221B BAKERSt.

CASE BOOK 2



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The Adventure of the Murdered Banker

Mr. Walter Ostermann, vice president and comptroller of the Bank, was found murdered this morning in his Bank office.

Miss Rita Frawley, Ostermann's shapely secretary, says she left the office around 9:30 this morning to pick up some theater tickets at the Playhouse for her boss and her boss's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Ostermann. When she returned around 10:00 a.m., Miss Frawley found Ostermann slumped over his desk atop a pile of scattered papers. He had been hit on the right side of the head with a blunt object.

The lock on Mr. Ostermann's file cabinet was broken, and it appeared that

some papers had been removed from the files.

Miss Frawley says that when she left for the Playhouse, Mr. Ostermann was alone in his office. Mr. Ostermann's calendar showed that he had only one meeting scheduled in his office between 9:30 and 10:00, with Mr. Patrick Reardon, vice president of commercial lending, who differed strongly with Ostermann on many policies.

Mr. Reardon claims he kept his meeting with Ostermann, and left him in

good health around 9:50.

Mr. Wellington Bakman, Bank treasurer, whose office is right next to Ostermann's, claims he heard a noise in Ostermann's office around 9:50, but says he simply figured that Ostermann had dropped a briefcase or something of the sort.

Baffled, Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard has come to 221 B Baker Street to discuss the case. Lestrade wants to know a) the killer, b) the weapon, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #2

The Adventure of the Kidnapped Infant

The two-month-old daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Crescentshire has been kidnapped. Governess Harriet Pinkston, who was taking the baby for a walk in the Park, says that a man accosted her, grabbed the baby from its carriage and disappeared in the direction of the Apothecary.

After five days, the Duke and Duchess have still not heard from the kidnapper. The Duke, who wanted a son and was quite disappointed when he learned that his firstborn was a girl, has done nothing more about the kidnapping than call it to the attention of Scotland Yard.

Based on the description provided by Governess Pinkston, Scotland Yard has identified three chief suspects from its file of known kidnap artists. The suspects are Claude Romer, Vandy S. Logan, and Louie "The Baby Man" Lindley. Romar and Logan kidnap strictly for ransom money, while Lindley specializes in selling babies on the black market.

Completely distraught over the strange disappearance of her daughter, the Duchess of Crescentshire has come to 221 B Baker Street for help.

The Duchess wants Holmes to discover a) who kidnapped her daughter, b) the whereabouts of the infant, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #3

The Adventure of the Locked Chamber

Explorer Phillip Peabody has returned from an African safari and is displaying rare artifacts at the Museum. Philomena Pettibone's dog act is performing at the Playhouse. Organ grinder Mario Morelli is getting drunk at the Pub, ranting about the economy and how he can't make enough money to feed his monkey. Tiny Hoggins, an unemployed jockey, is angered by Mario's complaining, and a fight ensues.

At the same time, deep in a high security vault beneath the Bank, an engraver is making his annual inspection of the printing plates for all of England's currency.

After forty-five minutes has elapsed, the Bank's head security officer, Colin Battersea, opens the locked vault to find the engraver dead and the plates gone. The grating to the air shaft has been removed, but the shaft itself is far too narrow for a normal man to enter. And the engraver certainly would have heard anyone who tried to remove the grating while he was checking the plates.

The coroner believes the victim was poisoned, but he cannot discover how the poison was administered. The prime minister himself calls Sherlock Holmes into the case; for if the counterfeiters begin flooding the market with authentic notes, Britain's economy will surely collapse!

The Government wants Holmes to find out a) who killed the engraver, b) the weapon used to kill him, c) how the plates were removed from the vault, d) where the stolen plates are hidden, and e) the mastermind behind the plot.

The game is afoot!

Case #4

The Adventure of the Murdered Prankster

Tom Dayton had many enemies. He was a scalawag and a prankster who never passed up an opportunity to embarrass someone through a practical joke. It was Tom who invented the joy buzzer and the whoopee cushion; and some even credit him with having originated the fake vomit.

It was well known that Tom's favorite target was his old headmaster, Stanley Bosworth, who was the victim of some of the most elaborate pranks Tom ever conceived. Tom's eventual marriage to Bosworth's daughter, Melissa, was considered by many to be Tom's ultimate joke on the respected headmaster.

Among the more prominent victims of Tom Dayton's past pranks were Judge Walter Brighton; Lord and Lady Morton of Westchester; banker Mortimer Fawcett; Doctor Fabian Peerpoint; and tobacco merchant Dawes Flesher.

All of the above were present at the dinner party held on the Bosworth yacht in honor of Stanley Bosworth's 60th birthday. Also included among the quests were Holmes and Watson, and Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard.

Following an uneventful dinner, most of the guests retired to their staterooms to freshen up. Suddenly a shot rang out. Then another. All aboard the yacht, including the yacht's captain, Jonas Fenton, and cook Mildred Weekson, arrived at Tom Dayton's stateroom to find him dead -- shot in the forehead.

A smoking revolver lay near the doorway; Tom Dayton's body lay on the floor across the room, just below the open porthole. Scrawled in the dust near Dayton's body were the initials SB.

Learning that the revolver belonged to Stanley Bosworth, Lestrade promptly ordered the headmaster arrested for the murder of Tom Dayton.

