



# A Chain of Evidence

*Carolyn Wells*

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**A Chain of Evidence** Carolyn Wells

**A Manhattan lawyer turns to master detective Fleming Stone to prove his beautiful neighbor innocent of murder in this classic locked-room mystery**

A respectable young attorney in New York City, Otis Landon has barely settled into his new living quarters when an incident occurs in a neighboring apartment that he cannot, in good conscience, ignore. Robert Pembroke, a vicious, miserly man, has been murdered behind locked doors. The only people who had access to the victim were his servant and his niece. The latter, Miss Janet Pembroke, seems the suspect most likely to have eliminated her uncle with a hatpin, but her obvious distress and gentle demeanor convince Landon she is innocent. Besides, he may be falling in love with her.

Obsessed with proving Miss Pembroke's innocence, Landon follows a perplexing chain of evidence that includes a railroad schedule, a key to a safe deposit box, ticket stubs to a music hall performance, and a monogrammed handkerchief. But with time running out and no solution in sight, he must turn to Fleming Stone, the only detective smart enough to make sense of it all.

This ebook features a new introduction by Otto Penzler and has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.

## A Chain of Evidence Details

Date : Published October 27th 2015 by MysteriousPress.com/Open Road (first published 1912)

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Author : Carolyn Wells

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# From Reader Review A Chain of Evidence for online ebook

## Denise Kearney says

Kindle-Free-Early Bird Books. 3.5 stars. An enjoyable old fashioned mystery

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## Cindy says

Murder, romance, courtrooms, and a Sherlock Holmes-sort of solver. Well narrated by Richard Kilmer. Recommended for classic mystery lovers. Librivox audiobook

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## C says

### Melodrama

This story is a melodramatic, mostly a silly romance. There is very little mystery. The characters are shallow and unbelievable.

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## Bish Denham says

Not particularly stellar, not anything like Ptomaine Street which I thoroughly enjoyed. A Chain of Evidence is a rather bland mystery. Okay is about all I can say about it.

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## Herman Gigglesworth says

The blog Redeeming Qualities said this book was awful, and Melody wasn't kidding!

Otis Landon has to be the worst detective in history. The charges against him are as follows:

-Falling in love with a prime suspect, and refusing to believe that she could be guilty no matter how much evidence or suspicion piles up against her. This includes refusing to answer important questions, lying to him, saying cryptically that she "might" be guilty, and having clear motives (inheritance and hating the murder victim).

-Denying the eyewitness account of the black maid Charlotte due to his racism and sexism. She also hated the victim, but of course she was too loyal to "Marse" to do it, right? RIGHT? (Her dialogue is written like that of an antebellum slave as if nothing had changed since the 1860s). He also criticizes her for telling this accurate information to the coroner, because this would dishonor the woman he loves!

-Not being suspicious enough of a man that hates detectives, tells him he has a "perfect alibi", and stands to

inherit a large part of the victim's estate.

-Not hiring the famed detective Fleming Stone early enough, even though he solves the case almost immediately after Otis gives him the evidence. Fleming Stone is the deus ex machina of sorts.

-And much more that I may have forgotten

The Inspector is not much better. He thinks that only a woman could have killed someone with a hat-pin, because only women wear them. Uh. . .Have you considered that if it is used as a MURDER WEAPON, than maybe it could have been a man trying to frame a woman?

To paraphrase Melody from Redeeming Qualities, if you're excited that a Sherlock Holmes ripoff is joining the case at the end, then your mystery novel is very bad indeed.

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### **Pamela McLaren says**

This story by Carolyn Wells has, has had as her previous ones, a good mystery but if anything the dialogue is very dated. This is another locked room mystery; this time its an apartment building with but one exit, the front door. The door is chained at 10 p.m., all the windows latched and the only suspects, a young woman and her female servant left in the apartment with the woman's uncle. The next morning, the man is found dead in his bed but its not a natural death, there's a pin stuck in his neck.

When the doctor is arrives at the scene, the neighbors across the way -- an attorney and his sister -- are alerted to the incident and are drawn into it. The attorney quickly gets himself involved, trying to find clues (everyone in this book just about thinks they are detectives!) and while the young woman is difficult to read, contradictory and unfriendly, he apparently falls for her and is convinced that he will prove her innocent of the crime.

At a certain point, he calls in Fleming Stone, the real detective, who quickly solves the mystery. The language is stilted and its hard to believe that even in the 1910s (the book was written in 1912), the police would have handled this case in this cavalier manner.

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### **Brenda Carter says**

#### **The Chain**

Excellent detective story! Very well written and entertaining. Couldn't put it down. Need more writers like Miss Wells More please!

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## **Elaine Steil says**

### **Delightful**

This was my first Carolyn Wells mystery. I enjoyed reading about the New York of that era. The Author's style of writing kept me interested right from the beginning. I plan to follow up with another mystery by this Author.

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## **Anthony Ambruso says**

### **A really smart who done-it**

This was a tight mystery. No waste or filler. It moved steadily its ending. Engaging. I had my suspicions but no proof until the end almost. A good read

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## **Joe Arieno says**

And yet another classic from the mind of Carolyn Wells.

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## **Tam May says**

This is my third Fleming Stone book and I will probably not be reading another one for quite a while. Don't get me wrong, they're a fun read. But they are also very formulaic. True, mystery fiction does follow a pattern (body discovered, crime scene investigation, suspect interviews, etc) which is what makes it so fun to read. But I mean here that Wells basically uses the same characters but with different names, like the beautiful young woman whom the main character detective falls in love with and is always the most likely suspect, the detective mooning over her, the male suspect whom the detective suspects the beautiful woman is in love with and is jealous of, etc. It just started to get old on me after a while. I also have an issue with the idea of the title character (Fleming Stone) being a deus ex machina kind of thing - that is, he always comes in in the last part of the book and solves the crime when the main character has been struggling all through the book. I get this is Wells' gimmick but it doesn't quite sit well with me. To me, the fun of reading cozy mysteries is to get to know the main sleuth and how he/she works and watching them uncover the clues, suspects, etc., that leads them to the crime. It sort of defeats the purpose when the sleuth comes in just in the nick of time to save the day. So Wells' books are fun, mindless reading but in small doses

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**Sharon says**

I enjoyed this old fashioned mystery, it's rather slow pace and its evocation of old New York City. The suspense grew slowly and the solving of the mystery was all the more satisfying because of it.

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**Dalene Hansen says**

Written in 1912, interesting read

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**Virginia Sande says****A Compelling Mystery**

I didn't give it five stars because I felt it just got too "wordy" with so much repetition. I could believe the hero had fallen in love at first sight, as the same thing had happened between my late husband and myself.

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**Linda says**

Forseeable. Repetitive. too pat.

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