

THE ANARCHIST

An Educational Thriller.

background: Origins of WW1.

Serbia was a small country in what is now Yugoslavia. It was dominated by its large and powerful neighbour, Austria-Hungary, which was then an empire. Austria-Hungary wanted to absorb Serbia, so Serbia sought the protection of Russia. Nevertheless in 1908 Austria annexed a big chunk of Serbia, a province called Bosnia. In 1914 a handful of nationalist Serbian students assassinated a visiting Austrian Archduke in the town of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. Then: -

1. The Austrians, who wanted to conquer Serbia anyway, used the assassination of the Archduke as a pretext and declared war on Serbia. (However they did not go to war, not yet anyway.)
2. Russia, which was supposed to be Serbia's patron, reluctantly mobilised her army. At first Russia mobilised only partially, against Austria; but then the Russian generals realised that partial mobilisation left them vulnerable defenceless against Austria's ally Germany, so the Russians ordered full mobilisation.
3. Once Russia had mobilised against Austria and Germany, of course Germany had to mobilise. However Germany's problem was that Russia was allied with France, and the German generals were afraid that while they were fighting the Russians in the east, France would attack them from the west. They decided they would solve this problem by trying to put France out of the war with a lightning knockout blow. So Germany invaded France.
4. The Germans had long ago decided that if and when they invaded France they would go through neutral Belgium. Nobody really cared much about Belgium, although there was an ancient treaty (1839) under which the neutrality of Belgium was guaranteed by England. However England was worried about Germany. Germany was growing fast and seemed to threaten British dominance of the seas, world trade, and the colonies. So ^{when Germany invaded Belgium} England used the 1839 treaty as an excuse to declare war on Germany.

This is how a quarrel between Austria and Serbia turned into a war between England and Germany.

(Moral: defence treaties are used as an excuse to go to war.)

The Anarchist.

1. This is the story of Charlotte Victoria Pembroke-Leg, Viscountess Walden. In 1914 she is a debutante and distantly related to the Royal Family. She is pretty, protected, rather innocent, cultured, and very idealistic. This is her first London season. Her education has been narrow and impractical. Last year she was wearing knee socks and pigtails; now suddenly she is a woman. Recently she asked her governess: "What will I do when I come out?"

"Oh, go to parties and balls and picnics until and just have a wonderful time until you get married."

"And what will I do after I get married?"

"Why, my child," said the governess, "you will do nothing."

This conversation is on Charlotte's mind as she rides the London merry-go-round while her mother schemes weddings.

The British Empire is at its peak. On the map, half the world is coloured pink. The wealth, power and privilege amassed during ^{the} sixty-three ^{years} of Victoria's reign are now being spent with gusto, first under the ageing playboy King Edward ^{the} VII and (since 1901) under George V. People eat and drink hugely. Houses are spacious, clothes are gorgeous, entertainment is lavish. A family like the Waldens would employ more than 100 servants at its various residences. ^{The rules of} Etiquette have attained unparalleled complexity. Men and women have different clothes for morning, lunch, afternoon, evening, town and country, indoors and outdoors, etc. For example women's hats may not be worn closer to London than Ascot. More than one million people (out of a working population of 18m) work as domestic servants. Everyone pays lip-service to Victorian morality, and the homosexual intelligentsia has been driven abroad by the Oscar Wilde trial; but Edward VII is a patron of the Paris brothels and syphilis is endemic. *

Coming home at dawn from a party, Charlotte is shocked to see someone sleeping in the street. Her chaperone tells her that thousands of handmaids sleep on the streets because they have no homes. Charlotte goes home and screams at her mother: "Why did nobody ever tell me?" Her anger has another, secret source: she has recently discovered how babies are made. It seems to her that her education so far has been little more than a conspiracy to deceive her. Charlotte has inherited her mother's soft heart and her father's strong will. She can't take dirt like this lying down.

Now that she is beginning to find out what the world is like, how can she help to change it? She can't even vote! She begins to seek out a different kind of companion. She meets the intellectual subversives of the day: Emeline Pankhurst, Thomas Hardy, Bertrand Russell, Bernard Shaw.

She terrifies her parents by attending a suffragette demonstration and scandalises her society friends by declaring an (entirely rhetorical) belief in free love.

