

The Curse Of The Amsterdam Diamond

Jesse Leaf

The Sancy Blood Diamond Susan Ronald,2008-05-02 The fascinating six-hundred-year history of one of the world's most coveted gems and the royal feuds, intrigues, and betrayals it engendered The Sancy Diamond first came to Europe from India in the fourteenth century, and until 1661 it was the largest white diamond-and the most concentrated and secure form of wealth-in all of Christendom. Alternately believed to impart invincibility to its wearer and to bring ruin to any who owned it, the Sancy cast a seemingly mystical spell over everyone from the king of Portugal to Henry III of France to England's Elizabeth I to Napoleon Bonaparte and Queen Maria Luisa of Spain. The riveting account of one of the most hotly pursued gems in history, The Sancy Blood Diamond follows its six-century journey from the diamond mines of Golconda to where it now modestly resides at the Louvre, among the remnants of the French crown jewels. In a colorful, fast-paced narrative, historian Susan Ronald describes the often violent passions the Sancy engendered among many of the giants of European history. She also describes the pivotal roles it played on the chessboard of European geopolitics, and how it was used to raise armies, settle national debts, and enhance its owners' power and prestige. Working from primary sources, Ronald solves, once and for all, the mystery of the Sancy's disappearances in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and she explores the legend of the Sancy curse, which arose after the violent deaths of Burgundy's Charles the Bold, England's Charles I, France's Louis XVI, and other ill-fated owners.

Diamonds to Amsterdam Manning Coles,1954

Hope Diamond Richard Kurin,2007-09-04 Since its discovery in seventeenth-century India, the Hope diamond, a glimmering deep blue gem weighing over 45 carats, has been shrouded in mystery and steeped in intrigue. In this groundbreaking work, Dr. Richard Kurin goes beyond the speculation to reveal the truth behind a legendary stone. Kurin, a cultural anthropologist, spent more than a decade on the trail of the legendary gem. But the 'curse' that surrounds it, which Kurin puts to rest once and for all, is only one small piece of a long and lustrous story that moves between ancient religion and modern magic, royal power and class rivalry, revenge and greed. Richly illustrated, Hope Diamond works in a grand historical tradition—depicting the specific to reveal the universal.

Blood from a Stone Richard Hammer,Yaron Svoray,2015-06-23 The search for the Life Diamonds--the subject of the compelling documentary produced by the History Channel. They were known as Life Diamonds--rough uncut diamonds of high quality bought by Jews in Eastern Europe to use as passports to safety. After 1939 and the Nazi blitzkrieg, after the extermination camps began belching black smoke into the skies and the railroad station at Auschwitz II-Birkenau became the busiest train station in the world, they became Death Diamonds. Blood from a Stone is the amazing story of forty of those diamonds, of their journey across continents and oceans, from the mines of South Africa to the diamond centers in Antwerp and Amsterdam, to the Jews of Eastern Europe, to the Death Camps. . . and to the two American soldiers who liberated them from the SS, finally, and buried them in a forest in Alsace on the border between France and Germany. It is the story of the curse believed to lie over the fabulous wealth of these stones, bringing death and disaster to all who touched them. It is the story of Yaron Svoray, who spent more than a decade in search of one small foxhole somewhere in a thousand square miles of forest...and of his unbelievable success. Blood from a Stone is a unique story, a story unlike any to come out of World War II. Blood from a Stone will more than over a dozen exclusive photos from the two-hour History Channel documentary.

Jewelry Talks Richard Klein,2012-02-15 Campy, bitchy, outrageous, and quite a bit more than over the top, Abby Zinzo describes himself as “a cross between Auntie Mame and Louis the Sun King.” Abby has lived a life dedicated to pleasure, and nothing has given him more pleasure than owning, wearing, or merely contemplating the lustrous objects with which women and men have always adorned themselves. In this sexy, funny book that is part novel and part thesis on jewelry, Abby sits down to record everything he has learned over a lifetime, planning to leave this story along with his collection of valuable stones to his beloved niece, Zeem. He recounts the history of famous gems—like the fabulous Koh-i-Noor and the brilliant blue Hope diamond—and regales us with naughty tales of the women who made the beautiful jewelry their own, including Coco Chanel, the Duchess of Windsor, and Elizabeth Taylor. He also narrates his own sensational life, from Harvard undergraduate to dancer in a notorious Paris drag cabaret to his twilight as a man for whom gender is just another glittering ornament. Sharp, fascinating, and sparkling with its own inner fire, Jewelry Talks is precious gem in and of itself.

