

Baker Street Elementary

Presents

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street *Elementary*

The Life and Times in Victorian London
B008 - *Story Summaries (Last Bow) - January, 2022*



WELCOME TO TOPIC NUMBER B008... 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. 'The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge'

JOHN SCOTT ECCLES VISITS ME TO RELATE THE 'GROTESQUE' EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT. HE WAS INVITED TO WISTERIA LODGE BY ALOYSUS GARCIA, A MAN WORKING FOR THE SPANISH EMBASSY, THAT HE KNEW. HIS HOST SEEMED PREOCCUPIED, AND HIS MOOD WORSENERD WHEN HE RECEIVED A NOTE HE CRUMPLED AND THREW OUT. WHEN ECCLES WAS IN BED, GARCIA CAME TO HIS ROOM TO ASK WHY HE RANG AT 1 A.M. ALTHOUGH, BEING HE WAS ASLEEP, HE OBVIOUSLY HAD NOT.

WHEN HE AWAKENS, ECCLES WAS STUNNED TO FIND EVERYONE HAD VANISHED. BACK IN LONDON, HE INQUIRED ABOUT GARCIA AND DISCOVERED NOBODY AT THE EMBASSY KNEW HIM. WHILE ECCLES IS TALKING TO ME, INSPECTORS GREGSON AND BAYNES ARRIVE TO TELL GARCIA'S CORPSE HAS BEEN FOUND ON A COMMON NEAR WISTERIA LODGE WITH HIS HEAD SMASHED. THE POLICEMEN FOUND THE INVITATION HE SENT TO ECCLES IN HIS POCKET, WHICH MAKES ECCLES A SUSPECT.

THEY ALSO FOUND THE LETTER GARCIA HAD RECEIVED AND CRUMPLED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, WRITTEN IN A WOMAN'S HANDWRITING. I REALIZE ECCLES' PRESENCE AT WISTERIA LODGE, TOGETHER WITH HIS NIGHT-TIME AWAKENING, WAS SUPPOSED TO BE USED AS AN ALIBI FOR GARCIA, WHO MUST HAVE HAD A CRIMINAL INTENT THAT BACKFIRED. I ALSO DEDUCE THE WOMAN WHO WROTE THE NOTE MUST BE AN ACCOMPLICE, AND MUST BE LIVING IN THE NEIGHBORING AREA. (CONTINUED)



1. 'The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge'

(*'WIST'* CONT.) THE NEXT DAY YOU AND I BOOK ROOMS IN AN INN IN ESHER, AND AS I TRY TO COLLECT INFORMATION, MY ATTENTION FOCUSES ON THE CURIOUS MR. HENDERSON OF HIGH GABLE GRANGE. MISS BURNETT, THE GOVERNESS OF HENDERSON'S DAUGHTERS, DISAPPEARED THE SAME NIGHT GARCIA WAS KILLED. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNESS IS FOUND AND TAKEN TO US. SHE'S EXHAUSTED AND HAS LIKELY BEEN DRUGGED.

HENDERSON WAS GETTING ONTO THE TRAIN AND PUSHING HER INTO THE CARRIAGE, BUT SHE STRUGGLED WITH HIM AND ESCAPED. ONCE HER STRENGTH RETURNS, SHE TELLS HER STORY: HENDERSON IS REALLY DON MURILLO, A BLOODTHIRSTY TYRANT WHO LEAD A REIGN OF TERROR SOME YEARS AGO IN CENTRAL AMERICA. HE WAS OVERTHROWN, BUT SOMEHOW MANAGED TO ESCAPE TO EUROPE.

THE RELATIVES OF HIS FORMER VICTIMS, INCLUDING GARCIA AND MISS BURNETT (WHOSE REAL NAME IS SENORA DURANDO) HAVE TRACKED HIM DOWN FOR REVENGE. SHE GOT HERSELF HIRED AS GOVERNESS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO INFORM THE OTHERS ABOUT MURILLO'S DOINGS. GARCIA WAS SUPPOSED TO COME TO ENACT THE REVENGE, BUT MURILLO DISCOVERED THE PLOT, HELD MISS BURNETT PRISONER, AND KILLED THE YOUNG MAN.



