

1: Affair of the Diamond Necklace - Wikipedia

The Affair of the Diamond Necklace was an incident in at the court of King Louis XVI of France involving his wife, Queen Marie www.enganchecubano.com reputation of the Queen, already tarnished by gossip, was ruined by the implication that she participated in a crime to defraud the crown jewelers of the cost of a very expensive diamond necklace.

However, many gems come with more than just a price tag. They come with a curse. Bathed in blood, you would be surprised by just how many people, curse or no curse, would love to get a hold on baubles once worn in the crowns of kings and queens. From hiding diamonds in open wounds, to robbing the American Museum of Natural History, these treasures definitely have a story to tell. It was first recorded as a decorative feature on a golden throne. The stone represented wealth, power, and prestige. The stone heck, the throne was worth more than the Taj Mahal which was still under construction at the time. Thousands met their end during the invasion and the entire country was looted. For nearly 70 years after, the gem would be in possession of a series of doomed rulers. One ruler blinded his own son, and another ruler was dethroned and subsequently, his bald head was coated with molten gold. Smithsonian Magazine Afterwards, the English took possession of the diamond during their colonization of India. Today, there is much controversy about whether or not the jewel should remain with British royalty or be returned to its country of origin. However, looted treasures are often the basis of legends and folklore. According to the London Natural History Museum, the cursed Delhi Purple Sapphire is really an amethyst that is rumored to have been stolen from the Temple of Indra in India during the Indian mutiny in Heron-Allen reported that the mutiny of led his father, Colonel W. It was all a hoax Colonel W. Ferris passed shortly after obtaining the stone red flag anyone? The amethyst was then given to his son, Edward Heron-Allen. Heron-Allen was a polymath who practiced law and palmistry. He was an expert on violins and Persian literature, and he wrote an extraordinary story. Heron-Allen claimed the stone was responsible for a string of suicides and financial ruin. It was discovered more than three hundred years ago, and like the rest of the gems list, it is rumored to be cursed. However, the most infamous story associated with the gem originates from a jewelry heist in The gem, along with other various precious stones, were taken just a few days shy of the spookiest day of the year. Instead of combing through the museum and taking other artifacts, the robbers lasered in on the real prize. They wanted the gems. Smithsonian Magazine They swiftly infiltrated the J. Morgan gem hall and shattered the display case, robbing the museum blind. Thankfully, most of the gems were recovered. During the investigation, authorities discovered the display alarms had been dead for months and that no security had been stationed on that floor. The public believed the Star of India and its rumored curse were to blame. Worn in every coronation ceremony, it demands attention. Pinterest And for those of you who have no idea what that means, it simply means that the stone has a different chemical composition than a ruby does. For thousands of years, many merchants mistook colored spinels as either sapphires and rubies, just like the one in the English crown. The Black Prince Ruby has a history that reaches back to the 14th century. Further deaths connected to diseases followed, along with dramatic battles. To this day, some blame the Black Prince Ruby. Black diamonds are extremely rare. They turn black because of the inclusion of graphite in the stone. It was said to have once been eye of the idol Brahma at a shrine in Pondicherry, India. It was handed down to two Russian princesses whose lives were both cut short under tragic circumstances. After it was stolen from an Indian temple, it fell into the possession of two Russian princesses, one of which was thought to be Nadia Orlov thus the name. Could the wearers of the stolen stone be facing karmic backlash? However, some are skeptical of the whole story, citing the fact that there are no records of black diamonds ever being found in India. The Hope Diamond It takes the right amount of chemistry and sorcery for the earth to cook up a diamond, let alone one with a vibrant blue color. The Hope Diamond is probably the most famous diamond in the world. Not only because of its size and color, but also because of the curse said to be affiliated deep within its azure depths. Smithsonian Magazine The jewel has a history that stems back years. Found in India, a French merchant traveler named Jean Baptiste Tavernier purchased the gem and thought it was a jewel meant for kings. As a subject of the monarchy of 17th-century France, he decided to sell the violet-colored bauble to none other than King Louis XIV in Many who

