Victorian Fiction Research Guide 35

Richard Marsh

by

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Section 1: Introduction

During a career which lasted from 1880 to his death in 1915, Richard Marsh (1857-1915) was a bestselling author of a number of popular novels and a regular contributor to the fiction papers of the fin de siècle. Marsh was born Richard Bernard Heldmann in St John’s Wood in North-Central London on 12 October 1857, the first child of lace merchant Joseph Heldmann (c. 1827-96), a German Jewish convert to Christianity, and Emma Marsh (c. 1830-1911), a lace-manufacturer’s daughter from Nottingham. Shortly after the birth of Richard Bernard, Joseph Heldmann became embroiled in large-scale bankruptcy proceedings which led him to abandon his career as a merchant for that of a schoolmaster, in which capacity he ran a school in Hammersmith in West London.

When, in 1880, Bernard Heldmann began to publish fiction, mainly boys’ school and adventure stories, in the devotional publications Quiver and Young England, the illustrated weekly Graphic, and the boys’ paper Union Jack, he may have been drawing on his personal experience of life at his father’s school. It was Union Jack, associated with two favourite boys’ writers of the time, W.H.G. Kingston (1814-80) and G.A. Henty (1832-1902), that provided Heldmann with his initiation into the literary life. Under Henty’s editorship, Heldmann quickly became a trusted contributor to this quality penny boys’ weekly, providing short and serial school and adventure stories. This early career reached its pinnacle in October 1882, when Henty promoted the precocious Heldmann to co-editorship of the weekly. However, in spring 1883 Heldmann’s contribution to the paper began to flag, until his editorship was abruptly terminated by Henty in June 1883. After 1883, Bernard Heldmann published no new fiction under his given name.

The reasons for Heldmann’s demise have only been discovered recently. Whether out of improvidence, greed or genuine hardship, Heldmann had been issuing forged cheques throughout much of 1883, moving from place to place in France and Britain, until he was finally apprehended by the police in February 1884. At the Maidstone Quarter Sessions in April 1884, he was sentenced to eighteen months’ hard labour. After his release, he adopted the pseudonym ‘Richard Marsh’, a combination of his own first name and his mother’s maiden name. As ‘Richard Marsh’, he began to publish fiction in 1888, producing 76 volumes and a wealth of short stories, and achieving popularity as a provider of adult genre fiction before his death from heart disease or heart failure at Haywards Heath in Sussex on 9 August 1915. Now best known for his bestseller The Beetle: A Mystery (1897), a rival of Dracula, Marsh also worked in the genres of crime, detection, thriller, popular romance, and humour.

While The Beetle is increasingly well known, scholarly work on Marsh is seriously hampered by the lack of indexing tools making his work accessible to researchers. This research guide is designed to alleviate this state of affairs: it provides scholars with access to an extensive bibliography of Heldmann/Marsh’s literary production. It further provides plot summaries of the author’s long fiction and brief generic classifications of his short fiction. However, this bibliography of materials on Heldmann/Marsh is unlikely to be comprehensive: such was the volume of the author’s literary production that the periodical section, in particular, is unlikely to be complete.
Section 2: Bernard Heldmann’s literary production

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---, *The Belton Scholarship: A Chapter from the Life of George Denton* (London: Griffith & Farran, 1882)

---, *Expelled: Being the Story of a Young Gentleman* (London: Nisbet, 1882)

---, *Dorrincourt: The Story of a Term There* (London: Nisbet, 1881)

---, *Boxall School: A Tale of Schoolboy Life* (London: Nisbet, 1881)

Periodical publication

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---, *Orders to Marry* (London: John Long, [1918])
---, *On the Jury* (London: Methuen, 1918)
---, *The Deacon’s Daughter* (London: John Long, 1917)
---, *His Love or his Life* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1915)
---, *Love in Fetters* (London: Cassell, 1915)
---, *Margot—and her Judges* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1914)
---, *Molly’s Husband* (London: Cassell, 1914)
---, *The Woman in the Car* (London and Leipsic: T. Fisher Unwin, 1914)
---, *If It Please You* (London: Methuen, 1913)
---, *Justice—Suspended* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1913)
---, *The Master of Deception* (London: Cassell, 1913)
---, *Judith Lee: Some Pages from her Life* (London: Methuen, 1912)
---, *Sam Briggs: His Book* (London: John Long, 1912)
---, *Violet Forster’s Lover* (London: Cassell, 1912)
---, *A Drama of the Telephone* (London: Digby, Long, 1911)
---, *The Twin Sisters* (London: Cassell, 1911)
---, *Live Men’s Shoes* (London: Methuen, 1910)
---, *The Lovely Mrs Blake* (London: Cassell, 1910)
---, *The Interrupted Kiss* (London: Cassell, 1909)
---, *A Royal Indiscretion* (London: Methuen, 1909)
---, *The Coward behind the Curtain* (London: Methuen, 1908)
---, *The Surprising Husband* (London: Methuen, 1908)
---, *The Girl and the Miracle* (London: Methuen, 1907)
---, *The Romance of a Maid of Honour* (London: John Long, 1907)
---, *A Woman Perfected* (London: John Long, 1907)
---, *The Garden of Mystery* (London: John Long, 1906)
---, *In the Service of Love* (London: Methuen, 1906)
---, *Under One Flag* (London: John Long, 1906)
---, *The Confessions of a Young Lady* (London: John Long, 1905)
---, *The Marquis of Putney* (London: Methuen, 1905)
---, *A Spoiler of Men* (London: Chatto & Windus, 1905)
---, *A Duel* (London: Methuen, 1904)
---, * Garnered* (London: Methuen, 1904)
---, *Miss Arnott’s Marriage* (London: John Long, 1904)
---, *The Magnetic Girl* (London: John Long, 1903)
---, *The Death Whistle* (London: Anthony Treherne, 1903)
---, *A Metamorphosis* (London: Methuen, 1903)
---, *The Adventures of Augustus Short: Things Which I Have Done for Others and Wish I Hadn't* (London: Anthony Treherne, 1902)
---, *Between the Dark and the Daylight* (London: Digby, Long, 1902)
---, *The Twickenham Peerage* (London: Methuen, 1902)
---, *Amusement Only* (London: Hurst & Blackett, 1901)
---, *Both Sides of the Veil* (London: Methuen, 1901)
---, *The Joss: A Reversion* (London: F.V. White, 1901)
---, *Marvels and Mysteries* (London: Methuen, 1900)
---, *A Second Coming* (London: Grant Richards, 1900)
---, *Ada Vernham, Actress* (London: John Long, 1900)
---, *The Goddess: A Demon* (London: F.V. White, 1900)
---, *The Seen and the Unseen* (London: Methuen, 1900)
---, *A Hero of Romance* (London: Ward, Lock, [1900])
---, *An Aristocratic Detective* (London: Digby, Long, 1900)
---, *The Chase of the Ruby* (London: Skeffington, 1900)
---, *Frivolities: Especially Addressed to Those Who Are Tired of Being Serious* (London: James Bowden, 1899)
---, *In Full Cry* (London: F.V. White, 1899)
---, *The Woman with One Hand and Mr Ely's Engagement* (London: James Bowden, [1899])
---, *The Datchet Diamonds* (London: Ward, Lock, [1898])
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---, *The Crime and the Criminal* (London: Ward, Lock, [1897])
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---, *The Strange Wooing of Mary Bowler* (London: C. Arthur Pearson, 1895)
---, *The Mahatma's Pupil* (London: Henry, 1893)
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---, ‘An Episcopal Scandal’, *Cornhill Magazine*, 22 (February 1894), 167-80
---, ‘A Rubber or Two’, *All the Year Round*, 10 (16 September 1893), 277-83
---, ‘A First Night’, *Cornhill Magazine*, 20 (April 1893), 387-404
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---, ‘The Puzzle’, *Cornhill Magazine*, 19 (November 1892), 493-511
---, ‘A Victim to Art’, *All the Year Round*, 8 (2 July 1892), 13-19
---, ‘The Burglar’s Blunder’, *Derby Mercury*, 24 June 1891, 6
---, ‘Pourquoipas’, *All the Year Round*, 5 (9 May 1891), 445-51; (16 May 1891), 466-70
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---, ‘When Greek Joined Greek’, *Household Words*, 19 (6 September 1890), 361-65
---, ‘His First Experiment’, *Cornhill Magazine*, 15 (September 1890), 287-304
---, ‘Mignonette’, *All the Year Round*, 4 (9 August 1890), 132-37
---, ‘The Long Arm of Coincidence’, *Household Words*, 19 (24 May 1890), 61-64
---, ‘The Match of the Season’, *Cornhill Magazine*, 14 (May 1890), 521-29
---, ‘A Set of Chessmen’, *Cornhill Magazine*, 14 (April 1890), 389-405
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---, ‘The Adventures of Sam Briggs: On the Film’, *Strand Magazine*, 51 (March 1916), 289-300
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---, ‘Sam Briggs Becomes a Soldier: On the Way Home’, *Strand Magazine*, 50 (November 1915), 580-87
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---, ‘The Kit-Bag’, *Windsor Magazine*, 17 (January 1903), 298-309
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---, ‘Miss Donne’s Great Gamble’, *Strand Magazine*, 22 (November 1901), 558-69
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MS2051/57, ‘George Ogden’s Will’
MS2051/58, Two photographs of Richard Marsh [missing on 27 March 2006]
MS2145, ‘Noted Novelist’s Death’ [an obituary, a photograph and a newspaper clipping relating to Marsh]
Section 4: Plot Summaries of the Novels of ‘Bernard Heldmann’ and ‘Richard Marsh’

