

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
B004 - STORY SUMMARIES (THE NOVELS) - JANUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC NUMBER B004... THIS IS A SPECIAL SEGMENT, AS WE WILL GIVE A VERY SHORT SUMMARY OF EVERY ONE OF OUR 60 STORIES, WRITTEN BY OUR CREATOR, ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE... THANKS SO MUCH TO ALEXIS BARQUIN AND THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR USE OF THEIR SUMMARY TEXTS FOR THIS LESSON..



1. A Study in Scarlet

IN 1881, YOU, A FORMER DOCTOR WITH THE 5TH NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS REGIMENT, RETURNS TO LONDON AFTER BEING INJURED AT THE BATTLE OF MAIWAND DURING THE 2ND AFGHANISTAN WAR. WITH AN INCOME OF ONLY 9 SHILLINGS AND 6 PENCE PER DAY, YOU QUICKLY FIND YOURSELF OUT OF MONEY AND DECIDE TO SEEK CHEAPER HOUSING.

ONE DAY AT THE CRITERION RESTAURANT YOU MEET STAMFORD, WITH WHOM YOU USED TO WORK AT ST BARTHOLOMEW HOSPITAL, AND SHARE YOUR PLANS. STAMFORD TELLS YOU HE KNOWS SOMEONE FROM THE CHEMISTRY LABORATORY WHO HAS BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A ROOMMATE. YOU ARE INTERESTED AND SO MEET ME.

AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON OUR RESPECTIVE HABITS, WE AGREE TO SHARE AN APARTMENT, 221B BAKER STREET, OWNED BY A LANDLADY, MRS. HUDSON. OUR COHABITATION BEGINS PEACEFULLY. I AM EASYGOING, ALTHOUGH VERY DISCREET ABOUT MYSELF AND A BIT ECCENTRIC. YOU OBSERVE ME, MAKING A LIST OF MY AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE AND IGNORANCE, BUT ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE MY PROFESSION. (CONTINUED)



1. A Study in Scarlet

(STUDY CONT.) ONE DAY, YOU READ AN ARTICLE BY ME ABOUT THE SCIENCE OF DEDUCTION. AT FIRST UNCONVINCED BY MY THEORIES, YOU ARE WON OVER WHEN I GIVE A DEMONSTRATION OF MY METHODS. EVENTUALLY I REVEAL MY OCCUPATION TO YOU -- CONSULTING DETECTIVE. SOON AFTER, I RECEIVE A TELEGRAM FROM GREGSON, A SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVE, REQUESTING MY HELP WITH THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF ENOCH DREBBER.

THERE IS BLOOD ON THE FLOOR OF THE EMPTY HOUSE WHERE DREBBER WAS FOUND, BUT THE VICTIM HAS BEEN POISONED AND HAS NO INJURIES. I DECIDE TO JOIN GREGSON AND LESTRADE AT THE CRIME SCENE IN BRIXTON. ACCOMPANIED BY YOU, WE EXAMINE FIRST THE AREA AROUND THE HOUSE, WHERE I FIND FRESH CAB PRINTS, AND THEN THE CRIME SCENE ITSELF.

A WEDDING RING AND A BOOK BELONGING TO A CERTAIN STANGERSON IS FOUND ON THE BODY, AND THE WORD 'RACHE' WRITTEN IN LETTERS OF BLOOD IS SEEN ON THE WALL IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM. THE NEXT MORNING, WE ARE VISITED BY GREGSON, CLAIMING HE HAS FOUND THE MURDERER, THE BROTHER OF A WOMAN WHOM DREBBER HAD ATTEMPTED TO ASSAULT.
(CONTINUED)



1. A Study in Scarlet

(STUDY CONT.) BUT LESTRADE RUSHES IN IMMEDIATELY AFTER GREGSON, ANNOUNCING STANGERSON WAS JUST FOUND AND HAD BEEN MURDERED AS WELL. STANGERSON HAD BEEN STABBED IN THE HOTEL ROOM WHERE HE HAD BEEN HIDING SINCE DREBBER'S MURDER. THE WORD 'RACHE' WAS AGAIN WRITTEN ON A WALL. A TELEGRAM SAYING, 'J.H. IS IN EUROPE' WAS FOUND ON THE CORPSE, AND A SMALL BOX WITH TWO PILLS IN IT WAS FOUND ON THE WINDOWSILL.

I JUMP FOR JOY, ANNOUNCING I HAVE SOLVED THE CASE. I GIVE THE PILLS ONE AT A TIME TO AN OLD DOG; THE FIRST PILL DOES HIM NOTHING, BUT THE SECOND KILLS HIM. THEN, WIGGINS, THE LEADER OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS, COMES AND WARNS ME THE CAB I HAD WANTED IS DOWNSTAIRS. I HAVE THE CAB DRIVER COME UPSTAIRS AND PROMPTLY HANDCUFF HIM.

