

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 05, No. 05 - May, 2017
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



June 4th Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 4th, at **LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE**, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of Veiled Lodger."

The quiz will cover this tale.

Lawrence Fischman, the author of The French Artillery's Lieutenant, give a talk on: "Sherlock Holmes and The Power of Disbelief: A Study in Verisimilitude." Lawrence will look at why the Canon endures.

He will also autograph copies of his book.

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

May 7th Meeting

There were 15 crew members in attendance. Steve Mason provided a toast to Sherlock Holmes, authored by Don Hobbs, and exactly 221 words in length. (see page 3).

The quiz was based on "The Bruce-Partington Plans." The quiz was won by Sandra Little, with Karen Olson taking second place. Both received great prizes for their efforts.

Walter Pieper gave a detailed update on wife Linda, who we still keep in our thoughts. Movie night will next be in June. The Dallas Public Library Book Festival was successful, with Liese Sherwood-Fabre representing our society very well.

William Slough provided a very informative presentation on clocks during the Victorian times, including apprenticeships, changes in production during the 1800s, and various designs and functions.

Our society was well represented at the 221B Con in Atlanta in April, which included several Sherlockian panel discussions.

Karen Olson won the door prize drawing, a painting from Pam Mason.

The Baker Street Journal was an excerpt on "Such People in It" from (see page 4).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for taking notes of the meeting.

You can read the full notes on our website, www.dfw-sherlock.org



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: [@barquelonestar](https://twitter.com/barquelonestar)

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
Webmaster

Steve Mason
Walter Pieper
Don Hobbs, BSI
Jim Webb
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison
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Our Website: www.dfw-sherlock.org

"That will await him when he enters port," said he, chuckling. "It may give him a sleepless night. He will find it as sure a precursor of his fate as Openshaw did before him."

"And who is this Captain Calhoun?"

"The leader of the gang. I shall have the other..."

"How did you trace it, then?"

He took a large sheet of paper from his pocket.

"I have spent the whole day," said he, "over in January and February in '83. There were attracted my attention, since, although it was..."

"Texas, I think."

"I was not and am not sure which; but I knew..."

"What then?"

"I searched the Dover records, and when I..."

vessel which touched at Pondicherry of these, one, the Lone Star, instantly of the states of the Union."

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar/>

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A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY
Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm
La Madeleine Country French Cafe

Organization

Page Tips See All

- What's a Boosted Post?
A boosted post is the easiest way to reach more people on Facebook.
- Write a Post to Connect With Your Page Visitors

A TOAST TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

Don Hobbs, BSI – April 21, 2017

Originally given at the Son of the Copper Beeches Dinner, 2017

I am honored to be here tonight, among such an august group of Sherlockians.

I was asked to give the toast to the Master, not the easiest task but one I accepted whole heartedly.

What could I possibly add to all the words spoken before me about Sherlock Holmes?

Everyone knows he is the master of disguises, the final word of the highest court and he observes what others only see.

His ratiocination is flawless.

His trust for the fairer sex is iffy at best.

His knowledge of geology is practical but limited; he is familiar with 144 varieties of ash.

His knowledge of literature, philosophy, and astrology are nil.

He is feeble in politics (aren't we all nowadays).

He has a variable knowledge of botany.

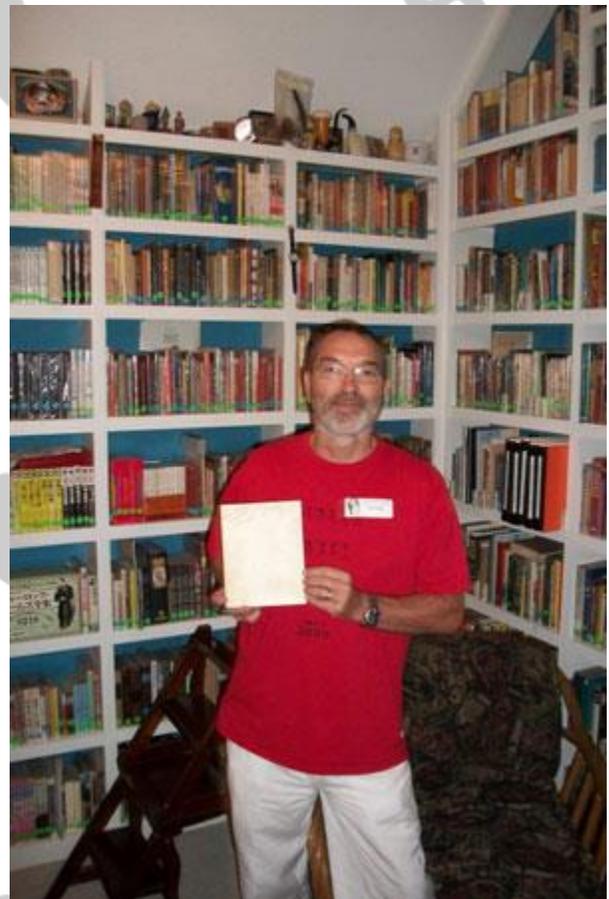
He is profound in chemistry.

He is accurate but unsystematic with anatomy.

I could go on but again, what would I add to what is already known about our hero, unless it is to reveal

to you that his exploits have been translated into 108 different languages.

I have never had a visitor to my house in Flower Mound, Texas who could not read about Our Hero in their native language, and this includes a teacher from China who is Uighur.



So, I raise my glass to Mr. Sherlock Holmes, the original man of mystery.

"AND SUCH PEOPLE IN IT"

Excerpt from BAKER STREET JOURNAL – September, 1992

As the late Michael Harrison so eloquently reminds us in his London by Gaslight, many of the social, economic and technological trappings that are so familiar to us in the twentieth century were already becoming fully developed in the latter part of the nineteenth-the age of Sherlock Holmes.

In that respect, Holmes's world, for all of the nostalgia with which we presently look upon it, was strikingly modern. Yet the changes in the nature and quality of life in the second half of the twentieth century now constitute a milieu that, we frankly believe, would be utterly alien to the Man from Baker Street.

We shall spare our readers a sophomoric litany of how different 1992 is from 1892; it should suffice to note that just as the Victorians stood poised on the very verge of a new age, so do we.