All novels were signed. Illustrators have been named wherever possible, but sometimes it has been impossible to identify the illustrator; I have indicated where this was the case. The British Library date stamp has been used as a rough indicator of publication date, with cataloguing usually taking place within two months of issue. The approximate length of the volumes has been calculated by multiplying the length of an average page by the total number of pages. This figure has then been rounded down to the 5000 immediately below it.

The novels of ‘Bernard Heldmann’

**Boxall School: A Tale of Schoolboy Life** (London: Nisbet, 1881)
- Alternative title: ‘Rawdon School’ (serial)
- 240 pp.; 50,000 words
- Illustrated by T.H. Wilson; decorative indigo cover
- British Library date stamp: 24 November 1881

Upon his arrival at Boxall School, Bertie Mayne is placed with the sixth-formers. Another boy, Richard Giffard, bears a family-related grudge against Bertie and proceeds to ruin Bertie’s reputation. A true gentleman, Bertie is vindicated by his honesty and good conduct, while Richard is expelled and only allowed to stay after Bertie pleads on his behalf. Bertie then excels at cricket and saves Richard from drowning. The boys are reconciled.

**Dorrincourt: The Story of a Term There** (London: Nisbet, 1881)
- 391 pp.; 110,000 words
- Illustrated by an unnamed artist; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 24 November 1881

Dr Graham, headmaster of Dorrincourt public school, is temporarily replaced by Dr Macqueen. Dr Macqueen proves a pedantic tyrant and antagonises the boys, especially the king of Dorrincourt, the temperamental Henry Boltington, who is comforted by the saintly hunchback Tom Jackson. Two other boys, Geoffrey Hazelmere and Alexander Stornell, are in debt and frequent the pub. Resentment towards Dr Macqueen leads to a planned barring-out, but Dr Graham’s timely return saves the situation. Tom Jackson, who has been tossed by a bull in true school-story fashion, recovers.

**The Mutiny on Board the Ship ‘Leander’: A Story of the Sea** (London: Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, 1882)
- 322 pp.; 110,000 words
- Illustrated by John Jellicoe; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 2 November 1882

The ship *Leander* is in constant trouble after embarking on the voyage which its captain, George Evans, hopes will make his fortune. The unruly foreign crew mutiny, and the plague breaks out on board. After Evans’s death, the heroic boy Tom Staples frees his fellow Englishmen, the pacifist Quaker Tobias Twentyman and the shipmate Ben Bold, who are the only survivors following an explosion. Adventures follow ashore, involving natives, foreign slave traders, volcanoes, and lions. Twentyman dies, but the two survivors emerge rich from their ordeal.
The Belton Scholarship: A Chapter from the Life of George Denton (London: Griffith & Farran, [1882])
- Alternative title: Self-Conquered (later editions)
- 345 pp.; 95,000 words
- Illustrated by ‘W.H.S.’; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 23 November 1882

George Denton, a Belton boy, is capable but lazy. He is torn between the bad influence of Ernest Warren, who tries to talk him into mischief, and the good influence of the gifted Philip Parmenter and the angelic Charlie Stewart. George finds out that his father has been ruined and his mother is dead. On his deathbed, Charlie, who has been tossed by a bull, suggests that George should enter for the Belton Scholarship to be able to stay at Belton. George works too hard and is wronged by the malevolent Ernest Warren, whose life George rescues after an explosion on Guy Fawkes’s Night. George’s examination goes well, but Warren steals his script. However, George’s father regains his fortune, and George emerges from his ordeal a stronger man.

Expelled: Being the Story of a Young Gentleman (London: Nisbet, 1882)
- 347 pp.; 100,000 words
- Illustrated by Gordon Browne; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 28 November 1882

Duke Tregowan has been expelled from Dorrincourt public school. Travelling home to Cornwall, he is involved in a train crash that kills his companion. In Cornwall, Duke falls into a mining shaft that begins to fill with water. He is supported by the saintly Lionel Pollyon and eventually rescued, but is paralysed for life. However, he is a better man and becomes a local philanthropist.

‘A Couple of Scamps’ (serial)
- Union Jack, N.S. 1.1 (3 October 1882) - N.S. 1.21 (20 February 1883); N.S. 1.23 (6 March 1883) - N.S. 1.28 (10 April 1883); N.S. 1.44 (31 July 1883)
- 70,000 words
- Illustrated by Gordon Browne

Exeter boys Fred and Jack feel misunderstood and decide to leave home in order to become highwaymen. However, they are ill-equipped and soon fall into the hands of real criminals, led by an eccentric young female. The serial comments on boys’ fiction and penny dreadfuls before reaching a reassuring conclusion in which the boys see the error of their ways.

Daintree (London: Nisbet, 1883)
- 238 pp.; 50,000 words
- Illustrated by ‘A.R.’; brown decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 11 December 1883

The Freemans lead a quiet, rural, Congregationalist life at Daintree. John Freeman wants his sons John and Oliver to become farmers like himself, but John wants to acquire learning and Oliver has vague dreams of greatness. Freeman is shocked, but realises he has to allow his children to do as they please.

Anon., That Master of Ours, by the author of Dorrincourt, Boxall School, Expelled, etc. (London: Nisbet, 1908)
- 312 pp.; 95,000 words
- Illustrated by A. Dudley; pictorial cover
William Strange, a Christ-like religious enthusiast, is recruited as a village schoolmaster. He gradually wins over the boys, but the villagers attack Strange due to his religious mania. Beatings, fires and blindings by lightning occur in plenty. When Strange perishes in an attempt to put out shipwreckers’ lights, the villagers praise his bravery.

The novels of ‘Richard Marsh’

The Devil’s Diamond (London: Henry, 1893)
- Alternative title: The Ape and the Diamond (American editions)
- 279 pp.; 55,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 29 January 1895 [issued in early 1893]

The miser Samuel Hookham’s estranged brother bequeaths him a valuable diamond, which brings its owner bad luck and can only be given away. When Hookham tries to sell the stone, it gives him pains, burns the dealer, becomes sticky, and produces flashes, barks and bangs. His finances begin to wrong. The stone is turned into an entertainment, producing quite a sensation but killing one spectator in the process. Hookham is accused of the death, but the dead man revives. He has been attacked by the spirit of the stone, a multi-coloured ape, which has sucked out his life. After meeting his brother’s ghost, Hookham throws the diamond into the Thames. He sadistically bequeaths a legacy to the finder of the stone for as long as he or she keeps it.

The Mahatma’s Pupil (London: Henry, 1893)
- 217 pp.; 45,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 11 October 1893

James Pye, a Cockney magician, is given shelter by the impoverished Redford family. Pye has learnt magic from a Tibetan Mahatma but, having been a bad pupil, is not allowed to help himself, only others. Pye’s conjuring is never quite right and brings the Redfords bad luck. Eventually, the disillusioned Mahatma takes Pye away but assists the family by leaving behind a bag of gold.

