOUDINI The Justly Celebrated Elusive American”, by Harry Houdini, Houdini’s treatment reprinted in Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), 190-209.

16. page 354. **“It was not only as a highly....his biographers.”** Bernard C. Meyer, M.D., *Houdini: A Mind In Chains – A Psychoanalytic Portrait* (New York : E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc.), 1976, xvii.

17. page 354. **W. Somerset Maugham....Ashenden: or the British Agent.** Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, *American Espionage From Secret Service to CIA* (New York: The Free Press, 1977), 87.

18. page 354. **The Marvelous Adventures...of refinement.** “The Marvelous Adventures of HOUDINI The Justly Celebrated Elusive American”, by Harry Houdini, reprinted in Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), 191.

19. page 354. **“Such a man as would be selected...”** Ibid, 192.

20. page 354. **Rejoining the Secret Service in 1911...** “Flynn Heads Secret Service”, *New York Times*, December 18, 1912.

21. page 354. **resigned in 1917...** *Boston Daily Globe*, December 23, 1917.

22. page 354. **Flynn would later produce a film....** *Behind The Curtain*, 1924, writing Credit by William J. Flynn, citation from the Internet Movie Database. Flynn’s involvement in the film communicated to authors by Michael Sampson, Public Information officer and historian at the United States Secret Service.

23. page 354. **Williamsons derailed the project...** Brian Taves, “With Williamson Beneath the Sea”, *Journal of Film Preservation*, April 1996.

24. page 355. **Westart...** Houdini to Keller, August 6, 1917, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

25. page 355. **“Houdini has an inborn gift and with...”** “Houdini Gives Reeve Ideas”, *Dramatic Mirror*, September 7, 1918, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.

26. pages 355-356. **he had suffered seven black eyes and broken his left wrist** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 269. Also see “Houdini, Movie Star and Mystery Man – VI. Stunting For The Screen”, *My Weekly*, 155, series in the collection of Dr. Bruce Averbok.

27. page 356. **“I have seen all the Serials...”** Houdini to Kellar, November 27, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

28. page 356, **“The Movie Fans are ‘clambering’..”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, December 15, 1918, from Quincy Kilby’s scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.

29. page 356. **“With the finish of the Houdini...”** Houdini to Kellar, February 17, 1919, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

30. page 357. **“I thought my end had come...”** “Half-an-hour with Houdini”, *The Picture Show*, March 20, 1920, reprinted in Houdini’s pitch book *Adventurous Life of a Versatile Artist*, 1922, page 44.

31. page 357. “**\$1000 REWARD...**” Movie ad reprinted in Patrick Culliton, *Houdini Unlocked, book one, the Tao of Houdini* (Kieran Press & Peter C. Mayer Rare Editions, Ltd., 1997), 193.
32. page 358. “**Houdini has stepped...**” “Houdini Film A Real Thriller”, *N.Y. Telegraph*, August 31, 1919, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.
33. page 358. “**Houdini is honestly...**” Ibid.
34. page 358. “**There is more excitement in one reel....**” Reviews of the movie quoted in newspaper ad for *The Grim Game*, reprinted in Patrick Culliton, *Houdini Unlocked, book one, the Tao of Houdini* (Kieran Press & Peter C. Mayer Rare Editions, Ltd., 1997), 193.
35. page 358. “**I am drifting away from vaudeville...**” Houdini to Quincy Kilby, March 7, 1919, letter in Quincy Kilby’s scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.
36. page 358. “**To Mr. Houdini, Please show...**” Gloria Swanson to Houdini, note in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

37. page 358. **“I was not supplied by anyone...”** Unidentified clipping from November 15, 1918 from the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.
38. pages 358, 361. **“Picture actors and stage...angle of the lens.”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, June 8, 1919, from the Quincy Kilby scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.
39. page 361. **“whenever we get him to the point...”** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 270.
40. page 361. **“As a screen actor, Houdini also wins...”** “Houdini, in His Picture, ‘The Grim Game,’ Sends Thrills Up and Down the Spine”, *N.Y. Telegraph*, August 30, 1919, clipping in the Robinson Locke scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.
41. page 361. **“was charmed by your excellent art...”** Fan mail from Y. Hasegawa to Houdini, November 15, 1919, in the Egyptian Hall Houdini scrapbook in the collection of George Daily.
42. page 361. **“I wish that I was Mr. Keith...the only man.”** Poem from a fan in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University. We have edited four stanzas out of the original.

