



EX ANTE

OUR MISTAKE

John T. Rich – a longtime subscriber (surely an enjoyable experience) who also occasionally oversaw the work of a *Green Bag* editor when they worked at the same firm (surely a trying experience) – has rightly taken us to task for an appalling oversight in this year’s *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*:

Shame on you for including a spoiler in the annotations to *The Secret Adversary Annotated (Almanac & Reader 2021)*! I probably read *The Secret Adversary* in my Agatha Christie phase 45 or 50 years ago, but if so I had entirely forgotten the plot. I would have preferred to keep wondering about who the villain is until Ms. Christie chose to reveal it very near the end. (Details omitted to spare other readers.)

Thank you, John.

So, to all those readers whose enjoyment of *The Secret Adversary* has not already been lessened by that spoiler: Please do not look at footnote 2 on page 298 of the *Almanac & Reader* until you’ve read to the end of the story (page 420).

This mistake is annoying as well as embarrassing because we did try to avoid spoilage-by-annotation. See, for example, footnote 103 on page 153 (“The Editors: To avoid spoilage, we have placed Jayantika Ganguly’s annotation of this passage near the end of the story.”). So, our intentions were good, but our editorial attention span was not. Sorry about that.