* The prize of the season is the young Russian, Prince Orlow. Dashing, handsome, foreign, related to all the crowned heads of Europe and obscenely rich, he's the man every mother wants her daughters to marry. Charlotte, like all the others, rather fancies him. He talks very earnestly about the need for reform in Russia: for mechanised agriculture, free speech, land reform and democracy. Of course he is only a young idealist and his elders are fairly confident that a little more maturity and experience will convince him that Russia is not really falling apart at the seams.

But academic radicalism does not satisfy her for long and soon she falls in with an altogether more serious crowd.

2. At the other end of the social scale, and at the other end of London, life is very different. When school medical examinations are introduced it is found that one child in six is too undernourished, verminous or sick to benefit from education. The infant mortality rate is 33%. Gin is the universal panacea, and is cheap. Pubs are open all day until midnight.

In London's East End the poorest of Englishmen mingle with even poorer immigrants from Eastern Europe. To the annoyance of the rest of Europe, England permits entry to all kinds of political revolutionaries. Far-left political ideas brought by the immigrants take root in the richly rotting soil of London poverty. The powerful Federation of Jewish Anarchist Groups publishes its own newspaper, *Der Arbeiter Freiheit* - in Yiddish - and organises a successful strike of sweatshop workers.

Prominent in this milieu is a Bolshevik called Felix, a Rasputin-like character, intense, magnetic, and fiery. He meets Charlotte at the White Street Anarchist Club, cultivates her, takes charge of her education, and seduces her. They are not in love, either before or after the seduction. Charlotte is merely furthering her education, although she enjoys it too. Felix gets a big kick out of screwing an aristocratic but he also plans to use Charlotte in other ways.

3. While Charlotte has been growing up, European statesmen have been forging the alliances which will ensure that, when one of them goes to war, the rest will follow. The Central Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary, are encircled by hostile nations: France, England, Belgium, Russia and the Balkans. As always, the problem facing German military planners is the prospect of war on two fronts - against France in the west and Russia in the east. The aim of German diplomacy, therefore, is to neutralise Russia. One attempt to do this has already failed: in 1905 the Kaiser persuaded the Czar to sign the treaty of Bjorko, but immediately afterwards the treaty was torn up by German

and Russian officials.

The head of German intelligence espionage at this time is Gustav Steinbauer, an overblown, self-serving, ambitious, scheming ^{former} Pinkerton detective (really). He has a small network of about ~~22~~ exactly 22 spies in England. As war begins to loom up during 1914 Steinbauer has a bright idea. If a prominent Russian noble were to be assassinated in England — by expatriate Russian Bolsheviks whom England permits in sheltering despite all protests — this would surely cause a cooling of relations between Russia and England and might serve to keep Russia out of the war at a crucial moment.

He goes to England to consult with his most reliable spy there.

4. Scotland Yard has a newly-formed political section, called Special Branch. The detectives of Special Branch don't know the difference between an Anarchist and a Bolshevik. They are further confused by the fact that ^{some} ~~many~~ of the most militant extremists are in fact agents provocateurs planted by the Ochrana (the forerunner of the KGB). (This may seem incredible but it is established that one of Ochrana agent provocateurs, named ~~Steff~~ ^{Steff}, was responsible for the murders of the Russian Minister of the Interior and the Czar's uncle.) Peter the Painter, central figure in the Siege of Sidney Street, is thought to have been an a.p., and so is Pettitt, a leading organizer of the 'sweatshop makers' strike.)

Special Branch is not too hot but M.I.5 is better. It was started in 1906, when it was called MOS and had a staff of exactly one, its founder, Captain Vernon Bell. Bell's superiors were puzzled when he asked for an assistant, but now — in 1914 — he has four officers, a lounge, two investigators and seven clerks — and very extensive files. His officers, believe it or not, are in the basement of the little Theatre in ~~St~~ John Street, off the Strand.

Bell is a curious man. His father was a soldier and his mother a Polish countess. As a boy Vernon Bell travelled all over Europe and learned to speak French, German, Italian and Polish. In the Army he passed interpreter's exams in Russian and Chinese. He served in China during the Boxer rebellion, but the Orient shattered his health. He has asthma, recurrent dysentery, and back pains so bad he can hardly sit upright and goes even the shortest distances in his motor car: a man with an iron will who is almost continuously in pain. He describes his hobbies in *Who's Who* as fishing and coquet. He is morally tough and deeply pious. One of his colleagues is quoted as saying: "He could smell a spy like a henier smells a rat." Superficially he is an officer of the old school, but in reality he is

flicks, cunning and at times most ungentlemanly. He is referred to as K, setting the tradition that Intelligence chiefs in England are known by an initial. Kell has a good relationship with the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, who helps him cut through red tape.

