

AGONY IN AMETHYST

AUTHOR NOTES

(SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL)

Thank you for reading AGONY IN AMETHYST. I am not going to say that this is the last you will see of Harriet and Curran but I do feel that this series arc has concluded. I am not sure what their future adventures will look like together as a couple, but please feel free to [subscribe to my newsletter](#) for news!

I have been asked to provide a Character List... and the problem is, for every reader who would like a Character List there is another who doesn't like a Character List cluttering up a book so I have tried to solve this dilemma by providing both of these on my website. You will find them by either clicking these hyperlinks for [Character Lists](#) and [Glossaries](#) or going to the website www.amstuartbooks.com.

Now to some notes about this book...

King George VI was crowned on 22 June 1911 with great pomp and ceremony. Reports filled the *Straits Times* and other newspapers, and a party was held at Government House with fireworks – resulting in the unfortunate incineration of one of the residences on the grounds. Unfortunately, I couldn't work that into the story!

I have based this story around the beautiful building off Orchard Road, built as Government House, now known as the Istana, or the residence of Singapore's elected President and Head of State. Those familiar with the Istana will know it does not have a ballroom such as that described in the story. However, in my research, I found the detailed plans, drawn up for the construction of just such a building, and with a liberal dash of writer's discretion, I added the ballroom to Government House (you will find the plans on the [Agony in Amethyst Pinterest board](#)).

The governor of the time, Sir John Anderson, was a widower who relied heavily on his daughters Catherine Perkins and Georgina Farrant to act as First Ladies. Both ladies married in Singapore. In 1911, Sir John was recalled to London before his final posting to Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

I was delighted to discover Sir John's private secretary, Claud Severn was indeed an Australian who went on to become the Colonial Secretary for Hong Kong. He married late in life and died in England. There was a whole cast of characters that I could have included but, according to my editor, they added little to the story and I was probably just showing off!

Now to the serious stuff. You may wonder where a writer's ideas come from and sometimes it is a case of truth being stranger than fiction. In my research, I was casually browsing the internet

looking for information on the contemporary Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Lewis Harcourt. As I read through the entries online, my eyes widened. It was an open secret in polite society at the time that Harcourt was a sexual predator of the worst kind. Indeed, part of a ring of such predators. He came undone when the mother of one of his victims made a noise about the man's conduct. Harcourt died in his sleep from an overdose of Bromidia. It was ruled misadventure but was more likely to have been suicide.

Finally, as I have mentioned before, these stories are set in the colonial past and the attitudes and society of the time are not reflective of our modern society. They do not reflect the views of the author but are based on historical facts.

I hope you have enjoyed the HARRIET GORDON MYSTERIES and do keep following me for news on further adventures of our beloved characters.

(PS: If you are craving a little more of an 'aah' moment, remember that I am still at heart a romance writer and if you would like some exclusive 'director's cut' material, I have put together a few short scenes of newly married life... you can download AFTER THE SPEECHES [HERE](#)

Alison Stuart 2024