

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget  
July, 1891

## A Scandal in Bohemia



## "A Scandal in Bohemia" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

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# Canonical Characters

*Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.*

ADVENTURE I.—A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

TO Sherlock Holmes she is always *the* woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name. In his eyes she eclipses and predominates the whole of his sex. It was not that he felt any emotion in relation to love for Irene Adler. All his emotions, and that one particularly, were absorbed in the study of the science of detection. It was not that he was a cold, precise, but admirably balanced mind. He was, I take it, the most perfect reasoning and observing machine that the world has seen; but, as a lover, he would have placed himself in a false position. He never spoke of the softer passions, save with a gibe and a sneer. They were admirable things for the observer—excellent for drawing the veil from men's motives and actions. But for the trained reasoner to admit such intrusions into his own delicate and finely adjusted temperament was to introduce a distracting factor which might throw a doubt upon all his mental results. Grit in a sensitive instrument, or a crack in one of his own high-power lenses, would not be more disturbing than a strong emotion in a nature such as his. And yet there was but one woman to him, and that woman was the late Irene Adler, of dubious and questionable memory.

I had seen little of Holmes lately. My marriage had drifted us away from each other. My own complete happiness, and the home-centred interests which rise up around the man who first finds himself master of his own establishment, were sufficient to absorb all my attention; while Holmes, who loathed every form of society but his own, had his whole Bohemian soul, remained in his lodgings in Baker-street, buried under his old books, and alternating from week to week between cocaine and ambition, the drowsiness of the drug, and the energy of his own keen nature. He had, however, deeply attracted by the mystery of her life, and occupied his immense powers of observation in following out those clues, and in solving the mysteries, which had been deemed hopeless by the official police. From time to time I heard some allusion to his summary of the Trentoff

murder, of his clearing up of the tragedy of the Atkinson brothers, of the case of Trincomalee, and finally of the case of the woman which he had accomplished so delicately and successfully for the reigning family in Holland. Beyond these signs of activity, however, which I merely shared with all the readers of the daily press, I knew little of my former friend and companion.

One night—it was on the 20th of March, 1888—I was returning from a journey to a patient (for I had now returned to civil practice), when my way led me through Baker-street. As I passed the well-remembered door, which must always be associated in my mind with my wooing, and with the dark incidents of the Study in Scarlet, I was seized with a keen desire to see Holmes again, and to know how he was employing his extraordinary powers. His rooms were brilliantly lit, and, even as I looked up, I saw his tall spare figure pass twice in a dark silhouette against the blind. He was pacing the room swiftly, eagerly, with his head sunk upon his chest, and his hands clasped behind him. To me, who knew his every mood and habit, his attitude and manner told their own story. He was at work again. He had arisen out of his drug-created dreams, and was hot upon the scent of some new problem. I rang the bell, and was shown up to the chamber which had formerly been in part my own.

His manner was not effusive. It seldom was; but he was glad, I think, to see me. With hardly a word spoken, but with a kindly eye, he waved me to an armchair, threw across his case of cigars, and indicated a spirit case and a gasogene in the corner. Then he stood before the fire, and looked me over in his singular introspective fashion.

"Wedlock suits you," he remarked. "I think, Watson, that you have put on ten pounds since I saw you."

"Seven," I answered.

"Indeed, I should have thought of more. Just a trifle more, and you would be in practice again. I am not telling me that you are out of harness."

"Then, how do you come to be out of harness?"

"I see it."

# A Scandal in Bohemia



## "A Scandal in Bohemia" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

02

After analyzing a note requesting a meeting, Sherlock Holmes is requested by the King of Bohemia to retrieve an compromising photograph, in which he appears with his former mistress, Irene Adler. The public release of the photograph could irreparably ruin the King's marriage.

Holmes takes the case and employs unique methods to attempt to recover the photograph.

# Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich  
1906

## A Scandal in Bohemia



# "A Scandal in Bohemia" (The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)

03

### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
July 23, 1922	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
October 27, 1951	UK	Alan Wheatley	Raymond Francis
June 25, 1983	USSR	Vasily Livanov	Vitaly Solomin
April 24, 1984	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke
May 06, 2012	UK	Benedict Cumberbatch	Martin Freeman

### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
October 27, 1930	NBC	Clive Brook	Leigh Lovell
1933	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
August 29, 1936	Mutual/NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
December 10, 1945	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
1954	NBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
January 09, 1955	NBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
1959		Maurice Teynac	Pierre Destailles
November 21, 1966	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
July 11, 1977	CBS	Kevin McCarthy	Court Benson
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
November 07, 1990	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
March 12, 1992	NPR	Edward Petherbridge	David Pearl
2012		John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“A Scandal in Bohemia”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

Disguised as a non-conformist clergyman, he entered Irene Adler’s home. Holmes kept her photograph and the sovereign she gave him.

“And when he speaks of Irene Adler, ... it is always under the honourable title of the woman.”

*“It is a capital mistake to theorise before one has data.”*

(Vasily Livanov, 1980, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*)

## Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



“A Scandal in Bohemia”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

05

Threw a plumber’s smoke rocket and yelled “Fire,” to create a diversion to help Holmes recover letters and a photograph from Irene Adler’s home.

*“I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name.”*

(Vitaly Solomin, 1980, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*)

## Canonical Characters



Irene Adler Norton



### “A Scandal in Bohemia” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

06

A well-known opera singer and adventuress “of questionable and dubious memory” who was born in New Jersey. To Sherlock Holmes she was always “the woman.” The King of Bohemia tried to recover some indiscreet letters from their relationship.

*“Good night, Mister Sherlock Holmes.”*

(Charlotte Rampling, 1976, *Sherlock Holmes in New York*)

## Canonical Characters



Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismond  
Von Ormstein



## “A Scandal in Bohemia” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

07

Grand Duke of Cassel-Felstein,  
who hired Holmes to recover  
letters and a photograph from  
Irene Adler after several failed  
attempts. He was six feet six  
inches tall “with the chest and  
limbs of a Hercules.”

*“What a woman -- oh, what a  
woman!... Is it not a pity she was  
not on my level?”*

(Wolf Kahler, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “A  
Scandal in Bohemia”)



## Canonical Characters



Godfrey Norton



“A Scandal in Bohemia”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

08

A London lawyer, who resided in the Inner Temple, married Irene Adler, and fled England with her after their wedding at the Church of St. Monica.

*“Come, man, come, only three minutes, or it won't be legal.”*

(Michael Carter 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “A Scandal in Bohemia”)

## Canonical Characters



The Photograph



“A Scandal in Bohemia”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

09

Irene Adler left a photo of herself for the King as a souvenir, after she had departed London with her new husband.

Holmes refused the royal reward from the King (an emerald ring), but asked for a more valuable present: the photo itself.

## Canonical Characters



Martin Van Maele  
1905

## A Scandal in Bohemia



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First  
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,  
July, 1891

U.S. -- *The Courier-Journal*  
July 11, 1891

U.K. -- *The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes*,  
October 14, 1892 George Newnes Ltd.  
U.S. - *The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes*,  
October 15, 1892, Harper & Brothers  
Publishers

Chronological  
Date:

Tuesday, March 20, 1888  
(Watson)

Friday, May 20, 1887  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

# 3 of 56 short stories  
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ  
Abbreviation:

SCAN