THEN I PRESENT HIM TO THE POLICE OFFICERS AS JEFFERSON HOPE, THE MURDERER OF DREBBER AND STANGERSON. HOPE, WHO HASN'T GOT LONG TO LIVE DUE TO AN ANEURYSM, TELLS HIS STORY. IT GOES BACK TO 1847. IN THE SIERRA BLANCO, A PLAIN OF THE USA. A MAN, JOHN FERRIER, AND A LITTLE GIRL, THE ONLY SURVIVORS OF A GROUP OF MIGRANTS LOST IN THE DESERT, WERE SAVED FROM CERTAIN DEATH BY A CARAVAN OF MORMONS. (CONTINUED)



1. A Study in Scarlet

(STUDY CONT.) JOHN FERRIER AND LITTLE LUCY, WHOM HE DECIDED TO ADOPT, AGREED TO CONVERT TO THE RELIGION OF THEIR RESCUERS AND SETTLE IN THE TOWN FOUNDED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CARAVAN, SALT LAKE CITY. OVER THE YEARS, HIS FARM WAS PROSPEROUS AND LUCY BECAME A PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN. SHE MET A YOUNG MAN NAMED JEFFERSON HOPE, A NON-MORMON. THEY BECAME ENGAGED AND AGREED TO MARRY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A BUSINESS TRIP.

BUT WHILE HE WAS AWAY, COMMUNITY LEADERS TOLD LUCY TO CHOOSE A MORMON HUSBAND, STANGERSON OR DREBBER. AS THE THREATS BECAME MORE URGENT, AN ESCAPE WAS PLANNED FOR THE LAST DAY OF THE ULTIMATUM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ATTEMPT FAILED. JOHN FERRIER WAS KILLED AND LUCY WAS MARRIED TO DREBBER, BUT SHE DIED OF GRIEF A MONTH LATER. ON THE BURIAL DAY, HOPE APPEARED AND TORE THE WEDDING RING OFF LUCY'S HAND.

HE SWORE TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO AVENGING HER DEATH. WHEN DREBBER AND STANGERSON LEFT SALT LAKE CITY, HE HUNTED THEM DOWN ACROSS THE USA AND EVEN FOLLOWED THEM IN EUROPE. HE TOOK A JOB AS A CAB DRIVER AND MANAGED TO TAKE DREBBER TO THE EMPTY APARTMENT WITHOUT BEING RECOGNIZED. THEN REVEALING HIMSELF, HE FORCED DREBBER TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO PILLS, ONE POISONED AND THE OTHER INNOCUOUS. (CONTINUED)



1. A Study in Scarlet

(STUDY CONT.) DREBBER WOULD TAKE ONE AND HOPE WOULD SWALLOW THE SECOND, AND GOD WOULD MAKE THE CHOICE AS TO WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES. HOPE, WHOSE NOSE BLED FROM THE EXCITEMENT, WROTE THE WORD 'RACHE' ON THE WALL WITH HIS BLOOD IN AN ATTEMPT TO LEAD THE POLICE IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. REALIZING HE HAS LEFT LUCY'S RING BEHIND, HE RETURNED TO SEARCH FOR IT BUT FOUND THE CRIME SCENE ALREADY OCCUPIED BY A POLICE OFFICER.

A FEW DAYS LATER, BREAKING IN STANGERSON'S ROOM, HOPE PRESENTED HIM WITH THE CHOICE OF PILLS, BUT STANGERSON THREW HIMSELF AT HOPE AND HOPE KILLED HIM IN THE FIGHT. HOPE DIED OF HIS ANEURYSM THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS TRIAL WAS TO BEGIN. I LATER EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW I HAD DEDUCED THE IDENTITY OF THE MURDERER AND HOW I HAD USED THE IRREGULARS IN FINDING THE CABBIE.

WHEN I SHOWS YOU THE PAPERS, IN WHICH GREGSON AND LESTRADE ARE GIVEN CREDIT FOR SOLVING THE CRIME, YOU DETERMINE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.



2. The Sign of Four

MARY MORSTAN ARRIVES AT 221B BAKER STREET TO CONSULT WITH YOU. ACCORDING TO MARY, IN DECEMBER 1878, HER FATHER HAD TELEGRAPHED HER UPON HIS SAFE RETURN FROM INDIA AND REQUESTED HER TO MEET HIM AT THE LANGHAM HOTEL IN LONDON. WHEN MARY ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL, SHE WAS TOLD HER FATHER HAD GONE OUT THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND NOT RETURNED.

DESPITE ALL EFFORTS, NO TRACE HAS EVER BEEN FOUND OF HIM. MARY CONTACTED HER FATHER'S ONLY FRIEND WHO WAS IN THE SAME REGIMENT AND HAD SINCE RETIRED TO ENGLAND, ONE MAJOR JOHN SHOLTO, BUT HE DENIED KNOWING HER FATHER HAD RETURNED. THE SECOND PUZZLE IS SHE HAS RECEIVED SIX PEARLS IN THE MAIL FROM AN ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR, ONE PER YEAR SINCE 1882 AFTER ANSWERING AN ANONYMOUS NEWSPAPER QUERY INQUIRING FOR HER.

