

0. A KILLING ADDICTION - Story Preface
1. A MAN WITH A DOUBLE LIFE?
2. HARD TIMES FOR THE MAYBRICKS
3. FLORIE'S MISTAKES
4. FLORIE IS CHARGED WITH MURDER
5. FLORIE'S DISASTROUS TRIAL
6. FLORIE'S DEATH SENTENCE
7. AFTERMATH OF THE SENTENCE
8. WHAT'S THE RIPPER GOT TO DO WITH IT?
9. WHITECHAPEL: SCENE OF THE CRIMES
10. POLLY NICHOLS: THE FIRST VICTIM
11. THE RIPPER EARNS HIS NAME
12. THE RIPPER TURNS TO EXCESS
13. A DECEIVING CALM
14. TOTAL DEPRAVITY
15. A CHANGE OF SCENERY
- 16. A KILLING ADDICTION**



Florence Maybrick was accused and convicted of the murder of her husband, James Maybrick. This issue of *The Illustrated Police News*, published on the 7th of September in 1889, depicts Florie in her cell. The picture's caption states: "The Life of a Female Convict: Florance Maybrick's Fate." Click on the image for a full-page view.

What was happening in James Maybrick's life during late 1888/early 1889?

Valentine Blake, a chemist from whom Maybrick had obtained arsenic, gave a post-trial affidavit which puts Maybrick's drug addiction in proper perspective. Blake said that he gave Maybrick about 300 grains of arsenic in February, 1889:

I told him to be careful with it as he had almost enough to poison a regiment. (See *A Poisoned Life: Florence Chandler Maybrick, the First American Woman Sentenced to Death in England*, by Richard Jay Hutto, at [page 111 of the online version](#).)

Maybrick's "diary," allegedly written at about the same time as Blake gave him the 300 grains, states:

I am taking more than ever.

By March, 1889, Florie Maybrick was extremely concerned about her husband's health. She told the family physician, Dr. Humphreys, that Maybrick was also taking a white powder which she thought was strychnine.

The doctor told Florie too much of the powder could kill Maybrick. He also told Florence that if Maybrick should suddenly die, he would tell the authorities about their conversation. Of course, when the time came to recall it, Humphreys abandoned Florence, just like everyone else did.

As Maybrick's condition continued to worsen throughout the spring of 1889, he changed his Will to give control to his brothers. The "diary's" last entry—May 3, 1889—states:

Soon, I trust, I shall be laid beside my dear mother and father. I shall seek their forgiveness when we are reunited. God I pray will allow me at least that privilege, although I know only too well I do not deserve it. My thoughts will remain in tact, for a reminder to all how love does destroy. I place this [the diary] now in a place were it shall be found. I pray whoever should read this will find it in their heart to forgive me. Remind all, whoever you may be, that I was once a gentle man. May the good lord have mercy on my soul, and forgive me for all I have done.

*I give my name that all know of me, so history do tell, what love can do to a gentle man born.
Yours truly
Jack the Ripper
Dated this third day of May 1889*

When James Maybrick died on May 11, 1889, did he take the secrets of the Whitechapel murders to his grave? Was he really Jack the Ripper? His only surviving relative (a fourth cousin) thinks the evidence is compelling. Is the diary authentic? Many experts disagree. A recent discovery of Maybrick's allegedly original Will (said to be written by Maybrick himself) will provide diary detractors with evidence that Maybrick was not the Ripper. But who can say for sure that the Will was written by Maybrick?

What about all the other suspects who have been listed during the last 100 years? The evidence against Maybrick may be compelling, but the jury is still out on this important question.

In the meantime, as more evidence is sought and weighed, a visitor to London can visit both Florence Maybrick and Jack the Ripper at Madame Tussauds' Wax Museum.

In life, Florie and James Maybrick were linked by marriage. In death, they are linked by the lasting impact of their respective "crimes."

EDITOR'S NOTE: We would like to acknowledge an exceptional web site on Jack the Ripper - The Casebook. Although we have linked to several portions of it in this story, the site has much more detailed information. Be patient, though. It's not always easy to find what you are looking for.

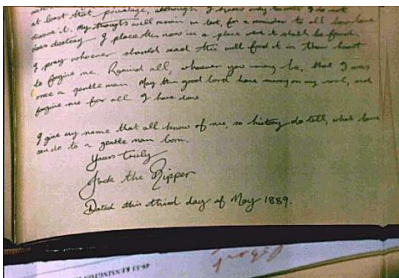
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-KILLING-ADDICTION-Florence-Maybrick-Death-Sentence-Commuted>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-KILLING-ADDICTION-Florence-Maybrick-Death-Sentence-Commuted>

Media Stream

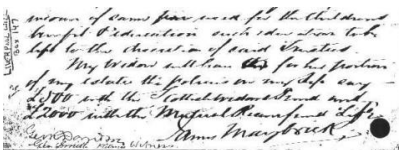


James Maybrick - Alleged Diary

Image online, courtesy [Casebook.org](http://www.casebook.org)

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/James-Maybrick-Alleged-Diary>

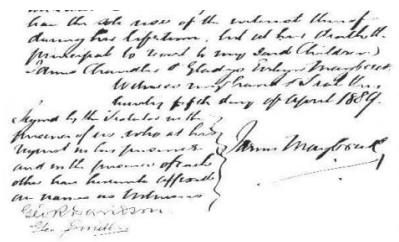


Maybrick's Will

Image online, courtesy [Casebook.org](http://www.casebook.org)

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Maybrick-s-Will>



Maybrick's Will, Page 2

Image online, courtesy [Casebook.org](http://www.casebook.org)

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Maybrick-s-Will-Page-2>