The Strange Wooing of Mary Bowler (London: Pearson, 1895)
- Alternative title: A Strange Wooing (American editions)
- 126 pp.; 55,000 words
- Illustrated by Bernard Higham; frontispiece by Inez Warry; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 1 January 1895

A company of actors headed by Eric Temperley are to perform at a private function. Temperley is to play opposite Mary Bowler, the host’s daughter, whom he is courting. His host, Gregory Bowler, has served as a convict in Australia with Temperley’s father, whom he has robbed and murdered; Bowler now opposes Temperley’s engagement to Mary. The play reconstructs the murder of Temperley’s father, driving Bowler mad with guilt and terror. Temperley marries Mary and gets a handsome dowry in exchange for his silence.

Mrs Musgrave—and her Husband (London: Heinemann, 1895)
- 191 pp.; 45,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 14 June 1895
Hereward Musgrave overhears Dr Byam describe how he once committed perjury to hang a murderer so that he could not father children. The murderer, however, already had a daughter, Musgrave’s wife Ethel. Byam is stabbed to death. After giving birth to a daughter, Ethel is wanted in connection with Byam’s murder. Admitting her guilt to her husband, she states that she has inherited her father’s madness, and may have passed it to her daughter. Trying to protect her, Musgrave kills a man and recognises that he is no better than his hereditarily homicidal wife. The couple kill themselves and their daughter with poison gas before the police arrive.

The Mystery of Philip Bennion’s Death (London, New York and Melbourne: Ward, Lock, [1897])
- Alternative title: Philip Bennion’s Death (later editions)
- 172pp.; 50,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 July 1897

Philip Bennion considers murder a fine art. When he is found dead with a pipe next to him on the floor, no apparent cause of death can be detected. Narrator J. Franklyn Otway, a somnambulist, has dreamt that he has seen Bennion dead in his rooms. Is Otway the murderer? Several red herrings are supplied, including a locked Medici cabinet with a poisoned key and the possible guilt of Bennion’s ward, Nina Macrae. Nina is about to marry, but on the eve of the wedding, it becomes evident that her fiancé Ralph Hardwicke is already married and has killed Bennion by way of a poisoned pipe in order to keep his secret. Hardwicke commits suicide with the aid of the pipe.

The Crime and the Criminal (London: Ward, Lock, [1897])
- 346 pp.; 110,000 words
- Illustrated by Harold Piffard; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 8 October 1897

In the first part of this split narrative, stockjobber Thomas Tennant finds himself in the same train compartment with Ellen Howth, a woman from his past. He decides to leave the carriage while the train is still moving, but ‘Nelly’ falls out instead. When a woman’s body is found by the railway line, Tennant assumes she has died and accepts the guilt. The second narrator is Reginald Townsend, gentlemanly member of a Murder Club, which promotes murder for recreational purposes. As part of his membership pact, Townsend has strangled his mistress, pregnant and troublesome, under the railway arches. He has then made the acquaintance of Mrs Carruth, or Tennant’s Nelly, who has survived her fall from the train and witnessed the murder. Nelly takes up the story, relating how she has argued with Tennant, fallen out of the train, and witnessed the murder. She decides to marry the attractive and gentlemanly Townsend, allowing Tennant to hang. When the net begins to tighten around Townsend, he commits suicide by swallowing hydrocyanic acid. Tennant is pardoned at the eleventh hour.

The Duke and the Damsel (London: Pearson, 1897)
- 248pp.; 60,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 21 October 1897

The vulgar widow Mrs General Delancy-Fyfart wants to marry off her two daughters, Mabel and Nora, to two elderly gentlemen. On their way to the south of France, she begins to talk to her travelling companions, travelling salesmen Mr Buggins and Mr Dickory. The girls object to their mother’s marital plans and prefer the salesmen, in fact the Duke of Datchet and his cousin Ivor Dacre. Mabel accepts Mr Buggins (the Duke), but retracts once she
learns his real identity. They are reconciled in the end, while the mother is pensioned off to the continent.

**The Beetle: A Mystery (London: Skeffington, 1897)**
- Alternative titles: ‘The Peril of Paul Lessingham: The Story of a Haunted Man’ (serial); The Mystery of the Beetle; or, The House with the Open Window (American editions)
- 351 pp.; 125,000 words
- Illustrated by John Williamson; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 19 October 1897

In the first part of this split narrative, the tramp Robert Holt enters a seemingly empty house in search of shelter. Inside, he is assaulted by a monstrous insect which climbs up his body. Holt is then mesmerised by the animalistic, oriental and gender-ambiguous inhabitant of the house, who sends him to steal love letters belonging to the politician Paul Lessingham. Terrifying the normally stalwart Lessingham by referring to the ‘Beetle’, Holt escapes with the letters. In the second narrative, the oriental seeks an alliance with the inventor Sydney Atherton, a rival of Lessingham for the hand of Marjorie Lindon, the author of the stolen letters. Atherton is too conscientious to agree, and witnesses the oriental’s metamorphosis into a beetle and, further, to a naked female. Marjorie seeks Atherton’s help after a nocturnal encounter with a beetle. In the third narrative, Marjorie explains how Holt has been found outside her house and brought in, and how, with Atherton’s help, they have set out to find the oriental, who instead captures Marjorie. In the final narrative, the Honourable Augustus Champnell, a private detective, hears Lessingham’s story of mesmerism, abduction, rape and human sacrifice in the hands of Egyptian worshippers of Isis. After strangling his captor, Lessingham has witnessed her metamorphosis into a scarab, which has now returned to haunt him. The men chase the beetle, Marjorie, now dressed in a tramp’s costume and destined to be sacrificed, and Holt, who has joined them but later expires. The beetle attempts to escape by train but apparently perishes in a crash. Marjorie recovers to marry Lessingham after several years in an asylum.

**The House of Mystery (London: F.V. White, 1898)**
- Alternative title: The Dagger of Fate; or, The House of Mystery (American editions)
- 312 pp.; 100,000 words
- Frontispiece by John Williamson; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 4 March 1898

The pretty typist Madeleine Orme is dismissed after repudiating the advances of her manager’s son. The house steward to the Countess of Staines persuades her to impersonate her look-a-like, Maud Dorrincourt, the temperamental heiress to the countess’s fortune, who has disappeared. Later, Madeleine meets her double Maud, who wishes to become a singer. Madeleine falls in love with Conrad, Earl of Staines, the man Maud is expected to marry, and they get engaged in spite of Madeleine’s scruples. Maud falls under the spell of the hypnotist Aaron Lazarus, who takes away her singing voice, makes her stab Conrad, and flees with her. Upon being accused of stabbing her fiancé, Madeleine confesses that she is not Maud. Lazarus is tracked down with the help of the aristocratic detective Augustus Champnell. To revenge his capture, Lazarus hypnotically sucks out Maud’s vitality, making her a withered old woman. As the pursuers break in, Lazarus falls from the balcony and dies. Maud is found in a vegetable condition, sings a swan song, and dies. Madeleine marries Conrad.

**The Datchet Diamonds (London, New York and Melbourne: Ward, Lock, [1898])**
Arthur Lawrence proposes to Daisy Strong, who dislikes him and would marry Cyril Paxton but for his impecuniosity. Paxton is preparing to emigrate to America in search of fortune when he overhears Lawrence’s conversation with another man and realises Lawrence is behind the robbery of the Duchess of Datchet’s diamonds. After the two men accidentally swap bags, the criminals kidnap Paxton to secure the diamonds now in his possession. He is rescued, finds his stock-market speculations successful, and marries Daisy.

**Tom Ossington’s Ghost (London: Bowden, 1898)**
- Alternative title: ‘The Ossington Mystery’ (serial)
- 315pp.; 50,000 words
- Illustrated by Harold Piffard; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 29 June 1898

Madge Brodie, a struggling author, has taken an isolated cottage with her friend Ella Duncan, who works in the City. The cottage is besieged by a number of suspect callers and burglars. The girls learn that it used to belong to the eccentric miser Tom Ossington, who led an unhappy marital existence in it and now haunts it. With the help of a sheet of instructions, the girls track down the fortune hidden in the house by Ossington, and are able to marry.