Lestrade, quite pleased, later remarks to Holmes that he wished the solution to every case were this simple.

"That is precisely what troubles me, Inspector," replies Holmes. "It is too simple."

Holmes expresses his opinion that Lestrade has yet to find out a) who killed Tom Dayton, and b) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #5

The Adventure of the Murdered Druggist

Friendly druggist Eugene R. Kane was found murdered this afternoon in the Apothecary. He had been brutally stabbed three times through the heart.

Scotland Yard has established through a witness that only three persons

entered or left the Apothecary during the time of the murder.

The witness, Mrs. Wilma Farr, who lives two doors away from the Apothecary, stated: "I was sitting outside on my porch waiting for my mail like I always do, when Mr. Kane came by returning from lunch. He stopped for a moment and we chatted. I remember he said he had eaten lunch at the Pub with Mr. Daniel Kirwin, an official at the Museum. Then he said, 'Ta ta,' and he went and re-opened the Apothecary for business."

Mrs. Farr states that she then observed only three persons enter or leave the Apothecary. These three were Mrs. Hyatt, a teller at the Bank; Clara Wexler, a Playhouse actress; and Michael Milligan, the neighborhood bobby on the beat. All three of these unlikely suspects admit entering the Apothecary shortly after lunch; but all three claim to have left the druggist in good health.

Mrs. Farr says that after the postman arrived, she read through her mail and found a letter addressed to Mr. Kane which was left with her by mistake. She decided to take the letter to Mr. Kane; and upon arriving at the Apothecary, she found the dead druggist's body and called the police.

Inspector Lestrade, who is investigating the murder, has wandered into 221 B Baker Street to collect Holmes' thoughts on the strange incident.

After listening to Lestrade's account of the case, Holmes reminds the Inspector of one of the cardinal rules of deduction. "When you have eliminated the impossible," says Holmes, "whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

Scotland Yard is still looking for a) the killer, b) the weapon, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #6

The Adventure of the Luckless Mariner

Randolph Meacham, former first mate of the freighter *Penguin*, was found yesterday afternoon floating face down in the shallow waters at the Dock.

The seaman had been hit on the right side of the head with a large, blunt object. Police constables recovered the victim near a dingy for the yacht, *Southern Star*, and believe the sailor was attempting to reach the vessel.

It was common knowledge about the Dock that Captain Clive Lightfoot had been romancing Meacham's girl friend, Raphaela Dorian, during the mariner's absence. The pair had been aboard the *Southern Star* on the day of the murder, attending a party hosted by insurance broker Norton Quimby.

Persons routinely questioned by Scotland Yard include John Strickland, owner of the *Penguin*; and Angus Burkhardt and Jason Kinney, former shipmates of Meacham's who, with the first officer, had survived the tragic sinking of the *Penguin* at sea.

While Burkhardt and Kinney considered the first officer a harsh disciplinarian, both men credited Meacham for their survival during the grueling fifteen days the trio spent adrift at sea in an open lifeboat.

Scotland Yard has put the facts before the master sleuth. Holmes must discover a) who killed the seaman, b) the motive, and c) the weapon.

The game is afoot!

Case #7

The Adventure of the Reporter's List

Newspaper reporter James Kent was found late this afternoon in an alley behind the Pub. He had been brutally stabbed twice through the heart.

An enigmatic note found near the victim's body read: The Leaping Horse, Petworth Park, The Third of May, 1808.

Scotland Yard's code experts have been unable to decipher any meaning from the curious message.

Pub owner Grady Upjohn admits Kent visited his establishment around noon, ordered a glass of stout, and departed within the hour, declaring he had appointments at the Dock, the Museum, and the Pawnbroker Shop.

Ship builder Sir Thomas Creasey affirms he had seen Kent in the afternoon and discussed with the reporter several horses in Creasey's fine thoroughbred stable.

Although hobbling badly from gout, curator Justin Robart claims he gave his visitor a guided tour through the Museum gallery lasting almost two hours.

Dennis Holley, the proprietor of the Pawnbroker shop, stated that the reporter had called to sell a pair of silver cuff links and then inquired if Holley still planned to hold a public auction in the Park this Saturday.

Scotland Yard wants to know a)who killed the reporter, b) the weapon, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #8

The Adventure of the Kingsfield Ruby

"Tell me, Holmes," asked Watson, "what do you make of the theft of the Kingsfield Ruby?"

"I haven't given it much thought," replied Holmes, who was preparing to play the violin for a bit. "But I think that the pill found under the ruby's display case at the Museum should be more than enough for the police to go on."

Just then, a knock came at the door. Watson opened the door to a middleaged man, who introduced himself as Emerson Plattner. Plattner, it seems, was the solicitor of a Mr. Josiah Winchester, employee of the Bank, who was just arrested for stealing the Kingsfield Ruby.

According to Plattner, Winchester was taken into custody after Blaine Templar and Percival Huxley, fellow bank employees, saw him open a special locked drawer in his desk and take out the ruby. Winchester claims that he is completely innocent and has no idea how the ruby got in his desk drawer. He is the only one who has the key to the drawer, and the key has not left his possession since the theft occurred.

Plattner has come to ask Holmes to investigate the theft and prove Josiah Winchester innocent.