The twenty-first century-with its first nominal year chillingly devoid of the suffix "teen" for the first time in seven centuries and pronounced, we are in great discomfort to presume, "twenty-oh-one"-is close at hand. And it shall not be-indeed this decade is not now-the place for Sherlock Holmes. That worthy is an anachronism.

If Holmes is to survive for the devotees who honor him, as surely he shall-both within organized Sherlockiana and among the happy patrons of libraries and bookstores-we are compelled to contemplate what our Hero and his Watson will mean to that disquieting future.

Alas, though, we are not a prophet; in fact, almost every prophecy that has fallen from our Nostrodian lips has been uniformly wrong (which makes us something of a prophet after all; hearken unto to what we say, assume the opposite, and make book on it).

Therefore, all that we can do reasonably is to argue what Sherlock Holmes should mean to us as we teeter on the cusp of our uncertain tomorrow. And not to put too fine a point on it, our argument is that Holmes and Watson are epitomes of desirable behavior and values.

In Holmes are justice, honor, dignity, gentlemanliness, sanity, and paradigmatic rationality. That list bears repeating, and we urge a rereading. In Watson are friendship, loyalty, valor, tenacity, and bonhomie.

In them both is a grace of expression, a careful attention to the clear, judicious, and comely use of language that impels us to quote from

them with reverence. These qualities, especially Holmes's, are today in as serious jeopardy as any endangered species.

We are not fool enough to suppose that the persistence of Sherlock Holmes into this new world will obviate what is happening to the conduct of the mass of humanity's daily lives. They-as far as Victorian gentility and serene control over words are concerned-are quite lost.

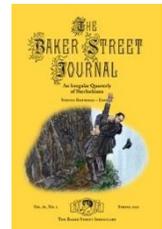
But the friends of Mr. Sherlock Holmes never shall be, we hope, as long as readers attend to these nuances in Dr. Watson's written records. It will be possible, as we have observed elsewhere, for those readers who love him to make a home for the Great Detective in the very midst of a time quite estranged from much of what he represents.

As important, however, it will be OUR home as well, an enclave, a sanctuary, a refuge from all that is un-Sherlockian swirling about us. We are reminded of the title of Christopher Morley's 1944 Sherlock Holmes and Watson: A Textbook of Friendship. And if we might, we should like to make so bold as to suggest a paraphrasing as an alternative title for the Canon: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Textbook of Conduct.

The Baker Street Journal continues to be the leading Sherlockian publication since its founding in 1946 by Edgar W. Smith.

With both serious scholarship and articles that "play the game," the Journal is essential reading for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a world where it is always 1895.

Got to: <http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/itemsforsale/subscriptions.html> for subscription information.

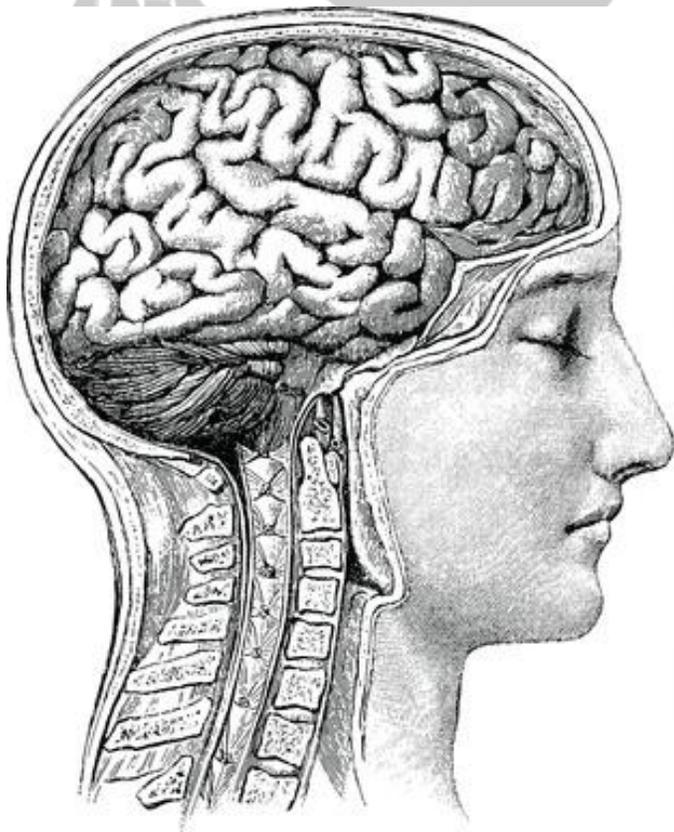


I'VE GOT THE FEEVAH!

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In five stories of the canon, “brain fever” strikes five different characters: Alice Rucastle in “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches,” Nancy Barclay in “The Adventure of the Crooked Man,” Rachel Howells in “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual,” Sarah Cushing in “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box,” and Percy Phelps in “The Adventure of the Naval Treaty.”

While the twenty-first century reader might consider this illness a quaint trope of Victorian literature (it appears in numerous novels and stories from the time), the medical establishment recognized it as a serious physical ailment and treated accordingly.



The contemporary concept of “fever” as an elevated body temperature does not correspond to the nineteenth century definition.

Prior to the discovery of micro-organisms and their role in diseases, “fevers” could be contracted from the environment (“miasma” or bad air) or by the body creating its own poison. (1)

The term “fever” was used to describe the disease itself, rather than a symptom, and was used as the diagnosis for cholera, influenza, typhus, and smallpox, (2) the result of injury, bad air, violent emotion, irregular bowels, and extremes of heat and cold. (3)

The specific diagnosis of brain fever grew out of the classical concept of “phrensy,” used to describe a delirium brought on by fever and an inflammation of the brain.

