

The Bilge Pump

Vol. 04, No. 12 - December, 2016
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the
Barque Lone Star*



Please Note:

January 1st Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 1st at Cindy Brown's residence.

The focus of the meeting will be the viewing of the 1st episode of Season 4 of the "**BBC Sherlock**" series.



If you are planning on attending, please RVSP to Cindy at:
epacpa@gmail.com

We will be at our normal meeting venue, La Madeleine, in February.

December 10th Meeting

Karen and Charles Olson hosted a fabulous Christmas party for the society on Saturday afternoon. 19 attendees enjoyed the festivities, coming together for food, drink, contests, and general frivolity.

Brenda Hutchison won the quiz on "The Golden Pince-Nez," with Sharon Lowry coming in second. Both won a variety of prizes.

We enjoyed a variety of Victorian-styled foods and drink, and a local musician, Mark Landson, provided us wonderful music during the entire party. To see an amazing sample of his music during the party, go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/timotater/video/s/10202635107676324/>

We all owe Karen and Charles a debt of gratitude for putting on such a wonderful event!



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

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

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

Who dunnit:



Third Mate
Helmsman
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries
Historian
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Steve Mason
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Don Hobbs, BSI
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SAYING "I DO" IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor," Hatty Doran vanishes during her wedding breakfast after her marriage to Lord Robert St. Simon. (1)

Up until the scandal of her disappearance, the sequence of events illustrates many of the typical Victorian wedding traditions.

For the Victorian woman, marrying well was the goal in her life. (2) That is, an appropriate match within one's social class to a man who would provide for her at the level to which she was accustomed.

While Hatty Doran is an American and something of a tomboy, as the only daughter of a millionaire and a noble woman at heart with an honorable reputation, her match with Lord St. Simon is considered advantageous—especially for him.

His family's precarious economic position will be eased by the large dowry her father offers. (3)

Hatty's father Aloysius Doran would have known of St. Simon's poor economic status because financial aspects of both the prospective bride and groom were openly discussed and negotiated prior to announcing the engagement.

Often the family would put the dowry in an estate trust which the bride continued to control after her marriage.

If no trust was created, all her possessions reverted to her husband on their wedding day. (4) Apparently Mr. Doran hadn't considered a trust necessary because Holmes notes St. Simon now has control of the dowry. (5)

Following such negotiations, the engagement would be announced, perhaps first to close friends and family.

The friends would then let others know. Thus, the announcement in the *Morning Post* notes the engagement between Hatty and Robert is "rumored," rather than formally declared. (6)

The bride was expected to pick the wedding's actual date and venue.

A number of traditions and rhymes provided guidance on the selection of the month and the day of the week.

Traditionally, however, June was the most popular month for a number of reasons: it was named after the Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage; it occurred after Lent; the weather was warmer; and the first child would be born in the spring, with enough time to recover before the fall harvest. (7)

Hatty, however, chooses the autumn, shortly after she and Robert were reacquainted during the London season, which occurred each year from January or February to July or August. (8)

Weddings would take place either in the bride's home or her parish church, but by the 1850s, almost all

occurred in church, and until the 1880s, the law required them to be in the morning.

Toward the end of the century, the ceremony could take place as late as 3 pm. (9) Interestingly, Hatty chooses St. George's on Hanover Square as her venue. (10)

An appropriate choice, given that this particular church was popular among Americans living or visiting London, including Theodore Roosevelt. (11)

In addition to the wedding party and invited guests, strangers could also observe a church wedding.

English law prohibited marriages performed behind closed doors, and so the church remained open during the ceremony. (12)

Thus, when Hatty's true husband, Francis H. Moulton, slips in with others observing the



ceremony, he doesn't call any undue attention from the wedding party—except for Hatty.

