



A Publication of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Communication

#186

New Series

Special Halloween Edition 1998

Volume 2 Issue 8



It can be argued that without the villain, there could be no Holmes. This special edition, therefore pays tribute to not only the villains in the Canon, but the most vile, reprehensible and monstrous of them.

Is it any coincidence that two of the most despicable characters in the canon both start with the same letter that starts the word "monster"?

Of course, the most horrifying Halloween of all would be one without Holmes. Whether they are exposing vampires or saving creeping men, Holmes and Watson are both treats in a sea of tricky Victorians.

So pull up a chair, grab a bowl of M&Ms or Butterfingers and enjoy this rogues gallery.

The Papers on the Sundial

GRUESOMELY GOOD READING

From an era vastly pre-dating Stephen King, the canon is full of horrible villains and horrifying situations. One does not have too far to look to find prime examples.

In SPEC, we find a vicious—if unusual—snake, not to mention a baboon and a cheetah. In fact the entire Royslott house is a frightful abode. CREE borders on the science fiction, a fable of man's manipulation of nature, with hideous results. DANC and FIVE perform their menace through psychological horror.

LADY involves caskets, near death and jewel thieves. DEVI employs the use of an early form of nerve gas—a root from Africa that emits a toxic gas upon burning. While SUSS has a provocative title, it becomes less a tale of the macabre and more a story of domestic troubles. **Continued on Page 3**

The Monster Within

Sherlock Holmes struggled with his cape. It swirled around him, cutting into his neck. The cloth flew into his face, suffocating him. He pushed it away, scratching at the knot that held it to him. His fingernails scraped his neck and when he

looked at his hands there was blood on them.

He gave a yank and the cape flew away down the hill. Holmes climbed over the craggy rocks, the rough surface cutting through his trouser legs and into his skin.

The house far above glowed warmly. A blast of wind pushed

Holmes back against a boulder. He cried out at the pain but his sounds were drowned out by the howling of the wind.

Holmes took refuge in a small opening between several huge rocks. He slumped down, gasping for air. He sat there for several minutes, thinking of nothing **Continued on Page 6**

HORRIFYING SITUATIONS

We've seen Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula. Here are a couple films of the horror genre that we'd like to see sometime in *TV Guide*.

Sherlock Holmes vs. Alexander Haig. (1978) Dustin Hoffman, Jill Clayburg, Bob and Ray. Holmes tries to make the retired general speak English.

The Adventure of the Balanced Budget. (1991) Harrison Ford, Jack Lord, Susan Lucci, Bobcat Goldthwaite. President Holmes takes on Congress.

Sherlock Holmes vs. General Motors. (1939) Ronald Reagan, Sonja Henie, Peter Lorre, Moe Howard. Holmes tries to stop the car company from taking over mass transit.

The Case of the Lying Lobbyist. (1982) Clint Eastwood, Michael J. Fox, Susan Sarandon, Whoopi Goldberg. Holmes takes on

a political action committee—with startling results.

Sherlock Holmes vs. Sylvester Stallone. (1998) Sylvester Stallone, Karl Malden, Alicia Silverstone, Woody Allen. Holmes battles Stallone to keep him from making another movie.

The Red Circle. (1954) Kirk Douglas, Fred MacMurray, Ronald Reagan, Dolores Dorn. Holmes battles Senator Joe McCarthy.

The Valley of Chips. (1979) Edward Asner, Stephanie Zimbalist, Charles Durning, Bill Murray. Holmes and the dreaded Professor Bill Gates meet for the last time in Silicon Valley.

The Case of the Illustrious Client. (1965) Tony Curtis, Terry Thomas, Douglas Wilson, Ronald Reagan. President Lyndon Johnson enlists Holmes' aid in removing the United States from foreign entanglements.



He's Horrifyingly Everywhere

Dr. George Schenk sends us this ad from the University of Florida *Alligator*, September 23, 1998:

Sherlock,

If you think I'm going to feed & walk that mangy hound of the Baskervilles, you've been doing too many drugs. Sell it in the Alligator classified, or I'm taking that job Moriarty told me about with Chief Inspector Clouseau.

Watson

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BLAN has many elements of the horror story: a missing person, a large house, not quite truthful hosts, and a pale face at the window.

Two stories that stand out, however, for their gruesomeness are CARD and ENGR. Both involve amputation, the former of an ear, the latter of a thumb. In fact, in these two cases, the

inocuousness of the titles are inversely proportional to the harrowing nature of the crimes.

On a plane by itself is HOUN. Not only is the title character more ghastly than anything in life, the atmosphere of the book is filled with menace and foreboding. The ambience of the moors, the presence of Selden, the arrival of the "figure on the tor," the caged insanity of Stapleton—all of these elements

serve the purpose of creating a truly remarkable tale of dread and death.

The canon, then, provides the reader with an abundance of grisly and appalling stories—more than enough to read during a storm-filled visit to an old and musty mansion.

And if it were the last thing you ever read, you would be in fine company indeed.