2. 'The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans'

ONE MORNING IN NOVEMBER 1895, YOU ARE SURPRISED BY A VISIT FROM HIS BROTHER MYCROFT, BRINGING HIM THE CASE OF ARTHUR CADOGAN WEST. WEST WAS A CIVIL SERVANT FOUND DEAD ON SUBWAY TRACKS AT ALDGATE, WITH PLANS OF A TOP SECRET SUBMARINE PLANS ON HIS PERSON. ACCORDING TO MYCROFT, THE PLANS WERE KEPT IN A SAFE WHOSE KEYS ARE HELD BY MEN CONSIDERED TO BE ABOVE SUSPICION: SIR JAMES WALTER AND SIDNEY JOHNSON.

WEST WAS KNOWN AS A SERIOUS EMPLOYEE, AND JOHNSON'S DEPUTY. IT IS BELIEVED HE STOLE THE PLANS TO SELL AND WAS KILLED DURING THE TRANSACTION. BUT YOU WONDER WHY WEST HAD STOLEN THE PLANS WHILE HE COULD COPY THEM. VISITING THE CRIME SCENE, YOU DEDUCE THE BODY FELL FROM THE ROOF OF A SUBWAY CAR. YOU DECIDE TO PAY A VISIT TO SIR JAMES, BUT ONLY MEET HIS BROTHER, COLONEL WALTER, AS SIR JAMES HAS JUST DIED, STUNNED BY THE DISHONOR.

WE VISIT WEST'S FIANCÉE, WHO INFORMS HIM THE YOUNG MAN LEFT HER WITHOUT EXPLANATION ON THE WAY TO THE THEATRE THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER. HOLMES ASKS HIS BROTHER WHICH FOREIGN AGENTS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN BUYING THE PLANS. ONE OF THEM, HUGO OBERSTEIN, ATTRACTS YOUR INTEREST BECAUSE HIS HOUSE HAS WINDOWS THAT OVERLOOK A RAILWAY. (CONTINUED)

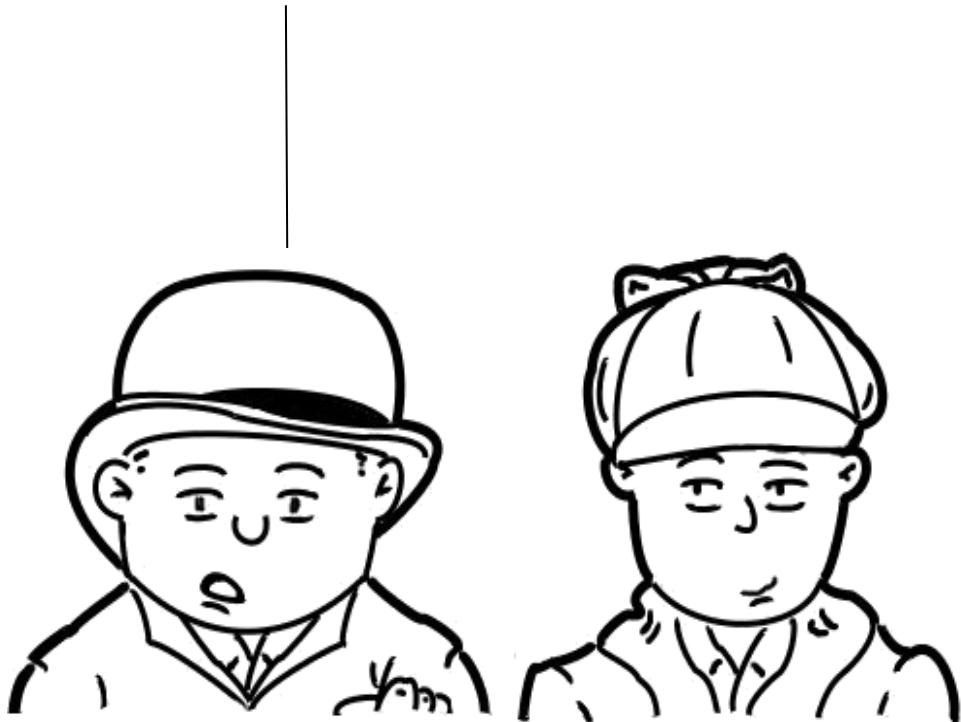


2. 'The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans'