St. Simon notes the church was open and the man was but one of several strangers sitting in the pews. (13)

With a morning wedding, a breakfast reception followed at the bride's parents' home. Depending on the number of guests and the size of the room, guests might stand throughout the reception, but the couple would be seated. (14)

Hatty and Robert's table is positioned in such a way she is able to see out the window of her father's home. (15)

While not mentioned, the silk wedding dress Francis Moulton drops in the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park is most likely white, as are her shoes. (16)

In 1840, brides began wearing white gowns following Queen Victoria's trend. Before that, gowns were most likely green for young women (a symbol of fertility), brown for those in their twenties, and black for older women. (17)

St. Simon might have spared himself the trouble and scandal of his new bride running off if he'd chosen to whisk her to Gretna Green instead.

From the mid-1700s, couples would elope across the border with Scotland to be married by a blacksmith.

Unlike in England, the bride and groom could be wed by a simple declaration in front of two witnesses.

Because the blacksmith shop was always open, those eloping would stop there to make their declaration, with the blacksmith pounding on his anvil at the end of the ceremony to indicate the two had been forged into one. (18)

In the end, St. Simon and Hatty's traditional ceremony assists Holmes's investigation.

Hatty's reaction to one of the uninvited guests at the church and her view from the wedding breakfast table are all Holmes needs to solve the case of this runaway bride.



- 1) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13845-13846). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 2) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/engagement.html>
- 3) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13946). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 4) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/engagement.html>
- 5) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13948). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 6) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13844-13846). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 7) <http://www.literary-liaisons.com/article003.html>
- 8) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13945). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 9) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Location 13945). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 10) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13860-13863). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 11) <http://www.stgeorghanoversquare.org/history/stgeorges-and-the-usa.html>
- 12) Sally Mitchell, Daily Life in Victorian England (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996), 159.
- 13) Doyle, Arthur Conan. The Complete Sherlock Holmes: with an introduction from Robert Ryan (Kindle Locations 13962-13963). Simon & Schuster UK.
- 14) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/reception.html>
- 15) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Locations 14008-14009).
- 16) Doyle, Arthur Conan; Ryan, Robert. The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Kindle Location 14158).
- 17) <http://www.angelpig.net/victorian/weddingattire.html>
- 18) <http://www.gretnagreen.com/traditions-of-a-gretna-green-wedding-a742>

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>

REGARDING THE TRUE AETIOLOGY OF THE SKIN-LIGHTENING SYNDROME IN "THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLANCHED SOLDIER"

Carl Heifetz, The Holmes & Watson Report, January, 1998

From Wednesday, January 7 through Monday, January 12, in the year 1903, Mr. Sherlock Holmes investigated the mysterious malady that seems to have afflicted Mr. Godfrey Emsworth and which is the subject of this essay.



Since Mr. James M. Dodd, Mr. Holmes's client and the former army comrade-in-arms of the afflicted man, had not had any communications from his friend for six months, he visited the home of Mr. Emsworth and found him to be hiding on the estate but mysteriously changed in physical appearance.

Through a series of observations and scientific deductions prior to and during his visit to the Emsworth habitation, Mr. Holmes reached the tentative hypothesis that Mr. Emsworth may have contracted leprosy in South Africa and was hiding this disastrous news from everyone except his family, trusted servants, and personal physician.

It was this latter gentleman, a Mr. Kent, the primary care physician, who diagnosed the condition as leprosy without calling in an expensive consultant to confirm his findings.

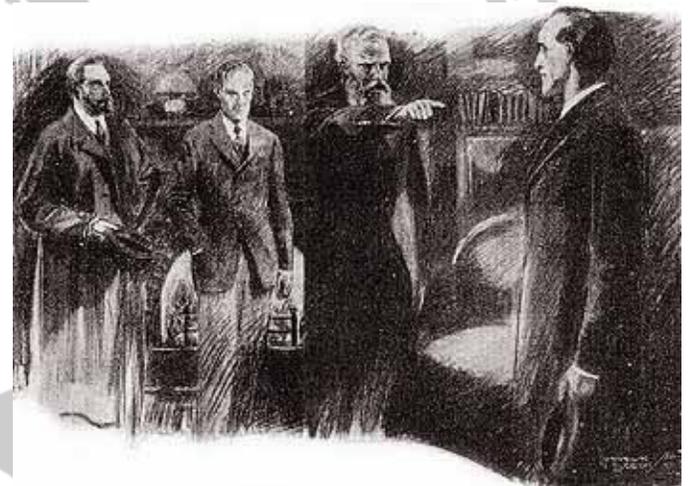
Deprived of the services of John H. Watson, M.D., who usually filled the role of physician-advisor to the detective but who had deserted him for a wife, Mr. Holmes was required to call in a favor and ask the noted dermatologist and tropical medicine specialist Sir James Saunders to provide a long-needed second opinion in this matter.