**In Full Cry (London: F.V. White, 1899)**
- 304pp.; 90,000 words
- Unillustrated; red decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 28 July 1899

In a London doss-house, a group of men contemplate the reward offered for the murderer of John Howard Shapcott. Pollie Hills, a gipsy girl, recognises the items missing from the dead man as gifts given to her by a pauper nicknamed the ‘gentleman’. It then appears that the dead man has left his fortune to the ‘gentleman’, actually the aristocratic Blaise Polhurston whom he has wronged twenty years earlier by driving his fiancée Helen to suicide. The police try to arrest Polhurston, but Pollie leads him away along rooftops and crossdresses to divert the pursuers. Returning to his native Cornwall, Polhurston makes up with his mother and meets Helen’s illegitimate daughter. He explains that he has met Shapcott on the night of his murder, suffered a lapse of memory, and found Shapcott dead. He conveniently falls down dead, leaving his friends well-off.

**The Woman with One Hand and Mr Ely’s Engagement (London: Bowden, [1899])**
- Alternative title for The Woman with One Hand: ‘Something to his Advantage’ (serial)
- 356 pp.; 60,000 words
- Frontispiece by Stanley L. Wood; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 13 December 1899 (Second impression)

This volume contains two novellas. The Woman with One Hand charts the complex adventures of James Southam, involving hypnotism, jewel robbery, confused identities, murder, and the eponymous woman with one hand. Mr Ely’s Engagement details how the businessman Frederic Ely attempts to marry Lily Truscott. She reluctantly accepts him, thinking that the painter William Summers has forgotten her. Summers then arrives, and Lily terminates the engagement with Ely, who marries a rich Jewess instead.
A Second Coming (London: Grant Richards, 1900)
- 297 pp.; 55,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 18 April 1900

This episodic narrative imagines what would happen if Christ were to come to London at the end of the nineteenth century. It consists of a series of sketches in which Christ reveals the rottenness of fin-de-siècle British society and morality, and performs a number of miracles. He is rejected time and again, although a mass hysteria is built up by newspapers, politicians, and society figures. Having exposed the hypocrisy of contemporary society, Christ leaves because he is not wanted.

Ada Vernham, Actress (London: John Long, 1900)
- 272 pp.; 50,000 words
- Frontispiece by Oscar Wilson; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 2 June 1900

The pretty actress Ada Vernham finds herself penniless and unemployed and becomes a prostitute to keep herself until the rehearsals of her next play begin. When the leading lady walks out, Ada is given her role although her acting is poor. Ada is, in fact, an aristocrat who has left her home when her mother has died of shock after finding her in compromising circumstances with her lover Gilbert Ellerslie, who also has disappeared. Ada finds that she is pregnant and goes to church to confess, only to find the priest to be Ellerslie. In the meantime, the rehearsals go well and Ada makes great progress. Ada’s estranged husband, a drunk, appears, however, and Ada loses her head on the opening night, ruining the chances of the play. Ellerslie takes her away when her theatre friends turn against her.

The Goddess: A Demon (London: F.V. White, 1900)
- 300 pp.; 65,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 August 1900

John Ferguson has a dream in which his friend Edwin Lawrence is attacked in the night by a laughing female fiend. He wakes up to find a beautiful, mysterious woman stepping into his room through the window. She is covered in blood and cannot remember her name. The following morning, Lawrence is found dead, his body and face slashed beyond recognition. Lawrence’s missing brother Philip, Ferguson, and the lady, who is recognised as the actress Bessie Moore, are all suspected of murdering Lawrence, until the dead man is seen, alive and well. Lawrence has fallen under the spell of the ‘goddess’, an Indian sacrificial idol, which has cajoled him into committing a series of crimes. At the pull of a string, she springs into action, and hundreds of knives sprout from her blood-red body. It is this idol that Lawrence has used to kill his moralising brother. Lawrence brings the goddess to life, and she hacks him to pieces. Bessie falls ill but recovers to marry Ferguson.

The Chase of the Ruby (London: Skeffington, 1900)
- 215 pp.; 45,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 3 October 1900

Guy Holland has gone to Africa to make his fortune but has a vision of his uncle George Burton’s death. Haunted by Burton’s ghost, he returns to London. Burton is in fact dead and has left everything to Holland, provided he recovers a certain ruby signet ring within three months of his uncle’s death; otherwise everything will go to Holland’s cousin and
rival Horace Burton. Holland now only has four days in which to recover the ring from the actress May Bewicke, who is not agreeable. Holland proceeds to steal the ring but fails, and Horace Burton does his utmost to hinder him. In fact, May has sent the ring to her uncle, George Burton’s solicitor, as soon as she has heard about the will. Holland and May marry their respective sweethearts in a double ceremony, while Horace Burton is sentenced to penal servitude for forgery.

*A Hero of Romance (London: Ward, Lock, [1900])*
- 317 pp.; 85,000 words
- Frontispiece by Harold Copping; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 2 November 1900

Bertie Bailey, a plucky but unruly schoolboy, runs away in search of a life of adventure. He sets out for London but is robbed of all of his money and reaches the capital tired, penniless, and hungry. He is befriended by Freddy, a young thief, who takes him to a thieves’ den. When Bertie accidentally hears the thieves’ secrets, they take him to Brittany and abandon him there. Bertie makes a living for himself in the wilderness but finally collapses. He is found by the roadside and saved.

*The Joss: A Reversion (London: F.V. White, 1901)*
- 310 pp.; 100,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 22 August 1901

In the first part of this split narrative, Pollie Blyth tells how she and her friend Emily Purvis are unfairly dismissed by their employer and how unpleasant characters, some of them Chinese, begin to pursue them. Pollie learns that she has inherited a house and an annuity under her eccentric uncle Benjamin Batters’s will, but her inheritance is governed by strict rules. The second narrative is related by Emily Purvis, who agrees to live with Pollie in the strongly fortified but rat-infested house. She tells how criminals pursue them and how she makes the acquaintance inside the house of a beautiful oriental woman, Susie. The girls then find themselves locked in, and Pollie disappears. The third narrative is told by Frank Paine, Pollie’s solicitor. After Pollie’s disappearance, Emily comes to him for help when the orientals appear and proceed to sacrifice Emily. Help arrives in the form of the final narrator, Captain Max Lander, who has given a deformed Englishman and his mixed-race daughter Susie a passage to England after robbing a Chinese temple. Pollie’s uncle Benjamin Batters has been mutilated into a joss, an oriental idol, by the Chinese, who follow him to England in order to recover his services and the treasures he has stolen. The men find Susie and Pollie in the derelict house, together with Batters’s corpse and untold riches. Susie marries Lander, Emily marries Paine, and Pollie marries her fiancé Tom Cooper.

*The Twickenham Peerage (London: Methuen, 1902)*
- Alternative titles: ‘The Man in the Glass Cage; or The Strange Story of the Twickenham Peerage’ (serial), *A Case of Identity* (American editions)
- 309 pp.; 120,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 14 August 1902

In the first part of this split narrative, Douglas Howarth enters the Aquarium to see the ‘marvellous sleeping man’, a conjuror. The sleeping man, James Merrett, is an exact double of Howarth’s acquaintance Leonard Sherrington, the Marquis of Twickenham, who

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Richard Marsh has been missing for fifteen years after committing a forgery. Howarth suggests that Merrett should impersonate Twickenham and pretend to die in order to allow the heir access to the family money. The conjuror agrees, producing a convincing death, but Howarth is troubled by the resemblance: could Merrett be Twickenham? In the second narrative, Merrett’s wife Mary tells of her marital bliss and the telepathic communication between her and her husband. The third narrative is taken up by James Merrett. An adventurer, he is happily married and wishes to provide for his family. He agrees to play Twickenham, whom he has once met, clears the financial chaos left behind by the peer, and extracts enough money from the estate to keep his family comfortably for ever after. In the meantime, the real Twickenham has been trying to reform in a monastery. Seeing news of his ‘death’, he sets out for London and the remaining Twickenham fortune ends up in Catholic hands.

The Magnetic Girl (London: John Long, 1903)
- 283 pp.; 70,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 20 February 1903

The first-person narrator Norah O’Brady is the ugly duckling in a family of five daughters, and uncomfortable with feminine requirements. She has just been proposed to by Benjamin Morgan, a good but ugly man, but has moodily turned him down. Cursing her pretty sisters, Norah wishes that all men would fall in love with her at sight. An invisible hand writes a letter to her, which promises that her wish will be fulfilled – but only until the following day. Norah suddenly becomes irresistible to all men, from the baker’s boy to the duke, but in the morning she has become her usual unattractive self. Having realised that being attractive is not much fun, she decides to marry Morgan after all.