Even after the delirium subsided, mental confusion could remain and permanently affect the individual. (4)

A description of brain fever appeared in medical texts up to the late 1800s and was marked by “acute pain in the head with intolerance of light and sound; watchfulness, delirium; flushed countenance, and redness of the conjunctiva, or a heavy suffused state of the eyes; quick pulse, frequently spasmodic twitchings or convulsions, passing into somnolency, coma, and complete relaxation of the limbs.” (5)

The most notable aspect of this particular disease, and very relevant to those affected in the canon, was its sudden onset in seemingly healthy people, often occurring after a particularly “severe shock to the nervous system.” (6)

The shock could occur from fear, anxiety, disappointment, intense study, lack of sleep, and, of particular concern, intense thought or study. (7)



For those in the canon, an intense shock is behind the five cases: Alice Rucastle is pestered by her father to sign over her inheritance to the point of her exhaustion; Percy Phelps suffers for more than two months following the theft of the treaty he had been copying; Nancy Barclay is rendered unable to testify in her own defense following her

husband's murder; Rachel Howells is a "black-eyed shadow" after she is involved in the death of her former lover; and Sarah Cushing takes to her bed after she understands her role in the death of her sister and former lover.

In some of these cases, the victim recovers once the mystery is solved and the trauma alleviated, but some are first treated as practice dictated at that time.

For example, Alice Rucastle had her hair cut off to relieve the pressure on her brain. (8)

Other conventional treatments involved bleedings, purges and emetics, which are not specifically mentioned in the canon. (9)

Victorian literature employed the concept of brain fever as a means of indicating the power of the emotional trauma or shock a character received, but for the medical community of the time, it was a true and identifiable condition requiring the same attention and treatment as a broken bone or laceration from physical trauma.

For Holmes and Watson, an attack of brain fever served as an additional indication of the impact of the crime upon those around it.

1) Jane Wood, *Passion and Pathology in Victorian Fiction* (Oxford University Press, 2001), 121.

2) <http://www.victorianweb.org/science/health/health10.html>

3) <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/h/health-and-medicine-in-the-19th-century/>

4) Dimitrios Adamis, Adrian Treloar, Finbarr C. Martin, Alastair J.D. Macdonald. A brief review of the history of delirium as a mental disorder. *History of Psychiatry*, SAGE Publications, 2007, 18 (4), 463.

5) James Copland, *A Dictionary of Practical Medicine*. (London: Longman, 1858), I, 228.

6) Audrey C Peterson, "Brain Fever in Nineteenth-Century Literature: Fact and Fiction." *Victorian Studies*, vol. 19, no. 4, 1976, www.jstor.org/stable/3826384, 448.

7) Peterson, 449.

8) <http://www.shmoop.com/sherlock-holmes/the-copper-beeches-summary.html>

9) Peterson, 459.

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the Bilge Pump) and sign up for her newsletter at www.liesesherwoodfabre.com. A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

17 STEPS TO "THE VEILED LODGER"

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

Seventeen thoughts for further ponderance of the case at hand...



FORGET THE TIN DISPATCH BOX, I'LL TAKE THIS COLLECTION!

Watson writes, "There is the long row of year-books which fill a shelf, and there are the dispatch-cases filled with documents, a perfect quarry for the student not only of crime but of the social and official scandals of the late Victorian era."

Up until now we've been hearing a lot about Watson's single tin dispatch box, but now he's talking about "dispatch-cases" and a "long row of year-books" (which would, by itself, solve many a chronological problem). Whose materials were these? What made the tin dispatch box material different from this massive reference?

THE RETURN OF A PESKY POLITICIAN?

"I deprecate, however, in the strongest way the attempts which have been made lately to get at

and to destroy these papers. The source of these outrages is known, and if they are repeated I have Mr. Holmes's authority for saying that the whole story concerning the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained cormorant will be given to the public. There is at least one reader who will understand."

As "Veiled Lodger" appeared in January of 1927, can we use that date as a clue as to who might have been harassing Watson in 1926 regarding the long-passed lighthouse/cormorant scandal, perhaps someone whose career had just taken a turn for the better? Can we take this statement as a sign that Watson was alive and still in contact with Holmes in 1926?

WATSON'S MOTIVES FOR THE WRITING

"But the most terrible human tragedies were often involved in those cases which brought him the fewest personal opportunities, and it is one of these which I now desire to record."

Watson has already told us that he has a massive amount of material to choose from, but he desires to record this particular story, a tale about "an example of patient suffering," as Holmes later puts it. Was Watson relating this tale due to some occurrence in his personal life, perhaps for a friend or relative (or offspring!) who now needed such a lesson? Or could this tale somehow be a message for the same person who wanted the lighthouse papers?

SHERLOCK HOLMES, NON-SMOKER?

"Mrs. Merrilow does not object to tobacco, Watson, if you wish to indulge your filthy habits," Holmes jibes in the beginning of this case. This seems just another of the detective's little pokes at Watson (especially given the smoke-filled room he says it in), but it makes one wonder if Sherlock Holmes actually did ever quit smoking for a time. Might Holmes have tried to give up smoking as a part of some self-betterment campaign in the 1890s? Do we have any records of smokers trying to quit from that era?

TWO NOT-SO-FAITHFUL HOLMES READERS

"Well," Mrs. Merrilow says to Mrs. Ronder, "if you won't have the regulars, there is this detective man what we read about."

The two ladies have obviously been sharing the same literature in the house library -- but it's 1896, three years after "Final Problem" first saw print and seven years before "Empty House" was released. Why don't they think Holmes is dead? Would a lot of people at that time have read "Adventures" but not "Memoirs"? Or had Holmes's return finally made it into the newspapers? Mrs. Ronder tells Holmes she has followed his work for "some years." Does that make her sound like a reader of the Strand, or the book collections of the tales?

WHEN WATSON MEETS THE BUDDHA ON THE ROAD...

The good doctor writes: "So excited was he that he did not rise, but sat upon the floor like some strange Buddha, with crossed legs . . .

How would a Victorian Englishman like Watson have been most familiar with Buddha? Would he know much of Buddhism, or know simply of the little figurines from some Oriental decor fad?

AND SOMETIMES WATSON DIDN'T TAKE NOTES

"You may well say so. And yet there were one or two points which worried young Edmunds, of the Berkshire Constabulary. A smart lad that! He was sent later to Allahabad. That was how I came into the matter, for he dropped in and smoked a pipe or two over it."

"A thin, yellow-haired man?"

"Exactly. I was sure you would pick up the trail presently."

Can we assume from the above exchange, as well as Holmes's words, "You were with me then," that Watson was present for the initial Abbas Parva conversation with Edmunds? Was a social evening with an investigator from the official force so commonplace that Watson didn't even bother keeping notes on such casual case discussions?