The diagnosis of "pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis" was gratefully received by all in attendance at the denouement of this adventure.

As is often the case in the field of medical literature, some controversy has arisen regarding the true aetiology of the skin condition that afflicted Mr. Godfrey Emsworth.

Was it really leprosy, as Mr. Kent had initially diagnosed it?



Was it really "pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis," as stated by the expert Sir James Saunders?

Was it something else again, as discussed in more recent medical literature?

It is unfortunate that Dr. Watson had not the opportunity to present this account to us.

I am certain that the clarity of his medical observations would have obviated all of the obscurity associated with this narrative by a scientifically brilliant though medically inept detective.

Thus we must make do with the evidence that is available to us through the less than medically expert descriptions provided by Mr. Sherlock Holmes's account in order to explore the several possible alternative diagnoses.

A Chronology of
"The Adventure of
the Blanched Soldier"

January 1901

James Dodd joins his squadron and meets Godfrey Emsworth.

circa January 1902

Godfrey Emsworth is wounded and spends the night in a leper's bed. He is subsequently moved to a hospital in Pretoria.

circa February 1902

Godfrey writes to Dodd from hospital at Cape Town.

May-June, 1902

Godfrey returns to England, writes to Dodd from Southampton.

May 31, 1902

Boer War ends.

June 1902 or later

Dodd returns to England and writes to Godfrey's father.

Summer or fall 1902

Dodd writes second letter to Godfrey's father.

January 1903

James Dodd goes to Tuxbury Old Hall to find Godfrey.

Medical diagnoses are generally based on considerations of patient history, presenting symptoms, and the results of laboratory tests, and on occasion, of surgical intervention.

In this case, neither laboratory analyses nor diagnostic surgical procedures were performed. Thus we are forced to rely exclusively on the patient's case history and symptomology and the diagnostic skills and



personal experience of the physician.

Mr.

Godfrey Emsworth had seen military action in

South Africa during the Boer War. According to his comrade, Mr. James M. Dodd, "We took the rough and the smooth together for a year of hard fighting. Then he was hit with a bullet from an elephant gun in the action near Diamond Hill outside Pretoria. I got one letter from the hospital at Cape Town and one from Southampton. Since then not a word -- not one word, Mr. Holmes, for six months and more, and he my closest pal."

Later we learn, by Mr. Emsworth's own account, that after he was wounded he spent the night collapsed in a leper's bed in the Leper Hospital, and during that time, while in a weakened condition, he had a brief but close encounter with one of the infected inhabitants of the facility.

Let us first examine the foregoing, while the clues are fresh in our minds, before discussing the clinical signs. For approximately one year, Mr. Emsworth was subjected to the exigencies of warfare.

There must have been many occasions during which he was malnourished, poorly protected from the environment, and lacking in proper hygiene.

All of these influences may have reduced his resistance to infection. However, there is no evidence that anything was amiss during the approximately six-month interval between his being wounded and the time that he arrived in Southampton prior to returning home.

Then for some reason -- probably the rapid visibility of horrendous symptoms -- he dropped out of sight, thinking that he was a victim of leprosy and afraid of the terrible social consequences associated with this misunderstood affliction.

Thus whatever disease revealed itself did so very quickly and completely during the time Mr. Emsworth was at Southampton or just as he arrived home.