(*'BRUC'* CONT.) WE BREAK INTO OBERSTEIN'S HOME AND DISCOVER TRACES OF BLOOD AND AN ENVELOPE OF MESSAGES CLIPPED FROM THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S AGONY COLUMN REFERRING TO THE TRANSACTION. YOU THEN PLACE AN AD IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OBERSTEIN'S ACCOMPLICE. COLONEL WALTER RESPONDS TO THE AD AND IS ARRESTED. HE ADMITS, PRESSED BY DEBT, HE STOLE THE SAFE'S KEYS AND CONTACTED OBERSTEIN.

WEST, ON THE WAY TO THE THEATER, SAW COLONEL WALTER ENTER THE OFFICES AND FOLLOWED HIM TO THE OBERSTEIN'S HOUSE. THE SPY KILLED THE YOUNG MAN AND THREW HIS BODY ON THE ROOF OF A TRAIN CAR, PUTTING THE LESS IMPORTANT PAGES OF THE PLANS IN HIS POCKETS SO HE WILL BE BELIEVED TO BE THE THIEF. YOU ASK COLONEL WALTER, GUILT RIDDEN, TO WRITE TO OBERSTEIN REQUESTING AN APPOINTMENT.

THE LATTER COMES TO THE RENDEZVOUS AND IS ARRESTED. THE PLANS ARE FOUND BEFORE BEING SOLD TO A FOREIGN POWER; AS A RESULT, YOU RETURNED FROM A DAY AT WINDSOR A FEW WEEKS LATER WITH A FINE EMERALD TIE-PIN.

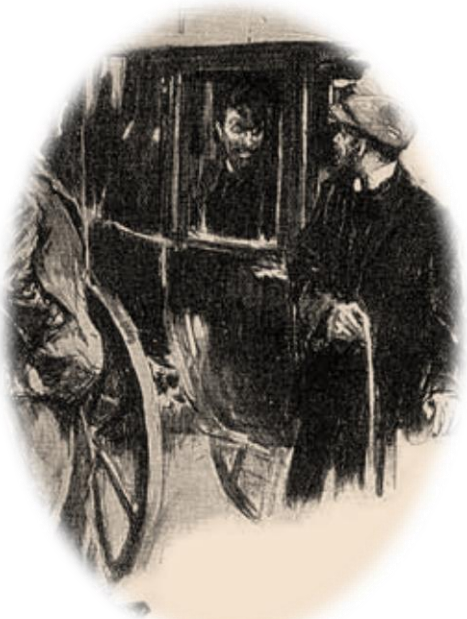


3. 'The Adventure of the Devil's Foot'

IN 1897, UNDER DR. MOORE AGAR WARNING OF A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN FROM EXHAUSTION, I AM PERSUADED TO TAKE A HOLIDAY. YOU AND I TAKE A TRIP TO POLDHU BAY IN CORNWALL. ONE MORNING, THE PARISH PRIEST AND HIS TENANT, MORTIMER TREGENNIS, INTERRUPT MY REST TO CONSULT ME ABOUT A TRAGEDY. TREGENNIS HAD JUST FOUND HIS SISTER, BRENDA, DEAD AND HIS TWO BROTHERS, OWEN AND GEORGE, IN A STATE CLOSE TO MADNESS.