WITH THE LAST PEARL, SHE RECEIVED A LETTER REMARKING SHE HAS BEEN WRONGED AND ASKING FOR A MEETING. HOLMES TAKES THE CASE AND SOON DISCOVERS MAJOR SHOLTO HAD DIED IN 1882 AND WITHIN A SHORT SPAN OF TIME MARY BEGAN TO RECEIVE THE PEARLS, IMPLYING A CONNECTION. THE ONLY CLUE MARY CAN GIVE YOU IS A MAP OF A FORTRESS FOUND IN HER FATHER'S DESK WITH THE NAMES OF SMALL, SINGH, KHAN AND AKBAR. (CONTINUED)



2. The Sign of Four

(SIGN CONT) YOU, MARY, AND I MEET THADDEUS SHOLTO, THE SON OF THE LATE MAJOR SHOLTO AND THE ANONYMOUS SENDER OF THE PEARLS. THADDEUS CONFIRMS THE MAJOR HAD SEEN MARY'S FATHER THE NIGHT HE DIED; THEY HAD ARRANGED A MEETING TO DIVIDE A PRICELESS TREASURE SHOLTO HAD BROUGHT HOME FROM INDIA. WHILE QUARRELING OVER THE TREASURE, CAPTAIN MORSTAN, LONG IN WEAK HEALTH, SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK.

NOT WANTING TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE OBJECT OF THE QUARREL, AND ALSO WORRIED CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD SUGGEST HE HAD KILLED MORSTAN IN AN ARGUMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE MORSTAN'S HEAD STRUCK A TABLE AS HE FELL, SHOLTO DISPOSED OF THE BODY AND HID THE TREASURE. HOWEVER, HE HIMSELF SUFFERED FROM POOR HEALTH AND AN ENLARGED SPLEEN (POSSIBLY DUE TO MALARIA, AS A QUININE BOTTLE STANDS BY HIS BED).

HIS OWN HEALTH BECAME WORSE WHEN HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM INDIA IN EARLY 1882. DYING, HE CALLED HIS TWO SONS AND CONFESSED TO MORSTAN'S DEATH AND WAS ABOUT TO DIVULGE THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE WHEN HE SUDDENLY CRIED, 'KEEP HIM OUT!' BEFORE FALLING BACK AND DYING. THE PUZZLED SONS GLIMPSED A FACE IN THE WINDOW, BUT THE ONLY TRACE WAS A SINGLE FOOTSTEP IN THE DIRT. (CONTINUED)



2. The Sign of Four

(SIGN CONT.) ON THEIR FATHER'S BODY IS A NOTE READING 'THE SIGN OF FOUR'. BOTH BROTHERS QUARRELED OVER WHETHER A LEGACY SHOULD BE LEFT TO MARY MORSTAN, AND THADDEUS LEFT HIS BROTHER BARTHOLOMEW, TAKING A CHAPLET AND SENDING ITS PEARLS TO MARY. THE REASON HE SENT THE LETTER IS BARTHOLOMEW HAS FOUND THE TREASURE AND POSSIBLY THADDEUS AND MARY MIGHT CONFRONT HIM FOR A DIVISION OF IT.

BARTHOLOMEW IS FOUND DEAD IN HIS HOME FROM A POISON DART AND THE TREASURE IS MISSING. WHILE THE POLICE WRONGLY TAKE THADDEUS IN AS A SUSPECT, YOU DEDUCE THERE ARE TWO PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE MURDER: A ONE-LEGGED MAN, JONATHAN SMALL, AS WELL AS ANOTHER 'SMALL' ACCOMPLICE. HE TRACES THEM TO A BOAT LANDING WHERE SMALL HAS HIRED A STEAM LAUNCH NAMED THE AURORA.

WITH THE HELP OF DOG TOBY YOU SENT ME TO COLLECT FROM MR SHERMAN, THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS AND HIS OWN DISGUISE, YOU TRACE THE STEAM LAUNCH. IN A POLICE STEAM LAUNCH, YOU AND I CHASE THE AURORA AND CAPTURE IT, BUT IN THE PROCESS END UP KILLING THE 'SMALL' COMPANION AFTER HE ATTEMPTS TO KILL US WITH A POISONED DART SHOT FROM A BLOW-PIPE. (CONTINUED)



2. The Sign of Four

(SIGN CONT.) SMALL TRIES TO ESCAPE BUT IS CAPTURED. HOWEVER, THE IRON BOX IS EMPTY; SMALL CLAIMS TO HAVE DUMPED THE TREASURE OVER THE SIDE DURING THE CHASE. SMALL CONFESSES YEARS BEFORE HE WAS A SOLDIER OF THE THIRD BUFFS IN INDIA AND LOST HIS RIGHT LEG IN A SWIMMING ACCIDENT TO A CROCODILE. AFTER SOME TIME, WHILE WORKING ON A TEA PLANTATION, THE INDIAN REBELLION OF 1857 OCCURRED AND HE WAS FORCED TO FLEE FOR HIS LIFE TO THE AGRA FORTRESS.

