SHERLOCK HOLMES WOULD BE BAFFLED BY THIS MYSTERY: A London Actor Is ...

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SHERLOCK HOLMES WOULD BE BAFFLED BY THIS MYSTERY

A London Actor Is Found Murdered in a Battersea Garden, the Stage Setting Is Unusual, and Three Persons See the Murderer,

Scotland Yard.

HE Crippen mystery, with its sensational pursuit across the Atlantic, has so occupied the London public and the press that litattention has been paid to another crime, the dramatic, sentimental, and mysterious elements of which would otherwise have been quite absorbing.

In the garden of a house in Battersea. London, a well-known actor has been murdered, and the circumstances surrounding the crime in facts, deductions, and hypotheses form a veritable Sherlock Holmes mystery in real life. The murderer was seen by three persons, but not identified. No motive for the crime is No plausible reason for the of the murdered man in the garden has been advanced.

Scotland Yard has the facts, and has developed an interesting hypothesis. Otherwise, it is all at sea. Nothing definite has been done, and the dramatic profession of London has been asked to contribute to a fund which may be employed in unraveling the mystery.

At 9:30 o'clock on the evening of Saturday, July 16, two persons were strolling One was a taxicab driver named Edward Noyce, the other was Mrs. Emma Lewis, a working housekeeper. Both were on their way home.

Suddenly two revolver shots rang out. A few seconds later a man climbed over He fell to the ground, rolled over, rerection of the Thaines. The woman screamed. The taxicab man gave chase. At the first corner the pursued was lost sight of, and Novee then ran to the Bridge Road, Police Station and informed the police of what he had seen and A police Sergeant returned with him to the place where he had heard the

The houses there are two-storied, each of which is a separate housekeeping apartment and each with a separate entrance. At 17 the lower flat had been vacant for some weeks. The Sergeant knocked there and, receiving no response, tried the door to the second flat. This flat was occupied by a Miss Elizabeth Earle, a teacher at the Academy of Dramatic Art, in Gower Street. On that evening she had a caller. Thomas Frederick Anderson, the eldest son of Thomas Weldon Anderson, a well-known actor, whose stage name is Atherstone. When the policeman knocked Miss Earle opened the door. He said:

4 have information that two shots have been fired in the rear of these apariments. Will you allow me to come through your flat and make a search?" Miss Earle replied: "Yes, I heard the two shots fired and saw a man climb over the wall.

The police Sergeant entered the flat passing through the kitchen to get to the back stairs. There he met Miss Earle's caller, who said: "I will go down with The two went down the staircase leading to the garden and searched in the vicinity where the man had been seen to climb over the wall. Coming back to the yard, the Sergeant searched the passageway between Cambridge House and 17 Prince of Wales Road. Suddenly young Anderson, who had walked on ahead toward the garden, called to him: There is a man lying here."

The Sergeant stepped forward and saw a man lying on the scullery steps of the ground floor flat, with his legs touching the yard. Miss Earle brought a lamp, which Anderson lighted. The man was lying on his back, with his head turned to the left. There was a bullet wound in the right-temple. The man was still breathing. He was fully dressed, but had on a pair of carpet slippers. The Sergeant held the tamp down and said to young Ander-

"Do you know him? Do you know of anybody who answers the description?" Young Anderson replied: " No. I do not know him." He was then asked to send

for a doctor. A. Dr. Marriott and a police Surgeon Dr. Kempster, were soon in attendance. The bedy was taken to the Bridge Road Police Station and the clothes examined. In one pocket was found a diary and some visiting cards. In another, a loaded piece of cable while the police call a "life

The police Sergeant, with a card in his hand, called Anderson aside and said: "Do you know a man named Ather-

"No. but I do Athersione." Thereupon the Sergeant showed him a

card with an address, 14 Great Percy ".That is my father's card," exclaimed

the young man. "But I cannot think that it is my father." To which the Sergeant replied: "I don't finow; but I want you to realize that you are detained for inquiries." Yet He Escapes and Scotland Yard Is Mystified. see, was dressed like a clerk, rather stoutly built, and about 25 or 26 years of age. not a man who would incite personal ani-

Earle and young Anderson were released from custody, as nothing had been revealed, even remotely, to connect them

