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EPISODE 2: THE MURDER

- About: Ruth SnyderThe murder
 - The murder, the trial, and the media



Figure 12: Ruth Snyder, 1927

RUTH SNYDER

The Woman

- Born in 1895 in Manhattan, NY to working-class Scandinavian immigrants.
- At 19, she met 32-year-old **Albert Snyder**, the art director of *Motor Boating* Magazine, who hired her as a reader and copyist. They married the following year in 1915.
 - Had a daughter, Lorraine, in 1918.
- Started an affair with 33-year-old Henry Judd Gray, a corset salesman, in 1925.



Figure 13: Ruth Snyder official mugshot

The Murder

- With Gray's help, she murdered her husband in her home on March 20, 1927.
- What she told the police: two "giant Italians" had broken into her house in Queens, knocked her unconscious, tied her up, and left her in the hallway. Then, while her 9-year-old daughter was still asleep, they killed her husband and stole her jewelry.
 - Police found the jewelry hidden under a mattress and found no evidence of a break-in. They also discovered that just before her husband's murder, Snyder forged a double-indemnity insurance policy in his name for nearly \$100,000 in the event of his accidental death.
- What actually happened: They killed Snyder's husband by hitting him with a
 weight from a window sash, stuffing chloroform-soaked cotton up his nose,
 and strangling him with picture frame wire.
 - According to Gray, Snyder had previously attempted to kill her husband seven times via asphyxiation and poison, etc.



Figure 14: Henry Judd Gray

The Trial

- 1,500 people packed into the courtroom every day of the trial, while up to 2,000 people mobbed the streets outside.
- On April 30, 1927, Snyder testified that even though she had a loveless marriage she had tried to stop Judd Gray from murdering her husband. During her testimony, one reporter claimed that the audience was "snickering, cynical, [and] unbelieving."
- In his final statement, the lawyer representing Gray called Snyder "a designing, malicious human serpent of a woman."
- Both Snyder and Gray were found guilty and sentenced to death by electrocution.
- Executed for "murder in the first degree" on January 12, 1928 at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, NY.

The Media

- The driving force behind the excessive press coverage was a **New York** tabloid war between the *Daily Graphic*, the *Daily News*, and the *Daily Mirror*. To outsell each other, they latched onto (mostly false) stories with little relevance to the case and used lurid details to draw readers in. In its coverage, the tabloid press turned Snyder and Gray into sensational figures straight out of a Hollywood movie. This was especially true of Snyder, who became the story's femme fatale. Tabloids described her as a "synthetic blonde murderess" (note: Snyder was a brunette), a "vampire wife" and "Ruthless Ruth, the Viking Ice Matron of Queens Village."
- Journalist Damon Runyon Damon Runyon said the crime was so "idiotic," he coined it, "The Dumbbell Murders," because the murderers were so dumb.
- The Mirror hired a well-known phrenologist to study photos of Ruth Snyder. His conclusion was that her mouth was "as cold, hard, and unsympathetic as a crack in a dried lemon."
- Gray, Synder's lover, spoke frequently to the tabloids, painting himself as a victim. Before the trial began, he told the *Daily News* that: "...she hypnotized my mind with her eyes she would gain control over my body by slapping my cheeks with the palms of her hand."
- There were no cameras allowed in the room at Sing Sing Correctional Facility where Snyder's execution took place, but a photographer managed to sneak one in on his ankle. At the moment of her electrocution, he lifted his pant leg and pressed a shutter release in his jacket, capturing a blurry picture of her body shaking from the electricity. The next day, the *Daily News* ran the photo of Snyder—bound, masked, and dying—on the front page under the headline "DEAD!" It sold out in 15 minutes.
 - The editors of the *Daily News* knew that the Sing Sing guards were familiar with all of their reporters, so they outsourced. Tom Howard, a photographer for the *Chicago Tribune* which owned the *Daily News*, agreed to go to Sing Sing as an undercover reporter.
 - This was the first photo ever taken of an electric chair execution.



Figure 15: Photographer Tom Howard's ankle camera



Figure 16: Cover of the NY Daily News on January 13, 1928

Learn More!

