

The Hound of the Baskervilles

by A. Conan Doyle

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Lowen Clarke discovered and created empowerment script in 2003. After years of research, the first book in empowerment script was published in 2015, a children's picturebook 'Sam the Tram's Dance Club' (available at Apple iTunes) The work was found to be capable of amazing results with trauma, and PTSD.

Some people have found reading in this new format a pleasure, others have found that connection and creativity is sparked, others met with and dealt with emotions, some find it is more efficient reading, some find it helps dyslexia, and others have found it has helped with deep PTSD, trauma and dissociation, when working with a therapist.
What will you find ?

We invite feedback for the research project : suggestions in end pages.

If you are using this as a strengthening exercise for PTSD, let your therapist know, so they can use skilled observation over a few months.

> READ > THIS > WAY
WAY < THIS < NOW < AND <

>THE > FIRST > LINE > reads > from > left > to > right.
.left < to < right < from < reads < line < second < The <

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Chapter 1

Mr. Sherlock Holmes

Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, never appeared before breakfast. One morning, however, he was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug behind him, and he had just picked up a stick of wood, bulbous-headed, like the one which had been used by the visitor the night before. It was a fine, thick piece of wood, nearly an inch across. "To James Mortimer, M.D., a friend of mine," was engraved upon it, with the date "1884." It was just such a stick as the old family practitioner used to carry in his pocket, and was very reassuring.

"Well, Watson, what do you make of it?"

Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation.

"How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head."

"I have, at least, a well-polished, silver-plated coffee-pot in front of me," he said. "But what do you make of our visitor's stick? Since we have been so unfortunate as to miss this, an accidental souvenir of his notion, let me hear you reconstruct the man by an examination of it."

"I think," said I, following as far as I could the methods of my medical companion, "that it is the stick of a man well-known to those who know him, and who is highly appreciated."

"Good!" said Holmes. "Excellent!"

"I think also that the probability is in favour of his being a
".foot on visiting his of deal great a does who practitioner country

"Why so?"

"Because this stick, though originally a very handsome one has been
practitioner town a imagine hardly can I that about knocked so
carrying it. The thick-iron ferrule is worn down, so it is evident
".it with walking of amount great a done has he that

"Perfectly sound!" said Holmes.

"And then again, there is the 'friends of the C.C.H.' I should
whose to hunt local the ,Hunt Something the be to that guess
members he has possibly given some surgical assistance, and which
".return in presentation small a him made has

"Really, Watson, you excel yourself," said Holmes, pushing back
in that say to bound am I" .cigarette a lighting and chair his
all the accounts which you have been so good as to give of my
own your underrated habitually have you achievements small own
abilities. It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but
possessing without people Some .light of conductor a are you
genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it. I confess, my
".debt your in much very am I that ,fellow dear

He had never said as much before, and I must admit that his words
his by piqued been often had I for ,pleasure keen me gave
indifference to my admiration and to the attempts which I had
to ,too ,proud was I .methods his to publicity give to made
think that I had so far mastered his system as to apply it in a
my from stick the took now He .approval his earned which way
hands and examined it for a few minutes with his naked eyes.
,cigarette his down laid he interest of expression an with Then
and carrying the cane to the window, he looked over it again with
.lens convex a

"Interesting, though elementary," said he as he returned to his two or one certainly are There" .settee the of corner favourite indications upon the stick. It gives us the basis for several ".deductions

"Has anything escaped me?" I asked with some self-importance. have I which consequence of nothing is there that trust I" overlooked?"

"I am afraid, my dear Watson, that most of your conclusions were be to ,meant I me stimulated you that said I When .erroneous frank, that in noting your fallacies I was occasionally guided this in wrong entirely are you that Not .truth the towards instance. The man is certainly a country practitioner. And he ".deal good a walks

"Then I was right."

"To that extent."

"But that was all."

"No, no, my dear Watson, not all--by no means all. I would more is doctor a to presentation a that ,example for ,suggest likely to come from a hospital than from a hunt, and that when words the hospital that before placed are .C' initials the 'Charing Cross' very naturally suggest themselves."

"You may be right."

"The probability lies in that direction. And if we take this as start to which from basis fresh a have we hypothesis working a our construction of this unknown visitor."

"Well, then, supposing that 'C.C.H.' does stand for 'Charing Cross "?draw we may inferences further what ',Hospital

"Do none suggest themselves? You know my methods. Apply them!"

"I can only think of the obvious conclusion that the man has
".country the to going before town in practised

"I think that we might venture a little farther than this. Look
probable most be it would occasion what On .light this in it at
that such a presentation would be made? When would his friends
the at Obviously ?will good their of pledge a him give to unite
moment when Dr. Mortimer withdrew from the service of the hospital
been has there know We .himself for practice a start to order in
a presentation. We believe there has been a change from a town
our stretching ,then ,it Is .practice country a to hospital
inference too far to say that the presentation was on the occasion
"?change the of

"It certainly seems probable."

"Now, you will observe that he could not have been on the staff
London a in -well man a only since ,hospital the of
practice could hold such a position, and such a one would not
the in was he If ?then ,he was What .country the into drift
hospital and yet not on the staff he could only have been a
senior a than more -house a or -house
student. And he left five years ago--the date is on the stick.
thin into vanishes practitioner family -middle ,grave your So
air, my dear Watson, and there emerges a young fellow under thirty,
a of possessor the and -absent ,unambitious ,amiable
favourite dog, which I should describe roughly as being larger
".mastiff a than smaller and terrier a than

I laughed incredulously as Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his
.ceiling the to up smoke of rings wavering little blew and settee

"As to the latter part, I have no means of checking you," said I,
particulars few a out find to difficult not is it least at but"
about the man's age and professional career." From my small
up turned and Directory Medical the down took I shelf medical
the name. There were several Mortimers, but only one who could
.aloud record his read I .visitor our be

"Mortimer, James, M.R.C.S., 1882, Grimpen, Dartmoor, Devon.
.Hospital Cross Charing at ,1884 to 1882 from -House
Winner of the Jackson prize for Comparative Pathology,
Corresponding 'Reversion a Disease Is' entitled essay with
member of the Swedish Pathological Society. Author of
'Progress We Do' .)1882 Lancet('Atavism of Freaks Some'
(Journal of Psychology, March, 1883). Medical Officer
".Barrow High and ,Thorsley ,Grimpen of parishes the for

"No mention of that local hunt, Watson," said Holmes with a
astutely very you as ,doctor country a but" ,smile mischievous
observed. I think that I am fairly justified in my inferences.
,amiable ,right remember I if ,said I ,adjectives the to As
unambitious, and absent-minded. It is my experience that it is
only ,testimonials receives who world this in man amiable an only
an unambitious one who abandons a London career for the country,
his not and stick his leaves who one -absent an only and
visiting-card after waiting an hour in your room."

"And the dog?"

"Has been in the habit of carrying this stick behind his master.
,middle the by tightly it held has dog the stick heavy a Being
and the marks of his teeth are very plainly visible. The dog's
in broad too is ,marks these between space the in shown as ,jaw
my opinion for a terrier and not broad enough for a mastiff. It
".spaniel -curly a is it ,Jove by --been have may

He had risen and paced the room as he spoke. Now he halted in
conviction of ring a such was There .window the of recess the
in his voice that I glanced up in surprise.

"My dear fellow, how can you possibly be so sure of that?"

"For the very simple reason that I see the dog himself on our
,move 'Don .owner its of ring the is there and -door very
I beg you, Watson. He is a professional brother of yours, and
dramatic the is Now .me to assistance of be may presence your
moment of fate, Watson, when you hear a step upon the stair which

or good for whether not know you and ,life your into walking is ill. What does Dr. James Mortimer, the man of science, ask of
"!in Come ?crime in specialist the ,Holmes Sherlock

The appearance of our visitor was a surprise to me, since I had ,tall very a was He ,practitioner country typical a expected thin man, with a long nose like a beak, which jutted out between brightly sparkling and together closely set ,eyes gray ,keen two from behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He was clad in a was -frock his for ,fashion slovenly rather but professional dingy and his trousers frayed. Though young, his long back was head his of thrust forward a with walked he and ,bowed already and a general air of peering benevolence. As he entered his eyes with it towards ran he and ,hand 'Holmes in stick the upon fell an exclamation of joy. "I am so very glad," said he. "I was not I .Office Shipping the in or here it left had I whether sure would not lose that stick for the world."

"A presentation, I see," said Holmes.

