



His Last Bow

Adventure XLII – The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans

Psssst! Wanna buy two dress circle tickets for tonight's performance? No? Well, how about buying some top secret submarine plans instead? I'll make you a good deal! Our next story is a Sherlockian classic, *The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans*. This weekend's questions and comments:

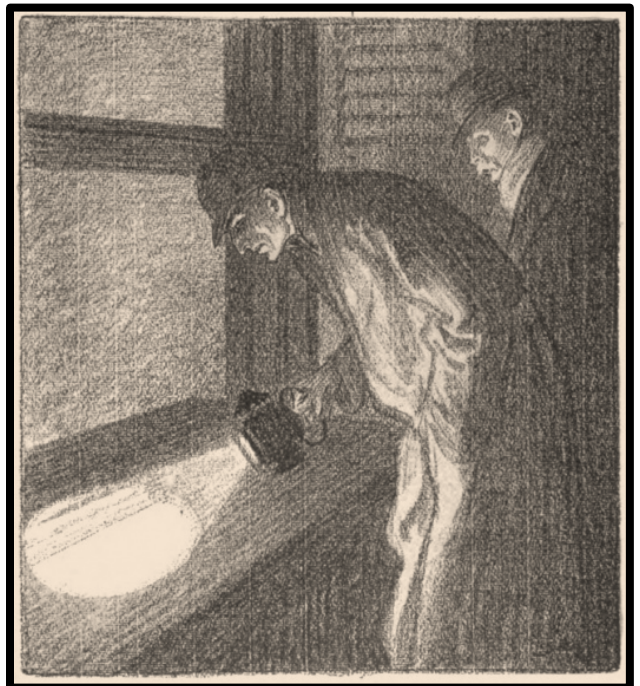
It's fortunate, Holmes declares, that he is not a criminal, but if he did have criminal aspirations what sort of crime might he turn to? Murder? Forgery? Something else?

Isn't this case a bit out of Lestrade's league? Why was this particular detective assigned to an extremely delicate case like BRUC?

Since it was known that Sir James couldn't survive this crisis, was he a murder victim? Why was such a fragile man in charge of a highly sensitive project anyway?

Both Cadogan West and Sir James had reason to suspect the man who later was shown to be the thief. Why didn't they act sooner and protect the plans?

Violet Westbury, with her straightforward notion of loyalty, is my favorite of the four Violets. I also like the fact that this girl with the flowery first name shares a last name with one of England's most beautiful gardens, Westbury Court, in Gloucestershire. Westbury, laid out at the end of the 17th century, is arguably the world's finest Dutch-inspired canal garden.



Along with the Delphinia, Irises, Sweetbriars, Narcissi, Miniature Boxwood, and herbs of all sorts, Westbury is renowned for its trees: outstanding Medlars, Quinces, and Cherries. Most famous of all is a venerable patriarch among oaks, the largest example of its kind in all England, an oak of the variety called.....the “Holm.”

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