

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



The Casebook of Sherlock
Holmes
Adventure LV -- The
Adventure of the Three
Gables

THE THREE GABLES
DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*
(Date when Holmes confronted Isadora Klein)

CLUES:

1. Watson says, “ ... a couple of constables were examining ... the geranium beds ... “ (1029)
2. Geraniums are not bedded in England before the last part of May.
3. Holmes says, “I hear that she (Isadora Klein) is about to marry the young Duke of Lomand ... “ (1031)
4. Marriages between social celebrities were usually early in June.
5. The inspector says, “There is always the chance of finger-marks or something” (1030)
6. The Galton-Henry system of fingerprint classification was adopted by Scotland Yard in 1901.[#]
7. Holmes retired from active practice in September of 1903. (1071, 1080)
8. On the day of Holmes and Watson’s first visit to The Three Gables, Holmes says, “Your (Mrs. Maberly’s) letter to me had the 10 P.M. postmark.” (1026)
9. Letters cannot be posted after noon on Saturday.
10. Mrs. Maberly says, “Three days ago I had a call from a man who said he was a house agent.” (1025)
11. House agents would not call on Sunday.
12. Mrs. Maberly also says, “Yesterday the man arrived with the agreement all drawn out.” (1025)

* The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown below. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

[#] Baring-Gould, William S., *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Volume II (1967, Charles N. Potter, Inc.) p. 722

13. An agent would not bring a complete agreement for signature on Sunday.
14. Susan says, "I'll send for my box to-morrow." (1026)
15. Susan would not send for her box on Sunday.
16. Susan would have informed her husband, Barney Stockdale, on the day Douglas Maberly's possessions arrived.
17. The house agent would have called on the same day that Susan informed Barney Stockdale.
18. Mrs. Maberly says, "They (Douglas Maberly's possessions) arrived last week." (1027)
19. June 1, 1902 was on Sunday.
20. Referring to the day after the first visit, Watson says, "When I met my friend in his room early next morning, ... " (1028)
21. That same day Holmes visited Isadora Klein. (1031)

CONCLUSIONS:^s

- A. 1 and 2 imply it was the last half of May or later.
- B. A, 3, and 4 imply it was the first week in June.
- C. 5 and 6 imply it was 1901 or later and probably later.
- D. 7 implies it was 1903 or earlier and probably earlier.
- E. C and D imply it was 1902.
- F. B and E imply it was the first week in June of 1902.
- G. 8 and 9 imply that the first visit was not Sunday.
- H. 10 and 11 imply that the first visit was not Wednesday.
- I. 12 and 13 imply that the first visit was not Monday.
- J. 14 and 15 imply that the first visit was not Saturday.
- K. G, H, I, and J imply that the first visit was Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday.
- L. 16 and 17 imply that Douglas Maberly's possessions arrived on the day that the agent called.

^sReference: William S. Dorn "Adventurous Appointments with the Three Gables", pp. 22-24, *Baker Street West 1*, Vol. 2, No. 6, August 2000

- M. If the first visit was Thursday then L and 10 imply that Douglas's possessions arrived on Monday which was **this** week.
- N. M and 18 imply that the first visit was not Thursday.
- O. If the first visit was Friday then L and 10 imply that Douglas's possessions arrived on Tuesday which was **this** week.
- P. O and 18 imply that the first visit was not Friday.
- Q. K, N, and P imply that the first visit was Tuesday.
- R. F, Q, and 19 imply that the first visit was Tuesday, June 3, 1902.
- S. 20 and 21 imply that Holmes visited Isadora Klein on the day following the first visit.
- T. R and S imply that Holmes visited Isadora Klein on Wednesday, June 4, 1902.

**Holmes confronted Isadora Klein on
Wednesday, June 4, 1902.**

THE THREE GABLES VOCABULARY WORDS

- languid (1023, 1028) – **listless**
flamboyant (1023) – **showy**
bruiser (1023) – **large, heavyset man**
precipitately (1024) – **happened suddenly**
cowed (1024) – **frightened with threats**
astute (1024) – **shrewd**
attaché (1025) – **official employed by the British ambassador**
debonair (1025) – **carefree and gay**
morose (1025) – **melancholy; gloomy**
cynical (1025) – **scornful of the motives, virtue, or integrity of others**
gaunt (1025) – **thin and bony**
wheezy (1026) – **breathing with difficulty**
sullenly (1026) – **gloomily**
tenner (1026) – **ten pound banknote**
box (1026) – **container for clothing and other possessions**
paregoric (1026) – **tincture of opium used as a pain killer**
Post-Office bank (1027) – **bank operated by British postal office system**
folio (1027) – **manuscript**
annuity (1028) – **annual payment of an allowance or income**
turbid (1028) – **dark or dense**
rubicund (1029) – **ruddy; displaying a healthy rosiness**
nigger (1029) – **disparaging and vulgar term for a Black person**
foolscap (1030) – **sheet of writing paper measuring approximately 13 by 16 inches with a watermark of a fool's cap with bells**
pomposity (1030) – **with excessive self-esteem**
Conquistadors (1031) – **conquerors, especially the 16th-century Spanish soldiers who defeated the Indian civilizations of Mexico, Central America, and Peru**