SHERLOCK BREAKS FOR LUNCH

After talking with Mrs. Merrilow and refreshing his memory of the case, Holmes says, "There is a cold partridge on the sideboard, Watson, and a bottle of Montrachet. Let us renew our energies before we make a fresh call upon them."

Would this be a commonplace lunch for the detective, or had he called upon Mrs. Hudson to do something special for Watson's visit?

RICH MAN'S JUSTICE, 1880S EDITION

Of Ronder, we learn: "Again and again he was had up for assault, and for cruelty to the beasts, but he had plenty of money and the fines were nothing to him."

Fines for cruelty to animals don't seem unusual, but for repeated assaults? Could Ronder get off easily from "murderous" drunken rages in which he badly beat people just by flashing the cash? Was tying your wife down and beating her with a riding whip so easy for a rich man to get away with?

AND THEN THERE'S ALWAYS LEAVING...

The nightmare that Mrs. Ronder describes as her life is a terrible one, and her love affair with the strong man was her one escape. So why didn't Mrs. Ronder and Leonardo actually escape and go look for work with another circus, as so many others from Ronder's had? Working for a travelling circus was not the most stable, stuck-in-one-place life anyway, so why not hit the road, especially with all of Ronder's tortures? Wouldn't escape be easier than murder?

THE MANNER OF THE LION'S ATTACK

As a creature operating on pure instinct, even in the heat of the blood lust described by Mrs. Ronder, why would a lion go for a person's upper face? Mrs.

Ronder's chin and mouth seem unmarked, so the throat was not Sahara King's target. Wouldn't a lion stike first with his front claws, as Eugenia and Leonardo had hoped to imitate? Why bite her head?

THE VICTIMIZATION OF EUGENIA RONDER

"I never saw him or heard from him again. Perhaps I have been wrong to feel so bitterly against him."

After years of abuse from Ronder, Eugenia even blames herself for Leonardo's betrayal and faithlessness, loving the strong man even in her seclusion. Would a woman of that period



had any resources other than her own strength of character for pulling out of such a downward spiral?

THE REACH OF THE TIMES AND ITS KIN

"He was drowned last month when bathing near Margate. I saw his death in the paper."

Margate is a goodly distance from London -- would every drowning at the beach there make the London papers, or was Mrs. Ronder reading some other papers?

Would a strong man be enough of a celebrity to make his death more newsworthy?



THE SEA'S LAST EXECUTION

Leonardo's drowning is the last in a long line of Canoncial folk who receive their just desserts from the sea itself.

In fact, it almost seems like Sherlock Holmes sometimes has some mystic tie to a great sea beast who cleans up loose ends for him. Is there something symbolic in Holmes's killing of the strange sea creature of "The Lion's Mane" as the last recorded case of

his private career, perhaps showing a break between Holmes and the executioner of Leonardo and John Openshaw?

WATSON GIVES UP BEAUTIFUL WOMEN

After years of describing attractive women to us, Watson ends his run with this description of Eugenia Ronder's face, "It was horrible. No words can describe the framework of a face when the face itself is gone.

Two living and beautiful brown eyes looking sadly out from that grisly ruin did but make the view more awful."

Earlier in the tale, Watson has praised Eugenia's mouth and chin as they showed under the masked portion of her face. Her eyes also seem to both be in one piece. Yet he says her face is "gone."

What's left of a face when you eliminate the mouth, chin, and eyes are the nose and eyebrows -- but how does a lion bite the nose and eyebrows without doing damage to the eyes? Would as much damage have been done to Eugenia's face by infection, as the the actual bite?

TIME TO HEAL, AND MORE TIME TO HEAL

"It was six months before she was fit to give evidence," Holmes says of Mrs. Ronder's recovery. Surely her physical recovery would have been quicker than that, wouldn't it? Is he speaking of mental recovery, or was Mrs. Ronder simply putting off the questioning by drawing her convalescence out?

CHOOSE YOUR POISON AND SEND IT TO HOLMES

"Two days later, when I called upon my friend, he pointed with some pride

to a small blue bottle upon his mantelpiece."

Mrs. Ronder had planned to kill herself with that small blue bottle of prussic acid. Was it the best choice for suicide in 1896? When non-suicidal people went into the store to buy a small blue bottle of prussic acid, what did they usually use it for?

Monthly Collector's Meeting at HPB

Thanks to Colleen O'Connor for finding this...

Collectible Conversations: A Checkup with The Book Doctor



Join us for the kickoff of our new monthly evenings of talks about collectibles at the Flagship Half Price Books (HPB) Book Store in Dallas on Thursday, May 25, at 6 p.m.

Candice McKay, a.k.a. The Book Doctor (<http://thebookdr.com/>), will give a presentation on basic book repairs and how to take care of your treasured books.

With almost 20 years' experience, Candice has provided custom bookbinding, book restoration and book and Bible repair services.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the last Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. for Collectible Conversations night at your Flagship HPB!

Stay tuned for upcoming guest speakers.

Thursday, May 25 at 6 PM - 7 PM

HPB FLAGSHIP 5803 E Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231



56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "THE VEILED LODGER"

Posted on November 12, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

Here we have another mysterious lodger with a past to hide, but this story is very different to The Red Circle even though I do keep getting them confused, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

This is a common problem for me, getting the stories mixed-up because of the similarities between them.

So many include women with violent husbands, dodgy deeds committed abroad, foreign baddies with an axe to grind, old lovers re-appearing, governesses in trouble – I mean, surely I'm not the only one who confuses the Copper Beeches with the Solitary Cyclist?

But then, in fairness to Doyle, it would be almost impossible to come up with 56 stories without touching on common themes across the series.

Love, loss, the past catching up with someone, occur over and over again in most works of literature including my own – I am certainly not saying all this as a criticism, more as an explanation of why the stories can blur and merge sometimes in my mind.

Anyway, on to this particular story and there really isn't much to say.

It's another one of those which can be described as a good story but not necessarily a good Holmes story.

The tale itself is fine, but Holmes has very little to do with it.

He gets called in because the woman, the veiled lodger, needs someone to listen to her story before she takes her own life.