Charlotte Diamond Mysteries Bundle 2 Olivia Stowe,2021-02-07 This bundle contains the third and fourth books in the best selling Charlotte Diamond Mystery Series by Olivia Stowe. In Coast to Coast, retired FBI senior investigator Charlotte Diamond finds herself jetting from murder on one coast of the United States to kidnapping on another in attempts to save both her lover and her former husband. Charlotte follows her new-found companion, the leading movie actress, Brenda Brandon, to Hollywood when a cameo movie role she cannot turn down returns her to the scene of an old murder, for which she now is the leading suspect. Barely having dealt with that mystery on the West Coast, Charlotte is called back to Ocean City, Maryland, where her former husband and his new gambling casino have been targeted by the mob, and his new wife kidnapped. Torn from West Coast to East Coast and thrown into the sphere of an even older and brighter flame than her former husband just when she had thought that her life was settling down, Charlotte is finding out that retirement looks a whole lot similar to when she was working on all cylinders at the FBI. An Inconvenient Death sees retired FBI senior investigator Charlotte Diamond cajoled into taking a Christmas market Rhine river cruise with her partner, glamorous retired queen of the movie screen Brenda Brandon/Boynnton. When Brenda invites Charlotte’s doctor brother, Chance Diamond, and his minister wife, Marilyn, to join in the trip, Charlotte knows this will be no restful vacation. The “curse of Chance,” the travels of whom have always been accompanied by a death or three, does indeed embroil Charlotte and her three travel companions in a complex mix of “inconvenient” robberies and suspicious deaths against a backdrop of quaint German towns, Christmas markets, and Rhine castles. As the Rhine Maiden scenically chugs north from Nürnberg to Amsterdam over Christmas week, Charlotte and Brenda track their bet on whether the “curse of Chance” will meet its quota of mayhem, while Charlotte sinks deeper and deeper into what becomes a working vacation.

The Jeweler Beck Anderson,2014-11-25 Fender Barnes profits from an institution he doesn’t believe in: marriage. He’s a talented designer, but a reluctant jewelry store owner, thanks to his pop’s retirement. He’s cynical, he’s jaded, he’s not entirely certain about the concept of love, but he’s happy to sell an eager young guy an engagement ring for his fiancée to be—until moments after the transaction when that eager guy is hit by a car and killed, and Fender’s conscience pays a rare visit. He retrieves the ring and decides to find the woman his customer intended to marry. That woman turns out to be Ginger Stevens, twenty-something ski instructor, who—despite being full of guilt and self-doubt after the death of her boyfriend—is someone Fender finds he quite enjoys being around. He’s smitten. Which is all well and good, except that after he meets her, Fender can’t do it. Though it’s right there in his pocket, he can’t tell her about the ring. Instead, he embarks on a long, ridiculous quest to find a way to tell her the truth he knows she deserves. Aided by advice from Pop and the antics of his best friend Sam, Fender tries desperately to juggle his budding romance with the reality he knows could ruin it. Will he find love or foul it up? Can Ginger move out of the past to embrace what the future has to offer? Meet this unlikely pair in Beck Anderson’s heartfelt and fabulously funny second novel, The Jeweler.

Diamond Warriors in Colonial Namibia Shipululo Amupanda,2022-07-22 Diamond Warriors in Colonial Namibia enters into uncharted scholarly territory of illegal diamond smuggling at the largest diamond mining company in colonial Namibia-De Beers' Consolidated Diamond Mines of South West Africa (CDM). It details the underground activities of the natives (migrant workers) employed by the CDM and how these illicit activities accounted for rapid development in

Owamboland. Beyond this account, the book takes on the deterministic 'natural resource curse' theory that equates natural resource endowments to a curse resulting in underdevelopment and sometimes conflict. It is argued and proven herein, from a decolonial standpoint, that such an approach is an oversimplification of the political economy of natural resources in Africa in general and Namibia in particular. The text also provides a contextual account of the contract labour system and details the symbiotic relationship between CDM and the colonial state before highlighting the remaining unanswered questions and areas of further research.