belle dame sans merci (1031) – **beautiful woman without compassion (probably an allusion to the Keats poem of that name)**

caprice (1031) – **sudden, unpredictable action**

celerity (1031) – **swiftness**

settee (1031) – **small or medium-sized sofa**

coquettish (1032) – **flirting with a teasing sexual or romantic overture**

calcined (1032) – **heated to a sufficiently high temperature so that the material has been decomposed but not completely burned**

pertinacious (1032) – **stubbornly or perversely persistent**

THE THREE GABLES SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

1. How do you account for Holmes verbal abuse of Steve Dixie on pages 1023 and 1024? And his equally mean treatment of Susan Stockdale on page 1026?

These behaviors are so unlike Holmes's usual behavior that many scholars claim that the story is apocryphal, and that Holmes was never involved in the events.

2. Why did Holmes let Isadora Klein off so lightly on page 1033?

The manuscript had been destroyed so Holmes had little evidence and a conviction on any count was not likely. However, even the mention of a scandal would have hurt Isadora Klein so he extracted what he could from her, that is, money.

THE THREE GABLES SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. What was in Mrs. Maberly's house that the new buyer wanted?
 - a. some love letters
 - b. a manuscript
 - c. some precious jewels
 - d. none of the above

2. Who did Holmes suggest that Mrs. Maberly have come to stay in her house with her?
 - a. a neighbor
 - b. her lawyer
 - c. her sister
 - d. none of the above

3. Who did Holmes find listening at the door when he was talking with Mrs. Maberly?
 - a. her gardener
 - b. her page
 - c. her maid
 - d. none of the above

* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

THE THREE GABLES INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. What phrase did Holmes use to describe Isadora Klein?
 - a. the noted adventuress
 - b. the belle dame sans merci
 - c. the mistress of countless royalty
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of Mrs. Maberly's lawyer?
 - a. Stockdale
 - b. Sutro
 - c. Samson
 - d. none of the above

3. Holmes asked Mrs. Maberly if she happened to have a first folio of
 - a. Charles Dickens
 - b. Raphael
 - c. Shakespeare
 - d. none of the above

4. What was unusual about the grammar in the fragment of paper that Mrs. Maberly tore from the grasp of the man who attacked her?
 - a. 'my' suddenly changed to 'he'
 - b. 'he' suddenly changed to 'my'
 - c. 'he' suddenly changed to 'she'
 - d. none of the above

[#] The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

THE THREE GABLES ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. What was the fewest number of pages in Douglas Maberly's manuscript?
 - a. 143
 - b. 245
 - c. 295
 - d. none of the above

2. Which one of the following is NOT one of the three places Holmes suggested Mrs. Maberly might wish to travel?
 - a. Cairo
 - b. Madeira
 - c. Morocco
 - d. the Rivera

3. What two-word phrase did Steve Dixie use at least three times?
 - a. done gone
 - b. no way
 - c. say's who
 - d. none of the above

4. What was Douglas Maberly's job title?
 - a. ambassador
 - b. attaché
 - c. minister
 - d. none of the above

[&] The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

ANSWERS TO QUIZZES FOR THE CASEBOOK

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Illustrious Client				
Simple	c	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	c	a	b	c
Blanched Soldier				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	b	c
Mazarin Stone				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	c	b	a
Advanced	a	b	b	c
Three Gables				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b
Sussex Vampire				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	c
Advanced	a	b	c	c
Three Garridebs				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	c

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Thor Bridge				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	c
Advanced	a	b	a	b
Creeping Man				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	a	c	b
Advanced	d	a	b	c
Lion's Mane				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	a
Advanced	c	a	a	a
Veiled Lodger				
Simple	a	a	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	c	b	b	a
Shoscombe Old Place				
Simple	c	a	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	a	a
Advanced	b	a	a	a
Retired Colourman				
Simple	a	a	a	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	b
Advanced	b	c	a	b