possessed it died unexpectedly The diamond remained within the royal family until , when a dark shadow eclipsed the powers of the royal family. It was the first death associated with the jewel, and it was lost for decades after that. It was found again in But while the diamond was in her possession, her youngest son died in a car accident, her daughter took her own life, and her husband was admitted to a mental hospital. After all that, she was convinced the diamond was indeed cursed. She sold the jewel, and it eventually ended up at the Smithsonian Institution. Yellowish in color, the diamond is It once belonged to Charles the Bold, the Duke of Burgundy in the late 15th century. After his death, it was passed down a lineage of royals who would all meet an untimely end. On the contrary, it was once worn as a good luck charm. But that changed when it was worn by Charles the Bold of Burgandy in He died during a fight against Swiss mercenaries while trying to conquer a small German town called Neuss. However, his efforts were thwarted when he was found dead days later. Wikipedia Another king, Charles I, was executed by his own countrymen in Since then, the stone had been bouncing from owner to owner until it was given a forever home in the Louvre. The Regent Most people like to indulge in a good myth story from time to time. However, what if the myth, fantastical and over the top, is true? That is the history of the Regent Diamond. It would have to be a thick sleeve around the bicep. He wanted to smuggle it out and keep it, as it was his ticket to freedom and a life of his own. Unfortunately, he was stopped in his tracks. Napoleon Bonaparte put it in the hilt of his sword An English sea captain discovered the diamond, confiscated it, and had the slave killed. The captain sold the diamond to an Indian merchant where it was then passed into the hands of royalty. Originally over carats, the diamond was cut down to As an adult, he would embark on a journey to find the fabled city “ and succeeded. He found one of the most famous treasure troves in history in However, much controversy surrounded the discovery of the treasure as is usually the case when treasure is discovered. He smuggled and looted what he found Schliemann was not the most humble of men. While excavating the Anatolian region, Schliemann resorted to some unorthodox methods of digging out artifacts. And when we say unorthodox, we really mean clumsy. Though there was a legal issue in returning the treasure, their efforts would be futile. Today, Russia showcases the treasure in Moscow. What is it about precious metals and shiny rocks that make countries go crazy? Twitter Apparently, in , no one had heard of that rule. In , the sixth-century-BC treasure was looted and sold to buyers all over the world. The looters sold it to the highest bidder. A New Yorker purchased the hoard and sold it to the MET Though the authorities were able to locate and recover some of the stolen treasures, most had already been sold and spread globally. They wanted to have the priceless treasure set as a permanent exhibit in their museum, but were contacted by Turkish authorities. Twitter The artifacts were held on display for almost fifteen years until Turkish authorities formally requested the museum return their treasures. The MET scoffed and shrugged them off at first. But Turkey clapped back with a lawsuit. By , the MET threw their hands in surrender and agreed to return the treasure. Peregrina Pearl In some cultures, pearls are said to be bad luck, especially when presented to a bride. This superstition must have started with the Peregrina Pearl, because it fits that description to a T. What was once a symbol of virginity and purity evolved into a symbol of spurned love. The pearl was found by a slave in Spain. Said slave presented the pearl to the king of Spain, Phillip II, who in turn made it into a necklace for his wife, Bloody Mary I, as a pre-wedding gift. However, their love was not meant to be. Bloody Mary wore it first After four years of marriage, Phillip left Mary, and she died shortly after in coincidence?

2: The Queen's Necklace Summary - www.enganchecubano.com

The Countess Jeanne de La Motte Valois, a descendant of the fallen royal house of Valois, aspired to return to favor in the court of Louis XVI. Suffering extreme poverty, she was honored by a.