- Listen: Criminally Dumb: The Murder of Albert Snyder (Apple Podcast)
- Listen: <u>The Women of Death Row: The Dumbell Murders</u> (Audible Podcast)
- Read: <u>The 1927 Murder That Became a Media Circus</u> (History.com)

Sources: American Heritage, History, New York Times, Queens Gazette, Ranker, Skull & Dagger Dramatic Society at San Diego State University, StMu Research Scholars

EPISODE 3: THE PLAY

- Expressionism: the theatrical style explained
- The 1920s at a Glance: historical context for the play
 - Music, literature, marital and abortion rights, homosexuality, and more
- Execution by Electrocution: How long we've been doing it and how it works
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EXPRESSIONISM

What Is Expressionism?

A late 19th Century / early 20th Century art movement, initially in painting and poetry, that originated in Germany then quickly developed throughout Northern Europe and eventually the world. It extended to a wide range of other arts including architecture, literature, theatre, dance, film, and music.

5 Notable Expressionist Paintings

Expressionist paintings are often grouped by other characteristics like Surrealism (Salvador Dalí), Symbolism (Gustav Klimt), Cubism (Pablo Picasso), Fauvism (Henri Matisse), etc. A typical trait of expressionist paintings is to present the world in a subjective way, distorting reality for emotional effect in order to evoke certain moods or ideas.

- 1. The Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh (1889): One of the most recognized paintings in Western art, this painting has many symbolic elements. The contrast in styles plays on the natural versus the unnatural, dreams versus reality.
- 2. The Scream by Edvard Munch (1893): One of the most iconic modern art pieces in the world, it is renowned for embodying the profound sense of angst and anxiety that permeated the early modernist era. The painting is largely autobiographical as it is based on Munch's experience hearing a piercing 'scream of nature' after being left behind by two of his friends, who appear in the background of the piece.
- 3. The Blue Rider by Wassily Kandinsky (1903): This painting offers a bridge between the meticulous brushwork of Impressionism and the subjective imagery of the Expressionist movement, featuring softer brushstrokes and a pastoral setting.



Figure 17: The Starry Night



Figure 18: The Scream

- 4. The Large Blue Horses by Franz Marc (1911): The blue color and soft curvature of the central horses form "a sense of harmony, peace and balance" against the stark red of the hills in the background. Marc stated that this contrast displayed the juxtaposition between tranquil spirituality and violence, evoking a sense of transcendence.
- 5. <u>Self-Portrait with Chinese Lantern Plant</u> by Egon Schiele (1912): The artist sits at an angle, looking at the viewer with a look of skepticism. His head and facial features are enlarged, and the body twisted unnaturally, insinuating a subtle tension that permeates the piece.



Figure 19: The Large Blue Horses

Expressionist Drama

With early influences from Swedish playwright August Strindberg (*Miss Julie*, *The Ghost Sonata*), Expressionism was a dominant influence in early 20th Century German theatre and enjoyed a brief period of success in American Theatre through the 1920s.

4 Notable Expressionist Plays

The primary intent of Expressionist drama was to uncover intense emotions by exploring the failure of societal systems like the government, big business, the military, family structures, and sexism. Plays usually had short episodic scenes, flat characters, repetitive dialogue and action, and a sense of confusion between inner and outer realities. Set pieces and props were used sparingly with much more emphasis on creating striking sound and lighting design. When scenery was used, it was typically very symbolic and was a purposeful exaggeration of the setting.

- 1. *From Morning to Midnight* by Georg Kaiser (1912): Tells the story of a cashier in a provincial bank who in an effort to impress a beautiful customer steals sixty thousand marks. When he discovers that she has a son he rejects her and returns home. There, he rejects his own family and flees to an unidentified metropolis, where he attempts to use his new-found wealth to buy passion.
- 2. *The Hairy Ape* by Eugene O'Neill (1922): Centered on a beastly, unthinking laborer known as Yank, the protagonist of the play, as he searches for a sense of belonging in a world controlled by the rich.
- 3. *The Adding Machine* by Elmer Rice (1923): The story focuses on Mr. Zero, an accountant at a large, faceless company. After 25 years at his job, he discovers that he will be replaced by an adding machine. In anger and pain, he snaps and kills his boss.
- 4. *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell (1928): Follows the life of a young woman who, constrained by a society that favors men and money, marries her employer despite not loving him. It is the story of a woman battling the consequences of decisions she feels powerless to overturn in order to find some sense of agency in her life.