ALL THREE WERE STILL AROUND THE TABLE WHERE MORTIMER HAD LEFT THEM THE PREVIOUS EVENING, AFTER THEY HAD PLAYED CARDS TOGETHER. NOBODY SEEMS TO HAVE ENTERED THE ROOM AND NO TRACES OF VIOLENCE ARE VISIBLE. THE HOUSEKEEPER AND MORTIMER BELIEVE ALL THIS IS THE DEVIL'S WORK, WHICH I REFUTE. LATER, LEON STERNDALE, A FAMOUS LION HUNTER WHO STAYS IN HIS CORNISH HOME BETWEEN EXPEDITIONS, VISITS US AND ASKS EAGERLY ABOUT THE CASE.

I STATE I HAVE NO THEORY THUS FAR. THE NEXT MORNING, THE PRIEST COMES AGAIN, STATING MORTIMER HAD DIED IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES AS HIS FAMILY. WE RUSH TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME TO COLLECT CLUES. NOTING THE FIRST PEOPLE TO ENTER EACH ROOM AFTER THE MURDERS HAD FAINTED, AND THERE HAD BEEN A FLAME IN BOTH ROOMS, I DEDUCE A TOXIC SUBSTANCE WAS ADDED TO THE FIRE, CAUSING INTOXICATION TO THOSE WHO WERE EXPOSED TO THE FUMES. (CONTINUED)



3. 'The Adventure of the Devil's Foot'

(*'DEVI' CONT.*) USING THE DUST FROM MORTIMER'S LAMP I ATTEMPT TO REPEAT THE EXPERIENCE IN THE COTTAGE AND NEARLY KILL BOTH WATSON AND MYSELF, BUT FORTUNATELY THE LATTER MANAGES TO GATHER HIS STRENGTH AND PULL US BOTH OUTSIDE. I CONCLUDE MORTIMER TREGENNIS KILLED HIS FAMILY BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON ABLE TO LEAVE THE POISON IN THE FIREPLACE. THEN I SUMMON LEON STERNDALE AND ACCUSES HIM OF THE SECOND MURDER.

AFTER A BRIEF RESISTANCE, THE HUNTER CONFESSES HE KILLED MORTIMER TO AVENGE BRENDA, WHO HE HAD LOVED FOR YEARS. HE HAD KNOWN ABOUT MORTIMER'S GUILT BECAUSE HE HAD RECENTLY SHOWN HIM SOME AFRICAN CURIOSITIES, INCLUDING A POISON CALLED 'DEVIL'S-FOOT ROOT', AND HAD RECOGNIZED ITS EFFECTS AT THE SCENE OF THE FIRST MURDER.

CONVINCED THE POLICE WOULD FAIL TO CONDEMN THE GUILTY, HE CARRIED OUT A SENTENCE HIMSELF, USING THE SAME POISON ON MORTIMER AS HE HAD USED ON HIS SIBLINGS, BEFORE RETURNING TO AFRICA FOREVER. I AM MOVED BY HIS STORY, SO I LET HIM GO WITHOUT HANDING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE.



4. 'The Adventure of the Red Circle'

MS. WARREN, A LANDLADY, COMES TO SEE YOU BECAUSE OF HER CONCERNS ABOUT A LODGER, A YOUNG MAN WHO PAID FOR 15 DAYS IN ADVANCE BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE ONLY TO COME BACK VERY LATE AND HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY NOT TO BE DISTURBED IN ANY WAY; MEALS ARE LAID AT HIS DOOR AND HE LEAVES NOTES TO ASK FOR WHAT HE NEEDS, IN PARTICULAR THE DAILY GAZETTE.

INTRIGUED, YOU SPECULATE THE CURRENT OCCUPANT IS A NOT THE ONE WHO RENTED, BUT COULD BE SOMEONE WHO IS HIDING AND RECEIVES NEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE THROUGH THE CLASSIFIEDS. HE THEN FINDS ADS IN THE NEWSPAPER SIGNED BY 'G,' THE LAST OF THEM SAYING A CODED MESSAGE WILL BE SENT THE SAME NIGHT FROM A BUILDING NEAR MRS. WARREN'S HOUSE.