Holmes decides to take the case and promises Plattner that he will find a) the thief, b) how the ruby got into the drawer, and c) why the thief put it there.

The game is afoot!

Case #9

The Adventure of the Mummy's Curse

"A fascinating story," says Holmes, referring to Inspector Lestrade's account of the recent death of archaeologist Darold Gregory.

Nearly two weeks ago, Gregory, along with his beautiful wife Olivia, returned from Egypt on the schooner Sinbad, having discovered the tomb of the Egyptian King Khafu-Amin. After having the mummy authenticated by experts, Gregory had it put on display at the Museum.

Then two days ago, as the Museum was being opened, curator Melvyn Winston and several security guards encountered a startling sight. There, lying in the sarcophagus of Khafu-Amin, was the body of Darold Gregory. Apparently, he had been hit on the back of his head with a blunt object. The mummy was gone.

All that was found on the body was a key to the Museum, given to Gregory by Winston; a few scraps of bandage from the mummy; and the following handwritten note: Meet me at the Museum tonight. Very important that we talk. -- TR

"The queerest part of the whole affair," continues Lestrade, "is the Curse of Khafu-Amin. According to Hamilton Baxter, another archaeologist, it reads, 'He who disturbs the eternal peace of our beloved king shall die and take his place, so that he may walk among us.""

"It seems," muses Holmes, "that we have a mummy visiting our city."

"Quite so," replies Lestrade. "We could find only one person whom Gregory knew with the initials T.R., and that's the Sinbad's first mate, Thomas Rupert, but Carson Newell the captain of the ship, swears he saw Rupert in the Pub that night."

The Inspector would like Holmes to help find a) the killer, b) the weapon, c) the motive, and d) the hiding place of the mummy.

The game is afoot!

Case #10

The Adventure of the Barbecued Baker

Insurance investigator Louis Duttman has hired Holmes to look into the strange death of Mortimer Chapman, the most successful baker in London. Mortimer's wife, Ida, discovered a pile of charred human bones in her bakery oven and identified them as her husband's from his ring and pocket watch.

Family dentist Darwood Drysdale inspected the teeth found with the victim's remains and declared they were identical to Mortimer's dental records.

Lady Chapman noted that her family's jewels, a string of priceless pearls, were also missing. She reported that just yesterday, neighborhood wino Clay Harrison had visited the restaurant and admired her pearls. The Chapmans had good-naturedly ignored his pestering, since he was a regular customer. Before leaving, Holmes discovered some pieces of broken wine bottle near the fatal oven, but Harrison was nowhere to be found.

Holmes must find a) the killer, b) the motive (other than the stolen pearls), and c) how the murder was carried out.

The game is afoot!

Case #11

The Adventure of the Dashing Psychiatrist

Charming Gregor Jensen has been found outside his fashionable Ruxford district medical offices. He had fallen three stories to his death.

Dr. Jensen catered to London's posh set. His medical specialty was the newly-founded science of psychiatry.

The coroner has ruled the death as accidental.

Patient Margaret Ann Tibbs, wife of dockmaster Harry Tibbs, testified that Gregor lost his balance as he walked past an open window during a psychiatric session. He fell sideways out the window, according to Mrs. Tibbs.

There are no ledges on the seven-story brick building, and other witnesses from the sidewalk below saw no one near the window Gregor fell through.

Dr. Watson, a long-time friend of Gregor's, has prevailed upon the master sleuth to investigate.

Judith Lurvey, Dr. Jensen's secretary, informs Holmes that she thinks the following former patients had ill will toward Gregor: professional poker player Doyle Munson; prominent woman barrister Meredith Shannon; wife of the famous actor Jake McGarrity, Millicent; and Ross Chocolate, a newspaper publisher rumored to be in line for an ambassadorial appointment.

After examining the corpse and the clothing worn at the time of death, Sherlock Holmes is certain foul play has been committed.

Holmes must discover a) the murderer's identity, b) the motive, and c) the murder weapon.

The game is afoot!

Case #12

The Adventure of the Headless Horseman

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

As I expected, Jonas McCarthy, Mayor of Bevanshire, has called upon Holmes to solve one of the most intriguing mysteries of our time.

If newspaper accounts are to be believed, a headless horseman has terrorized the residents of picturesque Bevanshire, a township in rich woods near London.

As a physician, of course, I have nothing but contempt for superstitious belief. How in the blazes could a man live, much less ride a horse, without a head?

Yet there are very reliable witnesses (now presently residing here in London) to this incredible event. Bartender Brian Burgandy and druggist Kenneth Claret saw the creature romp through Bevanshire, as did carriage driver Mortimer Graham and banker Thaddeus Sherry.

Most convincing of all is the testimony of physician Wilber Pound, who was present at a town meeting which the ghastly intruder broke up by charging through on his steed.

The Mayor is most distraught. He fears his entire constituency will follow the path of the many who have sold their homes and fled Bevanshire for London. He beseeched Holmes to solve the riddle before the headless horseman appears again.

The light in Holmes' eye informed me that the case was already solved.

"My dear Mayor, the horseman will not ride again, for his evil work is already done,"

my friend said firmly.

Holmes must discover a) the identity of the "headless horseman", b) the motive behind his terrifying rides through Bevanshire, and c) the identity of the mastermind behind the scenes.