Figure 9: Machinal (Almeida Theatre)

Sources: Google Arts & Culture, Kandinsky Paintings, Masterclass, The Collector

THE 1920s AT A GLANCE

From flappers and the explosion of jazz music and art deco, mass-produced Ford Model Ts, the expansion of electricity into the home, to the growing popularity of radio broadcasts—the "Roaring Twenties" was a decade of discovery. But it was also a time of great strife. Alcohol, abortion, and homosexuality were illegal. And KKK membership was at its peak, exceeding four million people nationwide.

1920

- The 19th Amendment is ratified, giving women the right to vote. Many women (primarily women of color) remained unable to vote for several more decades due to discriminatory state voting laws.
- The first commercially licensed radio station began broadcasting. By 1926, there were over 700 commercial radio stations across the country.



1921

- The Band-Aid is invented.
- The polygraph (lie detector) is invented.

1923

- The instant camera, with self-developing film, is invented.
- For the first time, insulin is mass-produced for the treatment of diabetes.
- *Time Magazine* is published for the first time.



The very first Winter Olympics take place in Chamonix, France.



Television is invented.

1927

- Charles Lindbergh completes the first solo transatlantic flight from New York to Paris.
- New York Yankees star Babe Ruth hits his 60th home run of the season— a record that will stand for more than 30 years.
- The Jazz Singer, the first talking motion picture, premieres.

1928

- Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.
- Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean as a passenger.
- Walt Disney creates the first animated short film, Steamboat Willy.





Figure 20: 1923 radio



1929

The Stock Market crashes with an estimated loss of \$50 billion, leading to the Great Depression.

Music:

Popular musicians: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Fats Waller, Count Basie, Bessie Smith, Mamie Smith, Ma Rainey

Popular songs: "Creole Love Call," "Black Bottom," "T'ain't Nobody's Biz-Ness If I Do," "Rhapsody in Blue," "It Had to Be You," "St. Louis Blues," "Makin' Whoopee," "Ol' Man River," "Ain't Misbehavin"

Popular dances: the "Charleston," the "Black Bottom," the "Shimmy," the "Foxtrot," the "Lindy Hop"

Literature:

1920 - *The Age of Innocence* (Edith Wharton)

1922 - *Ulysses* (James Joyce), *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Margery Williams), *The Waste Land* (T. S. Eliot)

1925 - *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald), *Mrs. Dalloway* (Virginia Woolf)

1926 - The Weary Blues (Langston Hughes), The Sun Also Rises (Ernest Hemingway), Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne)

1927 - *To the Lighthouse* (Virginia Woolf)

1928 - *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (D.H. Lawrence)

1929 - *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Erich Maria Remarque), *The Sound and the Fury* (William Faulkner), *A Farewell to Arms* (Ernest Hemingway), *Passing* (Nella Larsen)

Homosexuality:

Homosexuality was illegal in the '20s, but there was a lot of experimentation happening behind closed doors. Speakeasies (underground establishments that sold alcohol and played dance music) were illegal but also numerous and popular during the Prohibition years (1920-1933), and they were home to people who felt empowered to celebrate themselves and their sexuality. Drag kings and queens often performed at speakeasies that served a wide array of patrons from different walks of life. Drag balls and costume contests also became popular. But the freedom that queer people found in the 20s underground was "wiped into historical oblivion by a fierce backlash in the 30's — part of a wider Depression-era condemnation of the cultural experimentation" during the previous decade.

Abortion:

Abortions, as well as other reproductive health care options, were not accessible or widely practiced at the time. But they were still happening by the millions. "Women on their deathbeds were often threatened to give so-called 'dying declarations' in which they admitted to their abortions and named the people connected with them—including, if the woman was unwed, the man responsible for the pregnancy, who could be arrested and even sent to prison. It was a common policy to deny a woman suffering from abortion complications life-saving medical care until she 'confessed'— a practice that kept women from seeking timely treatment, sometimes with fatal results. In the late 1920s, some 15,000 women a year died from abortions."