Kell knows about most of Steinhausen's spies in England. Steinhausen was once followed to a bookshop in the Colonial Road. Subsequently the bookshop's mail was intercepted. The bookshop, Kurt Gustav Ernst, is the "post office" for all German spies in England. Kell did not have Ernst arrested until after war was declared. Instead he kept track of all the spies, only arresting them if they discovered something really important or tried to leave England.

So when Steinhausen visits Flicks, Kell knows. He watches and waits.

+ an Ochrana a.p.

+ a working-class hero.

Flicks' problem: he must make it look like Bolsheviks.

Kell's problem: he thinks Flicks is merely a spy.

So Flicks tells Kell about the plot?

No, the Ochrana agent tells Kell. (?)

Head of Scotland Yard regularly dines with the Waldens?

1. Charlotte gets herself invited to the country house.
2. William Henry meets the Bomb Man (through a.p.).
3. Will takes a job as footman in the country house.
4. Kell, having intercepted a letter from Steinhauser to Feliks, begins investigating Feliks.
5. Kell sees Feliks with Charlotte.
6. Sarajevo.
7. The weekend begins.
8. The Prince proposes.
9. Kell learns of the bomb. And Steinhauser's plan. Through a.p. Andrew Prior.

1. Charlotte sets up a house party and at her parents' country house and invites Prince Oblomov.

1. Charlotte persuades her mother to have a weekend party at their country house and invite Prince Oblomov. She manages this partly by hints that Oblomov is in love with her and might propose. Naturally the Prince also assumes that draws the conclusion that a proposal would be well received.
2. The a.p. takes Will Henry to meet the Bomb Man, a mad little anarchist who makes bombs. No. Prior tells Will where to get the materials. Will gets the gear together and figures out how to make a bomb.
3. Charlotte hires Will as a groom at Walden Hall.
4. Kell intercepts a letter from Steinhauser to Feliks and begins to investigate Feliks. He sees Feliks with Charlotte.

How does Charlotte learn the truth about Feliks?

- Chapters:
- Felix goes to England ¹
 - Steinhaus tricks Felix ⁴
 - Felix meets Charlotte ⁷
 - Felix persuades Charlotte ⁸
 - Felix gets the books ["]
 - Hell discovers Ernst ²
 - Hell learns of Felix ⁶
 - Hell meets A.P. ¹⁰
 - Hell figures it out ¹⁵
 - Felix learns Charlotte knows ¹⁷
 - Felix runs himself up ²⁰
 - Hell to Walden Hall ¹⁹
 - All spies arrested, Lucia seduced. ²²
 - Charlotte meets Monna ³
 - Charlotte's conversion ⁵
 - Charlotte meets Felix ⁷
 - Charlotte arranges party ⁹
 - Charlotte hires Felix ¹²
 - Charlotte meets F's wife ¹³
 - Monna proposes ¹⁴
 - Charlotte figures it out ¹⁶
 - Charlotte prevents the ans. ¹⁸
 - Monna Charlotte accepts Monna. ²¹

- A:
1. Felix to England
 2. Hell discovers Ernst
 3. Charlotte meets Monna
 4. Steinhaus tricks Felix
 5. Charlotte's conversion
 6. Hell learns of Felix
 7. Charlotte meets Felix

- B:
8. Felix persuades Charlotte
 9. Charlotte arranges party
 10. Hell meets A.P.
 11. Felix gets the books
 12. Charlotte hires Felix
 13. Charlotte meets Felix's wife

- C:
14. Monna proposes
 15. Hell figures it out
 16. Charlotte figures it out
 17. Felix knows that Charlotte knows
 18. Charlotte saves Monna
 19. Hell arrives at Walden Hall
 20. Felix runs himself up
 21. Charlotte says yes to Monna.
 22. All spies arrested + Lucia seduced.

Sultrayette denies.

hole of A.P.

seduction.

AP wants O the Hell.