The game is afoot!

Case #13

The Adventure of the Killer in Kilts

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

They were a spectacular sight, the tartan-clad 44th Highland Fusiliers, as they disembarked from the Royal Navy transport ship and marched to their temporary barracks in the park. So distinguished had their service been in India, that the Queen summoned them to London to pass in review before Buckingham Palace.

Old friend Scotty Egan, a private in the brigade, invited Holmes and myself to attend the Fusilier's banquet at the hotel. After dinner, Commander Haig, leader of the force, excused himself to get some tobacco while our friend Scotty was singing "Oh, Danny Boy".

It wasn't ten minutes later that the Fusilier's adopted water boy, a Hindu named Gonga Dor, rushed into the banquet room exclaiming that Commander Haig had been murdered in the alley.

Haig had been strangled and the body discovered by two Fusilier pipers, Privates Teacher and MacBurney. Examining the body, Holmes found a torn piece of Aberdeen plaid clutched in Haig's hand. In the dead man's pouch there was a ticket to "Brigadoon" at the Playhouse, starring the Glasgow songbird, Lorna Doan.

"Strangulation," noted Scotty, "the most common form of murder in India."
Holmes studied the strange marks on Haig's throat and the definitive
detective shocked us all when he wryly announced: "This man was killed with a
blunt instrument!"

"Nonsense!" says I, "I'm a doctor, and this man was strangled!"

Holmes went on to prove his statement and uncover a) the killer, b) the weapon, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #14

The Adventure of the Staggering Cowboy

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

I thought the whole thing a bit colonial, but Holmes was as excited as a child by the news that Bison Bob's Wild West Show was beginning a European tour with a lengthy stop in London. The park was turned into a stable and Londoners filled the bleachers for every show.

There were red-skinned Indians riding wild steeds that made London's tranquil carriage horses seem statuesque. Horsewoman Fanny Stokely was a marvelous rider and sharp shooter, even though she purportedly had polio as a child. While riding full tilt, she could shoot an apple off the head of her assistant, a midget with a dubious future. Chief Chickasaw and desperado Black Bart wrestled in the arena after Bart and his men robbed the stagecoach with great theatrics and were in turn attacked by Chief Chickasaw's horde of Indians. All in all, it was an exhilarating show, complete with a dancing bear. Bison Bob announced each act through a megaphone and directed our attention with the point of his silver tipped cane.

Later that afternoon, the bank was robbed by a masked cowboy who rode off on a horse he had hidden behind the Playhouse. Witnesses said the cowboy had a peculiar staggering walk; later, some of them identified his getaway horse grazing with the others from the Wild West Show. The horse bore the brand BB.

Against advice from Scotland Yard, Bison Bob hired Holmes to find a) the robber, b) the hiding place of the loot, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #15

The Adventure of the Disappearing Doctor

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

Sherlock Holmes seldom engaged in missing person investigations. He usually found them boring and most often rooted in some domestic squabble. He did, however, plunge full forward when he discovered the missing person in question was his long-time friend, myself, Dr. Watson.

A bobby named Cragmount had discovered my bag in the alley behind the pub. Beside it was a strange little whistle and a handful of brightly colored feathers. "Definitely fowl play," Holmes said, referring, a bit perversely, to the cluster of feathers. "And since it is nearly high tide, we haven't a moment to lose!"

Find a) what happened to Dr. Watson, b) how he was spirited away, and c) the identity of the two culprits involved.

The game is afoot!

Case #16

The Adventure of the Bittersweet Death

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

Jolly, obese Ona Crab was the owner of the finest gourmet chef school in England. Her prize student, Eggbert Barrymore, was by far the finest culinary artist she had ever produced. This was due to the fact she spent most of her time instructing him, much to the chagrin of two other talented students, entree specialists Rose Warblow and Van Redgrave.

Even Ona's beloved husband Theodore admitted his wife spent so much time training young Eggbert and enjoying his desserts that she scarcely had time for him anymore. One morning, however, Ona's assistant, Nielson Claypool, discovered Eggbert's career had come abruptly to an end. At the bottom of a huge cooking vat, he lay smothered in whipped cream and chocolate frosting. Because Holmes himself had been an admirer of the lad's epicurial genius, he volunteered to look into the matter.

Upon inspecting the corpse, I could tell by the low body temperature that he had been dead at least seventy-two hours. Yet several people insisted they'd seen him alive only twelve hours before! Find a) the killer, b) the method used, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #17

The Adventure of the Mockingham Maze

The recent election went to the Labor Party and filled Parliament with liberal politicians, so conservative Lord Mockingham took matters into his own hands. He somehow stole a new secret weapon from the Buckingham armory and hid it somewhere at his castle at Leeds. Secret Service chief Tully Steerforth asked Holmes to investigate. The super sleuth questioned secret weapon inventor Brady Bagwell, armory commander General Tallman, M-5 Director Lance Bigelow, and security head Ripley Howell. Holmes felt one of these men must have aided Lord Mockingham in the theft.

Holmes and Watson set out for Mockingham's castle, only to be captured climbing the wall near the drawbridge. Gleefully, Lord Mockingham and his cohorts blindfolded the duo and placed them at the center of the infamous Mockingham Maze, a labyrinth of high hedgerows from which no one had ever escaped.

