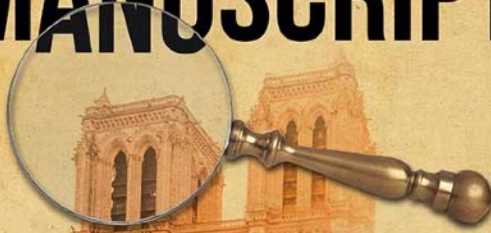


JULIAN DOYLE

After the brutal murder of Canon Alfred Lilly,
the search is on for the murderer and missing secrets of...

**THE
JERICHO
MANUSCRIPT**



*"Sherlock Holmes meets
The Da Vinci Code in a
gripping murder-mystery
adventure worthy of
immediate investigation."*

Daily Express

SAMPLE CHAPTER

www.juliandoyle.info

It was 24th June 1901, the most important date in the Freemason's calendar, when the Rev. David Adams discovered his friend Canon Alfred Lilly dead at his desk in a pool of blood. The police considered it suicide but the Rev. Adams refused to accept the verdict and employed a private detective to locate the murderer and the missing manuscript that Lilly had been translating.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson set out for Paris on the trail of the murderer but slowly using all the skills he is well known for, Holmes begins to unravel what was in the Jericho manuscript, which was so controversial that Dr. Watson put a restriction on publishing the account for a hundred years after his death. Now we can finally put in print what is still as dangerously controversial now as it was then, the secrets of the Jericho Manuscript.



THE JERICHO
MANUSCRIPT

Julian Doyle

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LETTER FOUND WITH MANUSCRIPT

I have written in full one of the most extraordinary episodes of investigation completed by my friend. But because of the sensitive nature of the material I have instructed that this should not be published for one hundred years after my death. While my friend has no such compulsion, almost dismissing the extraordinary results as elementary. He clearly does not realise the controversial nature of his discoveries, so controversial that it could well lead to attempts on his very person. I cannot even tell my good wife as it would, like many others, disrupt the foundation of her life and attack her very soul.

I cannot imagine the world a hundred years from now. Will the British Empire have spread 'wider still and wider' as Elgar suggests or has the recently united German states threaten to create a new empire. Their victory over the French has puffed them up to be looking for a fight with anyone to show off their new German superiority. Who will be the King of England then, and what type of government will we have? But most importantly, how will these astonishing discoveries made by my friend be accepted in this new world?

He refuses to enter into any discussion concerning the material, he simply says in his usual offhand manner, "it is elementary my dear friend, so others can easily discover the truth for themselves."

So my future reader I place before you the account of the case of Canon Alfred Lilly with nothing removed or edited and I hope it is not so shocking to you as it was to me and would be to any reader in our days.

PUBLISHERS NOTE

This unpublished episode written by Dr. *'James'* Watson of an investigation by *'Stephen'* Holmes was offered to us by Mr. Julian Doyle who was a close friend of Andrew Watson, a relative of the author. The first names of the people involved had been changed, perhaps the author thought removing the first names would be enough in a hundred years to conceal their true identity. But I think we all know who *'Stephen'* and *'James'* really are, so with Mr. Doyle's permission we have used the names of the real people. The Doyles and the Watsons have been close families for many years, and the two friends discovered the account in Andrew's great grandfather's documents when scanning them for posterity. Andrew Watson was killed last year in a motorcycle accident and as he had no surviving relatives, the copies are now in the sole possession of Julian Doyle. So while it is just 96 years since the writer died, Mr. Doyle approached us with a desire to publish now, for what he says is his own personal safety. The material is still as controversial now, as it would have been then, but we think Mr. Doyle's concerns are probably unwarranted given the author and the detective are both dead.

For your further information we have checked all the Biblical quotes and they are correct and come from the King James translation. The same is true of all the other quotes from the ancient historians, Tacitus, Suetonius and Josephus.

There are some words used in the text, which are now unacceptable. We have not removed them for historical reasons so the text is exactly as Dr. Watson wrote it. There is mention of quite a few classical paintings, we thought it might be useful to the reader if we added copies of them into the text, something that would have been financially

prohibitive one hundred years ago but now adds very little extra costs.

THE ALFRED LILLY AFFAIR

CHAPTER 1

It was Monday the 24th June in the year that Queen Victoria died. I know the day because it is John the Baptist's day, the most important date in the Freemasons calendar, when my friend the Reverend David Adams burst into my house. He had come from the Freemasons dinner via the house of his clerical friend, Canon Alfred Lilly.

"He was not there to preside over events," stammered Adams. "So I went to his house. I have not touched anything. You told me Sherlock Holmes demands he observe the scene of the crime before the police trample on the clues."

"Calm down. What crime are you talking about?"

"I'll tell you in the cab, it's waiting. Grab your coat and let us to Holmes immediately."

I had been together with Adams in the tightest of scrapes in Afghanistan, where he was Chaplain, but he always kept control. Perhaps it had been a façade for the men, but now faced with some dreadful crime alone, he seemed to have lost all composure.