"Yes, sir."

"From Charing Cross Hospital?"

"From one or two friends there on the occasion of my marriage."

"Dear, dear, that's bad!" said Holmes, shaking his head.

Dr. Mortimer blinked through his glasses in mild astonishment.

"?bad it was Why"

"Only that you have disarranged our little deductions. Your

"?say you ,marriage

"Yes, sir. I married, and so left the hospital, and with it all home a make to necessary was It .practice consulting a of hopes of my own."

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"Come, come, we are not so far wrong, after all," said Holmes.
"--Mortimer James .Dr ,now And"

"Mister, sir, Mister--a humble M.R.C.S."

"And a man of precise mind, evidently."

"A dabbler in science, Mr. Holmes, a picker up of shells on the
is it that presume I .ocean unknown great the of shores
Mr. Sherlock Holmes whom I am addressing and not--"

"No, this is my friend Dr. Watson."

"Glad to meet you, sir. I have heard your name mentioned in
,much very me interest You .friend your of that with connection
Mr. Holmes. I had hardly expected so dolichocephalic a skull or
any have you Would .development -supra -well such
objection to my running my finger along your parietal fissure?
would ,available is original the until ,sir ,skull your of cast A
be an ornament to any anthropological museum. It is not my
".skull your covet I that confess I but ,fulsome be to intention

Sherlock Holmes waved our strange visitor into a chair. "You are
am I as ,sir ,perceive I ,thought of line your in enthusiast an
in mine," said he. "I observe from your forefinger that you make
".one lighting in hesitation no Have .cigarettes own your

The man drew out paper and tobacco and twirled the one up in the
fingers quivering ,long had He .dexterity surprising with other
as agile and restless as the antennae of an insect.

Holmes was silent, but his little darting glances showed me the
",sir ,presume I" .companion curious our in took he which interest
said he at last, "that it was not merely for the purpose of
here call to honour the me done have you that skull my examining
last night and again today?"

"No, sir, no; though I am happy to have had the opportunity of recognizing I because, Holmes, Mr. you to came I, well as that doing that I am myself an unpractical man and because I am suddenly, problem extraordinary and serious most a with confronted. Recognizing, as I do, that you are the second highest expert in"--Europe

"Indeed, sir! May I inquire who has the honour to be the first?"
.asperity some with Holmes asked

"To the man of precisely scientific mind the work of Monsieur
".strongly appeal always must Bertillon

"Then had you not better consult him?"

"I said, sir, to the precisely scientific mind. But as a practical, trust I, alone stand you that acknowledged is it affairs of man sir, that I have not inadvertently--"

"Just a little," said Holmes. "I think, Dr. Mortimer, you would plainly me tell kindly would you do more without if wisely do what the exact nature of the problem is in which you demand my".assistance

Chapter 2

Baskervilles the of Curse The

"I have in my pocket a manuscript," said Dr. James Mortimer.

"I observed it as you entered the room," said Holmes.

"It is an old manuscript."

"Early eighteenth century, unless it is a forgery."

"How can you say that, sir?"

"You have presented an inch or two of it to my examination all expert poor a be would It .talking been have you that time the who could not give the date of a document within a decade or so. .subject the upon monograph little my read have possibly may You I put that at 1730."

"The exact date is 1742." Dr. Mortimer drew it from his breast-Charles Sir by care my to committed was paper family This" .pocket Baskerville, whose sudden and tragic death some three months ago was I that say may I .Devonshire in excitement much so created his personal friend as well as his medical attendant. He was a unimaginative as and ,practical ,shrewd ,sir ,man -strong as I am myself. Yet he took this document very seriously, and eventually did as end an such just for prepared was mind his overtake him."

Holmes stretched out his hand for the manuscript and flattened it of use alternative the ,Watson ,observe will You" .knee his upon the long s and the short. It is one of several indications which ".date the fix to me enabled

I looked over his shoulder at the yellow paper and the faded script. ,large in below and " ,Hall Baskerville" :written was head the At scrawling figures: "1742."

"It appears to be a statement of some sort."

"Yes, it is a statement of a certain legend which runs in the
family Baskerville

"But I understand that it is something more modern and practical
?me consult to wish you which upon

"Most modern. A most practical, pressing matter, which must be
short is manuscript the But .hours -twenty within decided
and is intimately connected with the affair. With your permission
.you to it read will I

Holmes leaned back in his chair, placed his finger-tips together,
Mortimer .Dr .resignation of air an with ,eyes his closed and
turned the manuscript to the light and read in a high, cracking
:narrative -old ,curious following the voice

"Of the origin of the Hound of the Baskervilles there
direct a in come I as yet ,statements many been have
line from Hugo Baskerville, and as I had the story from
down it set have I ,his from it had also who ,father my
with all belief that it occurred even as is here set
the that ,sons my ,believe you have would I And .forth
same Justice which punishes sin may also most graciously
prayer by that but heavy so is ban no that and ,it forgive
and repentance it may be removed. Learn then from this
to rather but ,past the of fruits the fear to not story
be circumspect in the future, that those foul passions
not may grievously so suffered has family our whereby
again be loosed to our undoing.

"Know then that in the time of the Great Rebellion (the
most I Clarendon Lord learned the by which of history
earnestly commend to your attention) this Manor of
be it can nor ,name that of Hugo by held was Baskerville
gainsaid that he was a most wild, profane, and godless
,pardoned have might neighbours his ,truth in ,This .man

seeing that saints have never flourished in those parts,
humour cruel and wanton certain a him in was there but
which made his name a by-word through the West. It
dark so ,indeed ,if(love to came Hugo this that chanced
a passion may be known under so bright a name) the daughter
.estate Baskerville the near lands held who yeoman a of
But the young maiden, being discreet and of good repute,
So .name evil his feared she for ,him avoid ever would
it came to pass that one Michaelmas this Hugo, with five
upon down stole ,companions wicked and idle his of six or
the farm and carried off the maiden, her father and
had they When .knew well he as ,home from being brothers
brought her to the Hall the maiden was placed in an upper
long a to down sat friends his and Hugo while ,chamber
carouse, as was their nightly custom. Now, the poor lass
singing the at turned wits her have to like was upstairs
and shouting and terrible oaths which came up to her from
,Baskerville Hugo by used words the that say they for ,below
when he was in wine, were such as might blast the man who
that did she fear her of stress the in last At .them said
which might have daunted the bravest or most active man,
and(covered which ivy of growth the of aid the by for
still covers) the south wall she came down from under the
three being there ,moor the across homeward so and ,eaves
leagues betwixt the Hall and her father's farm.

"It chanced that some little time later Hugo left his
,things worse other --drink and food carry to guests
perchance--to his captive, and so found the cage empty
became he ,seem would it as ,Then .escaped bird the and
as one that hath a devil, for, rushing down the stairs
,table great the upon sprang he -dining the into
flagons and trenchers flying before him, and he cried
very that would he that company the all before aloud
night render his body and soul to the Powers of Evil if
revellers the while And .wench the overtake but might he
stood aghast at the fury of the man, one more wicked or,
that out cried ,rest the than drunken more ,be may it
they should put the hounds upon her. Whereat Hugo ran

should they that grooms his to crying ,house the from
saddle his mare and unkennel the pack, and giving the
the to them swung he 'maid the of kerchief a hounds
line, and so off full cry in the moonlight over the moor.

"Now, for some space the revellers stood agape, unable
But .haste such in done been had that all understand to
anon their bemused wits awoke to the nature of the deed
Everything .moorlands the upon done be to like was which
was now in an uproar, some calling for their pistols,
of flask another for some and ,horses their for some
wine. But at length some sense came back to their crazed
took ,number in thirteen ,them of whole the and ,minds
horse and started in pursuit. The moon shone clear above
course that taking ,abreast swiftly rode they and ,them
which the maid must needs have taken if she were to reach
.home own her

"They had gone a mile or two when they passed one of the
to cried they and ,moorlands the upon shepherds night
him to know if he had seen the hunt. And the man, as
could he that fear with crazed so was ,goes story the
scarce speak, but at last he said that he had indeed seen
But' .track her upon hounds the with ,maiden unhappy the
I have seen more than that,' said he, 'for Hugo Baskerville
behind mute ran there and ,mare black his upon me passed
him such a hound of hell as God forbid should ever be at
shepherd the cursed squires drunken the So '.heels my
and rode onward. But soon their skins turned cold, for
black the and ,moor the across galloping a came there
mare, dabbled with white froth, went past with trailing
close rode revellers the Then .saddle empty and bridle
together, for a great fear was on them, but they still
,alone been he had ,each though ,moor the over followed
would have been right glad to have turned his horse's
last at came they fashion this in slowly Riding .head
upon the hounds. These, though known for their valour
the at cluster a in whimpering were ,breed their and
head of a deep dip or goyal, as we call it, upon the

hackles starting with some and away slinking some moor
and staring eyes, gazing down the narrow valley before them.

