



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XL – The Adventure of the Second Stain

1. Was it in character for Holmes to be hateful of notoriety?
2. To whom, and why, had Watson promised publication of this case?
3. Is “vague in certain details” precise?
4. Why was the initial meeting at 221B?
5. Should Mycroft have been consulted?
6. What true facts underlie fictions in this case?
7. Was Trelawney Hope’s “beauty of mind” demonstrated or was he just a likable bumbling “yes” man?
8. What was the motive of those who sought the letter?
9. What was so unsafe about the office safe?
10. Compare curtain time in this adventure and *The Sign of the Four*.
11. Does the case fit the international situation of the time?
12. Did officials open their own mail?
13. Wouldn’t some of the chancelleries wish the letter suppressed?
14. Couldn’t Holmes trace Lucas’ informant?
15. Did Holmes share the popular belief in the rarity of coincidence?
16. Could Lady Hilda have had a legitimate excuse for visiting 221B?
17. Why is “alibi” italicized?



18. Why was there no relief for the constable?
19. What ever happened to Lucas' spy who almost caused a war?

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