

Early Twentieth-Century Fiction
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review

- ▶ the problem of language (Addie)
- ▶ the problem of “blood”
- ▶ the possibility of other affinities (“goddamn town fellow”)

where we watch from

Sometimes I think it aint none of us pure crazy and aint none of us pure sane until the balance of us talks him that-a-way. It's like it aint so much what a fellow does, but it's the way the majority of folks is looking at him when he does it. (233, qtd. by "CG")

But I aint so sho that ere a man has the right to say what is crazy and what aint. It's like there was a fellow in every man that's done a-past the sanity or the insanity, that watches the sane and the insane doings of that man with the same horror and the same astonishment. (238)

mini-workshop

1. underline background and summary
2. wiggly-underline the motive
3. write “THESIS” next to the thesis
4. discuss: are the terms of the thesis clear? Is it making an argumentative claim?

overview: elevating fiction

1893 Henry James, "The Middle Years"

1916 James Joyce, *Portrait*

1921 Virginia Woolf, *Monday or Tuesday*

1929 Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

1930 Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

begin again: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

1859 b. Edinburgh

1887 *A Study in Scarlet* (novel) in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* (periodical)

1890 *The Sign of Four* (novel) in *Lippincott's* (periodical)

1891 "Scandal in Bohemia" (story) in *Strand* (periodical), followed by more

1892 *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (collection) pub. by George Newnes

1893 kills off Holmes. Writes in other genres (historical novel)

1900 Boer War propaganda

1901 back to Holmes (*Hound of the Baskervilles*)

1910s-20s spiritualism, belief in fairies

1930 d.

discussion: on genre

- ▶ in what sense are these stories of the same kind? consider:
 1. *thematic* elements
 2. *formal* elements
 3. *rhetorical* elements

medium

The story has, I believe, been told more than once in the newspapers, but, like all such narratives, its effects is much less striking when set forth en bloc in a single half-column of print than when the facts slowly evolve before your own eyes, and the mystery clears gradually away as each new discovery furnishes a step which leads on to the complete truth. (“Engineer’s Thumb,” 153)

THE
STRAND MAGAZINE.

JANUARY, 1891.



THE Editor of THE STRAND MAGAZINE respectfully places his first number in the hands of the public.

THE STRAND MAGAZINE will be issued regularly in the early part of each month.

It will contain stories and articles by the best British writers, and special translations from the first foreign authors. These will be illustrated by eminent artists.

Special new features which have not hitherto found place in Magazine Literature will be introduced from time to time.

It may be said that with the immense number of existing Monthlies there is no necessity for another. It is believed, however, that THE STRAND MAGAZINE will soon occupy a position which will justify its existence.

The past efforts of the Editor in supplying cheap, healthful literature have met with such generous favour from the public, that he ventures to hope that this new enterprise will prove a popular one. He is conscious of many defects in the first issue, but will strive after improvement in the future.

Will those who like this number be so good as to assist, by making its merits, if they are kind enough to think that it has any, known to their friends.

His Majesty to regain it with his own hands."

"And when will you call?"

"At eight in the morning. She will not be up, so that we shall have a clear field. Besides, we must be prompt, for this marriage may mean a complete change in her life and habits. I must wire to the King without delay."

We had reached Baker-street, and had stopped at the door. He was searching his pockets for the key, when someone passing said—

"Good-night, Mister Sherlock Holmes."

There were several people on the pavement at the time, but the greeting appeared to come from a slim youth in an ulster, who had hurried by.

"I've heard that voice before," said Holmes, staring down the dimly lit street. "Now, I wonder who the deuce that could have been."

III.

I SLEPT at Baker-street that night, and we were engaged upon our toast and coffee in the morning when the King of Bohemia rushed into the room.

"You have really got it!" he cried, grasping Sherlock Holmes by either shoulder, and looking eagerly into his face.

"Not yet."

"But you have hopes?"

"I have hopes."

"Then, come. I am all impatience to be gone."

"We must have a cab."

"No, my brougham is waiting."

"Then that will simplify matters." We descended, and started off once more for Briony Lodge.

"Irene Adler is married," remarked Holmes.

"Married! When?"

"Yesterday."

"But to whom?"

"To an English lawyer named Norton."

"But she could not love him?"

"I am in hopes that she does."

"And why in hopes?"

"Because it would spare your Majesty all fear of future annoyance. If the lady loves her husband, she does not love your Majesty. If she does not love your Majesty, there is no reason why she should interfere with your Majesty's plan."

"It is true. And yet—! Well! I wish she had been of my own station!

What a queen she would have made!" He relapsed into a moody silence which was not broken, until we drew up in Serpentine-avenue.

The door of Briony Lodge was open, and an elderly woman stood upon the steps. She watched us with a sardonic eye as we stepped from the brougham.

"Mr. Sherlock Holmes, I believe?" said she.

"I am Mr. Holmes," answered my companion, looking at her with a questioning and rather startled gaze.

"Indeed! My mistress told me that you were likely to call. She

left this morning with her husband, by the 5.15 train from Charing-cross, for the Continent."

"What!" Sherlock Holmes staggered back, white with chagrin and surprise. "Do you mean that she has left England?"

"Never to return."



discussion

- ▶ Who's in charge in "Scandal?" And how do you know?

“Now it was clear to me that our lady of to-day had nothing in the house more precious to her than what we are in quest of.” (17)

gender trouble

“My dear Holmes, you would certainly have been burned, had you lived two centuries ago.” (2)

“She has the face of the most beautiful of women, and the mind of the most resolute of men.” (8)

next

- ▶ papers: late policy reminder
- ▶ Sayers, through chap. 5
- ▶ commonplace