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/2247/>
<http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~credmond/sh.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/4040/>
<http://w3.one.net/~dmoore/>
<http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~sherlock/>
http://www-ssc.igpp.ucla.edu/~newbury/sh_international/english.htm
<http://www.infinet.com/~jwolfe/tbe/>
<http://www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk/>
<http://plaza15.mbn.or.jp/~limelight/TGS0.html>
<http://charon.ucsd.edu:80/kli/HolmesEG/>
<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/>
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/6595/bluegras.htm>
<http://www.prairienet.org/holmes/>
<http://soalinux.comune.firenze.it/holmes/start.htm>
<http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~lmoskowi/holmes.html>
<ftp://rtfm.mit.edu/pub/usenet/news.answers/books/holmes/list>
<http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/stron1.html>
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/7847/index.html>
<http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/scuttle.htm>
<http://www.pobox.com/~thedoge/>
<http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>
<http://www.inlink.com/~leonard/hsupage.html>
<http://www.hartingdale.com.au/au/~jpgareri/BT.html>
<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bbarnes/sp.htm>
<http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Cove/3655/index.html>
<http://members.aol.com/ohmaurer/index.html>



Sherlockian Web Pages

The Devil You Say

The Canon is full of references to monstrous people. Below is a listing of pejoratives applied to certain characters—unsavory and otherwise. We think we have caught them all, but if you feel we've left some out, by all means write us and let us know.

STORY	ADJECTIVE	WHO SAID IT	TO WHOM IT REFERRED
ABBE	Devil	Theresa	E. Brackenstall
ABBE	Beast	Capt. Crocker	E. Brackenstall
ABBE	Fiend	S. Hopkins	E. Brackenstall
BLAC	Fiend, Beast	S. Hopkins	P. Carey
BLAN	Monster	G. Emsworth	A Leper
BOSC	Devil	Turner	C. McCarthy
CARD	Devil	Browner	Sarah Cushing
CARD	Beast	Browner	Browner
CHAS	Fiend	S. Holmes	C. Milverton
COPP	Demon	V. Hunter	J. Rucastle
DEVI	Devil	Dr. Sterndale	S. Holmes
DYIN	Monster	S. Holmes	Smith
EMPT	Beast	J. Watson	An Unknown Criminal
EMPT	Fiend	Col. Moran	S. Holmes
GLOR	Devil	V. Trevor	Hudson
GLOR	Devil	J. Armitage	J. Prendergast
HOUN	Devil	J. Mortimer	Hugo Baskerville
HOUN	Hound of Hell, Demon, Beast	J. Watson	The Dog
HOUN	Devil, Demon, Beast	J. Watson	Selden
HOUN	Fiend	Stapleton, J. Watson	The Dog
HOUN	Fiend	Henry Baskerville	Hugo Baskerville
HOUN	Beast	S. Holmes, J. Mortimer	The Dog

STORY	ADJECTIVE	WHO SAID IT	TO WHOM IT REFERRED
ILLU	Devil, Fiend	Col. Damery	B. Gruner
ILLU	Devil	K. Winter	B. Gruner
ILLU	Hell-cat, She-devil	B. Gruner	K. Winter
MAZA	Devil	S. Holmes, Count Sylvius	Count Sylvius, S. Holmes
MISS	Fiend	J. Watson	S. Holmes
REDC	Devil, Monster	E. Lucca	Gorgiano
REIG	Demon	S. Holmes	A. Cunningham
RETI	Demon	J. Watson	J. Amberley
RETI	Fiend	S. Holmes	J. Amberley
SHOS	Devil	S. Holmes	R. Norberton
SIGN	Hell-hound	J. Small	Tonga
SILV	Beast	Col. Ross	Silver Blaze
SOLI	Hell-hound	B. Carruthers	J. Woodley
STUD	Devil	S. Holmes	S. Holmes
STUD	Devil	A.C. Doyle	J. Ferrier
SUSS	Fiend, Devil	Mrs. Ferguson	R. Ferguson
3GAB	Fiend	M. Maberley	A Woman
VALL	Devil	McGinty	Morris
VALL	Devil	Barker	Moriarty
VEIL	Monster, Devil	Mrs. Ronder	Ronder
VEIL	Beast	J. Watson, Mrs. Ronder	Ronder
VEIL	Beast	S. Holmes, J. Watson, Mrs. Ronder	The Lion
VEIL	Beast	J. Watson	Mrs. Ronder
WIST	Monster, Fiend	Miss Burnet	J. Murillo
WIST	Devil	Constable Walters	The Cook
WIST	Devil	Warner	Henderson, J. Murillo

Count Weirdly developed a chemical that causes laughter when mixed with sugarwater and swallowed. These two flasks have equal levels of liquid. One of them contains plain water and the other contains the tainted sugarwater. How can Slylock Fox quickly determine, without tasting them, which contains the "Laughing Liquid"?

Answer: Sugar (and Weirdly's chemical) can be added to water without changing the water's level. However, by adding sugar, Weirdly added more weight. When something stays the same size but gets heavier, we say it is more dense. Slylock used the lab scale to determine which flask was heavier.



Continued from Page 1

but a way to slow his heart down.