TO TEST HIS HYPOTHESIS, YOU DECIDE TO GET A LOOK AT THE LODGER. WE HIDE IN A CLOSET AND, BY USE OF A MIRROR WE SEE A YOUNG WOMEN OPENING THE DOOR TO TAKE THE TRAY WITH HER MEAL. YOU DEDUCE THE MAN WHO RENTED THE ROOM AND THIS YOUNG WOMAN ARE A COUPLE IN MORTAL DANGER. THAT EVENING, WE WATCH FOR THE CODED MESSAGE THAT, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST CLASSIFIED AD, WILL BE SENT FROM THE NEARBY BUILDING. (CONTINUED)

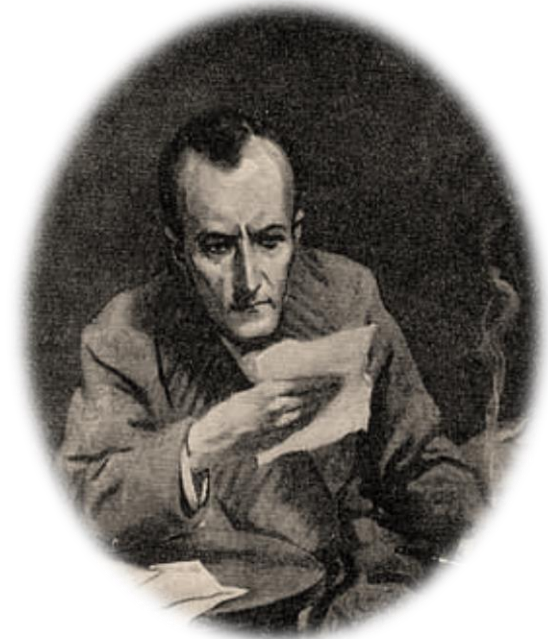


4. 'The Adventure of the Red Circle'

(*'REDC'* CONT.) WE'RE SURPRISED TO MEET INSPECTOR GREGSON WITH AN AMERICAN DETECTIVE, LEVERTON, WHO IS CHASING GORGIANO, A MURDERER AND A GIANT OF A MAN, WHO HAS JUST ENTERED THE BUILDING FROM WHICH THE SIGNALS ARE COMING. THE FOUR MEN ENTER AND FIND GORGIANO DEAD IN AN EMPTY ROOM. THE WOMAN HIDING IN MRS. WARREN'S HOUSE, WHOM HOLMES HAD SUMMONED VIA A CODED MESSAGE, ARRIVES AND IS DELIGHTED TO SEE GORGIANO DEAD.

SHE TELLS THEM HER NAME IS EMILIA LUCCA. SHE HAD MARRIED A YOUNG MAN NAMED GENNARO, WHO HAD NAIVELY ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH A CRIMINAL GROUP CALLED 'THE RED CIRCLE' A FEW YEARS EARLIER. THE COUPLE IMMIGRATED TO NEW YORK TO ESCAPE THE GROUP AND TO START A NEW LIFE, BUT THE RED CIRCLE FOUND THEM AND SENT GORGIANO TO TRY TO FORCE GENNARO TO COMMIT A MURDER.

INSTEAD GENNARO WARNED THE VICTIM AND THE POLICE, AND THEN THEY FLED AGAIN, TO LONDON, WHERE GORGIANO WAS STILL TRACKING THEM. THAT NIGHT HE HAD FOUND GENNARO IN THE BUILDING, THEY FOUGHT AND GENNARO KILLED GORGIANO. AFTER SHE TOLD HER STORY, LEVERTON, GREGSON, YOU, AND I ARE UNANIMOUS IN THINKING SINCE IT WAS SO CLEARLY A CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE, NO COURT WOULD IMPRISON HER HUSBAND FOR THIS KILLING.



