

Adventure II – The Sign of Four

First half

"Our quest does not appear to take us to very fashionable regions," says Sherlock Holmes.

This tale is — unlike many others in the Canon — essentially about the middle class and the suburbs, rather than the older parts of London with which Sherlock Holmes is usually associated.

What attitudes does it take?

Second half

"It is a romance!" cried Mrs. Forrester. "An injured lady, half a million in treasure, a black cannibal, and a wooden-legged ruffian."

Is "The Sign of the Four" so well-loved by readers of Sherlock Holmes because of these exotic elements, or in spite of them?

Chris Redmond, BSI December 01, 1995