"The company had come to a halt, more sober men, as you
them of most The started they when than guess may
would by no means advance, but three of them, the boldest,
goyal the down forward rode drunken most the be may it or
Now, it opened into a broad space in which stood two of
were which there seen be to still stones great those
set by certain forgotten peoples in the days of old.
there and clearing the upon bright shining was moon The
in the centre lay the unhappy maid where she had fallen,
sight the not was it But fatigue of and fear of dead
of her body, nor yet was it that of the body of Hugo
upon hair the raised which her near lying Baskerville
the heads of these three dare-devil roysterers, but it
throat his at plucking and Hugo over standing that was
there stood a foul thing, a great, black beast, shaped
mortal ever that hound any than larger yet hound a like
eye has rested upon. And even as they looked the thing
it as which on Baskerville Hugo of out throat the tore
turned its blazing eyes and dripping jaws upon them, the
still life dear for rode and fear with shrieked three
screaming, across the moor. One, it is said, died that
were twain other the and seen had he what of night very
but broken men for the rest of their days.

"Such is the tale, my sons, of the coming of the hound
ever sorely so family the plagued have to said is which
since. If I have set it down it is because that which
but is which that than terror less hath known clearly is
hinted at and guessed. Nor can it be denied that many
which deaths their in unhappy been have family the of
have been sudden, bloody, and mysterious. Yet may we
Providence of goodness infinite the in ourselves shelter
which would not forever punish the innocent beyond that
Holy in threatened is which generation fourth or third
Writ. To that Providence, my sons, I hereby commend
from forbear to caution of way by you counsel I and you

crossing the moor in those dark hours when the powers of
.exalted are evil

"[This from Hugo Baskerville to his sons Rodger and John,
their to thereof nothing say they that instructions with
sister Elizabeth.]"

When Dr. Mortimer had finished reading this singular narrative
across stared and forehead his on up spectacles his pushed he
at Mr. Sherlock Holmes. The latter yawned and tossed the end
.fire the into cigarette his of

"Well?" said he.

"Do you not find it interesting?"

"To a collector of fairy tales."

Dr. Mortimer drew a folded newspaper out of his pocket.

"Now, Mr. Holmes, we will give you something a little more recent.
It .year this of 14th May of Chronicle County Devon the is This
is a short account of the facts elicited at the death of Sir
".date that before days few a occurred which Baskerville Charles

My friend leaned a little forward and his expression became
:began and glasses his readjusted visitor Our .intent

"The recent sudden death of Sir Charles Baskerville, whose
candidate Liberal probable the as mentioned been has name
for Mid-Devon at the next election, has cast a gloom over
Baskerville at resided had Charles Sir Though .county the
Hall for a comparatively short period his amiability of
affection the won had generosity extreme and character
and respect of all who had been brought into contact with
refreshing is it riches nouveaux of days these In .him
to find a case where the scion of an old county family
own his make to able is days evil upon fallen has which
fortune and to bring it back with him to restore the

known well is as Charles Sir. line his of grandeur fallen
made large sums of money in South African speculation.
turns wheel the until on go who those than wise More
against them, he realized his gains and returned to England
his up took he since years two only is It .them with
residence at Baskerville Hall, and it is common talk how
improvement and reconstruction of schemes those were large
which have been interrupted by his death. Being himself
the that desire expressed openly his was it ,childless
whole countryside should, within his own lifetime, profit
reasons personal have will many and ,fortune good his by
for bewailing his untimely end. His generous donations
frequently been have charities county and local to
chronicled in these columns.

"The circumstances connected with the death of Sir Charles
the by up cleared entirely been have to said be cannot
inquest, but at least enough has been done to dispose of
.rise given has superstition local which to rumours those
There is no reason whatever to suspect foul play, or to
.causes natural but any from be could death that imagine
Sir Charles was a widower, and a man who may be said to
.mind of habit eccentric an of ways some in been have
In spite of his considerable wealth he was simple in his
Baskerville at servants indoor his and ,tastes personal
Hall consisted of a married couple named Barrymore, the
.housekeeper as wife the and butler as acting husband
Their evidence, corroborated by that of several friends,
time some for has health 'Charles Sir that show to tends
been impaired, and points especially to some affection
,colour of changes in itself manifesting ,heart the of
breathlessness, and acute attacks of nervous depression.
of attendant medical and friend the ,Mortimer James .Dr
the deceased, has given evidence to the same effect.

"The facts of the case are simple. Sir Charles Baskerville
walking of bed to going before night every habit the in was
down the famous yew alley of Baskerville Hall. The evidence
.custom his been had this that shows Barrymores the of

On the fourth of May Sir Charles had declared his intention Barrymore ordered had and ,London for day next starting of to prepare his luggage. That night he went out as usual in was he which of course the in ,walk nocturnal his for the habit of smoking a cigar. He never returned. At ,open still door hall the finding ,Barrymore 'o twelve became alarmed, and, lighting a lantern, went in search 'Charles Sir and ,wet been had day The .master his of footmarks were easily traced down the alley. Halfway down .moor the to on out leads which gate a is there walk this There were indications that Sir Charles had stood for some and ,alley the down proceeded then He .here time little it was at the far end of it that his body was discovered. statement the is explained been not has which fact One of Barrymore that his master's footprints altered their and -moor the passed he that time the from character that he appeared from thence onward to have been walking on was -horse gipsy a ,Murphy One .toes his upon the moor at no great distance at the time, but he appears .drink for worse the been have to confession own his by He declares that he heard cries but is unable to state were violence of signs No .came they direction what from to be discovered upon Sir Charles's person, and though incredible almost an to pointed evidence 'doctor the facial distortion--so great that Dr. Mortimer refused at patient and friend his indeed was it that believe to first who lay before him--it was explained that that is a symptom from death and dyspnoea of cases in unusual not is which cardiac exhaustion. This explanation was borne out by -long showed which ,examination -post the organic disease, and the coroner's jury returned a is It .evidence medical the with accordance in verdict well that this is so, for it is obviously of the utmost the at settle should heir 'Charles Sir that importance Hall and continue the good work which has been so sadly not coroner the of finding prosaic the Had .interrupted finally put an end to the romantic stories which have been been have might it ,affair the with connection in whispered difficult to find a tenant for Baskerville Hall. It is

.Baskerville Henry .Mr is kin of next the that understood
if he be still alive, the son of Sir Charles Baskerville's
was of heard last when man young The .brother younger
in America, and inquiries are being instituted with a
".fortune good his of him informing to view

Dr. Mortimer refolded his paper and replaced it in his pocket.
the with connection in ,Holmes .Mr ,facts public the are Those"
death of Sir Charles Baskerville."

"I must thank you," said Sherlock Holmes, "for calling my attention
I .interest of features some presents certainly which case a to
had observed some newspaper comment at the time, but I was
,cameos Vatican the of affair little that by preoccupied exceedingly
and in my anxiety to oblige the Pope I lost touch with several
all contains ,say you ,article This .cases English interesting
the public facts?"

"It does."

"Then let me have the private ones." He leaned back, put his
judicial and impassive most his assumed and ,together -finger
expression.

"In doing so," said Dr. Mortimer, who had begun to show signs of
confided not have I which that telling am I" ,emotion strong some
to anyone. My motive for withholding it from the coroner's inquiry
public the in himself placing from shrinks science of man a that is
position of seeming to indorse a popular superstition. I had the
would ,says paper the as ,Hall Baskerville that motive further
certainly remain untenanted if anything were done to increase its
thought I reasons these both For .reputation grim rather already
that I was justified in telling rather less than I knew, since
no is there you with but ,it from result could good practical no
reason why I should not be perfectly frank.

