

## **BOGUS LAUNDRY AFFAIR**

### **"who helped us in the bogus laundry affair" [CARD]**

*There are certain aspects of Baker Street life that aren't mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories, but Watson doesn't tell us about them. Perhaps he does so out of a sense of discretion.*

*Or simply because such minutiae would interfere with a good story.*

*For example, dental hygiene is important, as Holmes suggests Watson's overnight accouterments for a trip to Stoke Moran:*

*"An Eley's No. 2 is an excellent argument with gentlemen who can twist steel poker into knots. That and a toothbrush are, I think, all that we need." ["The Speckled Band"]*

*Although it immediately raises the question as to why Holmes and Watson might share a toothbrush...*

*Similarly, we wonder about the laundry situation in Baker Street.*

*Like any other normal humans living in similar conditions at the time, Holmes and Watson would have required fresh linens and clean shirts and undergarments.*

*But other than Lestrade mentioning "Aldrige, who helped us in the bogus laundry affair," there's no mention of washing clothes in the Canon.*

*We come close to it from hearing about Holmes's "cat-like love of personal cleanliness," and that even in his rudimentary dwelling on the moors in **The Hound of the Baskervilles**, he arranged things such that "his chin should be as smooth and his linen as perfect as if he were in Baker Street."*

**BOGUS LAUNDRY AFFAIR**  
**"who helped us in the bogus laundry affair"**  
**[CARD] (continued)**

*Back at Baker Street, it's likely Mrs. Hudson arranged clean bed linens and towels, as any boarding-house operator would*

*[Related: listen to our discussion about Boarding Houses on Trifles].*

*But what about the laundry?*

*Would she do that herself?*

*Given Holmes's "princely" payments, our supposition is she likely had a washerwoman to take care of it.*

*Which brings us to Mrs. Turner.*

*She's only mentioned once (in "A Scandal in Bohemia"), and she's called the "landlady."*

*But perhaps she was a close associate of Mrs. Hudson's who was familiar enough with the establishment and its occupants, as a launderer of Holmes's and Watson's underwear might be.*

*Was Mrs. Turner really the Baker Street washerwoman?*

*She may have gotten her start at Baker Street Elementary...*

**HOLMES, I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH  
YOUR SOLVING OF THE MYSTERY  
SURROUNDING THE ABERNETTY FAMILY.**



**BUT I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE DEPTH THE PARSLEY SANK INTO THE BUTTER COULD LEAD YOU TO THE SOLUTION OF THE TWIN'S ILLNESS IN THE DINING ROOM.**



**THAT IS BECAUSE YOU SEE,  
BUT DO NOT OBSERVE**

**SO CLICHÉ...**



**IT REALLY WAS QUITE SIMPLE.  
TRY TO FOLLOW MY LOGIC.**



**BUTTER IS CHURNED AT THE FARM OUTSIDE OF TOWN AND DELIVERED TO US EACH WEEK TO BE KEPT IN THE KITCHEN'S REFRIGERATORS...**



LAST WEEK, YOU MAY REMEMBER OUR DEAR MRS. HUDSON WAS STRUCK ILL FOR A FEW DAYS. THE KINDLY, BUT NOT QUITE AS SHARP, MRS. TURNER AGREED TO SERVE THE MEALS DURING HER ABSENCE.





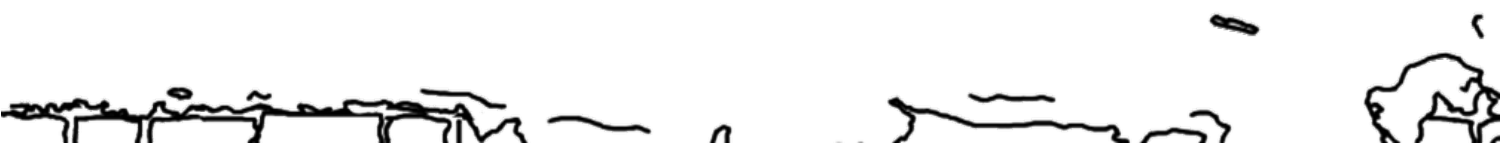
FOR BREAKFAST ON MONDAY, SHE SERVED BREAD, BUTTER AND JAMS. SADLY, SHE DID NOT REALIZE ONE DISH OF BUTTER HAD TURNED BAD AS IT SAT OUTSIDE ON THE COUNTER NEXT TO THE STOVE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.



THE SPRIG OF PARSLEY SANK INTO THE  
SOFTENED DAIRY PRODUCT AS IT WENT BAD...  
THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF THE  
BUTTER HAD BEEN KEPT CHILLED ON ICE.



WHY DID NOT OTHER STUDENTS  
AT THE TABLE GET SICK, JUST  
THE ABERNETTY TWINS.



EASY... THE REST OF THE TABLE PARTOOK IN THYME-FLAVORED BUTTER, WHICH WAS STILL FIRM AND FRESH. ONLY THE TWINS DINED ON THE PARSLEY-LADEN BUTTER.



**THE SCHOOL NURSE BELIEVES THE TWINS WILL BE FINE, BUT WILL NEED LOTS OF FRESH LAUNDRY EACH DAY.**



THE HEADMASTER HAS NOT TAKEN KINDLY  
TO MRS. TURNER'S ERROR, BUT MRS.  
HUDSON, BEING THE MOST TOLERANT  
PERSON ON EARTH, WILL CONTINUE TO USE  
HER WHENEVER NECESSARY.