5. 'Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax'

MISS DOBNEY, LADY FRANCES CARFAX'S FORMER HOUSEKEEPER, WHO WAS USED TO GETTING LETTERS FROM HER MISTRESS ON A REGULAR BASIS, IS ALARMED BY HER SUDDEN SILENCE. SHE ASKS ME TO ASCERTAIN HER WHEREABOUTS. I AM QUITE WORRIED ABOUT THIS YOUNG WOMAN, DENIED AN INHERITANCE DUE TO HER SEX, WHO'S TRAVELING ON HER OWN, CARRYING VALUABLE JEWELRY WITH HER. SINCE I AM TOO BUSY, I SEND YOU TO LAUSANNE WHERE LADY FRANCES HAS BEEN STAYING LATELY.

ON SITE, YOU LEARN SHE LEFT IN A HURRY FOR BADEN, AFTER A STRANGE BEARDED MAN PAYED HER A VISIT. YOU THEN TRACK HER INTO GERMANY WHERE SHE APPARENTLY FORMED FRIENDSHIP WITH TWO MISSIONARIES, DR. SCHLESSINGER AND HIS WIFE. THE THREE OF THEM LEFT TOWN AT THE SAME TIME. HER LAST TWO BANK TRANSACTIONS WERE CHEQUES, ONE TO PAY HER HOTEL BILL, AND ANOTHER FOR £50 TO HER MAID, MISS MARIE DEVINE.

YOU ALSO LEARN THE BEARDED MAN PRECEDED HIM IN BADEN TO ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS. CLUELESS, YOU HEAD TO MONTPELLIER TO SPEAK TO DEVINE, WHO LEFT HER MISTRESS IN LAUSANNE TO GET MARRIED. AS YOU NOTICE HE'S SPIED BY THE BEARDED MAN, YOU GO AFTER HIM AND YOU FIGHT. (CONTINUED)



5. 'Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax'

(*'LADY' CONT.*) YOU ARE RESCUED BY A WORKMAN, WHO TURNS OUT TO BE ME IN DISGUISE. I CONDUCTED A PARALLEL INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERED THE IDENTITY OF THE BEARDED MAN. PHILIP GREEN, LADY FRANCES'S FORMER SUITOR, WHO LEFT ENGLAND AFTER SOME MISDEMEANORS, BUT IS NOW BACK TO PROPOSE HER. BACK IN LONDON, I GET MY SUSPICIONS ABOUT SCHLESSINGER CONFIRMED. I READ A TELEGRAM FROM BADEN ABOUT DR. SHLESSINGER'S LEFT EAR — 'JAGGED OR TORN'.

THIS CONFIRMS MY SUSPICION, DR. SHLESSINGER IS IN FACT HENRY PETERS, A RASCAL FROM AUSTRALIA (HIS EARLOBE WAS CHEWED AWAY IN A BAR BRAWL). PETERS IS A CROOK WHO TARGETS LONELY AND WEALTHY LADIES. WITH GREEN, WE LOCATE PETERS AND LEARN HE HAS ORDERED A SPECIAL COFFIN. FEARING THE WORST, WE VISIT THE CROOK, BUT TO NO AVAIL, AS IT'S PETERS OLD NANNY WHO IS IN THE COFFIN. I SPEND THE NIGHT BROODING OVER HIS FAILURE AND THEN HAVE AN EPIPHANY.

I WAKE YOU UP IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING AND TAKE YOU TO THE NANNY'S FUNERAL. I FORCIBLY OPEN THE COFFIN AND FIND LADY FRANCES, UNCONSCIOUS BUT ALIVE, IN THE DOUBLE-BOTTOM IN WHICH PETERS WAS ABOUT TO BURY HER. THE PETERSES, WHILE DISHONEST ENOUGH TO KIDNAP SOMEONE TO STEAL HER JEWELS, WERE TOO SQUEAMISH TO COMMIT MURDER. YOU MANAGE TO REVIVE HER, AND THE PETERSES ARE FOUND TO HAVE FLED.