The Death Whistle (London: Anthony Treherne, 1903)
- Alternative title: The Whistle of Fate (American editions)
- 510 pp.; 130,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 27 April 1903

Dying in prison, George Edney leaves the money he has swindled to a fellow inmate, Andrew Bruce, who has divorced his wife and killed her lover. On his release, Bruce takes up rooms with Miss Netta Ludlow and digs up Edney’s fortune in Richmond Park. Bruce’s fellow lodger is Benjamin Rodway, an impecunious inventor, whose scheme Bruce promises to support. He pays the Ludlows’ debts and proposes to Netta, who accepts him. He proceeds to seek out the people who suffered because of George Edney, helping them to a new start. Bruce is in fact the heir to the Marquis of Skye, whose wife and heir have just been killed in a train crash, as intimated by the sound of ghostly bagpipes which always precedes a death in the House of Skye. Strange whistling has regularly been heard near Netta’s cottage, produced by Edney’s criminal accomplices as a signal for Bruce to give up the money. After capturing Bruce, the criminals proceed to strip his wife to the skin and allow a black man and a Jew to whip her; she is only saved from untold horrors at the last moment. The Marquis of Skye is shot and bleeds to death. Andrew Bruce is the new marquis.

A Metamorphosis (London: Methuen, 1903)
- Alternative title: ‘At Large’ (serial)
- 394 pp.; 160,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 14 August 1903
The millionaire George Otway discovers that his fiancée Dollie Lee only wants him for his money. He disappears, taking on a false identity that leads to many adventures. He is chloroformed and finds himself on board a ship belonging to Donna Luisa, a late dictator’s wife sailing to South America to start a coup. Also on board is Miss Elsie Thornton, who has come along as a lady’s companion but is treated very poorly. The repulsive Donna Luisa wishes to marry Otway for his money, but the crew members are jealous of him and send him and Elsie adrift in a rowing boat. They enjoy each other’s company on a volcanic desert island, until Elsie disappears. Eventually, Otway is picked up by a steamer and finds that Donna Luisa has imprisoned Elsie and now proceeds to hold him, too. In the meantime, Dollie has married Otway’s cousin and heir, and wishes Otway murdered. Donna Luisa and Dollie are just about to kill the prisoners when help arrives, and the two women die instead. After a long convalescence, Elsie marries Otway.

Miss Arnott’s Marriage (London: John Long, 1904)
- Alternative title: ‘By Whose Hand?’ (serial)
- 341 pp.; 95,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 10 June 1904

When Robert Champion is sent to prison, his wife Violet feels an overwhelming sense of shame and reverts back to her maiden name of Arnott. She then discovers that she has inherited an enormous fortune from a long-lost uncle. As wealthy Miss Arnott, she falls in love with her neighbour Hugh Morice and tells him her tale. Later, Robert Champion is found dead in the woods, and the lovers suspect each other of the murder. The murderer is, in fact, Miss Arnott’s companion Mrs Plummer, who is ‘Robert Champion’s’ first wife. She stabs herself to death, and Morice marries Violet Arnott, spinster.

A Duel (London: Methuen, 1904)
- Alternative title: Cuthbert Grahame’s Will (later editions)
- 324 pp.; 105,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 28 October 1904

Isabel Lamb discovers that her husband, who has pretended to be a wealthy aristocrat, is in fact a penniless shop-keeper’s son. She packs her bags, steals some money, and sets off for London, but sprains her ankle and is taken to Cuthbert Grahame’s mansion. A monstrous, dying laird, Grahame urgently wants a wife to annul his will and disinherit the young and beautiful Margaret Wallace, who has refused to marry him. In a bigamous ceremony, Isabel marries Grahame, who decides to leave his money to Margaret after all. This does not suit Isabel, who leaves Grahame to choke to death and keeps what of the money can be found. Later, Margaret’s fiancé Harry Talfourd takes on a clerical post with Isabel, who falls in love with him. When Margaret finds that Mrs Lamb is in fact Mrs Grahame, she vows to engage in a duel to death with her. The guilt-ridden Isabel keeps seeing visions of Grahame, collapses and is certified a lunatic. Grahame’s missing fortune is found behind the fireplace, and Margaret marries Talfourd.

A Spoiler of Men (London: Chatto & Windus, 1905)
- 306 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 23 March 1905

Cyril Wentworth is a swindler and a gentleman. He uses hypnotism to exploit his uncle Professor Hammond Hurle, and also speculates on the marriage market. A woman from his past charges him with being ‘Jack the Chemist’, an Australian criminal who disposes of

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his enemies by way of chemical injections. Wentworth takes recourse to his old method, and begins to send his enemies to the lunatic asylum. As a student of chemistry at Heidelberg, Wentworth has experimented on the human brain, but his professor has since found an antidote to his chemicals which turn the victims into deaf and dumb idiots. The antidote cures Wentworth’s victims, and he commits suicide.

**The Marquis of Putney** *(London: Methuen, 1905)*
- 309 pp.; 95,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 4 August 1905

The Duke of Datchet’s son and heir, the infant Marquis of Putney, is kidnapped in Hyde Park. Both the Duke and the Duchess are hiding dark secrets. Twenty years later, Putney is still missing, and the present heir is melancholy and physically deformed. Harvey Willis, a crook, appears to inform the Duke that his heir has been brought up as a criminal in revenge for the Duke’s treatment of his erstwhile mistress, Willis’s sister Margaret, who has died in labour. The Duchess is terrified of the newly-restored Putney, and the Duke dies of shock. Willis’s ‘Putney’ is in fact Margaret’s illegitimate son (and thus the Duke’s first-born), not the kidnapped heir, and has to flee the police. The real Putney has been kidnapped by Margaret’s saintly sister Dinah, who has brought him up a gentleman. In a bleak ending, the duchess is left to contemplate the years she has spent in a loveless marriage, and the new Duke prefers his kidnapper to his mother.

**The Garden of Mystery** *(London: John Long, 1906)*
- 318 pp.; 85,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 13 July 1906

At Monte Carlo, Philip Ford is stabbed by an Englishwoman who mistakes him for another man. This other man, who resembles Ford, is later found dead, but Ford has to return to England and cannot chase up the likely murderess. Back home, Ford finds her established as Eveleen, the new wife of his friend Alan Thurston. Thurston was supposed to have married the naïve Doris Owen but has deserted her for the ravishing Eveleen. When Thurston’s body is found in the garden, Eveleen proceeds to frame Doris for the murder. However, the body disappears, and when Doris is arrested, Ford reveals that Thurston is in fact recovering at his house and able to identify his actual attacker. On the way to Ford’s house, Eveleen, the real culprit, causes a car accident, killing herself. Ford marries Doris.

**In the Service of Love** *(London: Methuen, 1906)*
- 335 pp.; 100,000 words
- Unillustrated; decorative red cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 August 1906

Gilbert Hayter returns to England after seventeen years in Africa. On his first night in London, he saves a young girl from jumping into the Thames and witnesses a murderous assault on Lord Sabin. While he fetches help, Sabin’s body and some money disappear. The suicidal girl appears on the crime scene, and Hayter decides to help her. She is Doris Osborne, just released from jail for the attempt to murder her stepmother. In the meantime, Lord Sabin is discovered to be alive, and marries Doris’s stepmother, who is, however, murdered shortly after. Lord Sabin has, in fact, been murdered earlier, and has since been impersonated by an actor, a homicidal maniac who has murdered Doris’s stepmother, his partner-in-crime. Doris suffers a serious shock, from which she takes long to recover, but Hayter waits, ‘a servant in the service of love’.

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Douglass Stewart, a struggling young author, meets on holiday an anonymous woman, with whom he falls in love, but she disappears without leaving her name. In town, she turns out to be the Honourable Diana Alys Gwendolen Chiltern, a Maid of Honour, courted by a number of men, including the wealthy but sinister Ferdinand Beissmann. She wishes Douglas to engage lodgings for a foreign male friend of hers. The friend turns out to be the young, impetuous King of Idalia, who has been flirting with Lady Diana. This is his first holiday ever, but anarchists, led by Beissmann, are stalking him, and a royal scandal threatens. The king leaves for Idalia in the midst of confusion, and Douglas and Diana both marry happily within their respective social circles.