WHILE STANDING GUARD ONE NIGHT HE WAS OVERPOWERED BY TWO SIKH TROOPERS WHO GAVE HIM A CHOICE OF BEING KILLED OR BEING AN ACCOMPLICE TO WAYLAYING A DISGUISED SERVANT OF A RAJAH WHO SENT THE SERVANT WITH A VALUABLE FORTUNE IN PEARLS AND JEWELS TO THE BRITISH FOR SAFEKEEPING. THE ROBBERY AND MURDER TOOK PLACE AND THE CRIME WAS DISCOVERED, ALTHOUGH THE JEWELS WERE NOT.

SMALL GOT PENAL SERVITUDE ON THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS, AND AFTER TWENTY YEARS HE OVERHEARD JOHN SHOLTO HAD LOST MONEY GAMBLING. SMALL SAW HIS CHANCE AND MADE A DEAL WITH SHOLTO AND ARTHUR MORSTAN: SHOLTO WOULD RECOVER THE TREASURE AND IN RETURN SEND A BOAT TO PICK UP SMALL AND THE SIKHS. (CONTINUED)



2. The Sign of Four

(SIGN CONT.) SHOLTO DOUBLE-CROSSED BOTH MORSTAN AND SMALL AND STOLE THE TREASURE FOR HIMSELF. SMALL VOWED VENGEANCE AND ESCAPED THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS WITH AN ISLANDER NAMED TONGA.

IT WAS THE NEWS OF HIS ESCAPE THAT SHOCKED SHOLTO INTO HIS FATAL ILLNESS. SMALL ARRIVED TOO LATE TO HEAR OF THE TREASURE'S LOCATION BUT LEFT THE NOTE WHICH REFERRED TO THE NAME OF THE PACT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS THREE SIKH ACCOMPLICES. WHEN BARTHOLOMEW FOUND THE TREASURE, SMALL PLANNED TO ONLY STEAL IT BUT CLAIMS A MISCOMMUNICATION LED TONGA TO KILL BARTHOLOMEW AS WELL.

MARY MORSTAN IS LEFT WITHOUT THE BULK OF THE AGRA TREASURE, ALTHOUGH SHE WILL APPARENTLY RECEIVE THE REST OF THE CHAPLET. I FALL IN LOVE WITH MARY, AND IT IS REVEALED AT THE END I PROPOSED TO HER AND SHE HAS ACCEPTED.



3. The Hound of the Baskervilles

DR. JAMES MORTIMER ASKS ME FOR ADVICE FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HIS FRIEND, SIR CHARLES BASKERVILLE. SIR CHARLES WAS FOUND DEAD ON THE GROUNDS OF HIS DEVONSHIRE ESTATE, BASKERVILLE HALL. MORTIMER NOW FEARS FOR SIR CHARLES'S NEPHEW AND SOLE HEIR, SIR HENRY BASKERVILLE, WHO IS THE NEW MASTER OF BASKERVILLE HALL.

THE DEATH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A HEART ATTACK, BUT MORTIMER IS SUSPICIOUS, BECAUSE SIR CHARLES DIED WITH AN EXPRESSION OF HORROR ON HIS FACE, AND MORTIMER NOTICED 'THE FOOTPRINTS OF A GIGANTIC HOUND' ABOUT 50 YARDS FROM WHERE SIR CHARLES LAY DEAD. THE BASKERVILLE FAMILY HAS SUPPOSEDLY BEEN UNDER A CURSE SINCE THE ERA OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR.

ANCESTOR HUGO BASKERVILLE ALLEGEDLY OFFERED HIS SOUL TO THE DEVIL FOR HELP IN ABDUCTING A WOMAN AND WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED BY A GIANT SPECTRAL HOUND. SIR CHARLES BELIEVED IN THE CURSE AND WAS APPARENTLY FLEEING FROM SOMETHING IN FRIGHT WHEN HE DIED. INTRIGUED, I MEET WITH SIR HENRY, NEWLY ARRIVED FROM CANADA. (CONTINUED)



3. The Hound of the Baskervilles

(HOUND CONT.) SIR HENRY HAS RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS NOTE, CUT AND PASTED FROM NEWSPRINT, WARNING HIM AWAY FROM THE BASKERVILLE MOORS, AND ONE OF HIS NEW BOOTS IS INEXPLICABLY MISSING FROM HIS LONDON HOTEL ROOM. THE BASKERVILLE FAMILY IS DISCUSSED: SIR CHARLES WAS THE ELDEST OF THREE BROTHERS; THE YOUNGEST, BLACK SHEEP RODGER, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED CHILDLESS IN SOUTH AMERICA, WHILE SIR HENRY IS THE ONLY CHILD OF THE MIDDLE BROTHER.

SIR HENRY PLANS TO MOVE INTO BASKERVILLE HALL, DESPITE THE OMINOUS WARNING MESSAGE. YOU AND I FOLLOW HIM FROM OUR BAKER STREET APARTMENT BACK TO HIS HOTEL AND NOTICE A BEARDED MAN FOLLOWING HIM IN A CAB; WE PURSUE THE MAN, BUT HE ESCAPES. MORTIMER TELLS US BARRYMORE, THE BUTLER AT BASKERVILLE HALL, HAS A BEARD LIKE THE ONE ON THE STRANGER. SIR HENRY'S BOOT REAPPEARS, BUT AN OLDER ONE VANISHES.