It was not a long-standing disease that can be traced back to childhood nor one in which the symptoms had begun to appear slowly over time.

Now let us turn our attention to the signs and symptoms. It should be noted that Mr. Dodd's visit that resulted in his observations of Mr. Emsworth was made some weeks after the last communique, thus more than six months after the events that ended the military career of Mr. Emsworth.

Consequently, the symptoms described by Mr. Dodd, Mr. Holmes, and Sir James, are not those of the initial stages of the disease.

As viewed in the window, illuminated by lamplight, Mr. Dodd provided the following description: "He was deadly pale -- never have I seen a man so white." And further: "... that ghastly face glimmering as white as cheese in the darkness." And again: "His face was -- how shall I describe it? -- it was of a fish-belly whiteness. It was bleached."

In response to Sherlock Holmes's query, it appeared that the face was not equally pale all over."

Then we have Holmes's own written description: "One could see that he indeed had been a handsome

man with clear-cut features sunburned by an African sun, but mottled in patches over this darker surface were curious whitish patches which had bleached his skin."

Finally, the words of the great dermatologist and tropical disease expert, Sir James Saunders: "A well-marked case of pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis, a scale-like affection of the skin, unsightly, obstinate, but possibly curable, and certainly non-infective."

There we have it. First, the symptoms progressed rapidly, becoming significantly marked within a relatively short time after they first appeared. Second, the lesions on the face were patchy, very white, and scaly. And third, an eminent dermatologist and tropical disease specialist ruled out leprosy.

The subject under discussion has not been completely ignored by medical scholars. Dr. Herman Beerman, in several landmark papers, discussed several diseases that it appeared, based on his extensive experience as a dermatologist, might be the agent responsible for Mr. Emsworth's discomfort.



He concluded the disease was more likely the affliction vitiligo or the fungal infection tinea versicolor, a ubiquitous disease produced by *Pityrosporon orbiculare* (formerly named *Malassezia furfur*), rather than ichthyosis.

Although according to some, "early clinical indications of skin lesions and muscular and neurologic deficiency are usually significantly diagnostic in patients from endemic areas," the fact the family physician Mr. Kent misdiagnosed the affliction of leprosy should come as no surprise for several reasons.

Even today, there are many cases in which a wide variety of illnesses have been attributed to leprosy,



especially by the inexperienced observer.

According to Mr. Keith Skillicorn, from his experience and a review of other

sources, there are at least 30 diseases that may be wrongly attributed to the leprosy bacillus.

He state, "there are four cardinal signs of leprosy, at least two of which must be seen in a patient before we can safely diagnose that person as having leprosy: (hypopigmented, localized skin patches, (2) anaesthesia or sensory deficit, particularly of touch and temperature, (3) thickened nerves, particularly peripheral nerves, and (4) non-cultivable, acid-fast bacilli present in skin lesions and/or nasal mucosa."

In addition, leprosy produces anhydrosis (absence of or deficiency of sweating of the skin), is not highly contagious, requiring continuous close contact for transmission (only about 5% of contacts acquire the disease); has an unusually long -- six months to 30 years -- incubation period, and rarely appears as hairless hypopigmented patches until later stages of the disease.

Although Sir James Saunders did not appear to have used the services of a laboratory, he was no doubt sufficiently experienced to rule out leprosy on the grounds of clinical observation, the brief history of exposure, and the early onset of hypopigmented patches.

Let us now turn our attention to Sir James's diagnosis of "pseudoleprosy or ichthyosis." According to Beerman, Sir James's use of the term "pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis" was not a definitive diagnosis; rather, "it is more likely that the specialist was more sure of what the condition wasn't than what it was. In other words, he used these terms with the primary intention of reassuring young Emsworth that he did not have the disease he so feared."

Ichthyosis is an inherited disease "characterized by excessive accumulation of scale on the skin surface." Further, the age of onset is from birth to early childhood.

