



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XXXIII – The Adventure of Black Peter

In honor of this week's story, *The Adventure of Black Peter*, I spent much of Thursday buffeted by waves. Whew! Trade you my Dramamine for a towel? But it's not much safer here on dry land. Securities are missing. Harpoons are flying. And there's blood on the ledger book. Questions and comments:

"So unworldly was he — or so capricious — that he frequently refused to help the powerful and wealthy..." A good argument can be made for either state of mind. Which do you think Holmes was, unworldly or capricious? Why?

How does Hopkins stack up against some of the other leading police inspectors in the canon: MacDonald, Gregson, and Lestrade?

Are the bad guys getting worse? It's possible to make excuses for, or find redeeming qualities, in some of the earlier criminals. For example, Rucastle really did love his son; Silas Brown took good care of Silver Blaze; why, even Moriarty appreciated fine art! But I'm not able to find a single saving grace in the character of Peter Carey. Can anybody else?

In these post-O. J. times, one can't help but be struck by the fact that young Neligan showed up in Sussex on the pretext of playing golf. I have faith that Hopkins, unlike the LA police, thoroughly searched the golf bag while Neligan was a suspect!



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