I SEND FOR THE CAB DRIVER WHO SHUTTLED THE BEARDED MAN AFTER HENRY, AND I AM AMUSED TO LEARN THE STRANGER HAD MADE A POINT OF GIVING HIS NAME AS 'SHERLOCK HOLMES' TO THE CABBIE. I, NOW EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN THE BASKERVILLE AFFAIR BUT HELD UP WITH OTHER CASES, DISPATCH YOU TO ACCOMPANY SIR HENRY TO BASKERVILLE HALL WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO SEND ME FREQUENT REPORTS ABOUT THE HOUSE, GROUNDS, AND NEIGHBOURS. (CONTINUED)



3. The Hound of the Baskervilles

(HOUND CONT.) UPON ARRIVAL AT THE GRAND BUT AUSTERE BASKERVILLE, SIR HENRY AND YOU LEARN AN ESCAPED MURDERER NAMED SELDEN IS BELIEVED TO BE IN THE AREA. BARRYMORE AND HIS WIFE, WHO ALSO WORKS AT BASKERVILLE HALL, WISH TO LEAVE THE ESTATE SOON. YOU HEAR A WOMAN CRYING IN THE NIGHT; IT IS OBVIOUS TO YOU IT WAS MRS. BARRYMORE, BUT HER HUSBAND DENIES IT.

YOU CAN FIND NO PROOF BARRYMORE WAS IN DEVON ON THE DAY OF THE CHASE IN LONDON. YOU MEET A BROTHER AND SISTER WHO LIVE NEARBY: MR STAPLETON, A NATURALIST, AND THE BEAUTIFUL MISS STAPLETON. WHEN AN ANIMAL SOUND IS HEARD, STAPLETON IS QUICK TO DISMISS IT AS UNRELATED TO THE LEGENDARY HOUND.

WHEN HER BROTHER IS OUT OF EARSHOT, MISS STAPLETON MISTAKES YOU FOR SIR HENRY AND WARNS YOU TO LEAVE. SHE AND SIR HENRY LATER MEET AND QUICKLY FALL IN LOVE, AROUSING STAPLETON'S ANGER; HE LATER APOLOGISES AND INVITES SIR HENRY TO DINE WITH HIM A FEW DAYS LATER. BARRYMORE AROUSES FURTHER SUSPICION WHEN YOU AND SIR HENRY CATCH HIM AT NIGHT WITH A CANDLE IN AN EMPTY ROOM. (CONTINUED)



3. The Hound of the Baskervilles

(HOUND CONT.) BARRYMORE REFUSES TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, BUT MRS. BARRYMORE CONFESSES SELDEN IS HER BROTHER, AND HER HUSBAND IS SIGNALING THEY HAVE LEFT SUPPLIES FOR HIM. YOU AND SIR HENRY PURSUE SELDEN ON THE MOOR, BUT HE ELUDES THEM, WHILE YOU NOTICE ANOTHER MAN ON A NEARBY TOR.

AFTER AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED TO ALLOW SELDEN TO FLEE THE COUNTRY, BARRYMORE REVEALS THE CONTENTS OF AN INCOMPLETELY BURNT LETTER ASKING SIR CHARLES TO BE AT THE GATE AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. IT WAS SIGNED WITH THE INITIALS L.L.; ON MORTIMER'S ADVICE, YOU QUESTION A LAURA LYONS, WHO ADMITS TO WRITING THE LETTER IN HOPES SIR CHARLES WOULD HELP FINANCE HER DIVORCE, BUT SAYS SHE DID NOT KEEP THE APPOINTMENT.

YOU TRACK THE SECOND MAN HE SAW IN THE AREA AND DISCOVER IT TO BE ME, INVESTIGATING INDEPENDENTLY IN HOPES OF A FASTER RESOLUTION. I REVEAL FURTHER: STAPLETON IS ACTUALLY MARRIED TO THE SUPPOSED MISS STAPLETON, AND HE PROMISED MARRIAGE TO LAURA LYONS TO GET HER COOPERATION. WE HEAR A SCREAM AND DISCOVER THE BODY OF SELDEN, DEAD FROM A FALL. WE INITIALLY MISTAKE HIM FOR SIR HENRY, WHOSE OLD CLOTHES HE WAS WEARING. (CONTINUED)



3. The Hound of the Baskervilles

(HOUND CONT.) AT BASKERVILLE HALL, I NOTICE A RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN STAPLETON AND A PORTRAIT OF HUGO BASKERVILLE. I REALIZE STAPLETON COULD BE AN UNKNOWN BASKERVILLE FAMILY MEMBER, SEEKING TO CLAIM THE BASKERVILLE WEALTH BY ELIMINATING HIS RELATIVES.

ACCOMPANIED BY INSPECTOR LESTRADE, WHOM I HAVE SUMMONED, WE TRAVEL TO THE STAPLETON HOME, WHERE SIR HENRY IS DINING. WE RESCUE HIM FROM A HOUND STAPLETON RELEASES WHILE SIR HENRY IS WALKING HOME ACROSS THE MOOR.