That's all Holmes is, just an ear.

He doesn't have to investigate anything, use his fantastic powers of observation or analyse at the scene.

He just listens then shows a surprising level of sympathy and compassion and persuades the woman not to take her own life.

Okay, so he does technically save a life, but not much else really.

The woman was married to a violent lion-tamer and has an affair with the circus' strong man.

They devise a plan to kill the husband but it backfires and she gets horribly injured by the lion, condemning her to a lonely life of isolation, hidden behind a veil to hide her terrible scars.

She has never told anyone about the crime as her husband's death was put down as being caused by a simple lion attack.

This plays on her conscience and prompts her landlady to suggest she unburden herself to Holmes.

And that's it really, wish there was more to add but I don't feel this story moves us forward in our understanding of Holmes or is anything other than a mildly diverting short story.

Can only give it 5 out of 10 I'm afraid.

AN INQUIRY INTO "THE VEILED LODGER"

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger" was first published in "Liberty Magazine" on January 22, 1927. It was published in "The Strand Magazine," on February 1927.

According to Baring-Gould's chronology, as set down in "The Annotated Sherlock Holmes," Second Edition, 1974, the case takes place on one day of October 1896. At the time Holmes is 42 years old and Watson 44.

Notable Quotes:

The discretion and high sense of professional honour which have always distinguished my friend are still at work in the choice of these memoirs, and no confidence will be abused. I deprecate, however, in the strongest way the attempts which have been made lately to get at and to destroy these papers. The source of these outrages is known, and if they are repeated I have Mr. Holmes's authority for saying that the whole story concerning the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained cormorant will be given to the public. There is at least one reader who will understand.

"The ways of fate are indeed hard to understand. If there is not some

compensation hereafter, then the world is a cruel jest."

The Papers

At the opening of the story, Watson indicates that attempts have been made to destroy papers connected to Holmes' various cases. I have always found it interesting that even after the Great Detective's retirement, his (and Watson's) case notes did not lose their explosive potential. Also interesting is that Holmes decided to make Watson, and not Mycroft, the guardian of said delicate, unstable material, even though--as our sleuth bemoaned in LION--he and the Good Doctor were no longer in close, regular contact.

Watson's threat to reveal details about the story concerning the politician, the lighthouse and the trained cormorant does not seem to be directed to just anyone, but specifically to someone in government. This is just a theory, I admit, but when one considers the facts, it is at least plausible.

We know that Sherlock Holmes on more than one occasion had dealings with Royalty. And, at least once directly with the Britain's Royal Family, as his biographer sets it down in BRUC: "Some weeks afterwards I learned

incidentally that my friend spent a day at Windsor, whence he returned with a remarkably fine emerald tie-pin. When I asked him if he had bought it, he answered that it was a present from a certain gracious lady in whose interests he had once been fortunate enough to carry out a small commission. He said no more; but I fancy that I could guess at that lady's august name."

Watson implied that the tie-pin had been Holmes' reward for solving the case. Consider, however, that he writes that this took place "some weeks afterwards," which would not fit the timeline. If the Queen were rewarding him for the events in BRUC, it would not have been "weeks afterwards." Weeks or months afterwards would have been justified, if our detective had been put up for some public honor--such as knighthood--a list of which is yearly published, announcing all those who are to be honored.

Another fact that argues against the connection with BRUC is that a tie-pin is a very personal gift. For services to the country, a knighthood (whether declined or not) would be in order. For services of a more personal nature, the tie-pin would fit much better.

It staggers the mind to wonder what other ticking time bombs might have quietly resided in the battered tin box. One must also wonder if the disappearance of the box itself wasn't due to a government move to keep that information from getting out.

Eugenia's Profession

In Victorian times female wild animal tamers were not rare; they attracted large crowds. They increased the appeal of the cage act through the fear of attacks because of their "female vulnerability."

There were a number of them at the time, usually part of a family menagerie business. The most well-know "lion queen" of the time was the Wombwell Menagerie's Ellen Chapman.

Ellen Chapman, the "Lion Queen."

Chapman's popularity was greatly enhanced by the Wombwell's Menagerie's visit to the Royal Family at Windsor, where Queen Victoria and her household watched from a vantage point overlooking a courtyard where Chapman's cage had been pulled under a window. Afterwards, Victoria met with Chapman, and gave her a gold watch and chain. "Oh, my dear," the monarch said, "are you not afraid? I do hope you will not get hurt. I felt so terrified when I saw you open the lion's mouth and put your head in its jaws."

According to Chapman, she had been more nervous about meeting the Queen than entering the lion's cage.

When Chapman left Wombwell's Menagerie to marry, her cousin, Ellen Eliza Blight took over as lion queen. Not a year later she died from a tiger attack at Greenwich, when the big cat who "previously had not shown any animosity," sprang at her and bit her in the face and throat when she struck it with a riding whip that she carried, because it was not performing quickly enough.

In keeping with the times, the Victorian disbelief in a woman's capacity for courage was revealed by an eyewitness' alternative version, who claimed that Blight had "died of fright."

The Lion Queen's Confession

Eugenia Ronder stated that she wanted to clear her conscience as well as let the world know what had really happened so many years ago. According to her, this was because her paramour was drowned and she did not have much longer to live.

There is something puzzling about this. Why call on anybody? Lest we forget, she had spent at least seven years in what could very well be described as a cell, because she avoided people and struggled to keep her appearance a secret. She could very well have related the facts in writing,

sealed the letter and left it in the care of an attorney with instructions to forward it to the proper authorities at a time after her death.

Regardless of the fact that she was a fan of Watson's stories, her choice of Sherlock Holmes as the one to pass on this information to is also a peculiar one. She had absolutely no assurance that Holmes would have kept her confidence, and might not decide it necessary (as he warned her) to bring in the authorities, which would have effectively destroyed her privacy and, even worse, attracted Fleet Street's attention.

What else happened in 1896:

EMPIRE

- Jameson Raid failure in South Africa provokes crisis; British negotiations with Boers (to 1899) fail.
- Kaiser's telegram to Kruger, congratulating him on the defeat of the Jameson Raid.
- Matabele Revolt suppressed (1896-97).
- Protectorate established in Sierra Leone and East Africa.
- Conquest of Sudan begins with the start of Kitchener's campaign against the Madhi (1896-99).
- Anglo-French treaty settles boundaries in Siam.
- Sudanese railway extended to Wadi Haifa.