Weird Virginia Jeff Bahr,Troy Taylor,Loren Coleman,2007

Prestigious Jewelry Caroline Childers,1997 A reference for all jewellery enthusiasts This publication features chapters on gemstone origin, cutting and setting, and the use of precious metals. Interviews with industry leaders, and a review of the finest luxury jewellery collections in the world complete the volume.

Gemlore Diane Morgan,2008-06-30 Every culture has developed its own lore of rocks. From the stones of Aaron's breastplate to the foundational rocks of the New Jerusalem, from the creation tales of South America to the blood stones of Burma, gems have taken their place in the mythology and magic of the human race. This book details the lore attached to particular gems. Each chapter covers a particular stone and discusses the gem's geological, historical, mythical, and legendary qualities. A valuable resource for anyone researching symbols, myth, history, or literature, this book also helps science students understand the humanistic context of gemstones and offers social studies students a fascinating view of gems in world cultures. Each chapter covers a particular gemstone, such as diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds. It also covers organic gems, such as pearl, coral, and amber. The chapters discuss the natural history of the stone, including where the gem is found, its value, and its use; the role the gem has played in history, especially for certain famous stones such as the Hope Diamond; and the myths, powers, and legends that have attached to the stone over the centuries. Science students will appreciate the humanistic context the book offers for gemstones, while social studies students will appreciate its consideration of gems across times and places. Students of literature and the arts will welcome the book's attention to gems as symbols, and general readers will find it a fascinating guide to the lore and legend of precious stones.

The Curse of Ham David M. Goldenberg,2009-04-11 How old is prejudice against black people? Were the racist attitudes that fueled the Atlantic slave trade firmly in place 700 years before the European discovery of sub-Saharan Africa? In this groundbreaking book, David Goldenberg seeks to discover how dark-skinned peoples, especially black Africans, were portrayed in the Bible and by those who interpreted the Bible--Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Unprecedented in rigor and breadth, his investigation covers a 1,500-year period, from ancient Israel (around 800 B.C.E.) to the eighth century C.E., after the birth of Islam. By tracing the development of anti-Black sentiment during this time, Goldenberg uncovers views about race, color, and slavery that took shape over the centuries--most centrally, the belief that the biblical Ham and his descendants, the black Africans, had been cursed by God with eternal slavery. Goldenberg begins by examining a host of references to black Africans in biblical and postbiblical Jewish literature. From there he moves the inquiry from Black as an ethnic group to black as color, and early Jewish attitudes toward dark skin color. He goes on to ask when the black African first became identified as slave in the Near East, and, in a powerful culmination, discusses the resounding influence of this identification on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic thinking, noting each tradition's exegetical treatment of pertinent biblical passages. Authoritative, fluidly written, and situated at a richly illuminating nexus of images, attitudes, and history, *The Curse of Ham* is sure to have a profound and lasting impact on the perennial debate over the roots of racism and slavery, and on the study of early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Brooklynese David Alexander,2021-01-12 Brooklynese is the Boss of Bosses From the mean streets of New York City's prime mafia boro, comes a chase after savvy and streetwise bank robbers and jewel thieves that crosses international boundaries and time zones with the speed of a jet plane. Alexander weaves everything together with the skill of a true master of the action thriller category in an unforgettable extravaganza of capers, mayhem, hot gems, hot dames, and accomplished criminals who will stop at nothing to gain possession of a treasure whose value is almost beyond calculation. When a billion dollar diamond deal cut by one of New York's heaviest crime families goes sour, and the consignment of rare gems is lost overseas, a crew of wise guys straight out of Brooklyn is ordered to get it back -- any way they can. This is an international caper novel to end all caper novels, a nonstop page-turner jam-packed with action from start to finish and one of Alexander's boldest books ever. As crime thrillers go, Brooklynese is the boss of bosses. Brooklynese is an accomplishment by an author whose narrative skills are clearly at their peak and can sustain an ambitious plot, like the daring young man on the trapeze who flies through the air with the greatest of ease. -- Desert Sun If every crook could pull off a caper with the ease and skill Alexander ably demonstrates in Brooklynese, we'd all be broke. -- Globe Literary Supplement As a cops and robbers caper novel that positively drips with murder, mayhem, bad guys and bullets, this international crime thriller has all the right moves. I'll even say that rarely before have crooks, bank robbers and other kinds of criminals been portrayed in such a way that I as a reader wanted to get into the gang before I was even halfway through the story. That's what I call some seriously spellbinding storytelling. While the story begins and ends in Brooklyn, which gives the book its title, Brooklynese is actually a top-notch international thriller with a heavy-duty plot that weaves together global organized crime, high-level espionage and international intrigue with all the frills of a first-class spy thriller. The book is written with just that right touch that maintains its edge and stops short of making caricatures out of its characters. This is considerably harder to accomplish than making the characters seem like violent goofballs, the way they're all too often portrayed, because it requires considerably more writing skill. I would assume it also takes more than just a casual familiarity with the ways of the characters about which the story is based. These characters aren't only Brooklyn wise guys. They're also criminals that move in the high-class circles of European crime empires and the covert intelligence agents that they have connections with. The story also shows a considerable knowledge of the international diamond business that moves from South African diamond mines, to smuggling rings that operate across national borders, then to the gemstone trading houses in Antwerp, Paris and New York. -- Vince Flynn

