

ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER "a creeping, shrinking sensation" [CHAS]

When we think of Sherlock Holmes, there are two visions that come to mind: one is with the trusty and stalwart Dr. Watson by his side; the other is sitting alone in his Baker Street flat, smoking and thinking through a knotty problem.

Throughout much of his career, Holmes had Watson along as a trusted companion and biographer.

Only occasionally did Watson leave for married life and his medical practice -but even then, Holmes would summon him to join a case ("Come at once if convenient -if inconvenient, come all the same." [CREE]).

It's unusual -even unsettling -that in "The Blanched Soldier" do we find Holmes, who narrates that tale himself, sharing his feelings about Watson's absence:

"The good Watson had at that time deserted me for a wife, the only selfish action which I can recall in our association. I was alone."

The last three words in particular note how deeply it affected him.

The dates in those two stories mentioned above (BLAN, CREE) are of particular interest.

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"a creeping, shrinking sensation" [CHAS] (continued)

Holmes's disappointment in Watson's absence in "The Blanched Soldier" is self-reported as January 1903.

It must have been a fairly fresh wound, with Watson getting married (a second time?) in late 1902.

In Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street, William S. Baring-Gould dates it as October 1902. (He also claims it was Watson's third marriage.)

But when we get to "The Creeping Man," Watson -and the internal dates that help Holmes pinpoint the nighttime activity -indicate this

case occurred in September 1903.

By that time, Holmes had gotten over his disappointment and was rather curt with Watson, perhaps indicating he was done with the self-pity and simply and unemotionally requested his comrade along for the adventure.

Whatever happened in those ensuing months, we can only hazard a guess.

Meanwhile, the boys of Baker Street Elementary are grappling with the pangs of loneliness...

**DO YOU EVER FEEL ALONE, THAT YOU JUST
DON'T HAVE ANY TRUE FRIENDS ?**



THAT'S RIDCULOUS TALK, STAMFORD...

**OUR BORDERS ARE EVER-EXPANDING, AND YOU
HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD TO EXPLORE...**



**THERE ARE NEW INVENTIONS
EVERYDAY, AND YOU HAVE THE MIND
TO HELP CREATE GREAT THINGS...**

**NO PERSON SURVIVES COMPLETELY
ON THEIR OWN IN THIS WORLD.**



**... AND WE HAVE THE POWER TO
LEAVE THE NEXT GENERATION BETTER
THAN THE OUR OWN...**

SO NO YOU ARE NOT ALONE !!



THAT'S GREAT ADVICE, LES... I
GUESS I AM NOT SO ALONE.



HOW DO I KEEP FROM FEELING LONELY TOO ?

**SIT IN A VERY DARK ROOM AND
READ A VERY SCARY BOOK BY
CANDLELIGHT... YOU SOON
WON'T FEEL ALONE.**