Follow TIME Two decades ago, a Thai gardener climbed into the palace of a Saudi prince through a second-story window, busted open a safe with a screwdriver and stole some pounds of jewelry. What is certain is that the alleged theft eventually cost Thailand billions of dollars, left people dead in its wake and put an Elvis-impersonating Thai official on death row. More than 20 years later, the ripped-off Saudis still want their jewels back, and relations between the two governments remains strained. In January, five Thai police officers were arrested and charged for a murder that is allegedly connected to the case, raising hopes that some of the questions surrounding what has come to be known in Thailand as the Blue Diamond Affair would finally be answered. For Thailand, it could mean improved diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, potentially returning hundreds of thousands of jobs in the oil-rich nation to Thai migrant workers. After the jewel heist, the gardener, Kriangkrai Techamong, airmailed the loot to his home in northern Thailand and hightailed it back, according to reports in the local press. Soon after, three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok were shot execution-style in two different attacks on the same night. Two days after that, a Saudi businessman was kidnapped and never seen again. See the top 10 crime stories of To add insult to injury, the local press reported rumors of photos of the wives of bureaucrats wearing new diamond necklaces at a charity gala, ones that were awfully similar to the ones taken from the Saudi royalty. Needless to say, Saudi Arabia was not amused. In June , the country would stop renewing the visas of more than a quarter-million Thai workers in Saudi Arabia and would give out no further ones, cutting Thailand off from billions of dollars in remittances. Saudi Arabia also barred its citizens from traveling to Thailand as tourists. In , a Thai jeweler, whom Khoja believed was behind the imitation jewels, was kidnapped, and then his wife and year-old son were killed. At the time, the Thai police said the two died in a car crash, but Khoja was not convinced. This was not an accident. The high-ranking police officer fought the charges until the Thai Supreme Court upheld his death sentence in October Further complicating the mystery, the U. The DSI, which took over the case from the Thai police in , said any Iranian connection to the murders is only a rumor. But a arrest warrant for an "Abu Ali" for the murder of one of the Saudi diplomats has fueled speculation on message boards and in the blogosphere of Middle Eastern involvement. Despite having little concrete evidence about Abu Ali, a DSI team headed to Interpol headquarters in France at the end of January to ask the international police organization for help with apprehending the suspect. All five officers, however, deny the charges and have vowed to fight them in court. So far the two-decade-old whodunit reads like a paperback thriller, but it remains to be seen if the story will be neatly wrapped up in its final chapters. Ashri said that if the case were solved, Saudi Arabia would "have to seriously consider restoring relations" and that he was pleased by the recent "serious efforts from the Thai government.

3: NY Daily News - We are currently unavailable in your region

Contents The night of Holyrood: the murder of David Rizzio -- The night of Kirk o'Field: the murder of Darnley -- The night of betrayal: Antonio Perez and Philip II of Spain -- The night of charity: the case of the Lady Alice Lisle -- The night of massacre: the story of the St. Bartholomew -- The.

Suffering extreme poverty, she was honored by a visit from the queen, who gave her money and promised her assistance. The queen was always a victim of intrigues by her enemies. Her honesty and proud demeanor put the king to shame, however, and as a conciliatory gesture he offered her a fabulously expensive necklace, which she refused on the grounds that France needed a new battleship more than the queen needed jewels. He promptly fell in love with her. While Jeanne de La Motte was plotting to gain entrance to the royal court, Cardinal de Rohan, disliked by the queen because of his former disapproval of her marriage to King Louis, was also hoping to win a place at court. These two hopefuls decided to combine their talents and agreed to aid each other in their ambitious projects. Count Cagliostro, a mystic and a malicious conspirator against the nobility of France, plotted to create a public scandal about the queen. First, Count Cagliostro sent Oliva to the salon of Monsieur Mesmer, where she exploited her emotions publicly, drawing attention to herself. Her witnesses mistook her for the queen. Next Count Cagliostro brought the girl to a masquerade ball attended by many of the nobility in disguise but an affair beneath the dignity of the queen. Again it was said that Marie Antoinette had appeared in public in a most ungracious manner. At the salon and at the ball Jeanne de La Motte had seen the woman who was not really the queen at all. Cardinal de Rohan had been with Jeanne at the ball. Jeanne had perceived that he loved Marie Antoinette, whose disdain for him was well-known. Widespread gossip about her conduct reached the queen, who, anxious to belie her accusers, brought Jeanne to the king and asked her to assure the monarch that the queen had not degraded herself in the salon of Monsieur Mesmer. The king loyally asserted that he needed no assurance from an outsider that his queen did not lie. The queen denied having been there; Jeanne claimed that she had seen her. Others were called as witnesses. Both Philippe and de Charny said that they had recognized her when her mask dropped off. Jeanne, guided by her intuition, knew that the queen coveted the beautiful necklace that the The entire section is 1, words.

4: Gems that kill: Scandalous stories behind cursed and looted jewelry - Page 2 of 33 - History

V. *The Queen's Necklace*. Two or three times each year, on occasions of unusual importance, such as the balls at the Austrian Embassy or the soirees of Lady Billington, the Countess de Dreux-Soubise wore upon her white shoulders "The Queen's Necklace."