- Widespread famine in India, to 1897.

BRITAIN

- Hotel Cecil, the Strand, built.
- National Portrait Gallery moves to present site in Trafalgar Square.
- Beginning of period of rising prices and falling wages (until 1914).
- Truck Act: regulates deductions from wages or fines for bad workmanship.
- Conciliation Act: boards can settle industrial disputes if both sides are willing.
- First all-steel English building erected at West Hartlepool.
- Royal Victorian Order founded as Personal Order of Sovereign.

WORLD

- First modern Olympic Games are held at Athens.
- Utah admitted as state in the U.S.A.
- Klondike Gold Rush in Canada.
- France annexes Madagascar.
- State visit of Tsar Nicholas to France (Paris).
- Van Houten's Franchise Bill extends the Dutch franchise.

- French Tunisian protectorate recognized by Italy.
- Italians are defeated by Menelek of Abyssinia at Battle of Adwa, resulting in Treaty of Addis-Ababa and end of Italian protectorate.
- Massacre of Armenians by Kurds and Circassians supported by the Sultan.
- Insurrection in Crete against Turkish rule.
- Beginning of the Klondike Gold Rush.
- Foundation of Russo-Chinese Bank.
- Cassini Treaty: China gives Russia the right to build a railway through Manchuria to Port Arthur.
- Russian newspapers granted temporary licenses; imported books and newspapers are strictly censored.
- First public film exhibition, in U.S.
- Philippine Revolution ends declaring Philippines free from Spanish rule.

ART

- Wells publishes "Island of Dr. Moreau."
- Gilbert and Sullivan debut "The Grand Duke."
- Giacomo Puccini debuts "La Bohème at Turin."

- Toulouse-Lautrec paints "Maxime Dethomas."
- R. Strauss debuts "Also Sprach Zararhustra."

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Antoine Henri Becquerel, observes radiation from uranium affects photographic plates; discovery of radioactivity.
- Nobel Prizes started, for physics, physiology or medicine, chemistry, literature, furtherance of the cause of peace.
- Guglielmo Marconi demonstrates on Salisbury Plain the practicability of wireless telegraphy.
- J.J. Thompson identifies the electron, though not by name.
- Emile Achard first describes paratyphoid fever.
- Samuel Langley (U.S.A.), successfully flies a steam-driven model aircraft.
- Rehn, of Frankfort, sutures a heart wound; beginning of heart surgery.
- Zeeman observes that light emitted by a substance placed in a magnetic field undergoes changes.
- Earliest record of water chlorination, during typhoid outbreak in Italy.

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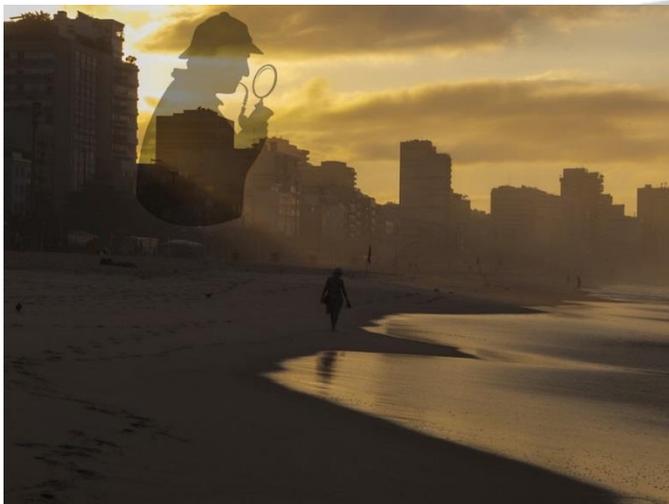


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Why Sherlock Holmes Wouldn't Survive in Latin America

Posted on May 6, 2017 by Jorge Zepeda Patterson, "The Strand Magazine"

Translated from the Spanish by Alicia Lopez



An already-violent context makes for a poor stage on which to set a crime novel.

Three men hung from a bridge; a family massacred in their sleep; eight bodies found in a ditch, their hands tied and their figures distorted by torture: all a week's worth of headlines in the Mexican press.

Writing a crime novel in a country where crime has taken public life hostage is a challenge.

Rattling readers grown accustomed to an incessant dribble of deaths — a dribble that amounts to a hundred thousand corpses in a decade of war against drug trafficking — is truly daunting.

It takes talent to bait a reader with the conjured machinations of a serial killer.

The portentous deductive skills with which Sherlock Holmes and Kurt Wallander indict cabbies and butlers seem like inoffensive antics in an

environment where hitmen comfortably operate in broad daylight.

Of course, this doesn't mean that Conan Doyle, Henning Mankell, and Paula Hawkins don't sell in Mexico or in South America.

But in our countries, their narratives morph into exercises in science fiction: terse plots entirely alien to our experiences and unimaginable in our own streets, wardrobes, and bedrooms.

The difficulties are even greater when a Latin American author attempts to set a crime novel in her own city. Successfully situating *The Girl on the Train* in Caracas, Bogotá, or Mexico City would be a feat; doing so with a classic police novel à la Dashiell Hammett or Raymond Chandler, or even a more modern one by the likes of Michael Connelly, would be a prodigious accomplishment.

First, this is due to the lack of credibility detectives inspire in Latin America, whether it be policemen or private investigators.

A constable as a hero figure simply does not work in Mexico.

An incorruptible judiciary system capable of investigating those in power and of bringing them to justice is improbable at best.

Our cop would be fired minutes after beginning his investigation on the head of a local mafia, a man who most likely is comfortably nestled under the protection of local authorities.

And in the hypothetical case in which an honorable police agent is able to uncover crime and corruption, the chances of a jury ruling against

an important criminal or drug lord are, frankly, quite slim.

Having exhausted our policeman's chances of success, we can still turn to the figure of the private investigator, right?

But no matter how brave and intelligent, or even how much of a Sherlock Holmes or Philip Marlowe reincarnate our character might be, three days after starting his inquiry he will surely turn up dead in a ditch.