6. 'The Adventure of the Dying Detective'

I AM CALLED TO TEND YOU, APPARENTLY DYING OF A RARE TROPICAL DISEASE, TAPANULI FEVER, CONTRACTED WHILE YOU WERE ON A CASE. I AM SHOCKED, NOT HAVING HEARD ABOUT YOUR ILLNESS. MRS. HUDSON SAYS YOU HAVE NEITHER EATEN NOR DRUNK ANYTHING IN THREE DAYS. YOU INSTRUCT ME NOT TO COME NEAR YOU, BECAUSE THE ILLNESS IS HIGHLY INFECTIOUS. IN FACT, YOU SCORN ME AND INSULTS MY ABILITIES, ASTONISHING AND HURTING ME.

ALTHOUGH I WISH TO EXAMINE YOU, OR SEND FOR A SPECIALIST, YOU DEMAND I WAIT SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE SEEKING HELP. SO, I AM FORCED TO WAIT, IN EXTREME WORRY AS YOU MUTTER NONSENSE. WHILE I WAIT, I EXAMINE SEVERAL OBJECTS IN YOUR ROOM. YOU GROW ANGRY WHEN I TOUCH ITEMS EXPLAINING YOU DO NOT LIKE YOUR THINGS TOUCHED. AT SIX O'CLOCK, YOU TELL ME TO TURN THE GASLIGHT ON, BUT ONLY HALF-FULL.

YOU THEN INSTRUCT ME TO BRING CULVERTON SMITH TO SEE YOU, BUT TO MAKE SURE I RETURN TO BAKER STREET BEFORE SMITH ARRIVES. I GO TO SMITH'S ADDRESS. ALTHOUGH SMITH REFUSES TO SEE ANYONE, I FORCE MY WAY IN. ONCE I EXPLAIN MY ERRAND, SMITH'S ATTITUDE CHANGES. SMITH AGREES TO COME TO BAKER STREET WITHIN A HALF HOUR. I EXCUSE MYSELF, SAYING I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT, AND RETURN TO BAKER STREET BEFORE SMITH'S ARRIVAL. (CONTINUED)



6. 'The Adventure of the Dying Detective'

('DYIN' CONT.) ONCE SMITH ARRIVES, AND BELIEVING THEY ARE ALONE, SMITH IS FRANK WITH YOU. IT SOON EMERGES, TO MY HORROR, IN MY HIDING SPOT, YOU HAVE BEEN SICKENED BY THE SAME ILLNESS THAT KILLED SMITH'S NEPHEW. SMITH SEES THE LITTLE IVORY BOX, WHICH HE SENT TO YOU BY POST, AND WHICH CONTAINS A SHARP SPRING INFECTED WITH THE ILLNESS. SMITH POCKETS IT, REMOVING THE EVIDENCE. HE THEN RESOLVES TO STAY THERE AND WATCH YOU DIE.

YOU ASK SMITH TO TURN THE GAS UP FULL. SMITH ASKS YOU IF HE WOULD LIKE ANYTHING ELSE, TO WHICH YOU REPLY — NO LONGER A MAN NEAR DEATH — 'A MATCH AND A CIGARETTE.' INSPECTOR MORTON ENTERS — THE FULL GASLIGHT WAS THE SIGNAL TO MOVE IN. YOU TELL MORTON TO ARREST SMITH FOR THE MURDER OF HIS NEPHEW, AND PERHAPS ALSO FOR HIS ATTEMPTED MURDER. SMITH, STILL ARROGANT AS EVER, POINTS OUT HIS WORD IS AS GOOD AS YOURS IN COURT.

YOU CALL FOR ME TO EMERGE, TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS A WITNESS. YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ILLNESS WAS FEIGNED TO INDUCE SMITH TO CONFESS TO HIS NEPHEW'S MURDER. YOU WERE NOT INFECTED BY THE BOX; YOU HAD EXAMINED THE MAIL BEFORE OPENING IT. STARVING YOURSELF FOR THREE DAYS AND THE CLAIM OF THE 'DISEASE'S' NATURE KEPT ME FROM EXAMINING YOU AND DISCOVERING THE RUSE, SINCE, YOU HAVE EVERY RESPECT FOR MY MEDICAL SKILLS.



