



## The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure L – The Problem of Thor Bridge

One woman lies dead, another is in jail, and a grumpy American millionaire may be able to provide some clues. We move to *The Problem of Thor Bridge*. My questions and comments:

Isn't Grace Dunbar just another Violet? There's absolutely nothing distinctive about her.

Why is Bates, that disgruntled sneak, such a credible witness?

Who is a better judge of Neil Gibson's personality — Grace or Sherlock Holmes?

Wouldn't the string float? Or, at least, wouldn't it be visible just under the surface of the shallow lake for a time, until it became really waterlogged?

The chipped parapet on Thor Bridge captured Holmes' attention. "It took some violence to do that...Yes, it was a hard knock" the detective said, striking the stonework with his cane. The chip is reminiscent of one of the numerous legends told of the Norse god of the sky, Thor, for whom the bridge was named. As the story goes, the giant Hrungrnir showed up at a banquet in Asgard, home of the gods. Hrungrnir bellowed that he would destroy the gods and carry off Thor's wife, Sif. Thor hated giants anyway, but this was simply too much; he brandished his mighty hammer, "Mjollnir," and challenged Hrungrnir to a duel. Hrungrnir pulled out his own weapon, a huge whetstone, which he hurled at the god.



With a single blow, Thor's hammer shattered the whetstone into many pieces. Some of the airborne chunks killed the giant. One fragment, a chip, flew toward Thor and embedded itself in his forehead, remaining there. I leave the velocity and trajectory calculations to mathematicians. For myself, I can't help but wonder if it's possible that the chip from the bridge parapet flew through the air and lodged itself in Maria's hair or clothing.

**Sonia Fetherston**

**March 27, 1998**