"The moor is very sparsely inhabited, and those who live near
saw I reason this For .together much very thrown are other each
a good deal of Sir Charles Baskerville. With the exception of

,naturalist the ,Stapleton .Mr and ,Hall Lafter of ,Frankland .Mr there are no other men of education within many miles. Sir brought illness his of chance the but ,man retiring a was Charles us together, and a community of interests in science kept us so. ,Africa South from information scientific much back brought had He and many a charming evening we have spent together discussing the .Hottentot the and Bushman the of anatomy comparative

"Within the last few months it became increasingly plain to me breaking the to strained was system nervous 'Charles Sir that point. He had taken this legend which I have read you exceedingly own his in walk would he although ,that so much --heart to grounds, nothing would induce him to go out upon the moor at was he ,Holmes .Mr ,you to appear may it as Incredible .night honestly convinced that a dreadful fate overhung his family, his of give to able was he which records the certainly and ancestors were not encouraging. The idea of some ghastly occasion one than more on and ,him haunted constantly presence he has asked me whether I had on my medical journeys at night .hound a of baying the heard or creature strange any seen ever The latter question he put to me several times, and always with .excitement with vibrated which voice a

"I can well remember driving up to his house in the evening some hall his at be to chanced He .event fatal the before weeks three door. I had descended from my gig and was standing in front of stare and shoulder my over themselves fix eyes his saw I when ,him past me with an expression of the most dreadful horror. I whisked I which something of glimpse a catch to time just had and round took to be a large black calf passing at the head of the drive. to down go to compelled was I that he was alarmed and excited So the spot where the animal had been and look around for it. It worst the make to appeared incident the and ,however ,gone was impression upon his mind. I stayed with him all the evening, had he which emotion the explain to ,occasion that on was it and shown, that he confided to my keeping that narrative which I read because episode small this mention I .came I first when you to it assumes some importance in view of the tragedy which followed, entirely was matter the that time the at convinced was I but

trivial and that his excitement had no justification.

"It was at my advice that Sir Charles was about to go to London. in anxiety constant the and ,affected ,knew I ,was heart His which he lived, however chimerical the cause of it might be, thought I .health his upon effect serious a having evidently was that a few months among the distractions of town would send him much was who friend mutual a ,Stapleton .Mr .man new a back concerned at his state of health, was of the same opinion. At .catastrophe terrible this came instant last the

"On the night of Sir Charles's death Barrymore the butler, who ,me to horseback on groom the Perkins sent ,discovery the made and as I was sitting up late I was able to reach Baskerville corroborated and checked I .event the of hour an within Hall all the facts which were mentioned at the inquest. I followed -moor the at spot the saw I ,alley yew the down footsteps the where he seemed to have waited, I remarked the change in the shape other no were there that noted I ,point that after prints the of footsteps save those of Barrymore on the soft gravel, and finally until touched been not had which ,body the examined carefully I my arrival. Sir Charles lay on his face, his arms out, his fingers strong some with convulsed features his and ,ground the into dug emotion to such an extent that I could hardly have sworn to his .kind any of injury physical no certainly was There .identity But one false statement was made by Barrymore at the inquest. .body the round ground the upon traces no were there that said He He did not observe any. But I did--some little distance off, but ".clear and fresh

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's or a woman's?"

Dr. Mortimer looked strangely at us for an instant, and his voice .answered he as whisper a to almost sank

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

Chapter 3
Problem The

I confess at these words a shudder passed through me. There was himself was he that showed which voice 'doctor the in thrill a deeply moved by that which he told us. Holmes leaned forward in shot which glitter dry ,hard the had eyes his and excitement his from them when he was keenly interested.

"You saw this?"

"As clearly as I see you."

"And you said nothing?"

"What was the use?"

"How was it that no one else saw it?"

"The marks were some twenty yards from the body and no one gave not I had so done have should I suppose 'don I .thought a them known this legend."

"There are many sheep-dogs on the moor?"

"No doubt, but this was no sheep-dog."

"You say it was large?"

"Enormous."

"But it had not approached the body?"

"No."

"What sort of night was it?"

"Damp and raw."

"But not actually raining?"

"No."

"What is the alley like?"

"There are two lines of old yew hedge, twelve feet high and
".across feet eight about is centre the in walk The .impenetrable

"Is there anything between the hedges and the walk?"

"Yes, there is a strip of grass about six feet broad on either side."

"I understand that the yew hedge is penetrated at one point by a gate?"

"Yes, the wicket-gate which leads on to the moor."

"Is there any other opening?"

"None."

"So that to reach the yew alley one either has to come down it
-moor the by it enter to else or house the from

"There is an exit through a summer-house at the far end."

"Had Sir Charles reached this?"

"No; he lay about fifty yards from it."

"Now, tell me, Dr. Mortimer--and this is important--the marks
"?grass the on not and path the on were saw you which

"No marks could show on the grass."

"Were they on the same side of the path as the moor-gate?"

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"Yes; they were on the edge of the path on the same side as the
-moor

"You interest me exceedingly. Another point. Was the
"?closed -wicket

"Closed and padlocked."

"How high was it?"

"About four feet high."

"Then anyone could have got over it?"

"Yes."

"And what marks did you see by the wicket-gate?"

"None in particular."

"Good heaven! Did no one examine?"

"Yes, I examined, myself."

"And found nothing?"

"It was all very confused. Sir Charles had evidently stood there
".minutes ten or five for

"How do you know that?"

"Because the ash had twice dropped from his cigar."

"Excellent! This is a colleague, Watson, after our own heart.

"?marks the But

"He had left his own marks all over that small patch of gravel.

".others no discern could I

Sherlock Holmes struck his hand against his knee with an impatient gesture

"If I had only been there!" he cried. "It is evidently a case of opportunities immense presented which one and interest extraordinary to the scientific expert. That gravel path upon which I might have defaced and rain the by smudged this ere long been has much so read by the clogs of curious peasants. Oh, Dr. Mortimer, Dr. Mortimer, indeed have you been called have not should you that think to much to answer for."

"I could not call you in, Mr. Holmes, without disclosing these not for reasons my given already have I and world the to facts wishing to do so. Besides, besides--"

"Why do you hesitate?"

"There is a realm in which the most acute and most experienced .helpless is detectives of

"You mean that the thing is supernatural?"

"I did not positively say so."

"No, but you evidently think it."

"Since the tragedy, Mr. Holmes, there have come to my ears several .Nature of order settled the with reconcile to hard are which incidents

"For example?"

"I find that before the terrible event occurred several people this with corresponds which moor the upon creature a seen had Baskerville demon, and which could not possibly be any animal .creature huge a was it that agreed all They .science to known luminous, ghastly, and spectral. I have cross-examined these men, a one and .farrier a one .countryman -hard a them of one moorland farmer, who all tell the same story of this dreadful .legend the of -hell the to corresponding exactly .apparition

I assure you that there is a reign of terror in the district,
"night at moor the cross will who man hardy a is it that and

"And you, a trained man of science, believe it to be supernatural?"

"I do not know what to believe."

Holmes shrugged his shoulders. "I have hitherto confined my
have I way modest a In" .he said ",world this to investigations
combated evil, but to take on the Father of Evil himself would,
the that admit must you Yet .task a ambitious too be ,perhaps
footmark is material."

"The original hound was material enough to tug a man's throat out,
".well as diabolical was he yet and

"I see that you have quite gone over to the supernaturalists.
why ,views these hold you If .this me tell ,Mortimer .Dr ,now But
have you come to consult me at all? You tell me in the same
and ,death 'Charles Sir investigate to useless is it that breath
that you desire me to do it."

"I did not say that I desired you to do it."

"Then, how can I assist you?"

"By advising me as to what I should do with Sir Henry Baskerville,
his at looked Mortimer --"Station Waterloo at arrives who
watch--"in exactly one hour and a quarter."

"He being the heir?"

"Yes. On the death of Sir Charles we inquired for this young
From .Canada in farming been had he that found and gentleman
the accounts which have reached us he is an excellent fellow
trustee a as but man medical a as not now speak I .way every in
and executor of Sir Charles's will."

"There is no other claimant, I presume?"

"None. The only other kinsman whom we have been able to trace whom of brothers three of youngest the ,Baskerville Rodger was poor Sir Charles was the elder. The second brother, who died was ,Rodger ,third The .Henry lad this of father the is ,young the black sheep of the family. He came of the old masterful the of ,me tell they ,image very the was and strain Baskerville family picture of old Hugo. He made England too hot to hold him, .fever yellow of 1876 in there died and ,America Central to fled Henry is the last of the Baskervilles. In one hour and five that wire a had have I .Station Waterloo at him meet I minutes he arrived at Southampton this morning. Now, Mr. Holmes, what "?him with do to me advise you would

"Why should he not go to the home of his fathers?"