7. 'His Last Bow'

ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, THE GERMAN AGENT VON BORK IS GETTING READY TO LEAVE ENGLAND WITH HIS VAST COLLECTION OF INTELLIGENCE, GATHERED OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD. HIS WIFE AND HOUSEHOLD HAVE ALREADY LEFT, LEAVING ONLY HIM AND HIS HOUSEKEEPER. BORK'S ASSOCIATE, BARON VON HERLING, IS IMPRESSED BY HIS ACQUISITION OF VITAL BRITISH MILITARY SECRETS, AND TELLS VON BORK HE WILL BE RECEIVED IN BERLIN AS A HERO.

BORK IS WAITING FOR ONE LAST TRANSACTION WITH HIS INFORMANT, ALTAMONT, WHO WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY WITH A TREASURE: NAVAL SIGNALS. HERLING LEAVES JUST BEFORE ALTAMONT ARRIVES. ALTAMONT SHOWS BORK A PACKAGE. ALTAMONT DISPARAGES BORK'S SAFE, BUT BORK PROUDLY SAYS ITS CONSTRUCTION AND MAKE IT IMPENETRABLE. HE TELLS ALTAMONT THE COMBINATION IS 'AUGUST 1914'.

ALTAMONT, MENTIONING CASES IN WHICH SEVERAL INFORMANTS HAVE ENDED UP IN PRISON, IS DISTRUSTFUL OF BORK AND REFUSES TO DELIVER THE CODES UNTIL HE RECEIVES PAYMENT. BORK REFUSES TO PAY UNTIL HE HAS EXAMINED THE DATA. ALTAMONT HANDS HIM THE PACKAGE. BORK FINDS IT IS A BOOK TITLED PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE, HARDLY WHAT HE EXPECTED. EVEN LESS EXPECTED IS THE CHLOROFORM-SOAKED RAG HELD IN HIS FACE BY ALTAMONT. (CONTINUED)



7. 'His Last Bow'

(*'LAST' CONT.*) ALTAMONT IS ACTUALLY ME IN DISGUISE, AND MY CHAUFFEUR IS YOU. I HAVE BEEN ON THIS CASE FOR TWO YEARS. I IDENTIFIED THE SECURITY LEAK THROUGH WHICH BRITISH SECRETS WERE REACHING THE GERMANS, AND THEN SET OUT TO APPREHEND THE RECEIVING AGENTS THEMSELVES. THE HOUSEKEEPER WAS ONE OF MY AGENTS: THE LIGHT SHE SWITCHED OFF WAS THE SIGNAL TO US THE COAST WAS CLEAR.

WE TAKE BORK AND THE EVIDENCE TO SCOTLAND YARD. AFTERWARDS, I RETIRE FROM DETECTIVE WORK. I SPEND MY DAYS BEEKEEPING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND WRITING MY DEFINITIVE WORK ON INVESTIGATION. IN REFERENCE TO THE IMPENDING WAR, I SAY, "THERE'S AN EAST WIND COMING, WATSON." YOU MISINTERPRET THE MEANING OF THE WORDS AND SAY, "I THINK NOT, HOLMES. IT IS VERY WARM."

"GOOD OLD WATSON! YOU ARE THE ONE FIXED POINT IN A CHANGING AGE. THERE'S AN EAST WIND COMING ALL THE SAME, SUCH A WIND AS NEVER BLEW ON ENGLAND YET. IT WILL BE COLD AND BITTER, WATSON, AND A GOOD MANY OF US MAY WITHER BEFORE ITS BLAST. BUT IT'S GOD'S OWN WIND NONE THE LESS, AND A CLEANER, BETTER, STRONGER LAND WILL LIE IN THE SUNSHINE WHEN THE STORM HAS CLEARED."



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # B008 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # B009, WE WILL PROVIDE SUMMARIES OF THE STORIES FROM THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.



Original Source Material for this topic:

- The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia: <http://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com>
- The Sherlock Holmes Chronology: <http://www.diogenes-club.com/hoybaringgould.htm>



Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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