Infidelity & Divorce:

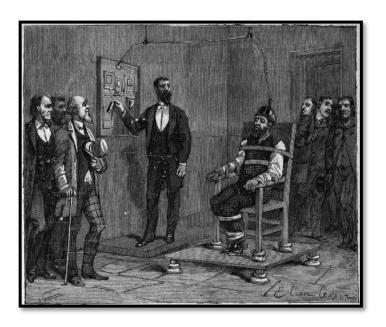
While the air of liberation and the rise of female empowerment made sexual freedom and infidelity common throughout the decade, adultery was still publicly condemned—particularly by conservative religious groups. Although divorce had become more attainable in the '20s, it still carried a heavy stigma. There were few legal resources or options for women as divorce would only be granted in cases of adultery, although exceptions were sometimes made in cases of bigamy or impotence. If a woman called for divorce, she had to prove that she was of sound mind if she wished to gain custody of her children. A divorced woman was often referred to as a "moral fire alarm" because of the danger she represented to society.

Sources: The Atlantic, Britannica, History (Flappers), History (Gay Culture), History (KKK), PBS, NY Times, Time Magazine

Execution by Electrocution

Conceived in 1881 by a Buffalo, New York dentist named Alfred P. Southwick, it was developed as a supposedly humane alternative to hanging, and first used in 1890. The electric chair remained the prominent execution method in the U.S. until the mid-1980s when lethal injection became widely accepted as the new default method for capital punishment.

Martha M. Place became the first woman executed in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison on March 20, 1899, for the murder of her 17-year-old stepdaughter. **Ruth Snyder** became the second woman executed by electrocution on January 12, 1928 for the murder of her husband.



The condemned person's head and leg are shaved on the day of the execution. After the condemned is escorted to and seated in a wooden chair, their arms and legs are tightly strapped with leather belts to restrict movement or resistance. A cap with a moistened sponge is affixed to the inmate's head and electrodes are attached to the inmate's shaved leg.

The first more powerful jolt of electric current is intended to cause immediate unconsciousness, ventricular fibrillation, and eventual cardiac arrest. The second, less powerful jolt is intended to cause fatal damage to the vital organs. Witness testimony, botched electrocutions, and postmortem examinations have suggested that execution by electric chair is often painful.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Episode One: To Business

Adding machine (pg 1): A mechanical calculator used for booking purposes (imagine a calculator and typewriter in one).

Manifold machine (pg 1): AKA a <u>mimeograph machine</u> which is a mechanical copying device. Popular in the early 20th Century and used for a small number of copies (e.g., 100 rather than 1,000).

Halitosis (pg 2): An oral health problem where the main symptom is bad smelling breath.



Figure 21: Adding Machine

Hew to the line (pg 4): To follow or obey something.

Facetious (pg 5): Treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humor; flippant.

Neckers (pg 8): Those who kiss and caress above the neck.

Petters (pg 8): Those who engage in more intimate contact with the erogenous zones, just short of sexual intercourse.

Get your goat (pg 9): To irritate someone.

Episode Two: At Home

Dumbwaiter (pg 14): a small freight elevator or lift intended to carry food. Dumbwaiters found within modern structures, including both commercial, public and private buildings, were often connected between multiple floors. When installed in restaurants, schools, hospitals, or in private homes, the lifts generally terminated in the kitchen.

Episode Three: Honeymoon

<u>Pullman Porter</u> (pg 23): Starting in the late 1860s, thousands of African American men—including many former slaves—were hired to serve white passengers traveling across the country on luxury railroad sleeping cars. The Porters were underpaid, severely overworked, and endured constant racism on the job.

Not by a jugful (pg 24): Not by a great deal or by no means.

<u>French underwear</u> (pg 25): In the 1920s, lingerie had become more than just a functional item; it was a way of expressing sexuality and desire. Lingerie was lighter and less constrictive now, made from soft flowy fabrics like silk, satin, cotton, and lace. Things like the step-in chemise, stockings, bandeaus (bras), and knickers had become very popular.



Figure 22: French lingerie

Swiss watch (pg 25): The tradition and craft of watchmaking in Switzerland dates back to the 1500s. Swiss watches are known for being extremely well-made, attractive, and long-lasting.

Episode Four: Maternal

Pulled myself up by my bootstraps (pg 28): To help oneself without the aid of others; to use one's resources.

Stand the gaff (pg 28): To take severe criticism or other adversities in stride.

St. Peter at the Gate (pg 30): Saint Peter was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, and is traditionally counted as the first bishop (pope) of Rome. In popular culture, the gates of heaven are said to be guarded by Saint Peter. Those not fit to enter heaven are denied entrance at the gates and descend into Hell.