43. page 363. **“Wear this dear heart...”** Houdini note to Bess in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

44. page 363. **“We have starved and starred together...wedding together.”**

Houdini’s note was reproduced in Ada Patterson, “The Love Letters of Houdini”, *New York World Magazine*, August 17, 1930, p.11.

45. pages 363-364. **Catalina Island...finally rescued.** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 269-270.

46. page 364. **“sunny California”** Houdini to Kellar, December 20, 1919, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

47. page 366. **“Nearly cracked my neck...”** Houdini’s diary entry for January 11, 1920.

48. page 366. **the glass broke in the cell** Houdini’s diary entry for January 19, 1920.

49. page 366. **Houdini injured his right ankle...** Houdini diary entry for February 8, 1920. See also Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: The Untold Story* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969), 167.

50. page 366. **Houdini sat for a bust of himself...** “Houdini’s Magic Papers Willed to Congress Library”, unidentified newspaper clipping from the Egyptian Hall Houdini scrapbook in the collection of George Daily.

51. page 366. **“Why on earth should Houdini....”** *Nottingham Football News*, April 3, 1920, cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

52. page 366. **“Blame it all on the fact I have....”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, February 3, 1920, letter in Kilby’s scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.

53. page 367. ***The Dupe...*** *The Billboard*, July 31, 1920, 18, cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

54. page 367. **“sweet” letter...Magic Man.** Charmian London diary entry for April 5, 1920, from the collection of the Huntington Library, California.

55. page 367. **Robert Gould Shaw...** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 283.

56. page 367. **Becks would literally creep up...** Ibid, 284-285.

57. page 367. **“Now I suppose I can get...”** Ibid, 286.

58. page 368. **“an almost incredible incompetency...”** *Variety*, April 30, 1920, 43, cited in Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

59. page 368. **“Houdini painted... DeBiere to advance more money...”** Houdini to Kellar, February 23, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

60. page 368. **“Dietz is the smoothest liar...”** Houdini to Kellar, April 2, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

61. page 368. **“I am afraid that I shall have to THROW...or the other.”** Houdini to Kellar, April 19, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

62. page 368. **with more than \$65,000...** Houdini to Kellar, November 27, 1918, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

63. page 369. **“I informed him of our financial...high price.”** Houdini to Kellar, October 28, 1920, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

64. page 369. **sell all of his stock to Houdini’s sister....** Kellar to Houdini, November 3, 1920, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

65. page 369. **“Been somewhat unfortunate...”** Houdini to Quincy Kilby, October 29, 1920, letter in the Kilby scrapbook in the Boston Public Library.

66. page 369. **“I am investing \$25,000 of my own...”** Houdini to Kellar, March 5, 1921, letter in the collection of David Copperfield’s International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.

67. pages 369-370. **“the weirdest and most sensational....”** Reprint of ad found in Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), 107.

68. page 370. **“M.P. Ideas....”** Houdini’s handwritten notes for movie ideas from the collection of Tom Boldt.

69. page 370. (**Viscount Haldane, i.e., Richard Burton Haldane...**) Andrew Cook, *M-15's First Spymaster* (England : Tempus), 2004, 186.

70. page 371. **"I know it will displease you to hear....how good they are."** Houdini to Kellar, October 10, 1921, copy in the Silverman files deposited in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

71. page 372. **"this must be done in a very dignified..."** "Exploitation Suggestions" article in *The Man From Beyond* pressbook, found in a Houdini scrapbook in the collection of the Library of Congress.

72. page 372. **Houdini debuted the film at the Times Square Theater...** "A Rude Elephant", *The Washington Post*, May 4, 1922.

73. page 372. **"The trouble is that the resumption..."** *Variety*, April 7, 1922, p.41, cited in the Silverman notes in the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

74. page 372. **"This lock is not HOUDINI-proof..."** Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: The Untold Story* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969), 182.

75. page 372. **"Perhaps the renown of Houdini is fading...dress suit."** *Variety*, November 1, 1923.

76. page 373. **“He wound up in litigation over his 50% share of the profits of the hugely successful *Master Mystery*.”** “Houdini Brings Film Suit”, *New York Sun*, October, 10, 1919, clipping in Robinson Locke scrapbook #247 in the collection of the New York Public Library.

77. page 373. **“I believe magicians are much much...”** Houdini to Goldston, August 5, 1919, letter in the Milbourne Christopher collection, cited by Christopher in “Milbourne Christopher’s Column”, *Hugard’s Magic Monthly*, August 1957, p.28.