The eccentrc miser Donald Lindsay is struck down by apoplexy and dies, unable to tell his daughter Nora where his money comes from. Nora’s poor friend Elaine Harding is staying with her and has stolen £3000 from the dead man’s study. She elopes with her unscrupulous fiancé Herbert Nash. Nora, penniless, takes cheap lodgings in London and finds secretarial work. Lindsay has been running a patent medicine company under a false name, and has died of shock after learning of a complicated conspiracy by a minor character to forge his signature. Nora marries her fiancé Robert Spencer, and the Nashes prosper in Canada.

Claire Seton’s father dies after remarrying, and Claire is turned out without a penny. When she is arrested for the murder of Lady Poynder and the attempted murder of Sir John Poynder, she receives free legal assistance from Leonard Cleethorpes and Bertram Drummond. Cleethorpe’s fiancée Alice Mahony has dreamt that she has killed Lady Poynder, who has been about to elope with her sister’s husband, the Marquis of Sark. Alice has been told that she will be hanged on her wedding day, and her coat is splattered with blood. Did Alice shoot Lady Poynder while sleepwalking? In fact, Sir John has been the victim of an anarchist plot to secure his money through marriage to Claire’s stepmother, an anarchist. Lady Poynder’s plans to elope with the Marquis of Sark would have led to the annulment of the marriage settlement and the collapse of the plot to secure Sir John’s fortune. Lady Poynder has subsequently been killed by Alice’s maid, another anarchist, wearing her mistress’s clothes. The maid blows herself up, and Claire is released to marry Drummond.

The Coward behind the Curtain (London: Methuen, 1908)

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Schoolgirl Dorothy Gilbert is given into the custody of George Emmett, who contemplates raping her. Hiding behind a curtain, she sees a young man smash a bottle across Emmett’s head, leaving him for dead. She escapes through the window when the corpse begins to gasp for air. She tells her story to her casual acquaintance Eric Frazer, actually the Earl of Strathmoira, who takes her to stay with his friends; the police are in pursuit. The actual murderer, Leonard Arnecliffe, is a friend of Dorothy’s father. When it turns out that brain surgery has saved Emmett, it seems that Dorothy will marry Leonard, now cleared of murder charges.

**The Surprising Husband** (London: Methuen, 1908)
- 325 pp.; 95,000 words
- Unillustrated; red decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 July 1908

George Vanderhorn’s wife Evelyn gives birth to a Negroid baby. George has just received a delayed letter from his father warning him not to marry because there was black blood on his mother’s side; George himself, apparently, has been born black but has grown blond during his English education. Ironically, both George and Evelyn have strong views against racial miscegenation; Evelyn is horrified that she has married a man of mixed race. Their French landlady, Madame Durand, and her enormous black lover Monsieur Pompon kidnap and kill the black baby, replacing him with a white baby girl, and proceed to blackmail the couple. Deserted by his wife, George kills Pompon and drowns himself. After George’s death, Evelyn marries her old friend Frank Halford. Their baby is white.

**The Interrupted Kiss** (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1909)
- 328 pp.; 80,000 words
- Frontispiece by Rex Osborne; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 18 February 1909

When the disagreeable usurer John Culver is murdered, cousins Clare Harmar and Elsie Grahame suspect Clare’s husband Edwin and Elsie’s fiancé Rupert. Elsie now refuses to hear of her engagement to Rupert, or of completing the kiss that had been interrupted earlier on. Another man, Walter Palgrave, has also disappeared during the night; could he be the murderer? In fact, the culprit is the butler’s cousin, a tramp and a jailbird, who dies of a gunshot he accidentally inflicts on himself. The middle-class characters live happily ever after, and the kiss is completed.

**A Royal Indiscretion** (London: Methuen, 1909)
- 311 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 26 July 1909

Princess Helena, who is soon to marry the King of Idalia, has an adventure with Oscar Danvers, a Cambridge undergraduate. Under a false identity, Helena goes to the May Races at Cambridge with her lady-in-waiting. At Cambridge, the plain princess goes unnoticed until the ball, where she shines. In the end, she is recognised by an aristocrat and has to leave Cambridge because the King of Idalia is on his way to England and a royal scandal threatens.

**Live Men’s Shoes** (London: Methuen, 1910)
- 309 pp.; 105,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 18 February 1910

By Minna Vuohelainen
John Barry is woken up in Messina by a powerful earthquake which kills everybody, presumably including his criminal friend Percival Talbot. Barry proceeds to take over the dead man’s identity. He saves the life of a young Englishwoman, Kate Hallam, actually Lady Betty Fotheringham, whose brother has been sent to prison by the Talbot family. The brother has since become indebted to a Polish usurer, who is willing to write off the debts if Betty agrees to marry him, but she has fled to Italy under a false name. Uncertain of her feelings, Betty marries Barry, acting under the name of Talbot, on the understanding that the marriage will remain unconsummated until she decides otherwise. The real Talbot’s house is populated by robbers, whom Barry gives away to the police. Under a deal he has made with the real Talbot, he now comes into possession of the property. His marriage to Betty is a success.

**The Lovely Mrs Blake** (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1910)
- 342 pp.; 80,000 words
- Frontispiece by Evelyn Lomax; plain blue covers
- British Library date stamp: 30 September 1910

George Blake returns home to find his wife and baby vanished upon the expected visit of his old friend Gilbert Watson. Watson has never met Mrs Blake, but seems to recognise her picture; he is courting Olive Norton, a neighbour. In fact, Mrs Blake has in the past married a Gilbert Watson, whom she has believed dead, and Blake fears she may have committed suicide, believing herself to be a bigamist. Mrs Blake has, in fact, plunged a pair of scissors into her throat in a failed suicide attempt but is now hiding in a cottage in the woods. She quickly recovers at the sight of her husband but fails to recognise Watson. Watson is actually Jack Graham, who has taken the name of his dead cousin Gilbert Watson, Mrs Blake’s previous husband, because his rich uncle’s will states that his heir must be called ‘Gilbert Watson’. Watson marries Olive and the Blakes’ domestic bliss is restored.

**Twin Sisters** (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1911)
- 326 pp.; 80,000 words
- Frontispiece by Gilbert Wright; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 1 June 1911

This criminal romance revolves around confused identities and the unreliability of women. Dolly and Madge are identical twin sisters. One of them appears to have been involved in illicit sex with strangers, burglary and murder, but which one? The real culprit is Dolly’s maid, who has dressed up as her mistress.

**Violet Forster’s Lover** (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1912)
- 342 pp.; 90,000 words
- Frontispiece by E.S. Hodgson; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 1 April 1912

Sydney Beaton, an officer, is accused of cheating in a card game, and leaves his regiment in anger. He is in serious financial trouble and calls off his engagement with Violet Forster. The starving Sydney becomes a criminal, until Violet surprises him in the act of burgling a house. It is shown that Sydney was framed by a fellow officer and he is welcomed back to the mess, now an aged man. Violet and Sydney marry and go to Australia, until news reaches them that Sydney has inherited a family fortune.

**A Master of Deception** (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1913)
- 336 pp.; 80,000 words
- Frontispiece by Dudley Tennant; plain red covers
Rodney Elmore has inherited criminal tendencies from his father, but his charm always wins through. He adds to his income through various means, including swindling and theft, and is simultaneously courting four women: the rich one (Stella) he promises to marry, his bubbly cousin (Gladys) is intended for a free union, the mischievous one (Mary) he plans to marry once they have both secured some money, and his landlady’s daughter (Mabel) is pregnant. When his uncle, who knows of Rodney’s family background, gets difficult, Rodney poisons him on a train. As the authorities begin to close in, Rodney vanishes together with a good deal of money and Mary.

Justice—Suspended (London: Chatto & Windus, 1913)
- 407 pp.; 95,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 10 September 1913

Sir Hugh Arkwright, a judge and a pillar of society, has to pass sentence on Charles Bryant. Sir Hugh is a man with a past and Bryant is his long-lost son, whose mother has deserted Sir Hugh upon his prison sentence many years ago. Bryant now proceeds to blackmail Sir Hugh, who has spent his life trying to redeem the past. The shock kills Sir Hugh, and his fortune goes to Bryant who has stolen a will in favour of Constance Orde, Sir Hugh’s adopted daughter. Bryant shows himself a reasonable man and makes many friends. He also possesses a lovely wife and a daughter who know nothing of his criminal career. However, Bryant’s enemies are after him, and he dies in a shoot-out with one of them.