As Dr. Beerman said: "Unless Godfrey Emsworth had had scaling skin lesions since infancy he certainly did not have ichthyosis."

A similarly appearing disease, xeroderma, might be implicated. However, this affliction "usually occurs on the lower legs of middle-aged or older patients most often in cold weather and in patients who bathe frequently."

This also does not match the pattern of history, patient age, and disease site that were described previously for the patient.

Vitiligo is another condition that merits our attention. After an, several statements in the narrative refer to a very white or pale facial appearance -- "white as cheese" and "fish-belly whiteness."



Who can forget the remarkable transformation that this disease has made on the facial appearance of Mr. Michael Jackson, a singer of some fame? This disease is often misinterpreted as leprosy by inexperienced practitioners, and a recent poignant account by a dermatologist stresses the importance of differentiating

these two disorders, which can have very profound social consequences in certain societies.

There is no loss of sensation in vitiligo as there is in leprosy, and no loss of sweating, so that the patch is not warmer than unaffected skin as in leprosy.

As pointed out by Drs. Balin and Balin, the lesions develop slowly over time, not precipitously as is apparently the case in our story.

In addition, the lesions are subject to sunburn, and thus could not have been so prominent in the lamplight. Also, there is no evidence that Godfrey Emsworth suffered from any of the preexisting associated conditions: pernicious anemia, hypothyroidism, hypoadrenalism, or Addison's disease, and "furthermore, vitiligo is not scaly."



That leaves us with Dr. Beerman's favorite diagnosis -- the fungal infection tinea versicolor. Unlike vitiligo, "Tinea versicolor is found in equal frequency in temperate and tropical zones, and [is a disease] which an unbathed soldier might easily have contracted."

I can state from personal experience, subsequent to short-term exposure to my sister's cat, that tinea versicolor develops rapidly after contact, producing significant clinical manifestations.

Any microbiologist can very easily confirm tinea versicolor "by finding groups of yeast and short plump hyphae on microscopic examination of scrapings from the lesions."

The lesions have been described as "tan, brown; or white, very slightly scaling, which tend to coalesce, are seen on the chest, neck, and abdomen and occasionally on the face."

However, although the descriptions of the clinical signs encountered in the story under discussion may somewhat match those listed above, this disease is relatively widespread and should be easily recognized by a competent physician, even one who is not an expert in dermatology and tropical medicine.

On the other hand, tinea versicolor is a disease that may be confused with leprosy. Differentiation is accomplished by microscopic examination of skin scrapings and by noting that there is no loss of sensation at the site.



It is almost certain that this clearly recognizable disorder would be named as such by the dermatologist Sir James Saunders, rather than using the term "pseudo-leprosy."

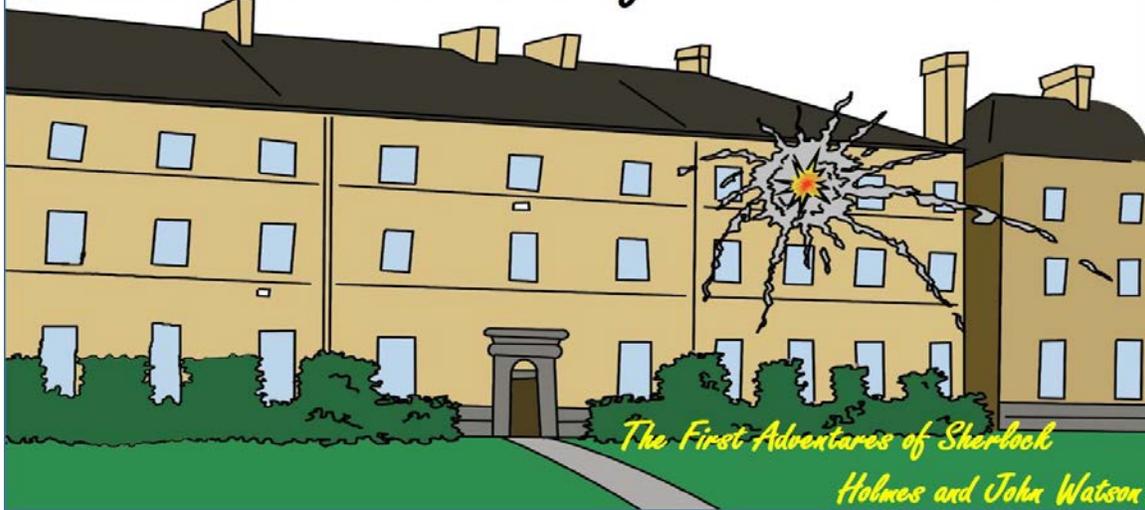
However, this is mere speculation, and we cannot definitively rule out tinea versicolor on these grounds. In conclusion, we have analyzed the paltry available data for the aetiology of the condition that afflicted Mr. Godfrey Emsworth, as recounted to us by Mr. Sherlock Holmes in his narrative "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier."