"I'll give you one clue," Lord Mockingham grinned. "A conservative can find his way out, but a liberal never will."

With that, Holmes and Watson were knocked unconscious and left to the chilly elements of Leeds. When they came to, Holmes was quick to discover a) how to escape the maze, b) the name of Mockingham's accomplice, c) the hiding place of the secret weapon and d) the type of weapon it is.

The game is afoot!

Case #18

The Adventure of the Hygienic Hermit

The murder of multi-millionaire recluse Sir Hugh Howard caused ripples throughout London society. The eccentric octogenarian left no will, so hundreds of people suddenly appeared, claiming to be relatives entitled to the hermit's riches. They came from all walks of life, covering the gamut from Lord Penworth

Howard to hotel maid Penelope Howard. Scotland Yard was stymied as to how the arsenic found in Hugh Howard's bloodstream was ad ministered. Sir Howard was a fanatic about cleanliness and had his personal physician, Dr. Clarence Clawson, constantly on hand to see to it that his living guarters were germ free.

Sir Howard's food taster, Bud Lipincot, assured the Yard that he had eaten everything Sir Howard had eaten for the last forty years; bodyguard Crunch Flagbone testified that he had not allowed a single person, save Dr. Clawson, to touch Sir Howard over those same forty years.

Inspector Gregson finally had to swallow his pride and consult Sherlock Holmes to uncover a) the killer, b) the method, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #19

The Adventure of the Whispering Wall

Watson thought it more a case for a psychiatrist when Lady Bellgrade began hearing voices plotting her murder as they dug her grave.

Lady Bellgrade's attorney, Guy Windig, asked Holmes to investigate. The dynamic detective questioned the entire staff at Bellgrade Manor, which included gardener Paul Pullman, maid Gerda Foxworth, butler Soames Carston, handyman Raoul Huffman, and chef Carmine Crouton.

Lady Bellgrade began hearing the voices shortly after the death of her husband, Lord Ashton Bellgrade, and only on nights the servants had off. The voices, she said, seemed to come right out of the south wall of her bedroom.

The very next night the servants were off. Holmes secretly hid in the newly completed wine cellar in Bellgrade Manor and by morning had discovered a) who the voices belonged to, b) their motive for wanting to kill Lady Bellgrade, and c) how she could hear them plotting the murder as they dug her grave.

The game is afoot!

Case #20

The Adventure of the Pirated Pigeons

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

At first I thought it was a pet store robbery when insurance company president Lyle Docstrum asked Holmes to look into some disappearing pigeons. One of Docstrum's clients was Carrie Porter, owner and operator of the Porter Pigeon Postal Service, which had been revolutionizing the mail by flying it back and forth between London and Paris by homing pigeon. Of course, one's letters had to be brief. The little beggars can't carry much. Anyway, Lyle Docstrum would be out a fortune in insurance claims if the Pigeon Postal Service failed.

That failure was imminent. Over the last few weeks, every pigeon vanished over the English Channel, whether it was a bird trained to fly to Paris or London.

After a stop at the zoo's aviary section, Holmes and I boarded the Channel Falcon, a ship mastered by Captain Reed Moreland, which had been shuttling the

birds back and forth for Carrie Porter. Also aboard were Docstrum, Miss Porter, her French interpreter, Bernice Rutledge, her lawyer, Wiley Cleveland, and Inspector Rockshire of Interpol. All were intent on following the last shipment of pigeons to Paris. These were the last pigeons trained to fly home to London.

Halfway across the Channel, Holmes threw one of the pigeons aloft. As we watched the bird wing its way eastward, Holmes found the newspaper lining the bottom of its cage was from a recent issue of the Berlin Daily Bugle.

The instant we reached the port of Calais, Holmes announced a) the culprit, b) the method, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #21

The Adventure of the Butler's Convention

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

"My word, what a dreary affair," I sighed while perusing the Sunday edition of the *London Times*.

"You are reading the notice of the Butler's Convention and Ball currently at the Regent Hotel," observed my violin-playing companion.

"My dear Holmes, how could you possibly know which report I was reading? Virtually everything in the newspaper could be properly described as dreary."

"Yes, Watson," mused the master detective. "But only the spectacle of servants aping their betters in public is likely to arouse the comment of English gentlemen."

"Perhaps, Holmes. But you must admit that a gathering of butlers must surely be uneventful in the extreme."

"I fear the crime page will prove you wrong, Watson. After all, they **are** aping their betters."

Page 40 of the *Times* contained the following item:

CATERING TYCOON MURDERED AT HOTEL: BUTLERS SUSPECTED

Former butler and self-made millionaire Ollie Newman collapsed and died suddenly last night in the ballroom of the Hotel, shortly after making a brief speech in which he congratulated the butlers on their first convention. Newman's firm was catering the event.

The police are puzzled by this case. The victim died of poison. He had traces of botulin on his lips. However, witnesses stated that the "king of caterers" had not had anything to eat or drink all evening.

The police have drawn up a list of suspects known to the victim: Rufus Blackdeer; Jeeves Truelove; Henry Mumhoney; James Blaine; Alphonso Gatliz; Archibald MacBeth; and Hudson M. Bayless. All of the suspects are employed as butlers.