When he was ready, he grasped the edge of a rock to pull himself up to a standing position. A flash of pain hit the back of his hand and he pulled it away involuntarily. The head of an adder emerged from the top of a rock. Beside it, a second one slithered out.

Ignore them, he thought. Don't bother them and they won't bother me.

But they lunged at him, and Holmes jumped back, again hitting his back against the boulder. He reached for the snakes but couldn't grasp them. They moved quickly, trying to find exposed skin. Holmes felt another bite on the palm of his left hand.

He struggled out of the alcove, and the wind knocked him to his knees. The snakes slithered to his back. Holmes clawed again and felt the sting on his neck. He fell forward, and his face, unbraced, hit a rock. He heard his cheekbone crunch. He

opened his mouth—

And awoke with a start. His hands shook as he pushed away the sweat soaked covers. He entered the bathroom, poured water into the basin and splashed his face with the liquid.

Coming into the living room, he found his cigarettes. His hands still shaking, he lit the tobacco and breathed deeply.

He would have to tell Gregson that he was off the case. For the last three months, it had consumed him; for the last three weeks, he had been unable to sleep because he could find no clues. And when he did sleep, the result was—literally—a nightmare.

He slouched in the chair, his eyes searching the dark room. He felt like a hansom cab without the horses: without movement, without guidance.

Dr. Watson would make him take a vacation if he were in town. But his old friend was on the continent with his wife.

Although his stomach churned, Holmes felt relief in his decision. There were just some things that cannot be solved, a small voice said.

He stood up and walked to the fireplace. Tossing his cigarette into the pit, he rubbed the back of his hand where the snake in his dream had bitten him.

He smiled to himself—just a dream, he thought.

The hand—he looked at his hand again. No marks—there are no marks. Just like on Hallowell's hand. That's it, he thought, that's the clue.

Holmes dressed quickly. He knew he'd be down at the Yard before it opened, but he didn't care. He wouldn't be able to sleep anyway.

He hurried down the stairs and out the door. He walked two blocks in the brisk October air before finding a cab.

Slipping into the seat, he felt refreshed, invigorated.

I was wrong, he thought. Everything can be solved.

Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle's



THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

with *Richard* **GREENE** *Basil* **RATHBONE** *Wendy* **BARRIE**
Nigel **BRUCE** *Lionel* **ATWILL** *John* **CARRADINE** *Barlowe* **BORLAND**
Beryl **MERCER** *Morton* **LOWRY** *Ralph* **FORBES**
A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE
DIRECTED BY *Darryl F. Zanuck*
PRODUCED BY *SIDNEY LANFIELD*
SCREENPLAY BY *Gunn Markay*
EDITED BY *CHARLES BRADLEY*

'Tis time once again for the Annual Fall Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida. This 23rd such meeting will be held at the home of Jeff & Wanda Dow, your *Papers on the Sundial*. The case to be studied is The Red Circle. Study it well.

If you are attending, please fill in and cut out the below form and send it in with your payment of \$5.00 per person for a delicious repast of Italian food. Upon receipt of payment, our hosts will send a confirmation and a map to their home. Please remit payment by October 31st. A draft notice...er, I mean, a request may also accompany your confirmation to make a toast to a certain Canonical character. We hope to see you there!

**CUT OUT AND MAIL IN WITH REMITTANCE TO
WANDA DOW,
YOU WILL BE MAILED A MAP.**

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/E-mail _____

I enclose \$ _____ to pay for _____ lunches at the Fall Gathering.

_____ I will be bringing items for display/sale.

_____ I want to make a presentation on _____

Gather: 11:30AM Eats: Nigh Noon

Participants at the Fall Gathering of the PPOF will have the opportunity to prove their mastery of Sherlockian knowledge in a rousing game of Sherlockian Jeopardy! (tm), patterned on the popular TV game show. Your host, Dave "Godfrey Emsworth" Scott, has prepared three rounds of answers, to which contestants must provide the questions. Categories include Places in the Canon, Holmes in Disguise, London By Gaslight, Holmes on the Silver Screen, and The Fair Sex Is Your Department. The questions in each category get tougher as the point value increases, and some would baffle Mycroft himself. This is not a game for the faint-hearted dilllettante.

Six contestants will be recruited for two rounds, and the three highest scorers will meet in the final round for prizes and the undisputed title of Master of Sherlockiana.

(Jeopardy! is a registered trade mark of some bloated monolith of a production company whose name I cannot recall.)
(I believe it's Meeevy! Griffin - Ed. note.)

Be prepared for another musical fiasco..I mean feast, from The Dow Family Players!

The Pleasant Places of Florida

Founded: 1972
by Leslie Marshall (dec.)

Recorder Emeritus: Dr. Benton Wood

For the record:

THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS

David McCallister, Master of the House,

Jeff & Wanda Dow, The Papers on the Sundial,

Carl L. Heifetz, Representative both with the Servants and with the Tradespeople,

IF YOU SEE A RED CHECK HERE: , THIS IS YOUR LAST COMMUNICATION! USE
THE RENEWAL FORM INSIDE TO CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE DATE AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE MAILING LABEL.
THIS IS THE EXPIRATION DATE OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