He requested that Parisian jewelers Charles Auguste Boehmer and Paul Bassange create a diamond necklace that would surpass all others in grandeur. It would take the jewelers several years and a great deal of money to amass an appropriate set of diamonds. In the meantime, Louis XV died of smallpox, and du Barry was banished from court by his grandson and successor. The necklace consisted of many large diamonds arranged in an elaborate design of festoons, pendants and tassels. The jewelers hoped it would be a product that the new Queen of France, Marie Antoinette, would buy and indeed in the new king, Louis XVI, offered it to his wife as a present, but she refused. Some said that Marie Antoinette refused the necklace because she did not want to wear any jewel that had been designed for another woman, especially if that woman was a courtesan she disliked. According to others, Louis XVI himself changed his mind. The Queen again refused. A descendant of an illegitimate son of Henry II of France, Jeanne had married an officer of the gendarmes, Nicholas de la Motte, the soi-disant "comte de la Motte", and was living on a small pension granted to her by the King. In March, Jeanne became the mistress of the Cardinal de Rohan, a former French ambassador to the court of Vienna. The Queen had also learned of a letter in which the Cardinal spoke of Maria Theresa in a way that the Queen found offensive. Jeanne assured the Cardinal that she was making efforts on his behalf. The tone of the letters became very warm, and the Cardinal, convinced that Marie Antoinette was in love with him, became enamoured of her. He begged Jeanne to arrange a secret night-time interview with the Queen on his behalf, and the supposed meeting took place in August in the garden of the Palace of Versailles, the Cardinal met with a woman he believed to be the Queen. Rohan offered Leguay a rose, and, in her role as the Queen, she promised him that she would forget their past disagreements. With this money, Jeanne was able to make her way into respectable society. Because she openly boasted about her relationship with the Queen, many assumed the relationship was genuine. She at first refused a commission, but then changed her mind and accepted it. According to Madame Campan, Jeanne, pretending to be the Queen, sent several letters to the cardinal, including an order to buy the necklace. They were signed "Marie Antoinette de France"; the Cardinal either did not know or did not remember that French queens signed with their given names only. On 21 January, Jeanne told the Cardinal that Marie Antoinette wanted to buy the necklace; but, not wishing to purchase such an expensive item publicly during a time of need, the Queen wanted the Cardinal to act as a secret intermediary. A little while later, Rohan negotiated the purchase of the necklace for 2,000,000 livres, to be paid in installments. Boehmer complained to the Queen, who told him that she had neither ordered nor received the necklace. She had the story of the negotiations repeated for her. Rohan produced a letter signed "Marie Antoinette de France". Rohan was arrested and taken to the Bastille; on the way, he sent home a note ordering the destruction of his correspondence. Jeanne was not arrested until three days later, giving her a chance to destroy her papers. Pope Pius VI was incensed, since he believed that the cardinal should be tried by his natural judge. However, his notes remained unanswered. A sensational trial resulted in the acquittal of the Cardinal, Leguay, and Cagliostro on 31 May. In June of the following year, she escaped from prison disguised as a boy. The forger Villette was banished. Despite findings to the contrary, many people in France persisted in the belief that the Queen used the La Mottes as an instrument to satisfy her hatred of the Cardinal de Rohan. Various circumstances fortified this belief. Significance[edit] The affair of the diamond necklace was important in discrediting the Bourbon monarchy in the eyes of the French people, four years before the French Revolution. Marie Antoinette became even more unpopular, and malicious gossip about her made her a greater liability to her husband. Nonetheless, the affair prompted Louis XVI to become closer to his wife, and may have inclined him to be more defensive of and more responsive to her leading up to and during the Revolution. The affair in fiction[edit].

5: The Affair of the Necklace () - IMDb

Emeralds are the Queen's lucky gemstone and, fittingly, the Delhi Durbar necklace started life as a series of nine emeralds won in a state lottery in Germany in by the Duchess of.