"It seems natural, does it not? And yet, consider that every sure feel I .fate evil an with meets there goes who Baskerville that if Sir Charles could have spoken with me before his death the of last the ,this bringing against me warned have would he old race, and the heir to great wealth, to that deadly place. whole the of prosperity the that denied be cannot it yet And poor, bleak countryside depends upon his presence. All the good ground the to crash will Charles Sir by done been has which work if there is no tenant of the Hall. I fear lest I should be swayed is that and ,matter the in interest obvious own my by much too why I bring the case before you and ask for your advice."

Holmes considered for a little time.

"Put into plain words, the matter is this," said he. "In your an Dartmoor makes which agency diabolical a is there opinion unsafe abode for a Baskerville--that is your opinion?"

"At least I might go the length of saying that there is some ".so be may this that evidence

"Exactly. But surely, if your supernatural theory be correct, in as easily as London in evil man young the work could it Devonshire. A devil with merely local powers like a parish .thing a inconceivable too be would vestry

"You put the matter more flippantly, Mr. Holmes, than you would these with contact personal into brought were you if do probably things. Your advice, then, as I understand it, is that the young in comes He .London in as Devonshire in safe as be will man fifty minutes. What would you recommend?"

"I recommend, sir, that you take a cab, call off your spaniel who meet to Waterloo to proceed and ,door front my at scratching is Sir Henry Baskerville."

"And then?"

"And then you will say nothing to him at all until I have made .matter the about mind my up

"How long will it take you to make up your mind?"

"Twenty-four hours. At ten o'clock tomorrow, Dr. Mortimer, I and ,here me upon call will you if you to obliged much be will it will be of help to me in my plans for the future if you will .you with Baskerville Henry Sir bring

"I will do so, Mr. Holmes." He scribbled the appointment on his -absent ,peering ,strange his in off hurried and -shirt fashion. Holmes stopped him at the head of the stair.

"Only one more question, Dr. Mortimer. You say that before Sir apparition this saw people several death 'Baskerville Charles upon the moor?"

"Three people did."

"Did any see it after?"

"I have not heard of any."

"Thank you. Good-morning."

Holmes returned to his seat with that quiet look of inward
him before task congenial a had he that meant which satisfaction

"Going out, Watson?"

"Unless I can help you."

"No, my dear fellow, it is at the hour of action that I turn to
some from unique really ,splendid is this But .aid for you
points of view. When you pass Bradley's, would you ask him to
It .you Thank ?tobacco shag strongest the of pound a up send
would be as well if you could make it convenient not to return
impressions compare to glad very be should I Then .evening before
as to this most interesting problem which has been submitted to
".morning this us

I knew that seclusion and solitude were very necessary for my
which during concentration mental intense of hours those in friend
he weighed every particle of evidence, constructed alternative
mind his up made and ,other the against one balanced ,theories
as to which points were essential and which immaterial. I
Baker to return not did and club my at day the spent therefore
Street until evening. It was nearly nine o'clock when I found
.more once -sitting the in myself

My first impression as I opened the door was that a fire had
light the that smoke with filled so was room the for ,out broken
of the lamp upon the table was blurred by it. As I entered,
fumes acrid the was it for ,rest at set were fears my ,however
of strong coarse tobacco which took me by the throat and set me
in Holmes of vision vague a had I haze the Through .coughing
his dressing-gown coiled up in an armchair with his black clay
.him around lay paper of rolls Several .lips his between pipe

"Caught cold, Watson?" said he.

"No, it's this poisonous atmosphere."

"I suppose it is pretty thick, now that you mention it."

"Thick! It is intolerable."

"Open the window, then! You have been at your club all day, I
".perceive

"My dear Holmes!"

"Am I right?"

"Certainly, but how?"

He laughed at my bewildered expression. "There is a delightful exercise to pleasure a it makes which ,Watson ,you about freshness any small powers which I possess at your expense. A gentleman in immaculate returns He .day miry and showery a on forth goes the evening with the gloss still on his hat and his boots. He has intimate with man a not is He .day all therefore fixture a been friends. Where, then, could he have been? Is it not obvious?"

"Well, it is rather obvious."

"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance
"?been have I that think you do Where .observes ever

"A fixture also."

"On the contrary, I have been to Devonshire."

"In spirit?"

"Exactly. My body has remained in this armchair and has, I regret and coffee of pots large two absence my in consumed ,observe to an incredible amount of tobacco. After you left I sent down to and ,moor the of portion this of map Ordnance the for 'Stamford

my spirit has hovered over it all day. I flatter myself that I
".about way my find could

"A large-scale map, I presume?"

"Very large."

He unrolled one section and held it over his knee. "Here you
is That .us concerns which district particular the have
Baskerville Hall in the middle."

"With a wood round it?"

"Exactly. I fancy the yew alley, though not marked under that
,perceive you as ,moor the with ,line this along stretch must ,name
upon the right of it. This small clump of buildings here is the
.headquarters his has Mortimer .Dr friend our where ,Grimpen of hamlet
Within a radius of five miles there are, as you see, only a very
mentioned was which ,Hall Lafter is Here .dwellings scattered few
in the narrative. There is a house indicated here which may be
,right remember I if --naturalist the of residence the
was his name. Here are two moorland farmhouses, High Tor and
of prison convict great the away miles fourteen Then .Foulmire
Princetown. Between and around these scattered points extends the
which upon stage the is ,then ,This .moor lifeless ,desolate
tragedy has been played, and upon which we may help to play it again."

"It must be a wild place."

"Yes, the setting is a worthy one. If the devil did desire to
"--men of affairs the in hand a have

"Then you are yourself inclining to the supernatural explanation."

"The devil's agents may be of flesh and blood, may they not?
one The .outset the at us for waiting questions two are There
is whether any crime has been committed at all; the second is,
.Dr if ,course Of ?committed it was how and crime the is what
Mortimer's surmise should be correct, and we are dealing with

of end an is there ,Nature of laws ordinary the outside forces
our investigation. But we are bound to exhaust all other
shut 'we think I .one this upon back falling before hypotheses
that window again, if you don't mind. It is a singular thing,
concentration a helps atmosphere concentrated a that find I but
of thought. I have not pushed it to the length of getting into
.convictions my of outcome logical the is that but ,think to box a
Have you turned the case over in your mind?"

"Yes, I have thought a good deal of it in the course of the day."

"What do you make of it?"

"It is very bewildering."

"It has certainly a character of its own. There are points of
.example for ,footprints the in change That .it about distinction
What do you make of that?"

"Mortimer said that the man had walked on tiptoe down that
".alley the of portion

"He only repeated what some fool had said at the inquest. Why
"?alley the down tiptoe on walk man a should

"What then?"

"He was running, Watson--running desperately, running for his life,
".face his upon dead fell --heart his burst he until running

"Running from what?"

"There lies our problem. There are indications that the man was
".run to began he ever before fear with crazed

"How can you say that?"

"I am presuming that the cause of his fears came to him across a moor, the most probable seems it and, so were that If the man who had lost his wits would have run from the house instead he, true as taken be may evidence 'gipsy the If .it towards of ran with cries for help in the direction where help was least, night that for waiting he was whom, again, Then .be to likely and why was he waiting for him in the yew alley rather than in his own house?"

"You think that he was waiting for someone?"

"The man was elderly and infirm. We can understand his taking an evening stroll on the damp ground but, on a inclement night the but, stroll evening Is it natural that he should stand for five or ten minutes, as given have should I than sense practical more with, Mortimer .Dr him credit for, deduced from the cigar ash?"

"But he went out every evening."

"I think it unlikely that he waited at the moor-gate every evening. That the avoided he that is evidence the, contrary the On night he waited there. It was the night before he made his becomes It .Watson, shape takes thing The .London for departure coherent. Might I ask you to hand me my violin, and we will have we until business this upon thought further all postpone had the advantage of meeting Dr. Mortimer and Sir Henry .morning the in Baskerville

Chapter 4

Baskerville Henry Sir

Our breakfast table was cleared early, and Holmes waited in his
were clients Our .interview promised the for -dressing
punctual to their appointment, for the clock had just struck ten
.baronet young the by followed ,up shown was Mortimer .Dr when
The latter was a small, alert, dark-eyed man about thirty years
a and eyebrows black thick with ,built sturdily very ,age of
strong, pugnacious face. He wore a ruddy-tinted tweed suit and
of most spent has who one of appearance -weather the had
his time in the open air, and yet there was something in his
which bearing his of assurance quiet the and eye steady
indicated the gentleman.