The Diamond Hunters Wilbur Smith,2018-01-01 An action-packed thriller of family, business and betrayal - perfect for fans of Succession - by global sensation Wilbur Smith. 'A master storyteller' - Sunday Times 'Wilbur Smith is one of those benchmarks against whom others are compared' - The Times 'No one does adventure quite like Smith' - Daily Mirror Some people will never have enough . . . Johnny Lance was taken in by the Van Der Byls when he was an orphaned boy, and his life has been dedicated to making his adoptive father proud. But his efforts have been in vain, his father loathes him and, in his dying breath, makes one final demand of his biological son, the jealous and vengeful Benedict: to destroy his half-brother. When Johnny is tricked by Benedict into losing his entire fortune to the Van Der Byls company, he becomes a laughingstock. Benedict's sister, the smart and beautiful Tracey, loves Johnny and buys him a concession in the diamond rich seabeds of the South-West African Coast. But the obsessive Benedict has been shaped at his father's hand and will do anything to finish what he started. Even if it means destroying everything . . .

Uncle John's Giant 10th Anniversary Bathroom Reader Bathroom Readers' Institute,2012-11-01 Our first all-new edition to top 500 pages, this was the Bathroom Reader that made the publishing world stand up and take notice—these guys are here to stay. Also appearing for the first time in Giant 10th Anniversary is our famous “Extended Sitting Section,” a series of extra-long articles for those truly leg-numbing experiences. There are also plenty of short and medium articles covering a whole host of topics, including little-known history, pop science, myth-conceptions, celebrity rumors, comedian quotes, and, of course, really dumb crooks. Read about... * The anatomy of laughter * Is your name your destiny? * The history of the electric guitar * What really happened at

Roswell * The Politically Correct quiz * The secret of Nancy Drew * Legendary TV flops * Why you itch And much, much more!

BRITISH MURDER MYSTERIES: The Greatest Thrillers of G. A. Henty G. A. Henty,2019-10-20 Although best known for his historical adventure tales, Henty also wrote several mystery novels set in his usual background of certain historical events. A Search for a Secret – Agnes's sisters find a will and learn that Agnes will be an heiress of the great estate, so they plot against Agnes. They want to give the estate to the church, but Agnes is determined to find a concealed will. Dorothy's Double: The Story of a Great Deception – Eighteen year old Dorothy Hawtrey has lost her mother and twin sister after she was born. She lives a normal life with her father in London. However, she starts getting letters noticing her of her involvement in numerous scandals and frauds. Apparently, some doppelganger is doing these deeds using her good name. Dorothy's friend from the childhood starts investigating the matter which leads to America, from New York City, through New Orleans, to the gold rush fields of California. The Curse of Carne's Hold: A Tale of Adventure – Ronald Mervyn from Devonshire is wrongly accused of a murder and is forced to emigrate. After spending some time in South Africa, participating in Kaffir war, he returns home with some help to prove his innocence. Colonel Thorndyke's Secret – Colonel Thorndyke gets in a possession of a stolen bracelet which holds an unusual secret. After Colonel gets wounded and returns home to England, his brother learns of the secret and the destiny of the bracelet is carried over to the Thorndyke family. The Lost Heir – After a strange illness General Mathieson dies leaving an orphan child as his heir, and in case of child's death, an executor of the will should be John Simcoe. However, his true identity is hidden and his actions must be exposed before he endangers the true heir.