At Bakers Street we picked up Holmes and exchanged our Hansom for a four-wheeler, which headed up the Edgware Road and left down beside the Regent's canal. Adams recounted the story to Holmes who listened without a word, but his eyes told me he was studying every syllable. Just before the Paddington basin we turned right over the canal bridge to the wide expanse of Warwick Avenue with its Georgian stucco fronted

buildings unlike any other part of London. Ahead was the majestic St. Saviour's Church at the end.

Adams called to the driver, "Here, by the door of the rectory."

He brought the horse to a halt to the right of the church and we descended and approached the door.

"It looked closed but the latch had not fallen," said Adams.

"You go first Mr. Holmes, I have touched nothing."

"Step back a moment gentlemen," said Holmes as he examined the front step and then the door lock from both sides. He bent down and removed a crumpled paper from the lower doorpost. It must have caused the door latch not to fall. He then went round the front garden and by the cedar tree he bent down and picked up something with his fingers, smelt it and returned it to where it had been. He paused for a moment and then rose and we followed him into the hall.

"He is in the study to your left," said Adams. "The gas lights were on as you see them".

Holmes entered the room. Ahead was the back of a man slumped over his desk. As Holmes circled him the pool of blood came into view and then the dagger that had been plunged into the side of his neck.

"Was this exactly as you found him?" asked Holmes.

"Exactly. It was obvious that he was dead from the moment I saw the knife and the blood."

Holmes saw something on the ground by the desk. He bent down and lifted it up, it was a length of green ribbon, which he returned back to its place on the floor. He then continued his circle and his thin body, long neck and hooked nose made him look like a vulture examining a carcass. But I knew Holmes was studying every small detail of the scene. From what I could see there was a

piece of white paper to the left and a pen, which had splattered ink onto the writing.

“Do you think it is suicide or murder, Mr. Holmes?”

“I will answer that in just a moment.” Holmes circled again while we made a wider move to the front.

“Watson, could you find another piece of paper and write down every word written. Don’t use the pen on the table and be careful when you dip in the ink not to disturb anything. Don’t touch that second, unopened inkbottle, just the open one nearest the body. I will just take a look around the house to see if there are any further clues.”

And with that Holmes left Adams and myself to follow his instructions. I found another pen in the drawer and dipped it into the open inkbottle and wrote:

‘Mark 10:46. And they came to Jericho and the sister of the youth whom Jesus loved and his mother and Salome were there, and Jes...’

That was it, a quote from Mark’s Gospel, which seemed to have no apparent significance to the events that had unfolded. Holmes returned.

“I am afraid that the answer to your question Reverend Adams is that your friend Canon Alfred Lilly has been murdered. The perpetrator was a thin man who took him by surprise. Probably a Mohammedan.”

Adams sank back into a nearby chair and looked up at me. I nodded, knowing that feeling he had that Holmes seemed to pluck knowledge out of thin air. Later when he explained to me how he did it, it would just seem so obvious. For now Holmes continued as if he had just said the most mundane of statements. “I see some half unpacked bags in the bedroom, has the deceased been travelling recently?”

Adams nodded, "yes he has been in Paris. He is an expert in ancient languages and was there to complete a translation of a manuscript held at the church of Saint Sulpice."

Holmes wondered for a moment. "Was the Canon a man who might steal such a manuscript?"

"No, of course not," replied Adams indignantly. "Why do you ask such a thing?"

"Because he was making a copy from a rolled up manuscript when he was attacked," said Holmes.

"How do you know that?" asked Adams. "There is no sign of a manuscript."

"That was the purpose of the two inkbottles, they held open the roll while he worked. The green ribbon was used to tie the scroll and was under it, when the scroll was removed it fell to the floor. The fact that the manuscript is missing suggests this was the object the murderer was after."

"Goodness me!" exclaimed Adams.

Holmes looked at the written paper and then took my copy and checked that I had written the text correctly. He turned to the Rev. Adams. "Would you know if there are any other references to Jericho in the Gospels?"

"I believe so, in the synoptic Gospels Jesus cures a blind man in Jericho."

"Synoptic Gospels?" asked Holmes.

"The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are lumped together and called the synoptic Gospels, from the Latin, which means 'seen through one eye.' These synoptic Gospels tell many of the same stories, often in the same words, frequently following the same order. They in fact, were the original Bible and John was added later."

"I see I am very uneducated when it comes to the Bible," admitted Holmes.

Where he was an expert, Holmes talked with arrogant certainty, but he had no qualms about admitting any area which he lacked knowledge. In fact he rather boasted that a man should keep his little brain-attic stocked with all the furniture that he was likely to use, and the rest he should put away in the lumber-room of his library.

“Well there is nothing more for us to learn here,” announced Holmes. “We will hand over the investigation to the Police, while I realise I have to invest some serious time in the books of my library before I can take the investigation any further.”