"This is Sir Henry Baskerville," said Dr. Mortimer.

"Why, yes," said he, "and the strange thing is, Mr. Sherlock
you to round coming proposed not had here friend my if that ,Holmes
this morning I should have come on my own account. I understand
morning this one had 'I and ,puzzles little out think you that
which wants more thinking out than I am able to give it."

"Pray take a seat, Sir Henry. Do I understand you to say
since experience remarkable some had yourself have you that
you arrived in London?"

"Nothing of much importance, Mr. Holmes. Only a joke, as like
which ,letter a it call can you if ,letter this was It .not as
reached me this morning."

He laid an envelope upon the table, and we all bent over it. It
Sir" ,address The .colour in grayish ,quality common of was
Henry Baskerville, Northumberland Hotel," was printed in rough
of date the and " ,Cross Charing" -post the ;characters
posting the preceding evening.

"Who knew that you were going to the Northumberland Hotel?" asked
.visitor our at across keenly glancing ,Holmes

"No one could have known. We only decided after I met Dr. Mortimer."

"But Dr. Mortimer was no doubt already stopping there?"

"No, I had been staying with a friend," said the doctor.

"There was no possible indication that we intended to go to this
".hotel

"Hum! Someone seems to be very deeply interested in your movements."
folded paper foolscap of -half a took he envelope the of Out
into four. This he opened and spread flat upon the table. Across
expedient the by formed been had sentence single a it of middle the
of pasting printed words upon it. It ran:

As you value your life or your reason keep away from the moor.

The word "moor" only was printed in ink.

"Now," said Sir Henry Baskerville, "perhaps you will tell me, Mr.
is it who and ,that of meaning the is thunder in what ,Holmes
that takes so much interest in my affairs?"

"What do you make of it, Dr. Mortimer? You must allow that there
"?rate any at ,this about supernatural nothing is

"No, sir, but it might very well come from someone who was
".supernatural is business the that convinced

"What business?" asked Sir Henry sharply. "It seems to me that
own my about do I than more deal great a know gentlemen you all
affairs."

"You shall share our knowledge before you leave this room, Sir
will We" .Holmes Sherlock said ",that you promise I .Henry
confine ourselves for the present with your permission to this

and together put been have must which ,document interesting very posted yesterday evening. Have you yesterday's Times, Watson?"

"It is here in the corner."

"Might I trouble you for it--the inside page, please, with the eyes his running ,it over swiftly glanced He "?articles leading up and down the columns. "Capital article this on free trade. .it from extract an you give to me Permit

'You may be cajoled into imagining that your own special trade ,tariff protective a by encouraged be will industry own your or but it stands to reason that such legislation must in the long our of value the diminish ,country the from wealth away keep run imports, and lower the general conditions of life in this island.'

"What do you think of that, Watson?" cried Holmes in high glee, think you 'Don" .satisfaction with together hands his rubbing that is an admirable sentiment?"

Dr. Mortimer looked at Holmes with an air of professional interest, .me upon eyes dark puzzled of pair a turned Baskerville Henry Sir and

"I don't know much about the tariff and things of that kind," said as far so trail the off bit a got 'we me to seems it but" ,he that note is concerned."

"On the contrary, I think we are particularly hot upon the trail, ,do you than methods my about more knows here Watson .Henry Sir but I fear that even he has not quite grasped the significance ".sentence this of

"No, I confess that I see no connection."

"And yet, my dear Watson, there is so very close a connection that ',your' ',your' ',You' .other the of out extracted is one the 'life,' 'reason,' 'value,' 'keep away,' 'from the.' Don't you "?taken been have words these whence now see

"By thunder, you're right! Well, if that isn't smart!" cried
Henry Sir

"If any possible doubt remained it is settled by the fact that
.piece one in out cut are 'the from' and 'away keep'

"Well, now--so it is!"

"Really, Mr. Holmes, this exceeds anything which I could have
.amazement in friend my at gazing ,Mortimer .Dr said ",imagined
"I could understand anyone saying that the words were from a
came it that add and ,which name should you that but ;newspaper
from the leading article, is really one of the most remarkable
"?it do you did How .known ever have I which things

"I presume, Doctor, that you could tell the skull of a negro from
"?Esquimau an of that

"Most certainly."

"But how?"

"Because that is my special hobby. The differences are obvious.
,curve maxillary the ,angle facial the ,crest -supra The
the--"

"But this is my special hobby, and the differences are equally
the between eyes my to difference much as is There .obvious
leaded bourgeois type of a Times article and the slovenly print
your between be could there as paper -half evening an of
negro and your Esquimau. The detection of types is one of the
in expert special the to knowledge of branches elementary most
crime, though I confess that once when I was very young I confused
Times a But .News Morning Western the with Mercury Leeds the
leader is entirely distinctive, and these words could have been
strong the yesterday done was it As .else nothing from taken
probability was that we should find the words in yesterday's issue."

"So far as I can follow you, then, Mr. Holmes," said Sir Henry
"--scissors a with message this out cut someone" ,Baskerville

"Nail-scissors," said Holmes. "You can see that it was a very
snips two take to had cutter the since ,scissors -short
over 'keep away.'"

"That is so. Someone, then, cut out the message with a pair of
"--paste with it pasted ,scissors -short

"Gum," said Holmes.

"With gum on to the paper. But I want to know why the word 'moor'
"?written been have should

"Because he could not find it in print. The other words were all
less be would 'moor' but ,issue any in found be might and simple
common."

"Why, of course, that would explain it. Have you read anything
"?Holmes .Mr ,message this in else

"There are one or two indications, and yet the utmost pains have
is observe you ,address The .clues all remove to taken been
printed in rough characters. But the Times is a paper which is
We .educated highly the of those but hands any in found seldom
may take it, therefore, that the letter was composed by an
his and ,one uneducated an as pose to wished who man educated
effort to conceal his own writing suggests that that writing
will you ,Again .you by ,known be to come or ,known be might
observe that the words are not gummed on in an accurate line,
example for ',Life' .others than higher much are some that but
is quite out of its proper place. That may point to carelessness
the of part the upon hurry and agitation to point may it or
cutter. On the whole I incline to the latter view, since the
the that unlikely is it and ,important evidently was matter
composer of such a letter would be careless. If he were in a
in be should he why question interesting the up opens it hurry
a hurry, since any letter posted up to early morning would reach

fear composer the Did .hotel his leave would he before Henry Sir
an interruption--and from whom?"

"We are coming now rather into the region of guesswork," said
.Mortimer .Dr

"Say, rather, into the region where we balance probabilities and
,imagination the of use scientific the is It .likely most the choose
but we have always some material basis on which to start our
am I but ,doubt no ,guess a it call would you ,Now .speculation
almost certain that this address has been written in a hotel."

"How in the world can you say that?"

"If you examine it carefully you will see that both the pen and
spluttered has pen The .trouble writer the given have ink the
twice in a single word and has run dry three times in a short
.bottle the in ink little very was there that showing ,address
Now, a private pen or ink-bottle is seldom allowed to be in such
But .rare quite be must two the of combination the and ,state a
you know the hotel ink and the hotel pen, where it is rare to get
that saying in hesitation little very have I ,Yes .else anything
could we examine the waste-paper baskets of the hotels around
Times mutilated the of remains the found we until Cross Charing
leader we could lay our hands straight upon the person who sent
"?this 'What !Halloa !Halloa .message singular this

He was carefully examining the foolscap, upon which the words
.eyes his from two or inch an only it holding ,pasted were

"Well?"

"Nothing," said he, throwing it down. "It is a blank half-sheet
have we think I .it upon -water a even without ,paper of
drawn as much as we can from this curious letter; and now, Sir
you since you to happened interest of else anything has ,Henry
have been in London?"

"Why, no, Mr. Holmes. I think not."

"You have not observed anyone follow or watch you?"

"I seem to have walked right into the thick of a dime novel,"
watch or follow anyone should thunder in Why" .visitor our said
me?"

"We are coming to that. You have nothing else to report to us
"?matter this into go we before

"Well, it depends upon what you think worth reporting."

"I think anything out of the ordinary routine of life well worth
".reporting

Sir Henry smiled. "I don't know much of British life yet, for I
But .Canada in and States the in time my all nearly spent have
I hope that to lose one of your boots is not part of the ordinary
".here over life of routine

"You have lost one of your boots?"

"My dear sir," cried Dr. Mortimer, "it is only mislaid. You will
of use the is What .hotel the to return you when it find
troubling Mr. Holmes with trifles of this kind?"

