



His Last Bow

Adventure XLIV – The Adventure of the Red Circle

The Adventure of the Red Circle. Who better to clean up the splatters than Mr. Sherlock Holmes? That soap Emilia ordered could really come in handy. My questions and comments as you turn the pages:

“The smallest point may be the most essential.” What do you think is **the** most essential small point in this case?

England is the refuge of the Luccas. It also was a haven in several other canonical accounts, including SCAN, FIVE, and VALL. Why did endangered people seek safety in England?

How come Leverton, the Pinkerton man, wasn’t thrilled down to his toes to meet Sherlock Holmes? Why, he doesn’t even seem to know who Holmes is!

Gorgiano’s had a powerful international organization behind him, and he died in a one-on-one encounter with an opponent — two things he has in common with Moriarty. Do the comparisons end there? What are some of the other similarities (and certainly there are differences) between these two villains?

The Red Circle gives us a fond backward glance at a number of stories we’ve recently read. Like HOUN, this week’s story included candlelight signals from a window. We saw the “journeys end” greeting, a Shakespearean misquote, in EMPT. A walking stick was struck on the pavement, as one was in REDH. REDC was broken into Parts One and Two, just like WIST. There was an



American angle, as we've seen in DANC, SCAN, NOBL, FIVE, STUD, YELL, and others. The Pinkerton Agency was on the job, an echo of VALL. There were advertisements in the agony columns, similar to SIGN, ENGR, and NOBL. There was an intriguing reference to an unchronicled case, like in MUSG, FIVE, SIXN, BLAC, and several other stories. A mirror was used to spy on somebody, as one was in COPP. The pencil lead, to which our attention was carefully directed, struck a chord with fans of the four Violets. There were tangled threads, recalling the tangles we saw in STUD, HOUN, and WIST. A thumbprint was mentioned, which reminds us of NORW. So many canonical refrains were repeated in REDC that some readers may dismiss it as redundant. Or, you might consider it to be a collection: The Greatest Hits of Sherlock Holmes!

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January 02, 1998