Margot—and her Judges (London: Chatto & Windus, 1914)
- 337 pp.; 90,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain blue cover
- British Library date stamp: 3 March 1915

The actress Margot Lawton is accused of a number of thefts by her friends. Circumstantial evidence is against her, and she may have inherited bad blood from her criminal father, who nearly murders the Jewish usurer Daniel Eckstein, one of her suitors. Eventually, the real culprits are caught and Margot marries Basil White, the love of her life.

The Woman in the Car (London and Leipsic: T. Fisher Unwin, 1914)
- 311 pp.; 110,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 April 1915

Two intertwined plots run through this very complex story dealing with the confused identities of two dead men found in central London on the same night. The plotline features several murders, men and women with hidden pasts, a man-eating pet tiger, look-a-likes, planned elopements, shamming death, and a seemingly driverless car, indicative of Marsh’s growing interest in modern technology.

Molly’s Husband (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1914)
- 342 pp.; 75,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain green cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 November 1914

Molly Mitford’s ruthless mother forces her to marry the rich Jack Waller, although she loves the penniless Harry Drummond. After the wedding, Waller disappears and Molly takes to governessing, unwilling to draw on her husband’s wealth. Criminal characters pursue Molly to gain access to Waller’s money. After Molly is kidnapped, Waller makes a timely return to
save her and blows up the criminals’ den. He has been involved in a coup in South America, but has not paid his accomplices. When Waller is stabbed to death, Molly is arrested for his murder, in fact committed by one of his enemies. A rich widow, Molly is released to marry Harry.

**His Love or his Life: A Romance** (London: Chatto & Windus, 1915)
- 309 pp.; 90,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 29 January 1915

Graham Burke has served two years’ hard labour at Canterstone jail for robbing his ward Enid Whitaker. He is innocent, and she has sent him to jail because he has refused to marry her. Upon his return home, Burke finds Enid established in the neighbourhood as the companion of Olive Barber, whose life Burke has saved before his prison sentence but whose acquaintance he has never made. Enid vows to send him to the gallows if he does not marry her. When the body of the judge who sentenced Burke is found in his house, Burke is sentenced to be hanged. He escapes but is caught, and accepts his fate despite his love for Olive. He is on the gallows when the pardon arrives, secured at the last minute by Enid, who was the actual cause of the judge’s accidental death. Burke goes to meet Olive, who is just setting off in deep mourning to view his body.

- 320 pp.; 80,000 words
- Illustrated by Charles Horrell; green decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 20 May 1915

Martin Adair, a poor man, saves Jerningham Creed, a usurer, from being robbed, and receives a clerical post in exchange. When Creed is murdered, he leaves his fortune to Adair, who is very lenient with his debtors. Adair takes lodgings at Putney with Miss Winifred Dennis, whom he has seen at Creed’s chambers on the night of the murder. She is Creed’s debtor, but the usurer has had many enemies, who almost kill Adair. Adair, however, survives time after time. Adair is in fact Lord Maurice Ashurst, the younger son of the Marquis of Staines, who has borne the blame for the family’s bankruptcy to protect the real culprit, his elder brother. Creed, it transpires, was his father’s cousin who, bearing a brunt against the family, has left his fortune (and his enemies) to his relative as a curse. Adair settles with the criminals, makes money from investing in the new inventions of Winifred’s friend, marries Winifred, and learns that he has become the Marquis.

**Love in Fetters** (London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne: Cassell, 1915)
- 319 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 August 1915

Ronald Denton is arrested for murder in France. A train crash kills the officer in charge of him and he escapes, only to fall into the clutches of the criminal mastermind Madeline de Constal. At her secluded castle, he meets Alice Hudson, a penniless orphan, and falls in love with her. Neither is allowed to leave the premises or communicate with the outside world. Alice is, in fact, a rich heiress, and the criminals hope to gain access to her money. Ronald attacks his captors, finding out that he has only been arrested for a financial irregularity, not murder. Alice and Ronald marry, but the villains escape.

- 320 pp.; 80,000 words
- Frontispiece by E.S. Farmer; green decorative covers
Marjorie Campbell’s mother dies suddenly upon hearing of the death of her husband, whom Marjorie has never known. Marjorie flees from the sinister executors of her mother’s estate and has a car accident. She is rescued by Jim Turner, an engineer who loves cars and planes. His employer’s daughter, Lily Heasman, is jealous of Marjorie, but her father Mr Heasman employs her as his secretary. Marjorie also becomes Jim’s flying partner in an attempt to fly around Britain in record time. Lily conjures up a criminal charge against Marjorie, and the pair have to avoid the police on the eve of the flying competition. They win the race in spite of appalling weather conditions, become the toast of the country, marry, and find out that Marjorie’s father is alive and a wealthy man.

- 382 pp.; 100,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain blue cover
- British Library date stamp: 18 April 1916
In the first part of this split narrative, the penniless clerk Hugh Beckwith relates how he is abducted by a group of Russians who dress him in a Russian cab-driver’s uniform, the lining of which contains a number of brown pellets. Beckwith escapes and is recruited to take the pellets to New York for a considerable fee. Beckwith’s fiancée Catherine Fraser relates how she travels on the same cruiser as Beckwith, and how he is nearly murdered. Finally, an omniscient narrator reveals that the pellets are the stolen Romanoff Pearls, intended for the greedy wife of the American millionaire Parker Van Groot for her birthday. The resourceful Catherine has posted them to New York, and has just produced them when a Russian prince walks in to claim them. Mrs Van Groot decides that if she is not to have the greatest pearl necklace in the world, she will have the most expensive hat. She buys the hat Catherine has been making for £10,000, making the fortune of the young couple, who begin a millinery business.

- 320 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 31 August 1916
On her twenty-first birthday, Helen Arnold is dismissed from work because her fiancé Jack Yarrow has cashed in one of her employer’s cheques in her name. In her desperation, Helen marries an old suitor, the eccentric and wealthy Percy Osborne, who agrees not to claim any of his marital rights. After five years of marriage, Helen falls in love with the American businessman Peter Van Coster, who realises that Helen is the heiress to an American fortune. Yarrow then reappears and threatens Helen with exposure. The Osbornes have an argument, at the end of which Percy Osborne is found shot dead. Suspicion falls on Helen, but Van Coster comes to her help. Osborne, a bigamist, was in fact killed by a German waiter in search of ready cash, and Helen is freed to marry Van Coster.

The Deacon’s Daughter (London: John Long, [1917])
- 318 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain purple cover
- British Library date stamp: 13 June 1917
Frank Farmer, pastor of Brasted Congregational Church, is an earnest young man from modest origins; he is engaged to the deacon’s daughter, Joan Watkins. Farmer goes to Monte Carlo for a fortnight to study gambling at first hand so that he can preach against it. On his last night Farmer plays at the tables and wins over £60,000. He is shocked at his
gambling and pursued by criminals, but reaches Brasted without harm. There, his congregation congratulate him and Joan tells him she never wanted to be the wife of a pastor.

**Outwitted** *(London: John Long, [1919])*
- 320 pp.; 70,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain green cover
- British Library date stamp: 9 July 1919

The Cornish inventor Stephen Woolgar has sold his invention of an impregnable fortress to Germany before the war, and is now shunned as a traitor and threatened by the Germans. The Germans are in the vicinity, planning to obscure a lighthouse in order to sink a British ship, and certain local inhabitants are collaborating with them. Together with the lighthouse keeper Tom Eva, Woolgar defeats the Germans, who are treating local women badly. Woolgar’s patriotism is proven, and the ending sees Woolgar and Eva marry their respective fiancées.

