At The Villa Rose

A. E. W. Mason

Read by: Nicholas Clifford
Dedicated Proof−Listener: Barry Eads
Meta−Coordinator/Cataloging: Annise

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Instructions:

1. Cut out the cover insert, on page 1, around the outer perimeter. Do not cut along the center.
2. Fold the cover insert in half, with the text on the outside.
3. Insert the cover insert in the CD case cover.

4. Cut out the tray insert, on page 2, around the outer perimeter.
5. The right-most long narrow title “tab”, on the tray insert, is for CD case with a transparent tray. Remove this “tab” if the CD case has an opaque tray.
6. Fold the left and right long narrow title“tabs” to a 90 degree angle, away from the main tray cover portion. If the right-most “tab” is retained for a transparent tray, fold that “tab” 90 degrees again, away from the title “tab” next to it. The text should appear around the exterior of the folded cover, not the interior.
7. Remove the tray from the case.
8. Place the tray insert in the case.
9. Insert the tray, being careful that the title tabs are flat against the case.

10. Please appropriately discard this portion and the scrap bits of paper.

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Harry Wethermill, the brilliant young scientist, a graduate of Oxford and Munich, has made a fortune from his inventions, and is taking a vacation at Aix−les−Bains. There he meets, and immediately falls in love with, the young and beautiful Celia Harland, who serves as companion to the aging but warm−hearted Madam Dauvray of Paris. All this is observed by Julius Ricardo, a retired financier from the City of London, who spends every August at Aix, expecting there to find a pleasant and peaceful life. Imagine his consternation when he learns that Mme. Dauvray has been brutally murdered, and imagine Harry Wethermill’s consternation when he learns that every finger of suspicion is pointed at the now vanished Celia Harland. Implored to do so by Wethermill, Ricardo asks his friend Inspector Hanaud, the great detective of the Paris Sûreté (who is also vacationing in Aix) to involve himself in the case so that the truth may come out. Hanaud agrees to do so (with the permission of the Aix police, of course), and goes to work. Will he be up to the job? And will Harry Wethermill ultimately be glad that he called in the great man? We can only wait to find out.

But surely Hanaud will exercise his powerful little grey cells − one of several characteristics he shares with a famous Belgian detective of later decades, and indeed some scholars of mystery stories suggest that Agatha Christie, in her invention of Hercule Poirot, owes a debt to Mason and his invention of Inspector Hanaud. And indeed Julius Ricardo has more than a passing resemblance to Arthur Hastings, Poirot’s sidekick, who is invariably a few confused steps behind the detective. (Introduction by Nicholas Clifford)

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Chapters.: 21
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