Suddenly Holmes shot to his feet muttering something about "a most insidious murder method." "Come, Watson, grab your coat. We must a) identify the killer, b) state the motive, and c) establish how the crime was committed." The game is afoot.

Case #22

The Adventure of the Suicidal Opera Star

World famous opera star Marilyn Roman was best known for her numerous love affairs. Gossip about her private life completely overshadowed her considerable talents as a soprano. Yet she was a brilliant singer. As the music critic of the *London Times* so aptly put it: "Marilyn's got the best pair of lungs in the business."

The many rumors about Roman's orgies did not hurt her career. To the contrary, her legions of fans seemed to thrill vicariously in her exploits of the heart. They loved her for her zest of life.

It therefore came as a thunderous shock to the music world when Marilyn's business manager Igor Hydbeer tearfully announced that the opera star was dead of an overdose of sleeping pills. The Coroner has ruled the death was a suicide.

Marilyn's funeral was attended by a virtual Who's Who of reputed lovers, including: Artie Moore, an ex- husband and star cricket player for the Old York Yonkers; Bernard Mountand, a French actor; Dr. Alan Albertwine, theoretical physicist; and Millart Arthur, another ex- husband and playwright.

One reputed lover conspicuously absent from the funeral was Sir Robert Carnaby, the Minister of Justice. It has been suggested in a best-selling book by author Hale Norman that Marilyn may have been murdered and that Sir Robert was involved in the crime.

Sir Robert now visits 221 B Baker Street and begs the master detective to help clear his name. "My good name and political future hang in the balance, Mr. Holmes." Holmes must discover a) the killer, b) the weapon, and c) the motive.

The game is afoot!

Case #23

The Adventure of the Missing Missionary

FROM THE JOURNAL OF DR. WATSON:

At first it seemed my very good fortune indeed to gain an allexpenses-paid trip to South America as a consequence of my association with the great Sherlock Holmes. We were dispatched to Brazil by Lady Emma Angus to find her missing son, Norman. Lady Emma had not heard from the lad for nearly a year. But as our fears increased for the man we were seeking, the aura of holiday was lost. Indeed, a pall of gloom soon dogged our every move.

In his last letter, Norman spoke of his spiritual growth: "I wish to devote my life to service of the Lord, as a missionary. The problem is that I cannot decide whose version of the Gospel I should preach."

After considerable investigation we discovered Norman's last known address: Hotel Dinero Poco in the town of San Juan near the Amazon River. Hotel manager Pete Cabana told us that one day Norman left for a walk without returning or paying his bill. Cabana gave Norman's personal effects to Holmes for examination.

The last entry in Norman's diary contained the following list of local religious leaders, church affiliation and their mottoes:

Rev. Joan James, First Church of Joanstown ("Those who thirst for the Lord shall have a shortcut to Heaven."):

Dr. Poppy Fine, Church of New Zealand ("The Lord is our Shepherd."):

Rev. L. Ron Mooner, Unified Science Church ("Ask not what your Church can do for you; ask what you can do for your Church."); High Priestess Rose Bueno, Church of Supreme Beings ("To Serve Man.");

Father Fenton Feeney, Order of Benedictine Monks ("Silence is Golden.").

After reading this list, Holmes groaned, "I fear the worst, Watson." He then proceeded to tell me a) what happened to Norman, b) who was responsible, and c) the motive for the disappearance.

The game is afoot!

Case #24

The Adventure of the Disinherited Daughter

When Maxine Leach learned of her mother's death, she immediately returned to England from Australia.

Maxine and her husband Peter had emigrated two years ago. She deeply missed her mother and often experienced pangs of guilt, that as the only child of a widow, perhaps she should have stayed in London to be with her mother, despite her husband's ambition to make a million in the gold fields of Perth.

"Why didn't she write me that she was ill?" Maxine agonized. None of the family or friends could answer the question, although they seemed to be oddly cool to the bereaved daughter.

Maxine was ill-prepared for the next shock. She had been completely disinherited from her mother's will. The estate was left to the following persons:

1/6 to Stanley Steed, family barrister;

1/6 to Manfred Katt, butler;

1/3 to the Community Church, care of Rev. Milton Collie;

1/6 to Sidney Diamond, nephew;

1/6 to Wilson Terrier, gentleman friend.

Heartbroken, Maxine calls on Sherlock Holmes to discover why her beloved mother disinherited her. "It's not the money, Mr. Holmes. It's my memory of her. She never communicated any word of her illness or unhappiness to me. Perhaps she never forgave me for moving away. But if so, I think she would have expressed her feelings to me."

To help Maxine, Holmes must discover a) why Maxine was disinherited, b) who was responsible, and c) the motive for the underlying crime.

The game is afoot!

Case #25

The Adventure of the Happy Medium

Claire Voyant was an upbeat and widely admired lady who had a reputation for being able to communicate with the dead.

Last week, Claire and her husband Fred were guests at a dinner party hosted by Jim and Audrey Kumerlee. Other guests included Hale Stanton, Olivia Saintly, Walter Merkin, Mercedes Duckworth, Richard Dotty, and Cynthia and Ollie Horserich.

As the evening wore on, Audrey Kumerlee felt the party was not lively enough, so she convinced Claire to conduct an impromptu seance.