**Apron-Strings** *(London: John Long, [1920])*
- 254 pp.; 70,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 9 June 1920

Peggy Simpson, a Frivolity girl, is engaged to Stanley Brock, a struggling playwright, but they cannot afford to marry. Among Peggy’s admirers is the naïve Sir Frank Picard, the richest bachelor in England, who is completely dominated by his mother. Peggy obtains a promise of marriage from Sir Frank only in order to threaten him with a suit for breach of promise. To achieve this, Peggy visits the Picards in vulgar dress, donning a Cockney accent, and gains a £10,000 cheque in exchange for parting from Sir Frank. She returns home to find out that Stanley’s play has been accepted unconditionally and returns the cheque to show her faith in her fiancé’s abilities.
Section 5: Richard Marsh’s Short-Story Collections

All collections were signed. The British Library date stamp has been used as a rough indicator of publication date, with cataloguing usually taking place within two months of issue. The approximate length of the volumes has been calculated by multiplying the length of an average page by the total number of pages. This figure has then been rounded down to the 5000 immediately below it.


- 255 pp.; 80,000 words (Marsh’s contributions approximately 30,000 words)
- Frontispiece by John Williamson (to accompany a story by Ernest G. Henham); tan decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 21 March 1898

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Curios: Some Strange Adventures of Two Bachelors (London: John Long, 1898)

- 287 pp.; 60,000 words
- Illustrated by J. Ayton Symington; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 13 December 1898

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**Frivolities: Especially Addressed to Those Who Are Tired of Being Serious** (London: Bowden, 1899)

- Alternative title: *The Purse Which Was Found and Other Stories* (later editions)
- 336 pp.; 65,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 26 May 1899

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**Marvels and Mysteries** (London: Methuen, 1900)

- 312 pp.; 70,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 27 February 1900

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**The Seen and the Unseen** (London: Methuen, 1900)

- 320 pp.; 95,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 23 August 1900

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An Aristocratic Detective (London: Digby, Long, 1900)

- 310 pp.; 70,000 words
- Frontispiece by Harold Piffard; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 4 December 1900

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**Amusement Only** (London: Hurst & Blackett, 1901)

- 340 pp.; approximate length: 70,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain brown covers
- British Library date stamp: 7 June 1901

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**Both Sides of the Veil** (London: Methuen, 1901)

- 306 pp.; 85,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 19 July 1901

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The Adventures of Augustus Short: Things Which I Have Done for Others and Wish I Hadn’t (London: Anthony Treherne, 1902)

- 215 pp.; 50,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 5 May 1902

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**Between the Dark and the Daylight** *(London: Digby, Long, 1902)*

- 327 pp.; 75,000 words
- Frontispiece by Oscar Wilson; green decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 4 June 1902

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Garnered (London: Methuen, 1904)

- 312 pp.; 85,000 words
- Unillustrated; green decorative cover
- British Library date stamp: 4 February 1904

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### Confessions of a Young Lady: Her Doings and Misdoin gs (London: John Long, 1905)

- 303 pp.; 90,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 19 January 1905

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<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 23 (February 1902), 137-46</td>
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<td>‘The End of his Holiday’, 169-89</td>
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<td>‘A Mutual Affinity’, 221-42</td>
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<td>‘Magical Music’, 243-69</td>
<td><em>Gentleman’s Magazine</em>, 270 (May 1891), 433-51</td>
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<td>‘The Runaway Wife’, 270-303</td>
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**Under One Flag** (London: John Long, 1906)

- 312 pp.; 100,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 13 July 1906

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<td>'Our Musical Comedy', 56-81</td>
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<td>'Staggers', 82-104</td>
<td>Windsor Magazine, 13 (April 1901), 611-21 Reworking of 'That Stag I Hunted' in <em>The Adventures of Augustus Short</em> (1902)</td>
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<td>'My Wedding Day', 105-27</td>
<td>Strand Magazine, 29 (January 1905), 87-96</td>
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<td>'Two of a Trade', 128-44</td>
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<td>'An Episcopal Scandal', 223-42</td>
<td>Cornhill Magazine, 22 (February 1894), 167-80</td>
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<td>'Mr Bloxam and the British Constitution', 243-62</td>
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<td>'For Debt', 263-82</td>
<td>Windsor Magazine, 15 (January 1902), 231-39</td>
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<td>'The Thirteen Club', 283-312</td>
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The Girl in the Blue Dress (London: John Long, 1909)

- 318 pp.; 70,000 words
- Unillustrated; pictorial cover
- British Library date stamp: 23 April 1909

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<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 36 (December 1908), 753-64</td>
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<td>”The Course of True Love Never Did Run Smooth”, 201-20</td>
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<td>‘In Pursuit’, 221-73</td>
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<td>Reworking of ‘A Relic of the Borgias’ in <em>Between the Dark and the Daylight</em> (1902)</td>
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<td>‘Miss Waring’s Elopement’, 288-318</td>
<td><em>Cassell’s Magazine</em> (February 1909), 244-55</td>
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A Drama of the Telephone (London: Digby, Long, 1911)

- 318 pp.; 80,000 words
- Frontispiece by Leonard Linsdelliger (?); plain indigo cover
- British Library date stamp: 8 April 1911

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<td>Union Jack, 1.36 (2 September 1880), 564-66</td>
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<td>Union Jack, 1.37 (9 September 1880), 588-91</td>
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<td>Strand Magazine, 38 (October 1909), 420-28</td>
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<td>‘A Fortune at a Find’, 255-94</td>
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<td>‘Sir Philip’, 295-318</td>
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**Sam Briggs: His Book** (London: John Long, 1912)

- 304 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain green covers
- British Library date stamp: 8 June 1912

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<td>Sam Briggs Humour</td>
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<td>'The Gift Horse', 37-63</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 29 (March 1905), 281-90</td>
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<td>'Her Fourth', 64-96</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 30 (December 1905), 760-70</td>
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<td>'A Modest Half-Crown', 97-126</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 30 (November 1905), 497-507</td>
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<td>'A Social Evening', 127-55</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 33 (April 1907), 389-97</td>
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<td>'That Hansom', 156-80</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 31 (May 1906), 564-71</td>
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<td>'The Star of Romance', 181-210</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 34 (July 1907), 81-88</td>
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<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 35 (February 1908), 151-57</td>
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<td>'Outside!', 286-97</td>
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<td>'Ninepence', 298-304</td>
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**Judith Lee: Some Pages from her Life** (London: Methuen, 1912)

- 317 pp.; 95,000 words
- Illustrated by W.R.S. Stott and J.R. Skelton; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 26 July 1912

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<td>'Conscience', 47-69</td>
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<td>&quot;Auld Lang Syne&quot;, 121-42</td>
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<td>'Isolda', 143-74</td>
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<td>'Was It by Chance Only?', 175-204</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 43 (April 1912), 433-44</td>
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<td>'Uncle Jack', 205-37</td>
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<td>'Mandragora', 238-67</td>
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<td>&quot;8 Elm Grove—Back Entrance&quot;, 268-90</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 44 (July 1912), 54-64</td>
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**If It Please You** *(London: Methuen, 1913)*

- 316 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 10 March 1913

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<td>'Minerva’, 28-52</td>
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<td>'Two Stories’, 79-100</td>
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<td>'The Touchstone of Fortune’, 101-69</td>
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By Minna Vuohelainen

- 314 pp.; 85,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red covers
- British Library date stamp: 14 September 1916

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<td>‘On Two Trains’, 271-314</td>
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- 317 pp.; approximate length: 75,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain blue cover
- British Library date stamp: 21 December 1915

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<td>'Baptism of Fire', 30-66</td>
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<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 50 (July 1915), 23-34</td>
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<td>'In their Own Gas', 200-33</td>
<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 50 (September 1915), 258-69</td>
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<td><em>Strand Magazine</em>, 50 (December 1915), 636-45</td>
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On the Jury (London: Methuen, 1918)

- 299 pp.; 75,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain red cover
- British Library date stamp: 13 February 1918

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Orders to Marry (London: John Long, [1918])

- 320 pp.; 80,000 words
- Unillustrated; plain brown cover
- British Library date stamp: 19 November 1918

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Section 6: Secondary Sources


---, ‘Distorting the Genre, Defining the Audience, Detecting the Author: Richard Marsh’s “For Debt” (1902)’, *Clues: A Journal of Detection*, 25.4 (Summer 2007), pp. 17-26


Victorian novels tend to be idealized portraits of difficult lives in which hard work, perseverance, love and luck win out in the end. They were usually inclined towards being of improving nature with a central moral lesson at heart. While this formula was the basis for much of earlier Victorian fiction, the situation became more complex as the century progressed.