

0. Florence Maybrick: Death Sentence Commuted - Story Preface

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This image of Florie and James Maybrick was published in *The Graphic* (a weekly, illustrated British newspaper). Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Click on the image for a full-page view.

*"The court doth order You
to be taken from hence...
to the place of execution
and that you be hanged
by the neck until
you are dead..."*

If anyone had told Florence Chandler she would be sentenced to hang from an English gallows in Liverpool, she probably would never have left the comforts of her Mobile, Alabama home.

But ... misadventures are rarely known beforehand, so an unwitting Florie (as she liked to be called) and her mother (Baroness Caroline von Roques) boarded the SS *Baltic* on March 12, 1880. Their final destination was Paris.

By the time the *Baltic* docked in Liverpool, Florie had changed her destination. Impulsive and headstrong at age eighteen, she had fallen in love during the crossing. She decided to marry an Englishman.

James Maybrick was 24 years old the day Florie was born. Now, at 42, Maybrick had several dark secrets that he did not tell the young American.

Had she known, one can only hope Florie would have made better choices. Had she known, she might have later recalled the *Baltic* voyage as a wonderful memory, not as a time to regret.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Florence-Maybrick-Death-Sentence-Commuted)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Florence-Maybrick-Death-Sentence-Commuted)

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Liverpool in the 19th Century

The engraving, depicted in this image, was published in London, during 1842, for *The Ports, Harbours, Watering-Places and Picturesque Scenery of Great Britain*, by William Finden.

Illustrated by Bartlett & Harding.

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Florie Maybrick

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Florence Maybrick - Family Home in Mobile, Alabama

Image of home built by Daniel Chandler, Florie's father, [online courtesy Library of Congress](#).

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James Maybrick

Image of James Maybrick online, courtesy [CaseBook.org](#).

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