Although we have reviewed clues in an attempt to define which of several conditions might fit the few pieces of information available to us, we can draw no final conclusions, except the very felicitous conclusion that it is not leprosy.

Perhaps the main message to come out of this adventure is the unfortunate fact that, as pointed out by Mr. Skillicorn and Drs. Balin and Balin, even in today's sophisticated medical climate many diseases are still misidentified as leprosy, resulting in horrendous psychological and social consequences to the innocent victims of this medical error.

Baker Street Elementary

Created by Joe Foy,
Rusty & Steve Mason



The First Adventures of Sherlock

Holmes and John Watson

IT IS PERFECTLY ALRIGHT, JOHN. EVERYONE HAS SOME WEAKNESS. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU FAINTED LAST TIME I SPOKE TO YOU.

huh... OH YEAH. I... I JUST TRIPPED OVER MY BOOTS...

OH, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU!



Baker Street Elementary
Number 086 - 12/11/2016

Foy, Mason, & Mason

WHERE IS HE? STAMFORD IS SUPPOSE TO BE HERE TO MEET IRENE AND THE OTHER GIRLS...



STAMFORD, WHY ARE WEARING THAT OUTFIT? YOU REMEMBER LAST TIME YOU WORE THAT THING?

OH, COME NOW, JOHN. YOU SAW THE REACTIONS OF THE GIRLS THE LAST TIME I WORE THIS. I AIM TO WOO MISS IRENE THIS TIME.



OH, DO NOT LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, JOHN. WHAT IS THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

WELL, FOR ONE... hmmm... WHY DO I EVEN TRY ANYMORE?



HELLO LADIES, WE ARE HERE TO ESCORT YOU TO THE "CAROL" REHEARSALS.

GREETINGS, GENTLEMEN. I, OF COURSE REMEMBER YOU, DEAR JOHN, HOWEVER, I MUST CONFESS, YOUR FRIEND IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME.



OH SWEET IRENE, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM STAMFORD, ONE OF SHERLOCK'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISORS, AND MENTOR TO A VAST MAJORITY OF THE YOUNG'UNS.

STAMFORD, A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU. YOU ASSIST SHERLOCK ON HIS "CASES"?



HI LYNSDAY... HI KRISTINA...

THAT IS CORRECT. I AID SHERLOCK ON HIS MOST DIFFICULT MYSTERIES, AND...

HAS THAT THING ON YOUR HEAD MET ITS DEMISE?

IT WOULD EXPLAIN THE FOUL ODOR.



um... IT SMELLS?... I MEAN, THAT'S MY COLOGNE

THE UP-TURNED COLLAR ADDS A BIT OF INTRIGUE, BUT THE CHEEKBONES...

IS THAT YOUR REAL LOOK, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO "MAKE A MOVE" ON US?



WELL, I WAS JUST... I MEAN... FIRST IMPRESSIONS, YOU KNOW...

EXCUSES, STAMFORD... I BELIEVE THE YOUNG'UNS HAVE THE BETTER OF YOU.