The Greatest Murder Mysteries - G.A. Henty Edition G. A. Henty,2020-12-17 Although best known for his historical adventure tales, Henty also wrote several mystery novels set in his usual background of certain historical events. A Search for a Secret – Agnes's sisters find a will and learn that Agnes will be an heiress of the great estate, so they plot against Agnes. They want to give the estate to the church, but Agnes is determined to find a concealed will. Dorothy's Double: The Story of a Great Deception – Eighteen year old Dorothy Hawtrey has lost her mother and twin sister after she was born. She lives a normal life with her father in London. However, she starts getting letters noticing her of her involvement in numerous scandals and frauds. Apparently, some doppelganger is doing these deeds using her good name. Dorothy's friend from the childhood starts investigating the matter which leads to America, from New York City, through New Orleans, to the gold rush fields of California. The Curse of Carne's Hold: A Tale of Adventure – Ronald Mervyn from Devonshire is wrongly accused of a murder and is forced to emigrate. After spending some time in South Africa, participating in Kaffir war, he returns home with some help to prove his innocence. Colonel Thorndyke's Secret – Colonel Thorndyke gets in a possession of a stolen bracelet which holds an unusual secret. After Colonel gets wounded and returns home to England, his brother learns of the secret and the destiny of the bracelet is carried over to the Thorndyke family. The Lost Heir – After a strange illness General Mathieson dies leaving an orphan child as his heir, and in case of child's death, an executor of the will should be John Simcoe. However, his true identity is hidden and his actions must be exposed before he endangers the true heir.

Rocks, Ice and Dirty Stones Marcia Pointon,2017-03-15 The king of stones, valued since antiquity for their unrivalled hardness, diamonds today are both desired and deplored. Once faceted and polished they glitter on the fingers of brides-to-be and in the ornaments of the super-rich, but their extraction from some of the world's poorest countries remains contentious. Immensely valuable for their size, diamonds can be easily hidden and transported, making them perfect contraband. Diamonds have been widely used in industry since the nineteenth century and have long been valued for their pharmaceutical and prophylactic properties. This entertaining and richly illustrated book examines the history of the diamond trade through the centuries from India and Brazil to South Africa and Europe and investigates what happens to diamonds once they reach the cutters and polishers. Marcia Pointon takes the reader on a unique tour of the ways in which the quadrahedron diamond shape has inspired design, architecture, and painting, from the symbolism of medieval manuscripts to modern-day graffiti. She questions the etiquette of engagement rings, and she reminds us why and how lost, stolen, or cursed diamonds create suspense in so many classic novels and films. This compelling and fascinating account of the history of sparklers around the world will appeal to all who covet, as well as all who despise, the unparalleled brilliance and glitter of the diamond.

Breaking the Curse of Sisyphus Mr. Serhan Cevik,Mr. Mohammad Rahmati,2013-01-04 This paper provides a broad empirical analysis of the determinants of post-conflict economic transitions across the world during the period 1960–2010, using a dynamic panel estimation approach based on the system-generalized method of moments. In addition to an array of demographic, economic, geographic, and institutional variables, we introduce an estimated risk of conflict recurrence as an explanatory variable in the growth regression, because post-conflict countries have a tendency to relapse into subsequent conflicts even years after the cessation of violence. The empirical results show that domestic factors, including the estimated probability of conflict recurrence, as well as a range of external variables, contribute to post-conflict economic performance.

The Everything Family Guide To Washington D.C. Jesse Leaf,2007-03-13 The Everything Family Guide to Washington D.C. includes all the most interesting and popular D.C. destinations. This informative and fun guide takes you from the White House and the monuments to the expansive Smithsonian and other museums, with important travel information such as: Famous landmarks and points of interest The best hotels for your money Activities for kids of all ages Where to dine—with and without the kids This completely revised and updated edition features an expanded section on special interest attractions like the African-American Civil War Memorial, the National Japanese American Memorial, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Holocaust Museum, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The Everything Family Guide to Washington D.C. offers all your family needs to plan a trip and get the most out of it.

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The Curse Of The Amsterdam Diamond Introduction

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