Assisting in these efforts is a Saudi-based 3D surveying and mapping firm called FalconViz, which uses state-of-the-art drone technology and Autodesk software to document and register these historical buildings for the preservation of future generations. Founded in 7th century C. As centuries passed, most of the ancient walls that had surrounded the town, and the souq within it, became weathered and eventually torn down. As wealth from oil began to flow into the Saudi economy, the country began a march toward a more gleaming infrastructure complete with modern buildings. Many residents moved out of the cramped spaces of Al-Balad, leaving its more palatial homes and buildings to slow dilapidation. What remains, though, are truly exemplary remnants of ancient building styles that are seldom seen elsewhere in Saudi Arabia. It is one of the few remaining locations where such architectural styles can be seen first-hand, and holds a cultural and historical significance that is particular to this region. Khaled Abdelgawad, director of business development and acting operations manager at FalconViz, explained how Al-Balad has an invaluable archaeological and architectural heritage. However, preserving ancient buildings in this historic quarter comes with its own set of obstacles. One of the biggest challenges in Al-Balad is the tight spaces between buildings. With the advent of laser-scanning technology and photogrammetry, the procedure has become exponentially more efficient. Together with drones, an area of particular expertise for FalconViz, previously inaccessible areas of Al-Balad can now be documented for more accurate preservation. Every point is able to accurately provide coordinates and true color markers to support all facets of the buildings, from its complex Hijazi facades to its structural nodes. Unlike the common method of point cloud meshing which can be inaccurate, overloads rendering and creates unnecessarily large files FalconViz directly imports the point cloud into what is known as AutoCAD, enabling a detailed 3D model to be created that preserves even the minutest structural details. When combined with Building Information Modeling BIM tools and processes, it provides previously unavailable capabilities. The team at FalconViz then makes use of the highly accurate point cloud data to take measurements and accurately extract a CAD solid model of the building. Since all measurements are accurate to 1cm, final as-built plans can be generated for any of the modeled buildings from the original Structure via Motion SfM scan. This has a positive domino effect on costs, manpower and efficiency. It also gives the Saudi authorities in charge of restoring and maintaining the Al-Balad area a comprehensive model to refer to when necessary. For example, there was a fire that destroyed a few very old buildings some months ago. Without the accurate models we helped construct, these buildings would be lost forever. The benefit is twofold, as the same technology that is being used for preservation is used toward the development of modern urban infrastructure, planning, and construction. It is this diverse dual use of drone technology that is helping to preserve these ancient structures and restore them to their former glory.

6: Lady Kitty Spencer's statement necklace is so fabulous, you will want it in your jewellery box ASAP

Jewelry History Royalty At Auction: Marie Antoinette's Jewelry And treasures from Bourbon Parma Family. by Marion Fasel. Just the other night I heard the author of Stoned, Aja Raden, retell the tale of the Affair of the Necklace of Marie Antoinette.

I love a two-step back in time 22 Sep Everything changed when she was introduced to Rohan. He took a shine to her, offering financial support and probably becoming her lover. He advised that if she wanted her patrimony restored, she ought to petition the queen. Unfortunately, given the poor regard in which Marie Antoinette held him, he could not intercede on her behalf. Jeanne devised a histrionic plan. Clutching her petition to her bosom, she waited on Candlemas in the mirrored gallery of Versailles. As the queen swept by, Jeanne swooned, hoping to strike a spark of sympathy and gain an audience. Either the queen did not see Jeanne or she remained unmoved; she never inquired after the fainting woman. This, however, was not what Jeanne told Rohan. The queen had taken pity on her, she claimed, and they had become close friends. Though this might seem extraordinary, it was not beyond the realms of plausibility. Marie Antoinette was known for her sentimentality. Moreover, as the queen had secluded herself from the glare of court life, most courtiers had little idea whom she entertained. Rohan begged Jeanne to broker a reconciliation with the queen. Jeanne agreed and a secret correspondence of increasing ardour began between Rohan and Marie Antoinette, in which the queen promised he would soon be appointed prime minister. The letters were, in reality, dictated by Jeanne on to blue-bordered notepaper bought from a local stationer. Rohan was desperate for a face-to-face encounter, but the queen always parried him by saying that the right moment to broach the matter with the king had not yet arisen. Jeanne realised that her pretence could be sustained only if an encounter could be arranged in which Rohan believed he had met the queen. But how on earth could she pull that off? The answer was found by her husband Nicolas in the Palais-Royal, a louche hang-out in the centre of Paris. There he met a blonde, blue-eyed, long-necked prostitute named Nicole le Guay, who physically resembled the queen. He visited Nicole several times – what went on in those visits, none of the sources record precisely – and, once he had gained her confidence, introduced her to his wife. Still Jeanne did not explain the plan. The next day Jeanne groomed Nicole and helped her into a gaulle a dress of white, flecked linen and a demi-bonnet. She gave her a letter and told her: She will speak to you later. She will be behind you. The darkness was absolute. Nicole heard only the rapid tread of her heart as her eyes searched out the hidden queen. For a number of weeks, Jeanne had tantalised Rohan with the prospect of meeting the queen. He, ever hopeful, spent fruitless evenings mooning around Versailles. On August 12, he received word the encounter would take place secretly at night and in the open air as Marie Antoinette was not yet ready to reveal their concord to the world. Rohan loitered on the terrace, dressed as discreetly as possible in a black frock-coat and broadbrimmed hat. Up scurried Jeanne, hyperventilating: She will not be able to extend the interview as she wanted. She will escape them and, despite having little time, she will give you unequivocal proofs of her protection and benevolence. He stumbled towards her and knelt at her feet in submission. She, dumb with fear and unable to look him in the eye, thrust the rose towards him. She raised her fan to hide her face. Words scratched in her mouth. Jeanne hurtled into the grove, whispering urgently: The royal ladies are close by. The night was dark, the encounter brief – but, still, how did such a risky deception succeed? There was calculation behind the costume chosen for Nicole. So, too, did the choice of location. The gardens in Versailles were notorious trysting places. The queen herself had been criticised by the Austrian ambassador for her comportment out of doors. A pamphlet entitled *The Break of Dawn* depicted an innocent jaunt that Marie Antoinette took to see the sunrise in the gardens at Marly as an orgy in which she rolled round the turf and courtiers copulated in the bushes. Rohan saw the queen in the garden because he wanted to see her, needed to see her if his narcissistic fantasy of political domination was ever to reach fulfilment. At the beginning of , another request arrived, this time ordering him to negotiate the purchase of the diamond necklace.

