

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
December, 1891

## The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip



## "The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip" *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

01

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Isa Whitney
- 08 - Kate Whitney

## Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich,  
1906

## The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

02

- 09 - Hugh Boone
- 10 - The Rascally Lascar
- 11 - Mrs. St. Clair
- 12 -- Neville St. Clair
- 13 - Inspector Bradstreet
- 14 - Mary Morstan Watson
- 15 - Data! Data!

# Canonical Characters

*Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.*

ADVENTURE VI.—THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

ISA WHITNEY, brother of the late Elias Whitney, D.D., Principal of the Theological College of St. George's, was much addicted to opium. The habit grew upon him, as I understand, from some foolish freak when he was at college, for having read De Quincey's description of his dreams and sensations, he had drenched his tobacco with laudanum in an attempt to produce the same effects. He found, as so many more have done, that the practice is easier to attain than to get rid of, and for many years he continued to be a slave to the drug, an object of mingled horror and pity to his friends and relatives. I can see him now, with yellow, pasty face, drooping lids and pin-point pupils, all huddled in a chair, the wreck and ruin of a noble man.

One night—it was in June, '89—there came a ring to my bell, about the hour when a man gives his first yawn, and glances at the clock. I sat up in my chair, and my wife laid her needlework down in her lap and made a little face of disappointment.

"A patient!" said she. "You'll have to go out."

I groaned, for I was newly come back from a weary day.

We heard the door open, a few hurried words, and then quick steps upon the linoleum. Our own door flew open, and a lady, clad in some lark-coloured stuff, with a black veil, entered the room.

"You will excuse my calling so late," she began, and then, suddenly losing her self-control, she ran forward, threw her arms about my wife's neck, and sobbed against her shoulder. "Oh, I'm in such a state!" she cried; "I do so want a little rest."

"I will," said my wife, pulling up her nightgown. "This is Kate Whitney. How you are! I had not an idea who you were when you came in."

"I don't know what to do, so I came

straight to you." That was always her way. Folk who were in grief came to her like birds to a lighthouse.

"It was very sweet of you to come. Now you must have some wine and water, and sit here comfortably and tell us all about it. Or should you rather that I sent James to bed?"

"Oh, no, no. I want the Doctor's advice and help too. It's about Isa. He has not been home for two days. I am so frightened about him!"

It was not the first time that she had spoken to us of her husband's trouble, to me as a doctor, to my wife as an old friend and school companion. We soothed and comforted her by such words as we could find. Did she know where her husband was? Was it possible that we could bring him back to her?

It seemed that it was. She had the surest information that of late he had, when the fit was on him, made use of an opium den in the furthest east of the City. Hitherto his orgies had always been confined to one day, and he had come back, twitching and shattered, in the evening. But now the spell had been upon him eight and forty hours, and he lay there, doubtless among the dregs of the docks, breathing in the poison or sleeping off the effects. There he was to be found, she was sure of it, at the "Bar of Gold," in Upper Swandam-lane. But what was she to do? How could she, a young and timid woman, make her way into such a place, and pluck her husband out from among the ruffians who surrounded him?

There was the case, and of course there was but one way out of it. Might we not escort her to this place? And, then, as a second thought, why should she go at all? I was Isa Whitney's medical adviser, and as such I had influence over him, and as such I had influence over the police, and as such I could manage it better if I went myself. I promised her on my word that I would send him home in a cab with me, if he were indeed at the

## The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip



### "The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

03

Acting upon a request from Isa Whitney's wife, Watson finds Mr. Whitney in a London opium den, only to find Sherlock Holmes in the same drug-house, searching for Neville Saint-Clair, who'd been missing for a few days.

A visit to Mrs. St. Claire ensues, where she describes the last time, she "saw" her husband in an upper floor at the Bar of Gold Opium Den by accident.

Accompanied by the police, evidence within the room leads all to believe St. Clair has met his ultimate fate. He managed to send a letter to his wife, but it was several days before it was posted, causing more worry for his wife.

# Canonical Characters



Gaston Simoes  
da Fonseca,  
1909

## The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip



### “The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip” *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

04

#### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
1921	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
1951	UK	John Longden	Campbell Singer
1965	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
1986	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Hardwicke

#### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
November 24, 1930	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
February 22, 1936	Mutual/ NBC	Richard Gordon	Harry West
May 12, 1935	Blue (NBC)	Luis Hector	Leigh Lovell
October 23, 1939	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 14, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
June 19, 1944	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 06, 1946	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
1958		Maurice Teynac	Pierre Mondy
May 12, 1959	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
December 12, 1990	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
January 22, 1992	NPR	Edward Petherbridge	David Pearl
February 26, 2012		John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



### “The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip” *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

05

“...the questions which have to be solved—  
what Neville St. Clair was doing in the  
opium den, what happened to him when  
there, where is he now, and what Hugh  
Boone had to do with his disappearance...”