SHOOTING THE ANIMAL DEAD IN THE STRUGGLE, I REVEAL IT WAS A PERFECTLY MORTAL DOG - A MIX OF BLOODHOUND AND MASTIFF, PAINTED WITH PHOSPHORUS TO GIVE IT A HELLISH APPEARANCE. WE FIND MISS STAPLETON BOUND AND GAGGED INSIDE THE HOUSE, WHILE STAPLETON APPARENTLY DIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH HIS HIDEOUT IN A NEARBY MINE LOCATED AT THE HEART OF THE GRIMPEN MIRE. (CONTINUED)



3. The Hound of the Baskervilles

(HOUND CONT.) WE ALSO FIND SIR HENRY'S BOOT, WHICH WAS USED TO GIVE THE HOUND SIR HENRY'S SCENT. WEEKS LATER, I PROVIDE YOU WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE CASE. STAPLETON WAS, IN FACT, RODGER BASKERVILLE'S SON, ALSO NAMED RODGER.

HIS NOW-WIDOW IS A SOUTH AMERICAN WOMAN, THE FORMER BERYL GARCIA. HE SUPPORTED HIMSELF THROUGH CRIME FOR MANY YEARS, BEFORE LEARNING HE COULD INHERIT A FORTUNE BY MURDERING HIS UNCLE AND COUSIN. STAPLETON HAD TAKEN SIR HENRY'S OLD BOOT BECAUSE THE NEW, UNWORN BOOT LACKED HIS SCENT.

THE HOUND HAD PURSUED SELDEN TO HIS DEATH BECAUSE OF THE SCENT ON SIR HENRY'S OLD CLOTHES. MRS STAPLETON HAD DISAVOWED HER HUSBAND'S PLOT, SO HE HAD IMPRISONED HER TO PREVENT HER FROM INTERFERING. THE STORY ENDS WITH US LEAVING TO SEE THE OPERA LES HUGUENOTS STARRING JEAN DE RESZKE.



4. The Valley of Fear

YOU RECEIVE A CIPHER MESSAGE FROM FRED PORLOCK, A PSEUDONYMOUS AGENT OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY. AFTER PORLOCK SENDS THE MESSAGE, HOWEVER, HE CHANGES HIS MIND FOR FEAR OF MORIARTY'S DISCOVERING HE IS A TRAITOR. HE DECIDES NOT TO SEND THE KEY TO THE CIPHER, BUT HE SENDS YOU A NOTE TELLING OF THIS DECISION.

FROM THE CIPHER MESSAGE AND THE SECOND NOTE, YOU ARE ABLE TO DEDUCE IT IS A BOOK-CIPHER AND THE BOOK USED FOR THE ENCRYPTION IS A COMMON BOOK, LARGE (WITH AT LEAST 534 PAGES), PRINTED IN TWO COLUMNS PER PAGE, AND STANDARDISED. AN ALMANAC FITS THESE CONDITIONS EXACTLY. YOU TRY THE LATEST EDITION OF WHITAKER'S ALMANAC, WHICH HE HAD ONLY RECEIVED A FEW DAYS EARLIER, AND FAILS; YOU THEN TRY THE PREVIOUS EDITION.

WITH THIS ALMANAC, YOU ARE ABLE TO DECIPHER THE MESSAGE AS A WARNING 'SOME DEVILRY IS INTENDED AGAINST ONE 'DOUGLAS', A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN RESIDING AT BIRLSTONE HOUSE.' SOME MINUTES LATER, INSPECTOR MACDONALD ARRIVES AT BAKER STREET WITH NEWS A MR. JOHN DOUGLAS OF BIRLSTONE MANOR HOUSE, BIRLSTONE, SUSSEX, HAS BEEN MURDERED.
(CONTINUED)



4. The Valley of Fear

(VALLEY CONT.) YOU TELL MACDONALD OF PORLOCK'S WARNING, SUGGESTING MORIARTY'S INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER, MACDONALD DOES NOT FULLY BELIEVE THE EDUCATED AND WELL-RESPECTED MORIARTY IS A CRIMINAL. WE TRAVEL TO BIRLSTONE HOUSE, AN ANCIENT MOATED MANOR HOUSE, TO INVESTIGATE THE CRIME. DOUGLAS HAD BEEN MURDERED THE EVENING BEFORE.

CECIL BARKER, A FREQUENT GUEST AT BIRLSTONE HOUSE, HAD BEEN IN HIS ROOM AT HALF-PAST ELEVEN WHEN HE HEARD THE REPORT OF A GUN, ACCORDING TO HIS TESTIMONY. HE HAD RUSHED DOWN TO FIND DOUGLAS LYING IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM NEAREST THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOUSE, A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN LYING ACROSS HIS CHEST. HE HAD BEEN SHOT AT CLOSE RANGE: RECEIVING THE FULL CHARGE OF THE SHOTGUN IN THE FACE, HIS HEAD WAS BLOWN 'ALMOST TO PIECES'.