"Well, he asked me for anything outside the ordinary routine."

"Exactly," said Holmes, "however foolish the incident may seem.
"?say you ,boots your of one lost have You

"Well, mislaid it, anyhow. I put them both outside my door last
no get could I .morning the in one only was there and ,night
sense out of the chap who cleans them. The worst of it is that
never have I and ,Strand the in night last pair the bought only I
had them on."

"If you have never worn them, why did you put them out to be
"?cleaned

"They were tan boots and had never been varnished. That was why
".out them put I

"Then I understand that on your arrival in London yesterday you
"?boots of pair a bought and once at out went

"I did a good deal of shopping. Dr. Mortimer here went round
dress must I there down squire be to am I if ,see You .me with
the part, and it may be that I have got a little careless in my
--boots brown these bought I things other Among .West out ways
gave six dollars for them--and had one stolen before ever I had
".feet my on them

"It seems a singularly useless thing to steal," said Sherlock
it that belief 'Mortimer .Dr share I that confess I" .Holmes
will not be long before the missing boot is found."

"And, now, gentlemen," said the baronet with decision, "it seems
I that little the about enough quite spoken have I that me to
know. It is time that you kept your promise and gave me a full
".at driving all are we what of account

"Your request is a very reasonable one," Holmes answered. "Dr.
story your tell to than better do not could you think I ,Mortimer
as you told it to us."

Thus encouraged, our scientific friend drew his papers from his
the upon done had he as case whole the presented and pocket
morning before. Sir Henry Baskerville listened with the deepest
.surprise of exclamation occasional an with and attention

"Well, I seem to have come into an inheritance with a vengeance,"
'I ,course Of" .finished was narrative long the when he said
heard of the hound ever since I was in the nursery. It's the pet
seriously it taking of thought never I though ,family the of story
before. But as to my uncle's death--well, it all seems boiling
seem 'don You .yet clear it get 'can I and ,head my in up
quite to have made up your mind whether it's a case for a

"clergyman or policeman

"Precisely."

"And now there's this affair of the letter to me at the hotel.

"place its into fits that suppose I

"It seems to show that someone knows more than we do about what
.Mortimer .Dr said ",moor the upon on goes

"And also," said Holmes, "that someone is not ill-disposed towards
".danger of you warn they since ,you

"Or it may be that they wish, for their own purposes, to scare
".away me

"Well, of course, that is possible also. I am very much indebted
which problem a to me introducing for ,Mortimer .Dr ,you to
presents several interesting alternatives. But the practical
is it whether is ,Henry Sir ,decide to have now we which point
or is not advisable for you to go to Baskerville Hall."

"Why should I not go?"

"There seems to be danger."

"Do you mean danger from this family fiend or do you mean danger
"?beings human from

"Well, that is what we have to find out."

"Whichever it is, my answer is fixed. There is no devil in hell,
me prevent can who earth upon man no is there and ,Holmes .Mr
from going to the home of my own people, and you may take that
face his and knitted brows dark His ".answer final my be to
flushed to a dusky red as he spoke. It was evident that the fiery
last their this in extinct not was Baskervilles the of temper
representative. "Meanwhile," said he, "I have hardly had time
a for thing big a 'It .me told have you that all over think to

man to have to understand and to decide at one sitting. I should
.Now .mind my up make to myself by hour quiet a have to like
look here, Mr. Holmes, it's half-past eleven now and I am going
.Dr ,friend your and you Suppose .hotel my to away right back
Watson, come round and lunch with us at two. I'll be able to
".me strikes thing this how then clearly more you tell

"Is that convenient to you, Watson?"

"Perfectly."

"Then you may expect us. Shall I have a cab called?"

"I'd prefer to walk, for this affair has flurried me rather."

"I'll join you in a walk, with pleasure," said his companion.

"Then we meet again at two o'clock. Au revoir, and good-morning!"

We heard the steps of our visitors descend the stair and the
from changed had Holmes instant an In .door front the of bang
the languid dreamer to the man of action.

"Your hat and boots, Watson, quick! Not a moment to lose!" He
in again back was and -dressing his in room his into rushed
a few seconds in a frock-coat. We hurried together down the
were Baskerville and Mortimer .Dr .street the into and stairs
still visible about two hundred yards ahead of us in the
.Street Oxford of direction

"Shall I run on and stop them?"

"Not for the world, my dear Watson. I am perfectly satisfied with
,wise are friends Our .mine tolerate will you if company your
for it is certainly a very fine morning for a walk."

He quickened his pace until we had decreased the distance which
yards hundred a keeping still ,Then .half about by us divided
behind, we followed into Oxford Street and so down Regent Street.

upon ,window shop a into stared and stopped friends our Once
which Holmes did the same. An instant afterwards he gave a little
eager his of direction the following ,and ,satisfaction of cry
eyes, I saw that a hansom cab with a man inside which had halted on
.again onward slowly proceeding now was street the of side other the

"There's our man, Watson! Come along! We'll have a good look
".more no do can we if ,him at

At that instant I was aware of a bushy black beard and a pair of
.cab the of window side the through us upon turned eyes piercing
Instantly the trapdoor at the top flew up, something was screamed
.Street Regent down off madly flew cab the and ,driver the to
Holmes looked eagerly round for another, but no empty one was in
the of stream the amid pursuit wild in dashed he Then .sight
traffic, but the start was too great, and already the cab was
.sight of out

"There now!" said Holmes bitterly as he emerged panting and
such ever Was" .vehicles of tide the from vexation with white
bad luck and such bad management, too? Watson, Watson, if you
against it set and also this record will you man honest an are
my successes!"

"Who was the man?"

"I have not an idea."

"A spy?"

"Well, it was evident from what we have heard that Baskerville
in been has he since someone by shadowed closely very been has
town. How else could it be known so quickly that it was the
followed had they If ?chosen had he which Hotel Northumberland
him the first day I argued that they would follow him also the
the to over strolled twice I that observed have may You .second
window while Dr. Mortimer was reading his legend."

"Yes, I remember."

"I was looking out for loiterers in the street, but I saw none. This Watson, man clever at dealing with deep, and though I have not finally made up my mind whether it is I, us with touch in it, which agency malevolent or benevolent I am conscious always of power and design. When our friends left I invisible their down marking of hopes the in them followed once at attendant. So wily was he that he had not trusted himself upon loiter could he that so cab a of himself availed had he but, foot behind or dash past them and so escape their notice. His method he cab a take to were they if that advantage additional the had was all ready to follow them. It has, however, one obvious disadvantage."

"It puts him in the power of the cabman."

"Exactly."

"What a pity we did not get the number!"

"My dear Watson, clumsy as I have been, you surely do not seriously mean our is 2704. No number the get to neglected I that imagine. But that is no use to us for the moment."

"I fail to see how you could have done more."

"On observing the cab I should have instantly turned and walked hired have leisure my at then should I direction other the in a second cab and followed the first at a respectful distance, or, waited and Hotel Northumberland the to driven have, still better there. When our unknown had followed Baskerville home we should himself upon game own his playing of opportunity the had have and seeing where he made for. As it is, by an indiscreet extraordinary with of advantage taken was which eagerness quickness and energy by our opponent, we have betrayed ourselves. Man our lost and"

The Hound of the Baskervilles

We had been sauntering slowly down Regent Street during this long had ,companion his with ,Mortimer .Dr and ,conversation vanished in front of us.

"There is no object in our following them," said Holmes. "The what see must We .return not will and departed has shadow further cards we have in our hands and play them with decision. "?cab the within face 'man that to swear you Could

"I could swear only to the beard."

"And so could I--from which I gather that in all probability it no has errand an delicate so upon man clever A .one false a was use for a beard save to conceal his features. Come in here, "!Watson

He turned into one of the district messenger offices, where he .manager the by greeted warmly was

"Ah, Wilson, I see you have not forgotten the little case in "?you help to fortune good the had I which

"No, sir, indeed I have not. You saved my good name, and perhaps ".life my

"My dear fellow, you exaggerate. I have some recollection, Wilson, showed who ,Cartwright named lad a boys your among had you that some ability during the investigation."

"Yes, sir, he is still with us."

"Could you ring him up? -- thank you! And I should be glad to ".note -five this of change have

A lad of fourteen, with a bright, keen face, had obeyed the summons the at reverence great with gazing now stood He .manager the of famous detective.