“I saw him sitting there, an old briar pipe  
between his lips, his eyes fixed vacantly  
upon the corner of the ceiling, the blue  
smoke curling up from him.”

*“I am in the midst of a very remarkable  
inquiry, and I have hoped to find a clue in  
the incoherent ramblings of these sots, as I  
have done before now.”*

(Clive Merrison, 1990, *BBC Presents: Sherlock Holmes, “The Man  
with the Twisted Lip”*)

## Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



### “The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip” *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

06

“The year '87 furnished us with a long series of cases of greater or less interest.”

“One night—it was in June, '89—there came a ring to my bell.” “... in ten minutes, I had left my armchair and cheery sitting-room behind me and was speeding eastward in a hansom on a strange errand,” to the Bar of Gold, in Upper Swandam Lane.”

“You have a grand gift of silence, Watson,” said Holmes. “It makes you quite invaluable as a companion.”

*“I am an old campaigner, and if I were not, I can very well see that no apology is needed.”*

(Clive Merrison, 1990, *BBC Presents: Sherlock Holmes*, “The Man with the Twisted Lip”)

## Canonical Characters



Isa Whitney



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

07

“Brother of the late Elias Whitney,  
... was much addicted to opium.”

“I say, Watson, what o’clock is it?”

“Nearly eleven.”

“Of what day?”

“Of Friday, June 19th.”

“Good heavens! I thought it was  
Wednesday. It is Wednesday.  
What d’you want to frighten the  
chap for?”

*(Terence Longdon, 1986, The Return of Sherlock Holmes, “The  
Man with the Twisted Lip”)*



## Canonical Characters



Kate Whitney



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

08

Wife of Isa, sought Watson’s help to find her husband after he had not returned home for two days.

“When the fit was on him, he made use of an opium den at the Bar of Gold, in Upper Swandam Lane.”

*“Oh, I’m in such trouble! I do so want a little help.”*

(Patricia Garwood, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Man with the Twisted Lip”)

## Canonical Characters



Hugh Boone



"The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip"  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

09

Neville St. Clair's disguise. "He is a professional beggar, ... he pretends to a small trade in wax vestas on Threadneedle Street."

"A shock of orange hair, a pale face disfigured by a horrible scar, which, by its contraction, has turned up the outer edge of his upper lip."

"...the grime which covered his face could not conceal its repulsive ugliness."

*(Hector Ross, 1951, The Man Who Disappeared)*

## Canonical Characters



The Rascally Lascar



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

10

Rented a room to Neville  
St. Clair and ran the opium  
den at the Bar of Gold, in  
Upper Swandam Lane.

“It is the vilest murder-trap  
on the whole riverside.”

“The Lascar was known to  
be a man of the vilest  
antecedents.”

(Albert Moses, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Man  
with the Twisted Lip”)

## Canonical Characters



Mrs. St. Clair



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

11

Wife of Neville, with two children,  
residing at The Cedars near Lee, in  
Kent.

“she suddenly heard a cry and was  
struck cold to see her husband  
looking down at her ... terribly  
agitated. He waved his hands  
frantically to her, and then vanished.”

*“Then perhaps, Mr. Holmes, you  
will be good enough to explain how it  
is that I have received a letter from  
him to-day.”*

(Eleanor David, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Man  
with the Twisted Lip”)

## Canonical Characters



Neville St. Clair



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

12

Age 37, reporter on an evening paper in London, who wrote an article on begging.

*“Very soon I found that I was saving considerable sums of money. As I grew richer I grew more ambitious, took a house in the country, and eventually married, without anyone having a suspicion as to my real occupation.”*

*(Hector Ross, 1951, The Man Who Disappeared)*

## Canonical Characters



Inspector Bradstreet



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

13

A tall, stout official in a peaked cap and frogged jacket.

“Great heavens!” cried the inspector, “it is, indeed, the missing man. I know him from the photograph.”

*“If the police are to hush this thing up, there must be no more of Hugh Boone.”*

(Denis Lill, 1986, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Man with the Twisted Lip”)

## Canonical Characters



Mary Morstan Watson



“The Adventure of the Man  
with the Twisted Lip”  
*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

14

Dr. Watson’s wife, who was performing needle-point when Mrs. Whitney arrived at their house one evening.

“Folk who were in grief came to my wife like birds to a lighthouse.”

*“Now, you must have some wine and water, and sit here comfortably and tell us all about it. Or should you rather that I sent James off to bed?”*

## Canonical Characters



The Adventure of the  
Man with the Twisted Lip



## “The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip” 15 *(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

First  
Publication:

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

U.S. - *The Courier-Journal*  
December 05, 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:

June, 1889  
(Watson)  
Saturday, June 18, 1887  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ  
Abbreviation:

TWIS