BARKER HAD RUSHED TO THE VILLAGE POLICE STATION AND NOTIFIED SERGEANT WILSON, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE STATION. WILSON FOLLOWED BARKER TO THE HOUSE AFTER NOTIFYING THE COUNTY AUTHORITIES. THE SERGEANT HAD BEGUN INVESTIGATING IMMEDIATELY. BARKER DREW HIS ATTENTION TO THE OPEN WINDOW, AND TO A SMUDGE OF BLOOD LIKE THE MARK OF A BOOT-SOLE UPON THE WINDOW SILL. (CONTINUED)



4. The Valley of Fear

(VALLEY CONT.) THE DRAWBRIDGE OVER THE MOAT HAD BEEN RAISED AT 6:00 PM. BARKER SPECULATED THE MURDERER HAD ENTERED BY THE DRAWBRIDGE BEFORE THAT TIME, HID IN THE ROOM, AND LEFT BY THE WINDOW DIRECTLY AFTER KILLING DOUGLAS. THE MOAT WAS ONLY A FEW FEET DEEP, AND COULD BE EASILY CROSSED. SERGEANT WILSON FOUND A CARD BESIDE THE CORPSE WITH THE INITIALS 'V.V.' AND THE NUMBER 341 BENEATH THEM.

MUDDY BOOT-PRINTS WERE FOUND BEHIND THE CURTAINS, BEARING OUT BARKER'S THEORY. ON THE MURDERED MAN'S FOREARM WAS A CURIOUS DESIGN, A TRIANGLE WITHIN A CIRCLE; IT WAS NOT A TATTOO, BUT A BRAND. THIS MARK HAD BEEN NOTICED MANY TIMES BEFORE UPON JOHN DOUGLAS'S FOREARM. DOUGLAS' WEDDING RING APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM HIS HAND. THE CHIEF SUSSEX DETECTIVE, WHITE MASON, HAD ARRIVED AT BIRLSTONE HOUSE BY 3:00 IN THE MORNING.

BY 5:45, HE HAD SENT FOR SCOTLAND YARD. INSPECTOR ALEC MACDONALD TOOK THE CASE, AND NOTIFIED YOU BECAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED. BY NOON, WE MEET WHITE MASON IN BIRLSTONE. YOU, MACDONALD, AND WHITE MASON GO TO THE SCENE OF THE MURDER. THEY DISCUSS THE CASE, AGREEING SUICIDE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, AND SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE HOUSE COMMITTED THE MURDER. (CONTINUED)

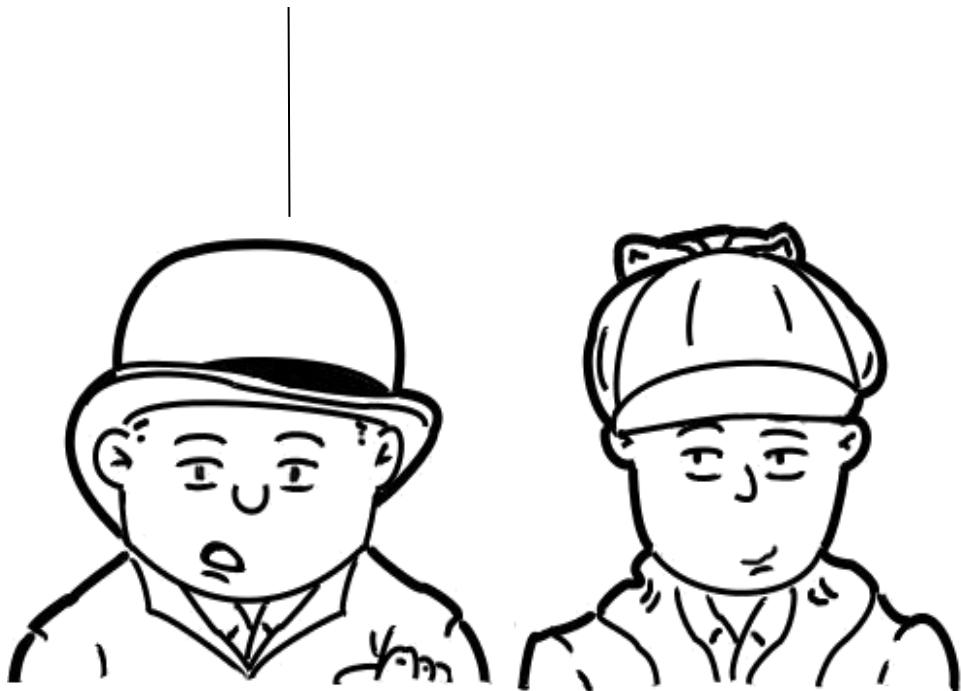


4. The Valley of Fear

(VALLEY CONT.) BARKER SAYS HE BELIEVES A SECRET SOCIETY OF MEN PURSUED DOUGLAS, AND DOUGLAS RETREATED TO RURAL ENGLAND OUT OF FEAR FOR HIS LIFE. MR. DOUGLAS MARRIED AFTER ARRIVING IN ENGLAND FIVE YEARS EARLIER. HIS FIRST WIFE HAD DIED OF TYPHOID. DOUGLAS MET AND WORKED WITH CECIL BARKER IN AMERICA, BEFORE DEPARTING FOR EUROPE.