7: German addresses are blocked - www.enganchecubano.com

In the late summer of , Europe was gripped by a scandal unfurling at the French court. A diamond necklace of immense value, containing stones and weighing 2, carats, had gone missing.

To tell the truth, the mounting alone was genuine. Retaux de Villette had kept it, whilst the Count de la Motte and his wife scattered to the four winds of heaven the beautiful stones so carefully chosen by Bohmer. Later, he sold the mounting to Gaston de Dreux-Soubise, nephew and heir of the Cardinal, who re-purchased the few diamonds that remained in the possession of the English jeweler, Jeffreys; supplemented them with other stones of the same size but of much inferior quality, and thus restored the marvelous necklace to the form in which it had come from the hands of Bohmer and Bassenge. For nearly a century, the house of Dreux-Soubise had prided itself upon the possession of this historic jewel. Although adverse circumstances had greatly reduced their fortune, they preferred to curtail their household expenses rather than part with this relic of royalty. More particularly, the present count clung to it as a man clings to the home of his ancestors. As a matter of prudence, he had rented a safety-deposit box at the Credit Lyonnais in which to keep it. He went for it himself on the afternoon of the day on which his wife wished to wear it, and he, himself, carried it back next morning. On this particular evening, at the reception given at the Palais de Castille, the Countess achieved a remarkable success; and King Christian, in whose honor the fete was given, commented on her grace and beauty. The thousand facets of the diamond sparkled and shone like flames of fire about her shapely neck and shoulders, and it is safe to say that none but she could have borne the weight of such an ornament with so much ease and grace. This was a double triumph, and the Count de Dreux was highly elated when they returned to their chamber in the old house of the faubourg Saint-Germain. He was proud of his wife, and quite as proud, perhaps, of the necklace that had conferred added luster to his noble house for generations. His wife, also, regarded the necklace with an almost childish vanity, and it was not without regret that she removed it from her shoulders and handed it to her husband who admired it as passionately as if he had never seen it before. As he had done on previous occasions, he hid it on a high shelf amongst hat-boxes and piles of linen. He closed the door, and retired. He dressed, drank a cup of coffee, and went to the stables to give his orders. The condition of one of the horses worried him. He caused it to be exercised in his presence. Then he returned to his wife, who had not yet left the chamber. Her maid was dressing her hair. When her husband entered, she asked: No, I have not taken anything. I have not even opened that door. Then the count said, quite discouraged: I put it here, on this shelf. And, when the room was emptied, they confessed, in despair, that the famous necklace had disappeared. Without losing time in vain lamentations, the countess notified the commissary of police, Mon. Valorbe, who came at once, and, after hearing their story, inquired of the count: Besides, the chamber door was bolted, and I remember unbolting it this morning when my wife rang for her maid. Valorbe observed at once that the lower half of the window was covered by a large press which was, however, so narrow that it did not touch the casement on either side. That is why this room is so dark. But nobody knew that it was hidden in that cabinet. She is clever with her needle and has done some work for me. Valorbe then asked to see Henriette. They went to her apartment; she was sewing, whilst her son Raoul, about six years old, was sitting beside her, reading. The commissary was surprised to see the wretched apartment that had been provided for the woman. It consisted of one room without a fireplace, and a very small room that served as a kitchen. The commissary proceeded to question her. She appeared to be overwhelmed on learning of the theft. Last evening she had herself dressed the countess and placed the necklace upon her shoulders. Not the least suspicion? Is it possible that the thief may have passed through your room? I never go out. And, perhaps, you have not seen? It had been mentioned in my presence. And it now assumed an expression of anxiety as if some danger threatened her. She drew her son toward her. The child took her hand, and kissed it affectionately. When they were alone again, the count said to the commissary: I can answer for her. She is honesty itself. But I confess that even that theory must be abandoned, as it does not help solve the problem now before us. He questioned the servants, examined the condition of the bolt, experimented with the opening and closing of the cabinet window, and explored the little court from top to bottom. All was in vain. The bolt