BEDROOM

BEDROOM

EMPTY PLAT

the running man, whose face he did not adjourned until the forenoon of Satur- He said he had private business. I don't the following statement: day, Sept. 17, even the fringe of the veil which at present screens both the motive him next morning, and he said something Inquiries at the actor's address, 14 Great and the identity of the perpetrator of the about missing the tram." Percy Street, and among his friends crime had not been lifted. Evidence was, showed him to have been professionally however, presented tending to show that the deceased had used on the Thursday. respected, of regular habits, and of kind- a struggle had taken place before the It was a workman's ticket for the Batly, even generous, disposition. In short, fatal shot was fired. The footprints of tersea district. The Coroner said that the murderer on the soft soil were also discovered and measured. No. 9 boots On the morning of the 17th both Miss were fitted into them. Young Anderson wore 71/2. The toes of his boots were pointed; those of the murderer's were not. An interesting witness was William Gordon Anderson, 16 years old, the sec-

no reason to think that his father was

went frequently to see Miss Earle?"

know what time he got back, but I saw A tram ticket was here produced which

it looked as if the deceased had come back by a workmen's car early on Thursday at a college in the Northwest of London, morning. In further evidence witness said he had

on bad terms with anybody. The foreman of the jury: "Have you any idea why your brother "No. except that he was on very good

house on the evening of the 14th was arranged in the inst resort by telephone Coroner—Did you tell your father that It was simply an informal visit. My, your brother, was going to see Miss Earle Anderson, with his younger son, called on that Saturday?

Assistant Commissioner MacNaghton Giving Instructions to Scotland Yard Detective Mitchell.

The son burst into a fit of crying and covered his face with his hands and said: 'Good God! It is my father!"

He was right. The injured man, who along Battersea, where Prince of Wales was at that very moment breathing his Rosenau Road at right an- last, was Thomas Weldon Anderson, an actor, professionally known as Atherthe mortuary.

An investigation was at once made or the scene of the murder. It revealed nothing, however, but a pair of boots the wall and jumped into Rosenau Road. | belonging to the actor. These were found on the mantelpiece of the front room covered himself, and made off in the di- of the empty flat. Dr. Kempster, after the death of the elder Anderson, at 10:20, returned to the house in Prince of Wales Road. He found a tweed cloth cap, later identified as belonging to the murdered man. He noticed a bullet mark on the door of the scullery and saw that the glass of the panel had been splintered by another. The first mark was made by the bullet that had passed through Anderson's head. Its direction showed that the assailant had been standing close to the door in the garden.

The physician then went upstairs. There he found Miss Earle being interrogate by Inspector Badcock of Scotland Yard. The woman was pale and trembling in every limb, while beads of perspiration stood out on her forehead. She had al ready been told that the murdered man was the father of her guest. She talked freely about the deceased, whom she had known intimately, as well as his two sons, for several years. Later on the physician and Inspector took her to the police station, where she made this statement:
"I am a teacher at the Academy of

Dramatic Arts, Gower Street, and occupy SB Flat Clifton Gardens, 17 Prince o Wales Road, Battersea, I have lived there and at the flat beneath about eigh years. Thomas Weldon Anderson, lying dead, was an actor, whose stage name was Weldon Atherstone. He is married and lived at 14 Great Percy Street, King's Cross, in lodgings, having separated from his wife since before I knew him. He has four children.

"I first met Thomas Weldon Anderson when on a theatrical tour with him up ward of eight years ago, and have since been on intimate relations with him. "About 8:30 or 8:45 to-night his son,

Thomas Frederick, called upon me by appointment made on a post card, asking if he might call. I had known him from a and he had always visited me. I replied that he might call, and he did so. On his arrival at about 8:30 we stayed and talked in the front sitting room until about 9 o'clock.

Then I showed him some decorations I had carried out in my bedroom, and then we went to take supper in the While doing so we heard two shots in quick succession, and going into the scullery adjoining I opened the door leading on to the back stairs, and on looking up saw a man scramble over the wall dividing our back yard from the adjoining one to the right of us. I wanted to go down to see what the matter was, but Mr. Anderson would not let me.

"We resumed our meal, thinking some one might have fired to scare a thief. A few minutes later a knock came at the door and I admitted Sergt. Buckley.

"I last saw Thomas Weldon Anderson when he called with his son, Thomas Frederick. They stayed to tea and through the evening, and we were happy together. The time before that when saw Thomas Weldon Anderson was eight

"He had called before I came home, and

I believe was let through by one of the

other flat's occupants. He seemed sulky, and at breakfast next morning we quar reled. He struck me and I called for help. I went into the parlor, and when 7 returned he was gone.