Virgin Mary (pg 31): A first-century Jewish woman of Nazareth, the wife of Joseph, and the mother of Jesus. According to Christian theology, Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit while still a virgin. According to Catholic and Christian teachings, at the end of her earthly life, God raised Mary's body into heaven; this is known as the Assumption of Mary.



Figure 23: The Madonna in Sorrow

Episode Five: Prohibited

Electric Piano (pg 32): A stringed musical instrument played using a keyboard, in which the vibration of strings struck by hammers is converted by pickups into electrical signals, similar to the electric guitar's electrification of the traditional guitar.

Purgatory (pg 33): A condition, process, or place of purification or temporary punishment. In Roman Catholic doctrine, it's a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are atoning their sins before going to heaven.

Amontillado (pg 33): Named after the southern Montilla region of Spain, it is a variety of sherry wine that is generally dark amber color in color. It features prominently in the Edgar Allan Poe short story, "The Cask of Amontillado."

Fastidious (pg 38): Concerned about accuracy and detail.

Spig (pg 39): Slang; a derogatory and offensive term for a person from a Spanish-speaking country.

Edgar Allen Poe (pg 40): An early 19th Century American poet and short story writer known for his disturbing tales of mystery and death. A significant contributor to the science fiction genre, he is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism (work that emphasised emotion and individualism) in American literature.

Bandido (pg 40): Spanish for "bandit," an outlaw usually belonging to a gang and operating in an isolated or lawless area.

Paul Verlaine (pg 42): A late 19th Century French poet known for his symbolist poetry (poems about dreams, visions, and the power of the imagination). A year after getting married, Verlaine left his wife and son for a young male poet named Arthur Rimbaud with whom he lived for the next six years.

Episode Six: Intimate

Dago (pg 46): Slang; an insulting and contemptuous term for a person—often dark-skinned—of Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish birth or descent.

Hand organ (pg 46): AKA a <u>barrel organ</u>. In Mexico, they're played by organ grinders known as organilleros. It's a portable wooden box organ that is operated by a hand crank and creates tinkling, whistling melodies. Most Mexican hand organs are programmed with eight traditional melodies, two of which are the beloved songs, "Cielito Lindo" (i.e., Heavenly One) and "Las Mananitas" (i.e., Mexican birthday song).

<u>Cielito Lindo</u> (pg 46): Spanish song title that means "little heaven" or "heavenly one."



Figure 24: Mexican Barrel Organ

Da la Sierra Morena
Cirlito lindo, vienen bajando
Un par de ojitos negros
Cielito lindo, da contrabando...

From the Sierra Morena Mountains

Pretty darling, they come down

A pair of black eyes

Pretty little heaven, which are contraband...

<u>Hey Diddle Diddle</u> (pg 47): An English nursery rhyme. The rhyme is the source of the English expression "over the moon," meaning delighted, thrilled, or extremely happy.

A Song For Hal (pg 48): A poem by American writer Laura E. Richards that became a well-known <u>nursery rhyme</u> in the late 1800s. The original chorus lyrics are:

And every little wave would have its whitecap on whitecap, nightcap, whitecap on Yes, every little wave would have its whitecap on So very, very early in the morning

Quien sabe (pg 49): Spanish for "who knows?"

A SONG FOR HAL

Once I saw a little boat, and a pretty, pretty boat,
When daybreak the hills was adorning,
And into it I jumped, and away I did float,
So very, very early in the morning.

Chorus. And every little wave had its nightcap on,
Its nightcap, white cap, nightcap on.
And every little wave had its nightcap on,
So very, very early in the morning.

Rio Grande (pg 49): one of the principal rivers (along with the Colorado River) in the southwestern United States and in northern Mexico. At 1,896 miles long (3,051 km), it is the fifth-longest river in North America. After traversing the length of New Mexico, U.S., the Rio Grande becomes the Mexico—United States border, between the U.S. state of Texas and northern Mexico.



Figure 25: Tar weed

Twin Peaks (pg 50): Named for a pair of 922-foot-high hills located near the geographic center of San Francisco, CA. There are hiking trails that lead up to a grassy 64-acre hilltop park and 360-degree views of the Bay Area.

Nags (pg 50): Horses, particularly ones that are old or in poor health.