The fiends that roam our lands freely don't pay a price for committing murder and thus have little reason to attempt secrecy.

The frequency with which crimes are committed against journalists is symptomatic: half of the violence is inflicted by politicians and the authorities while the other half is dealt out by organized crime — according to data from Article 19, an international organization that defends freedom of opinion.

A mayor or governor can get rid of an inconvenient journalist with relative ease: hiring a hitman is cheap and accessible, and attributing the pesky journalist's death to a Narco is an impregnable alibi.

With that toe tag, the victim enters the immense body bag of those killed in the endless war of organized crime.

Mystery is harder to sustain when murder becomes a low-cost commodity.

Why would I lose sleep over the blonde art dealer murdered on page 23, if just this week ninety people from my city were killed and the forty-three missing students from Iguala haven't yet been found?

Of course, it's not impossible.

A death toll that surpasses two digits tends to become a statistic, but one could turn a victim into the sister or lover we never had and transform the tragedy into good prose.

It isn't impossible, but it also isn't simple.

What is even more difficult, though, is to keep our hero alive. Sherlock Holmes wouldn't survive in Mexico, unless of course he struck a bargain with his coke dealer.

But that's a whole other story.

Jorge Zepeda Patterson is the author of three political thrillers, including Milena, or The Most Beautiful Femur in the World, which has recently been released in English translation by Restless Books.

His detective is an entity composed by four friends, all of whom are all still alive.

STORY INFO PAGES FOR "THE VEILED LODGER"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First published in: Liberty, January 22, 1927; The Strand Magazine, February 1927• Time frame of story (known/surmised): Late 1896 (given) In telling this story, Watson made a slight change of name and place for discretionary purposes.• Holmes & Watson living arrangements: Not explained. Watson received a hurried note from Sherlock Holmes requesting his attendance.• Opening scene: It appears Watson and Holmes were not living together, but that is not stated in the story. When Watson arrives after getting the hurried note, the client is seated, and talking to Holmes.• Client: Mrs. Merrilow, of South Brixton an elderly, motherly woman of the buxum landlady type. She had a lodger, Eugenia Rodner, for seven years and only once had seen her face, which was kept veiled. The face was terribly mutilated. The lodger maintained her privacy. It was privacy she was after, and she was ready to pay for it.• Crime or concern: Mrs. Meririlow was concerned for the health of her | <p>lodger, who seemed to be wasting away. There appeared to be something terrible on her mind. She cried "Murder!" and "You cruel beast! You monster!" It was in the night, and it fair rang through the house and sent the shivers through Mrs. Merrilow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Villain: Leonardo, circus strongman, acrobat, and lover of Eugenia, the veiled lodger. Eugenia, herself, with Leonardo (who had a clever and scheming brain) plotted and killed her husband. They killed him with a spiked club and hoped to pin the blame on their circus lion (Sahara King), but the lion turned on Eugenia and destroyed the middle part of her face. The cowardly Leonardo fled afterward, and went into hiding.• Motive: Eugenia and her lover wanted to get rid of the husband, who had been a despicable lout. When in his cups he was horrible, a huge bully of a man, who cursed and slashed at everyone. He was a human pig with a dreadful face, and was formidable in his bestiality. He had a vile mouth, small vicious eyes <p>darting pure malignancy, and a heavy-jowled face.</p> | <p>Not only that, but he often beat and whipped Eugenia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logic used to solve: Seven years previously Sherlock Holmes had read of the case, and discussed it with Young Edmunds. There were some oddities that bothered both men, but nothing came of it. Edmunds was being sent to Allahabad (a historic city in northeastern India). At the time of the later consultation, there was nothing to solve. Eugenia had heard of the accidental death of Leonardo, and asked her landlady to summon Holmes. Eugenia stated she was sick of her life and was dying. Holmes correctly perceived that she was, in fact, contemplating suicide, and talked her out of it.• Policemen: Young Edmunds, thin and yellow-haired, of the Berkshire Constabulary. A smart lad.• Holmes' fees: No mention, although Eugenia told Holmes she had plenty of money.• Transport: Holmes & Watson took a hansom to the client's humble but retired abode.• Food: Before setting off to see the veiled lodger, Holmes & Watson ate some cold partridge.• Drink: With the cold partridge, Holmes & |
|--|--|--|

Watson shared a bottle of Montrachet to renew their energies. (Note: Montrachet is a Grand Cru white Burgundy, considered one of the best white wines in the world. Prices in 2010 would run \$50.00 U.S. per bottle, and up. Way up, for the really good stuff.)

- **Vices:** The client did not object to tobacco, so Holmes told Watson, it was OK to indulge his filthy habits. Oddly, Sherlock Holmes himself did not smoke in this story.
- **Other cases mentioned:** The story concerning the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained cormorant. "You know who you are."
- **Notable Quotables:** Holmes was in practice for twenty-three years, and during

seventeen of these I was allowed to cooperate with him and keep notes. – Watson

"Poor girl! Poor girl! The ways of fate are indeed hard to understand. If there is not some compensation hereafter, then the world is a cruel jest." – Sherlock Holmes, to Eugenia.

"Your life is not your own. Keep your hands off it." – Sherlock Holmes

"What use is it to anyone?" – Eugenia.

"How can you tell? The example of patient suffering is in itself the most precious of all lessons to an impatient world." – Sherlock Holmes

- **Other interesting:** When Holmes & Watson interviewed Eugenia in her room, she described herself as a poor wounded beast

that has crawled into its hole to die.

- The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger is the shortest of the 56 Sherlock Holmes short stories, at 4499 words. The longest, with 12701 words, is The Naval Treaty.
- **When all was said and done:** Right after the crime, Eugenia covered for her lover despite his cowardice. Years later he drowned when bathing near Margate, and Eugenia decided to clear her conscience before passing away. Holmes was sympathetic to her. Eugenia sent him her temptation, a bottle of prussic acid (poison) by post. The brave woman had followed his advice, and had chosen life.

Without Edgar Allan Poe, we wouldn't have Sherlock Holmes

By Kat Eschner Smithsonian.com, April 27, 2017



When Edgar Allan Poe first introduced the world to C. Auguste Dupin, he hit on a winning formula.