"He had said, 'It is all over,' meaning our friendship, but as he had been frequently jealous because I had male pupils, I gave them up a year ago, and had got used to his jealousy. After the



Detective Mitchell Talking to Women Detectives of Scotland Yard.

quarrel he called in my absence and left; On the foregoing facts Scotland Yard ny latchkey, with a note asking me to has based the following hypothesis: That forward his letters to his address.

"As he had written this it made me a mother to his boys, the eldest of whom I have taken great interest in and in-

At the station house both Noyce and Mrs. Lewis confronted young Anderson. They emphatically declared that he was not the man whom they had seen climb over the wall. This man was described as 5 feet 6 inches in height, wearing a dark tive either on the part of Anderson or jacket suit and a bowler hat. Another witness was found who identified this description as of a man he had seen at

Anderson went to the Battersea garden in the evening of July 16, anticipating an think he might not come again; but my attack upon himself or his son or Miss nome was always open to him, and he Earle. In order better to observe the inknew it. I know of no one who has any truder he concealed himself in the empty feeling against him, and I was more like flat and changed his boots for slippers to make less noise. That from the souliery door of the empty flat he saw the intruder enter the yard and immediately confronted him. Before he had time to make use of the loaded cable in his pocket

he was shot down. The only objection—a serious one—to this hypothesis is that it reveals no mothe intruder.

inquest was begun by Dr. John Trout-9:40, running along Rosenau Road and beck. Coroner for the Battersea district. down Petworth Street. This witness was Many witnesses were examined, but when, revolver that I know of. He stayed out

Diagram of the Battersea Mystery.

GARDEN OF NO 19

ond son of the deceased. He said that his father had no particular residence as he was an actor traveling the country. When in London he stayed at different places, sometimes at Miss Earle's and sometimes at 14 Great Percy Street. During his holidays he had stayed with his father at the latter place. He had seen Miss Earle only once in several years. He was asked if he knew of any reason why he should not call on Miss Earle, He replied: "No, except that I did not think about

calling. The Coroner quoted Miss Earle's testimony to the effect that she was "more of a mother to the boys." Was that the witness's recollection of her position? To

which young Anderson replied: "Yes, I believe so; she took a great in

In further evidence the witness said: 'I last saw my father at 12:30 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday at 14 Great Percy Street. I was going to meet a friend by appointment at 1:80 o'clock. I could not say what my father was going to do, as he did not tell me. I recognize the slippers produced. I saw them once on July 2 at Great Percy Street. I never saw the piece of cable before his death. The first I heard of my father's death was from the police. I did not see my brother, Thomas Frederick, until later. His age is 21. I last saw him before that on Thursday evening at a house in Finsbury Park. He was a greater friend of Miss Earle than I was. He told me he had made an appointment with her for Saturday. He did not speak of any es trangement between my father and Miss Earle.'

"Did your brother give any reason fo ot recognizing your father after death? "He told me at the police station there as a blood mark on the upper lip, and that he was the last person in the world he expected to see there." "Has your father ever worn a dis-

guise? Not in the street."

"What had you noticed about your father's manner? "He had been rather troubled about his business for the last week or two In the week following the murder an Autumn was getting near, and he had not fixed up any engagement. He was a man of sober habits. He never had a

highly. He was one of the finest men you could meet, and in particular we all and of his two daughters one was educated at a convent, while the other recould scarcely imagine a family on more

"The meeting which took place

"No; my brother told me in the pres- boy came along a little later. We had a "Have you told the authorities where that conversation took place?

At the request of the Coroner the witness wrote on a slip of paper the adhanging over him-none of the moodiness dress to which he was referring. Coroner-Was your father at that house

"Where you say you last saw your brother?

After the Coroner's Court had adtective interviewed the members of the Park address written down by the young- that is the whole story." er Anderson. Neither the name nor the

chat and some supper, and I think we spent some little time in the garden. "I saw nothing in the least unusual in Mr. Anderson's manner that night. There was no sign whatever of any trouble

of brooding jealousy or vengeance. He was just his own affable self. It was altogether a happy gathering. "I think the allusion to the elder son's contemplated call upon Miss Earle arose in this way. I suggested that they should call upon us again on the Saturday, in order that we might have a group photograph taken in our garden. Then it was

journed till Sept. 17, a Scotland Yard de- that the elder son mentioned that he was sorry he could not come as he had arhousehold designated in the Finsbury ranged to pay a visit to Miss Earle. And That is the whole story-no identified address of the persons has been revealed. murderer, no motive, nothing but con-According to the report of the Inspector, lectures. Scotland Xard is still at sea.

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