

The Wolfe Pack

The Nero Wolfe
Literary Society

A Long Suppressed Wolfe Title Comes to Light

Data Gathered During The Wolfe Pack Expedition
to the Rex Stout Archives at Boston College

July 6, 7, 8, 9, 2011

This is the story of how an office joke at Viking
almost produced a 74th Wolfe title!

Mr. Rex Stout
High Meadow
Brewster, N. Y.

Dear Rex,

For weeks the prize joke - on me - of the season has been bandied around the office, and perhaps it has reached your ears already. On the chance that it has not, I am forwarding the accompanying display.

We have a system of manuscript acceptance reports which, in the case of your books, is fairly academic. It has always been a gag here that Alan Green writes your catalogue description before the book is written; but at least he usually has a chance to talk to you about it before he does it. This year I thought I would go him one better by circulating the acceptance report before you had started writing the book. The result is enclosed.

This report in due course went to the production department, who failed to see through the gag and proceeded to turn it over to Bill English, the jacket artist. He promptly produced one of his masterpieces, also enclosed.

I wonder if you can't make good on this by giving us STIFF UPPER LIPSTICK for 1957.

Yours,

Marshall

MAB/rw

AFTER JUNE 23rd
625 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N.Y.
SAME TELEPHONE NO.

DATE: 4/26/56

SPONSOR: (AG)

MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE REPORT

AUTHOR: Rex Stout

CLASSIFICATION: a mystery

FINAL MS. DATE: June 6, 1956 - 3:45 P. M.

BASIC CONTRACT: Yes

SUBSIDIARY RIGHTS: No

TERRITORY: Yes

LENGTH: No

ILLUSTRATIONS: usual

TITLE: STIFF UPPER LIPSTICK
A Nero Wolfe Novel

AGENT: -

TRANSLATOR: -

INDEX?: -

OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES: -

FURTHER EDITORIAL WORK REQUIRED:

Readings by HKG and AG

SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION:

Archie Goodwin has a field-day -- and Nero finds his misogyny slipping a little -- in trying to award the orchids for murder among the glamorous demonstrators for a cosmetics firm, whose successive sales managers have mysteriously conked out, each with a labial brand-mark on his brow.

Nero Wolfe at his mostest -- Rex Stouter than ever was.

Abcd,efghijklm no
Archie near loses his misogoni
su and successive sales prau
managers: kaput by a kiss yet abcd
ghijklm mnopqrstuv wxyz
abcd,efghijklmnopqrstuv
wxyz



Stiff upper lipstick Rex Stout

Stiff upper lipstick



Rex Stout

*a Nero Wolfe
mystery novel*

Abcd.efghijklm no
Archie near lises his misagene
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abcedefghijklmnopqrstu
vwxyz
1234567890.



Stiff upper lipstick Rex Stout

Viking



THE VIKING PRESS INC · PUBLISHERS
625 MADISON AVENUE · NEW YORK 22 · NY

Cable: Vikpress Telephone: PL 5-4330

April 5, 1957

Mr. Rex Stout
High Meadow
Brewster, New York

Dear Rex:

I telephoned the boss in Nassau and he says that maybe we can accept 3:19 on June 18th, provided you sit down between now and May 1st and write out a paragraph with a tentative title which we can use in our catalog. It needn't have anything to do with what the book is going to be about and needn't even name the detective, as long as it fills the allotted space of half a page.)

Otherwise, we are faced with printing "Compliments of a Friend." In desperation maybe you could use STIFF UPPER LIPSTICK with the paragraph already written. This would also solve the jacket problem which is going to be our chief difficulty.

Yours sincerely,

Marshall

MAB/pg