Who Shot The Colonel?: Pinkerton Agent Stands Accused Of A Crime He Was Sent To Prevent

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The novel starts slowly as the author introduces his readers to characters and background information that will eventually bear on the colonel's murder.
Kilian's liberal sprinkling of real places and real people-Leesburg and Ball's Bluff, Virginia; the city of Washington; the unfortunate Colonel Baker; President Lincoln; known and unknown Rebel spies; and even John Wilkes Booth—is inspired, demonstrating a great deal of true scholarship.

The story then gallops along with Raines chasing after would-be pirates and Rebel agents, uncovering a plethora of disguise and identity confusion that may have the reader reaching for a scorecard. At the heart of the story is the extent that those working behind the scenes, behind petticoats as it were, can influence the course of conflict. In *A Killing at Ball's Bluff*, Michl Kilian takes the facts of the death of Colonel Baker and creates for his readers a fictional scenario that entertains and educates at the same time.

*Helen Howerton is the contributing editor for Murder: Past Tense, the journal of the Historical Mystery Appreciation Society. She is also chairman of the Convention Committee for the 2003 meeting of Left Coast Crime, an annual gathering of mystery authors and readers.*