was intact. The window could not be opened or closed from the outside. The inquiries especially concerned Henriette, for, in spite of everything, they always turned in her direction. They made a thorough investigation of her past life, and ascertained that, during the last three years, she had left the house only four times, and her business, on those occasions, was satisfactorily explained. As a matter of fact, she acted as chambermaid and seamstress to the countess, who treated her with great strictness and even severity. At the end of a week, the examining judge had secured no more definite information than the commissary of police. We are brought face to face with two obstacles: It is thus a double mystery. How could anyone enter, and, moreover, how could any one escape, leaving behind him a bolted door and a fastened window? He closed the investigation. The loss of the famous jewel was a severe blow to the Dreux- Soubise. Their credit being no longer propped up by the reserve fund that such a treasure constituted, they found themselves confronted by more exacting creditors and money-lenders. They were obliged to cut down to the quick, to sell or mortgage every article that possessed any commercial value. In brief, it would have been their ruin, if two large legacies from some distant relatives had not saved them. Their pride also suffered a downfall, as if they had lost a quartering from their escutcheon. And, strange to relate, it was upon her former schoolmate, Henriette, that the countess vented her spleen. Toward her, the countess displayed the most spiteful feelings, and even openly accused her. For some time, the count and countess passed an uneventful life. They traveled a great deal. Only one incident of record occurred during that period. Some months after the departure of Henriette, the countess was surprised when she received and read the following letter, signed by Henriette: It could not have been anyone else. No one but you knows where I live. If I am wrong, excuse me, and accept my sincere thanks for your past favors. The present or past favors of the countess consisted principally of injustice and neglect. Why, then, this letter of thanks? When asked for an explanation, Henriette replied that she had received a letter, through the mails, enclosing two bank-notes of one thousand francs each. The envelope, which she enclosed with her reply, bore the Paris post-mark, and was addressed in a handwriting that was obviously disguised. Now, whence came those two thousand francs? Who had sent them? And why had they sent them? Henriette received a similar letter and a like sum of money twelve months later. And a third time; and a fourth; and each year for a period of six years, with this difference, that in the fifth and sixth years the sum was doubled. There was another difference: At the end of six years, Henriette dies, and the mystery remained unsolved. All these events are known to the public. The case was one of those which excite public interest, and it was a strange coincidence that this necklace, which had caused such a great commotion in France at the close of the eighteenth century, should create a similar commotion a century later. But what I am about to relate is known only to the parties directly interested and a few others from whom the count exacted a promise of secrecy. As it is probable that some day or other that promise will be broken, I have no hesitation in rending the veil and thus disclosing the key to the mystery, the explanation of the letter published in the morning papers two days ago; an extraordinary letter which increased, if possible, the mists and shadows that envelope this inscrutable drama. Five days ago, a number of guests were dining with the Count de Dreux-Soubise. There were several ladies present, including his two nieces and his cousin, and the following gentlemen: After the repast, coffee was served by the ladies, who gave the gentlemen permission to smoke their cigarettes, provided they would not desert the salon. The conversation was general, and finally one of the guests chanced to speak of celebrated crimes. Each one expressed his own opinion of the affair; and, of course, their various theories were not only contradictory but impossible. I--I have no opinion, madame.

8: Rafael Sabatini - Wikipedia

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9: Queen's Necklace () - IMDb

"The Affair Of The Necklace" isn't necessarily perfect -- like many jewels, it has its flaws. But overall it's beautifully acted

and mounted -- and the result is a gem of a movie.

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