The dinner guests gathered, holding hands in a darkened room, about a large oak table, and Claire commenced to summon the departed souls of persons known to everyone at the party.

For the finale, Claire began to communicate with the spirit of Ace McCall, who recently died of heart failure. The room was completely dark as "dear old Ace" began to speak. Suddenly there was a shriek and then silence.

When the lights went on, the horrified party goers discovered Claire was dead.

The police were immediately summoned. Inspector Lestrade announced his intention to solve the crime before the dinner guests departed so that it would not be necessary to detain everyone in jail overnight.

Lestrade instructed his assistant to get Sherlock Holmes out of bed so the matter could be resolved quickly.

In order to have time for a good night's sleep, Holmes must swiftly identify a) the killer, b) the motive, and c) the weapon.

The game is afoot!

Case #26

The Adventure of the Champion Poodle

Mrs. Mildred Vandenberg is the proud owner of Pumpkin, a poodle who has won numerous awards in dog shows. But now, greatly distressed, Mrs. Vandenberg has come to see Sherlock Holmes. Pumpkin has disappeared. The dog was discovered missing after a garden party, which Mrs. Vandenberg was giving, ended. Pumpkin never wanders by himself, so Mrs. Vandenberg is sure he was dognapped. However, no ransom note has been received.

Those attending the garden party included: Major Rodney Radcliff, who has just returned from the Ashanti Expedition; Miss Lindsey Buckingham, owner of Fluffy, a champion quality dog who constantly places second to Pumpkin; and

Mrs. Lydia Greenfield, esteemed dog lover and charter member of the English Kennel Club. The house staff attending to the party were the butler, Charles Blackman, and the cook, Norma White.

Mrs. Vandenberg wants Holmes to discover a) who dognapped Pumpkin, b) the motive, and c) where Pumpkin is hidden.

The game is afoot!

Case #27

The Adventure of the Counterfeit Notes

Mr. Charles Attenbourgh is a young man on the rise. The flamboyant Attenbourgh has recently become vice president of the Bank, and is well-known in social circles. However, this lifestyle requires a great deal of money and Attenbourgh has begun to participate in financial schemes to acquire the extra funds.

It is this habit that brings Charles Attenbourgh to 221 B Baker Street. Attenbourgh is in deep trouble after participating in a scheme suggested by a West Indian mulatto, Orlando Duval. Duval came to Attenbourgh the day after Attenbourgh had been assigned to handle the Eden necklace. The Bank had arranged to sell the pearl necklace after its owner, Lady Eden, passed away. The Pawnbroker, Mortimer Potter, was the highest bidder at £5,000. Attenbourgh was supposed to make the final arrangements and deliver the necklace. But Duval said he represented a wealthy party who had just learned of the necklace and would pay £10,000 for it. Duval urged Attenbourgh to accept this offer and secretly keep half of the money for himself. Attenbourgh figured nobody would be the wiser, so gave the necklace to Duval in exchange for £10,000 in bank notes.

However, things have gone wrong. The next day Attenbourgh received a box with £500,000 of counterfeit bank notes and an attached letter. It reads:

"If you want the necklace back, switch these bank notes with ones in the Bank vault -- Mr. X."

Attenbourgh then closely examined the bank notes Duval had given him. They were also counterfeit.

A contrite Mr. Attenbourgh says his career will be ruined if this scheme is discovered. Moreover, he cannot go to Scotland Yard because he would be arrested for fraud. Therefore, he is depending on Sherlock Holmes to solve this case by discovering a) who is Mr. X, b) where is the necklace, c) how did Mr. X get printing plates for counterfeit notes, and d) where were the counterfeit notes printed.

The game is afoot!

The Adventure of "The Lombard Street Gang"

A daring holdup of the Bank was made by three masked persons, dubbed "The Lombard Street Gang" by the Fleet Street Press. Shortly after the Bank opened, the gang, in broad daylight, entered with sawed off shotguns, tied up the guards, and stole £50,000. After the gang ran from the Bank, the alarm was immediately sounded and police arrived, but the gang vanished without a trace.

Inspector Lestrade has sought out Sherlock Holms for help on the case. The Bank has the serial numbers for the stolen bank notes, so it won't be easy for the robbers to spend the money without being caught. However, Scotland Yard doesn't have the slightest clue as to where the gang is hiding out or where the money is hidden.

The only information Scotland Yard can give is that they have identified some of the patrons who were at the Bank early that morning before the robery occurred. They include: the Locksmith, Joseph Tremayne; two brothers from the Dock, David and Paul Andrew; and the barmaid from the Pub, Annie Wichmann. Scotland Yard has also received word that the reputed American thief, John Barrymore, entered London just last week.

Holmes must discover a) the robbers, b) the gang's hideout, c) where the money is hidden, and d) how they plan to spend the money.

The game is afoot!

Case #29

The Adventure of the Edinburgh Scandal

Elsbeth Stewart, a young socialite on holiday from Scotland, has come to 221 B Baker Street. Miss Stewart is soon to marry the Duke of Edinburgh and become his Duchess; but the marriage is now endangered by a possible scandal.