Dupin was Sherlock Holmes before Sherlock Holmes. Dupin was a genius detective who first appeared in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," first published in 1841.

In that story, two women are dead and only a bloody straight razor, two bags of gold coins and some tufts of hair are found in the room with their bodies. The game's afoot, as Holmes might say. (Poe didn't give Dupin a nifty catchphrase).

Though the roots of the detective story go as far back as Shakespeare, write historians Helena Markovic and Biliana Oklopčić, Poe's tales of rational crime-solving created a genre. His stories, they write, mix crime with a detective narrative. They revolve around solving the puzzle of the "whodunit," inviting readers to try to solve the puzzle too.

The key figure in such a story, then, is the detective. Poe's detective, who also appears in "The Mystery of Marie Roget" and "The Purloined Letter," sets the stage for that character. Dupin is a gentleman of leisure. He has no need to work. Instead, he keeps himself occupied by using "analysis" to help the real police solve crimes. The real police are, of course, absolutely incompetent. They are similar to Inspector Lestrade and Scotland Yard to Holmes.

Like his literary descendant, Dupin smokes a meerschaum pipe. He is generally eccentric. He's also unnaturally smart and rational, a kind of superhero who uses powers of thinking to accomplish great feats of crime-solving. And the story's narrator, who is literally following the detective around, is his roommate. Dupin's roommate, unlike John Watson, remains a nameless "I" throughout the three stories, although he is equally everyday.

In the Dupin tales, Poe introduced a number of elements. One is the friendly narrator that would remain common to detective stories, write Markovic and Oklopčić.

"The elements Poe invented, such as the reclusive genius detective, his 'ordinary' helper, the impossible crime, the

incompetent police force, the armchair detection, the locked room mystery, etc., have become firmly embedded in most mystery novels of today," the historians write.

Even Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock, had to acknowledge Poe's influence.

"Where was the detective story until Poe breathed the breath of life into it?" he wrote.

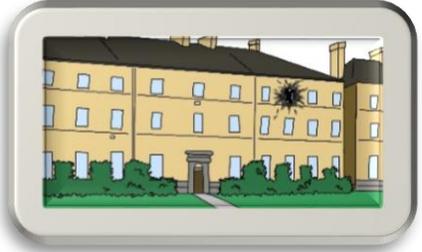
Poe's formula appealed in the 19th century. That's because detective stories promised that reasoning could hold the answer to every question. At the same time, with spooky overtones, they appealed to 19th-century readers' preoccupations with the occult.

The detective story, writes Ben MacIntyre for The Times of London, was particularly appealing. It promised that "intellect will triumph, the crook will be confounded by the rational sleuth, science will track down the malefactors and allow honest souls to sleep at night." At the same time, MacIntyre writes, 19th-century anxieties about the Industrial Revolution and new ways of living supported the idea that evil was anonymous and everywhere. These two instincts - "faith in reason and mistrust of appearance" - are what made Victorians love detective stories. That love endures today.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson
John Hanson, one of our long time crew members,
provided this mystery for Holmeses to solve.



Baker Street Elementary
Number 109 - 05/14/2017

Fig, Mame, & Mame

ALRIGHT SHERLOCK,
TIME FOR ANOTHER
MINI-MYSTERY FOR
YOU TO SOLVE...

REMEMBER, YOU
CAN PLAY ALONG...



POLICE ARE CALLED TO A ROOM, WHERE A
SUICIDE HAS TAKEN PLACE. A VERY SMALL
PERSON HAS HUNG HIMSELF, KNOCKING OVER
A TABLE IN THE PROCESS... OTHER THAN THE
BODY AND NOOSE, THE ONLY ITEMS IN THE
ROOM ARE A PARTIALLY BURNT CANDLE, A
PAIR OF DARK-TINTED GLASSES ON THE BED...

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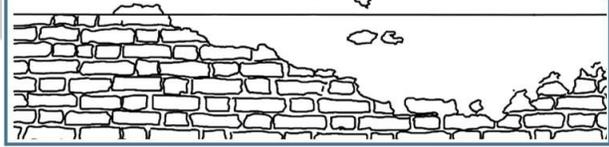
...AND A WHITE STICK IN THE CORNER,
WITH SEVERAL SMALL PIECES OF THE
STICK IN ANOTHER CORNER... WAS IT
SUICIDE, OR SOMETHING MORE SINISTER...

THIS MAY TAKE
AWHILE... TIME FOR A
COMMERCIAL... FRIENDS,
DO YOU EVER SUFFER...



ACTUALLY, I HAVE THE
ANSWER ALREADY...

THIS WILL BE
INTERESTING...



YOU INDICATED THE
VICTIM WAS A VERY
SMALL PERSON, AS WE
MAY CALL A "DWARF..."



SADLY, MANY OF THESE
PERSONS MUST FIND
WORK IN TRAVELLING
CARNIVALS, WHICH IS
HUMILIATING WORK...
BUT ALSO EXTREMELY
COMPETITIVE...



OUR VICTIM MUST HAVE GAINED AN ENEMY, WHO DEVISED A PLOT, TO GET OUR VICTIM TO 'OFF' HIMSELF...



THE DARK GLASSES INDICATE HE WAS ALSO BLIND, AS WELL AS AFFLICTED WITH SMALL STATURE...



EACH WEEK, HIS NEMESIS WOULD SNEAK INTO HIS ROOM, LIGHT THE CANDLE (OUR BLIND VICTIM WOULD HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH LIGHTING...)



... AND THEN SNIP OFF A SMALL PIECE OF THE VICTIM'S WALKING CANE... EACH WEEK, OUR VICTIM NOTICES THE SHORTENING CANE... SADLY, HE MIS-DIAGNOSED THE ISSUE, BELIEVING HE WAS GROWING...



KNOWING THIS WOULD RUIN HIS LIFE IN THE CARNIVAL, AND WITH NO OTHER RESOURCES OR TALENTS TO FALL BACK ON, OUR VICTIM DETERMINED SUICIDE WAS HIS ONLY WAY OUT...



QUITE AN INGENUOUS WAY TO GET SOMEONE TO 'MURDER THEMSELVES...'

