



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXVIII – The Adventure of the Empty House

Honey, I'm home! And just in the nick of time, because somebody's discharging airguns in the heart of London...Some thoughts and questions for our story this week, *The Empty House*:

Recalling events at the Reichenbach, Holmes says he and Moriarty "exchanged some remarks." What on **earth** did they say to each other? Remember — these were the men who previously squared off with "all that I have to say has already crossed your mind," and "then possibly my answer has crossed yours." Can anybody suggest a few lines of dialog?

Let's turn from trials of the century, considered this past week, to brains of the century. In EMPT, Holmes declares that Moriarty's was "one of the great brains of the century." We can safely agree that Holmes himself was another one. Whose were some of the other great brains of the 19th century?

One of the unsolved mysteries of EMPT is the broken engagement between the Hon. Ronald Adair and Miss Edith Woodley. The engagement of an Earl's son was serious business, not lightly entered into or broken off. But this particular split seems to be no big deal. My own feeling is that their titles offer a possible clue: "Miss Edith" sounds socially inferior to the "Honorable Ronald." Was she an actress? His sister Hilda's governess? Did he love her and leave her?



"My collection of M's is a fine one," Holmes purrs. It truly is, with Moriarty, Morgan, Merridew, Mathews, and Moran. But that's not all! Lestrade's big case during the Hiatus was the Mosely Mystery. The

loser at the card table was Milner. Adair's father was Maynooth. Holmes claims to have been in Mecca. The twisted route to the empty house led down Manchester Street. The bust was fashioned by Meunier. Even Mycroft crops up in this story. Mmmmm. Maybe Mrs. Hudson's first name was "Martha" after all!

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