Last month, the young Miss Stewart foolishly had an affair with a London playboy, Lawrence Drake. Stewart now regrets the affair and has broken it off; but at the time, she wrote several love letters to Drake. These letters have apparently fallen into the wrong hands because someone is trying to blackmail Stewart. An unsigned note, with one of the love letters attached, was received by Stewart today. The note says:

"If you want the rest of the letters, be at the Pawnbroker with £5,000 tomorrow afternoon."

If the affair is revealed, the embarrassment throughout Scotland will force the Duke to break off the engagement. Stewart wants Holmes to stop the blackmailer before he or she reveals the letters.

Stewart says that she had stayed at the Hotel while in London and that Drake always met her there. He usually took her to either the casino or the Playhouse. Drake always locks his home when he isn't there.

Possible suspects include Drake's valet, Richard Redwine; Drake's former lover, Kristine Greenfield; and the Hotel detective, Harold Mangin.

After Stewart has left, Dr. Watson remarks that great haste must be taken if the blackmailer is to be stopped by tomorrow afternoon. Holmes must, by then, discover a) the blackmailer, b) where the letters are, and c) how the letters can be retrieved.

The game is afoot!

Case #30

The Adventure of the Vanished Magician

A well-known magician from Prussia, Mandrake the Great, has come to London for a week of performances. However, Mandrake's wife has come to 221 B Baker Street because of a startling incident which occurred during Mandrake's opening performance. When performing his famous disappearing act, in which Mandrake vanishes from a wooden, four-sided container, he disappeared without a hitch, but never reappeared.

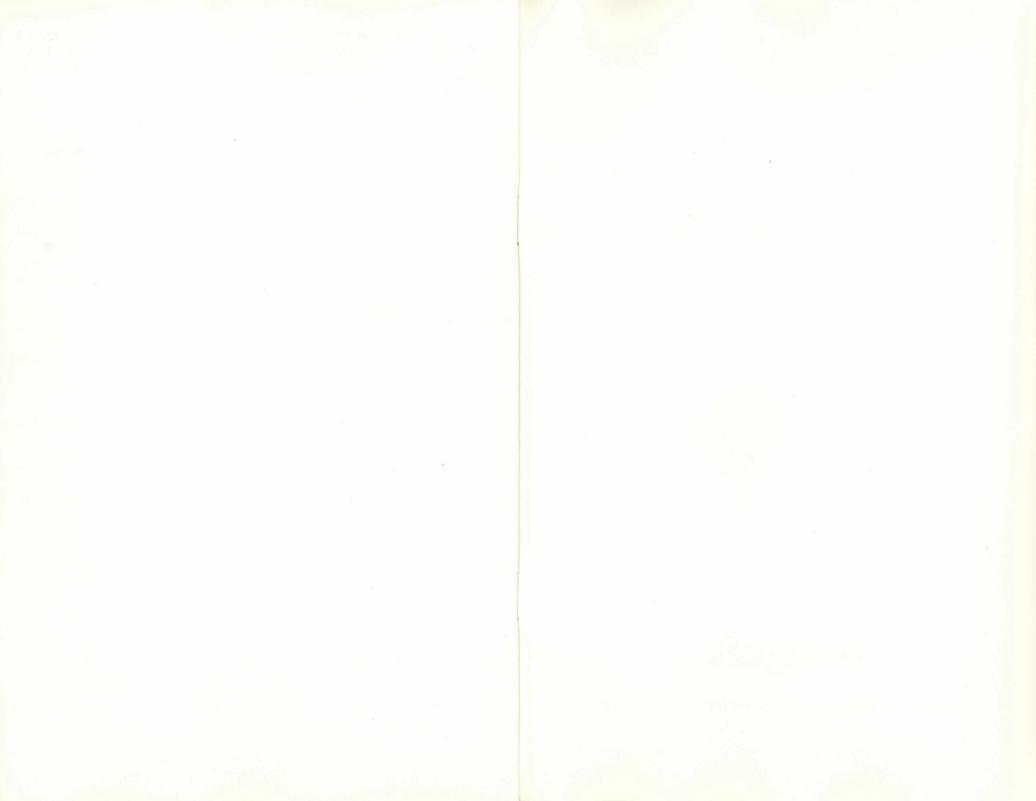
Mrs. Mandrake doesn't know who, or why someone would want Mandrake gone. However, Mrs. Mandrake believes one of three people is responsible, and they were all at the Playhouse the night of the performance. The first suspect is Walter Hyrum, the Playhouse manager. He has shown a dislike to the Mandrakes since they arrived in London. Another suspect is a jealous rival of Mandrake, Stephen Ringley. Ringley claims that Mandrake stole the disappearing act from him, though Mrs. Mandrake assures Holmes it isn't true. A final suspect is a mysterious woman, Celine Nightingale, who has been following the Mandrakes throughout their European tour.

A few additional facts are available. Immediately after Mandrake failed to reappear, all the lights in the Playhouse went dark for five minutes. Also, besides magic, Mandrake specializes in picking locks and creating disguises.

Because of professional secrecy, Mrs. Mandrake cannot tell Holmes how the disappearing act works. Therefore, Holmes must first find out a) how Mandrake disappeared, then b) who planned the disappearance, c) the motive, and d) where Mandrake is.

After Mrs. Mandrake has gone, Dr. Watson remarks that the lack of knowledge of how Mandrake even disappeared, let alone who is responsible, makes this an extremely difficult case.

The game is afoot!



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