Tar weed (pg 50): An annual herb that grows throughout the California coastline, usually found in pastures and along roadsides and ranging in size from 20cm to 6ft. The petals may be yellow or white depending on the species. Its leaves are coated in sticky resin glands which gives it a strong unpleasant scent.

Volupté (pg 51): French for intense pleasure that is both sensuous and spiritual; ecstasy; bliss.



Figure 26: Volupte

Episode Seven: Domestic

Comes down to davenport (pg 55): Sits down on the couch/sofa.

Huckster (pg 59): A person who sells small items, either door-to-door or from a stall or small store.

Episode Eight: The Law

Telegraph (pg 60): a device that was used for transmitting and receiving messages over long distances. A telegraph message sent by an electrical telegraph operator or telegrapher using Morse code (or a printing telegraph operator using plain text) was known as a telegram.

Demurrer (pg 60): A pleading in a lawsuit that objects to or challenges a pleading filed by an opposing party. The word demur means "to object"; a demurrer is the document that makes the objection.

Habeas Corpus (pg 61): a writ (i.e., a written command) requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge or into court, especially to secure the person's release.



Figure 27: Telegraph machine

Immaterial (pg 63): Unimportant under the circumstances; irrelevant.

Objection sustained (pg 63): If a judge sustains the objection, it means that the judge agrees with the objection and disallows the question, testimony or evidence.



Figure 28: 1929 Dressing Gown

Leading question (pg 65): AKA Leading the witness (i.e., putting words in their mouth). A question that suggests the particular answer or contains the information the lawyer is looking to have confirmed (e.g., "You didn't have time to do anything, did you?"). Leading questions may be objectionable in court as they can direct and/or influence a witness' testimony.

<u>Peignoir</u> (pg 70): French for "to comb the hair." In this case, it's referring to the garment worn while brushing one's hair; a dressing gown or negligee/bathrobe.

Objection overruled (pg 71): If the judge overrules the objection, it means that the judge disagrees with the objection and allows the question, testimony or evidence.

Chinese water lily (pg 52/72): A plant native to temperate and tropical climates, there are 58 different species of water lilies which are different from lotus flowers in that the leaves and flowers float on the water. In Chinese culture, lilies are a popular wedding flower as they symbolize a happy union that lasts for 100 years. The water lily is also considered a symbol of purity.

Affidavit (pg 73): A written version of swearing under oath to tell the truth, just as if you were testifying in a courtroom.

State of Guanajuato, Mexico (pg 73): Guanajuato is a central Mexican state known as the birthplace of the country's independence.

Notary (pg 73): A notary is a person authorized to perform acts in legal affairs, in particular witnessing signatures on documents.

American Consul (pg 73): A public officer who is commissioned by a U.S. state to reside in a foreign country for the purpose of fostering the commercial affairs of its

citizens in that foreign country, and performing such routine functions as issuing visas and renewing passports.

Exception (pg 74): A formal objection to the ruling of a judge on any matter, including rulings on objections to evidence, to show to a higher court that the lawyer did not agree with the ruling.

Subpoena (pg 74): AKA a witness summons. A writ issued by a government agency, most often a court, to compel testimony by a witness or production of evidence under a penalty for failure to comply.

Extradition (pg 74): A cooperative procedure between two jurisdictions in which one jurisdiction delivers a person accused or convicted of committing a crime to another jurisdiction's law enforcement.

Paramour (pg 76): An outdated French term meaning "through love," which implies a relationship based solely on physical love often referring to an illicit lover, especially of a married person.

Episode Nine: A Machine

Fetters (pg 78): A chain or manacle used to restrain a prisoner, typically placed around the ankles.

Latin prayer (pg 78):

"Gratiam tumm, quaesumus, Domine,
Metibus nostris infunde, ut qui, angelo nuntiante,
Christifilii tui incarnationem cognovimus,
per passionem eius et crucem
ad ressurectionis gloriam perducamas.
Per eudem Christum Dominum nostrum."

Rough English translation:

Grace, we beseech thee, O Lord, Infuse our fears with the angel's message, Christ's incarnation, through his passion and the cross, and the glory of the Resurrection. By the same Christ our Lord.

Gloria in excelsis Deo (pg 80): Meaning "Glory to God in the highest."

Intercession (pg 82): The action of intervening on behalf of another.