SOME EPISODE OF DOUGLAS'S LIFE IN AMERICA CAUSED THE FEAR FOR HIS LIFE, AND MRS. DOUGLAS SAID HER HUSBAND MENTIONED SOMETHING CALLED 'THE VALLEY OF FEAR'. BY STUDYING BARKER'S SLIPPERS, YOU DETERMINE BARKER'S SHOE MADE THE MARK ON THE WINDOW, TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE SOMEONE EXITED THAT WAY. IN THEIR LODGINGS, YOU TELL ME CECIL BARKER AND MRS. DOUGLAS ARE CERTAINLY LYING: THE EVENTS AS THEY TELL THEM WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

MOREOVER, YOU LEARN THE HOUSEKEEPER HEARD A SOUND, AS IF OF A DOOR SLAMMING, 1/2 HOUR BEFORE THE ALARM; HOLMES BELIEVES THIS SOUND WAS THE FATAL SHOT. MASON, THE SUSSEX DETECTIVE, AND MACDONALD TRACK A BICYCLE FOUND ON THE GROUNDS OF THE HOUSE TO AN AMERICAN STAYING AT A GUEST HOUSE. THE AMERICAN APPEARS TO BE THE MURDERER, BUT THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE MAN. (CONTINUED)



4. The Valley of Fear

(VALLEY CONT.) YOU ASK MACDONALD TO WRITE TO CECIL BARKER, TELLING HIM THE POLICE INTEND TO SEARCH THE MOAT THE NEXT DAY. THAT NIGHT YOU, MACDONALD WHITE MASON, AND I LIE IN WAIT OUTSIDE BIRLSTONE MANOR AND SEE CECIL BARKER FISH SOMETHING OUT OF THE MOAT. WE RUSH CECIL AND DISCOVER THE BUNDLE FROM THE MOAT CONTAINS THE CLOTHES OF THE MISSING AMERICAN CONNECTED WITH THE BICYCLE.

BARKER REFUSES TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION. AT THAT MOMENT, MR. DOUGLAS APPEARS, ALIVE AND WELL. HE HANDS ME A WRITTEN ACCOUNT CALLED 'THE VALLEY OF FEAR', WHICH EXPLAINS WHY HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. DOUGLAS EXPLAINS HE HAD SPOTTED AN ENEMY OF HIS, TED BALDWIN, IN THE AREA AND EXPECTED AN ATTACK. WHEN BALDWIN ATTEMPTED TO SHOOT DOUGLAS IN HIS STUDY, DOUGLAS GRABBED THE GUN AND, IN THE STRUGGLE, BALDWIN WAS SHOT IN THE FACE.

WITH CECIL'S HELP, DOUGLAS DRESSED THE MAN IN HIS OWN CLOTHES, EXCEPT FOR DOUGLAS'S WEDDING RING, TO DECEIVE THE SECRET SOCIETY WHICH HE AND BALDWIN HAD BELONGED TO, SINCE BOTH ARMS BORE THE SOCIETY'S MARK. CECIL AND MRS. DOUGLAS HAD COVERED FOR DOUGLAS WHO HAD BEEN HIDING IN A SECRET COMPARTMENT IN THE ROOM WHERE THE SHOOTING OCCURRED. (CONTINUED)



4. The Valley of Fear

(VALLEY CONT.) IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ME, DOUGLAS EXPLAINS HIS REAL NAME WAS BIRDY EDWARDS AND HE HAD BEEN A PINKERTON DETECTIVE IN CHICAGO. EDWARDS HAD INFILTRATED A MURDEROUS GANG, KNOWN BY LOCALS AS THE SCOWRERS, IN VERMISSA VALLEY (A.K.A. THE VALLEY OF FEAR) AND BROUGHT THEM TO JUSTICE. AFTERWARDS, THE CRIMINALS ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIM, AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM JAIL.

HOUNDED, DOUGLAS HAD RUN TO ENGLAND, WHERE HE MET AND MARRIED HIS SECOND WIFE. HOLMES URGES DOUGLAS TO LEAVE ENGLAND AND WARNS A NEW THREAT NOW HANGS OVER HIM. DOUGLAS TAKES THIS ADVICE, BUT SHORTLY AFTER YOU LEARN DOUGLAS WAS LOST OVERBOARD ON THE VESSEL TO AFRICA. YOU BELIEVE MORIARTY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENDING DOUGLAS' LIFE.

YOU WANT TO BRING MORIARTY DOWN, BUT WARNS BARKER AND ME IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO ACHIEVE.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # B004 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # B005, WE WILL PROVIDE SUMMARIES OF THE STORIES FROM THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE ENCYCLOPEDIA: [HTTP://WWW.ARTHUR-CONAN-DOYLE.COM](http://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com)
- THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CHRONOLOGY: [HTTP://WWW.DIOGENES-CLUB.COM/HOYBARINGGOULD.HTM](http://www.diogenes-club.com/hoysbaringgoould.htm)



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STEVE MASON