"Let me have the Hotel Directory," said Holmes. "Thank you! Now, all these hotels - twenty of names there are there, Cartwright in the immediate neighbourhood of Charing Cross. Do you see?"

"Yes, sir."

"You will visit each of these in turn."

"Yes, sir."

"You will begin in each case by giving the outside porter one shilling - twenty are here. Shilling

"Yes, sir."

"You will tell him that you want to see the waste-paper of miscarried has telegram important and that say will you yesterday and that you are looking for it. You understand?"

"Yes, sir."

"But what you are really looking for is the centre page of the copy as is here. Scissors with it in cut holes some with Times of the Times. It is this page. You could easily recognize it, "not you could

"Yes, sir."

"In each case the outside porter will send for the hall porter, - twenty are here. Shilling a give will you also whom to shillings. You will then learn in possibly twenty cases out of burned been has before day the of waste the that - twenty the or removed. In the three other cases you will be shown a heap. It among Times the of page this for look will you and paper of The odds are enormously against your finding it. There are ten by report a have me Let. emergencies of case in over shillings wire at Baker Street before evening. And now, Watson, it only, cabman the of identity the wire by out find to us for remains No. 2704, and then we will drop into one of the Bond Street picture ".hotel the at due are we until time the in fill and galleries

Chapter 5

Threads Broken Three

Sherlock Holmes had, in a very remarkable degree, the power of business strange the hours two For .will at mind his detaching in which we had been involved appeared to be forgotten, and he Belgian modern the of pictures the in absorbed entirely was masters. He would talk of nothing but art, of which he had the ourselves found we until gallery the leaving our from ,ideas crudest at the Northumberland Hotel.

"Sir Henry Baskerville is upstairs expecting you," said the clerk.
".came you when once at up you show to me asked He"

"Have you any objection to my looking at your register?" said
.Holmes

"Not in the least."

The book showed that two names had been added after that of of ,family and Johnson Theophilus was One .Baskerville Newcastle; the other Mrs. Oldmore and maid, of High Lodge, Alton.

"Surely that must be the same Johnson whom I used to know," said and -gray ,not he is ,lawyer A" .porter the to Holmes walks with a limp?"

"No, sir, this is Mr. Johnson, the coal-owner, a very active
".yourself than older not ,gentleman

"Surely you are mistaken about his trade?"

"No, sir! he has used this hotel for many years, and he is very
".us to known well

"Ah, that settles it. Mrs. Oldmore, too; I seem to remember the friend one upon calling in often but ,curiosity my Excuse .name one finds another."

"She is an invalid lady, sir. Her husband was once mayor of .town in is she when us to comes always She .Gloucester

"Thank you; I am afraid I cannot claim her acquaintance. We have he ",Watson ,questions these by fact important most a established continued in a low voice as we went upstairs together. "We know not have friend our in interested so are who people the that now settled down in his own hotel. That means that while they are, as anxious equally are they ,him watch to anxious very ,seen have we that he should not see them. Now, this is a most suggestive fact."

"What does it suggest?"

"It suggests--halloa, my dear fellow, what on earth is the matter?"

As we came round the top of the stairs we had run up against Sir and ,anger with flushed was face His .himself Baskerville Henry he held an old and dusty boot in one of his hands. So furious it speak did he when and ,articulate hardly was he that he was was in a much broader and more Western dialect than any which we .morning the in him from heard had

"Seems to me they are playing me for a sucker in this hotel," he wrong the with monkey to in started 'they find "They" .cried man unless they are careful. By thunder, if that chap can't find with joke a take can I .trouble be will there boot missing my the best, Mr. Holmes, but they've got a bit over the mark this time."

"Still looking for your boot?"

"Yes, sir, and mean to find it."

"But, surely, you said that it was a new brown boot?"

"So it was, sir. And now it's an old black one."

"What! you don't mean to say--?"

"That's just what I do mean to say. I only had three pairs in
leathers patent the and black old the brown new --world the
which I am wearing. Last night they took one of my brown ones,
got you have Well black the of one sneaked have they today and
it? Speak out, man, and don't stand staring!"

An agitated German waiter had appeared upon the scene.

"No, sir; I have made inquiry all over the hotel, but I can hear
.it of word no

"Well, either that boot comes back before sundown or I'll see the
.hotel this of out straight right go I that him tell and manager

"It shall be found, sir--I promise you that if you will have a
.found be will it patience little

"Mind it is, for it's the last thing of mine that I'll lose in
my excuse 'you Holmes Mr well Well thieves of den this
troubling you about such a trifle--"

"I think it's well worth troubling about."

"Why, you look very serious over it."

"How do you explain it?"

"I just don't attempt to explain it. It seems the very maddest,
.me to happened ever that thing queerest

"The queerest perhaps--" said Holmes thoughtfully.

"What do you make of it yourself?"

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"Well, I don't profess to understand it yet. This case of yours your with conjunction in taken When .Henry Sir ,complex very is uncle's death I am not sure that of all the five hundred cases which one is there handled have I which importance capital of cuts so deep. But we hold several threads in our hands, and the We .truth the to us guides them of other or one that are odds may waste time in following the wrong one, but sooner or later ".right the upon come must we

We had a pleasant luncheon in which little was said of the private the in was It .together us brought had which business sitting-room to which we afterwards repaired that Holmes asked .intentions his were what Baskerville

"To go to Baskerville Hall."

"And when?"

"At the end of the week."

"On the whole," said Holmes, "I think that your decision is a wise ,London in dogged being are you that evidence ample have I .one and amid the millions of this great city it is difficult to If .be can object their what or are people these who discover their intentions are evil they might do you a mischief, and we ,Mortimer .Dr ,know not did You .it prevent to powerless be should that you were followed this morning from my house?"

Dr. Mortimer started violently. "Followed! By whom?"

"That, unfortunately, is what I cannot tell you. Have you among ,black a with man any Dartmoor on acquaintances or neighbours your full beard?"

"No--or, let me see--why, yes. Barrymore, Sir Charles's butler, ".beard black ,full a with man a is

"Ha! Where is Barrymore?"

"He is in charge of the Hall."

"We had best ascertain if he is really there, or if by any
".London in be might he possibility

"How can you do that?"

"Give me a telegraph form. 'Is all ready for Sir Henry?' That
is What .Hall Baskerville ,Barrymore .Mr to Address .do will
the nearest telegraph-office? Grimpen. Very good, we will send
Barrymore .Mr to Telegram' :Grimpen ,postmaster the to wire second a
to be delivered into his own hand. If absent, please return wire
should That '.Hotel Northumberland ,Baskerville Henry Sir to
let us know before evening whether Barrymore is at his post in
".not or Devonshire

"That's so," said Baskerville. "By the way, Dr. Mortimer, who
"?anyhow ,Barrymore this is

"He is the son of the old caretaker, who is dead. They have looked
he ,know I as far So .now generations four for Hall the after
and his wife are as respectable a couple as any in the county."

"At the same time," said Baskerville, "it's clear enough that so
people these Hall the at family the of none are there as long
have a mighty fine home and nothing to do."

"That is true."

"Did Barrymore profit at all by Sir Charles's will?" asked Holmes.

"He and his wife had five hundred pounds each."

"Ha! Did they know that they would receive this?"

"Yes; Sir Charles was very fond of talking about the provisions
".will his of

"That is very interesting."

"I hope," said Dr. Mortimer, "that you do not look with suspicious for Charles Sir from legacy a received who everyone upon eyes I also had a thousand pounds left to me."

"Indeed! And anyone else?"

"There were many insignificant sums to individuals, and a large Henry Sir to went all residue The charities public of number

"And how much was the residue?"

"Seven hundred and forty thousand pounds."

Holmes raised his eyebrows in surprise. "I had no idea that so he said ",involved was sum a gigantic

"Sir Charles had the reputation of being rich, but we did not know securities his examine to came we until was he rich very how The total value of the estate was close on to a million."

"Dear me! It is a stake for which a man might well play a Supposing Mortimer Dr ,question more one And game desperate that anything happened to our young friend here--you will forgive "?estate the inherit would --!hypothesis unpleasant the

"Since Rodger Baskerville, Sir Charles's younger brother died are who Desmonds the to descend would estate the ,unmarried distant cousins. James Desmond is an elderly clergyman in ".Westmoreland

"Thank you. These details are all of great interest. Have you "?Desmond James .Mr met

"Yes; he once came down to visit Sir Charles. He is a man of he that remember I .life saintly of and appearance venerable refused to accept any settlement from Sir Charles, though he ".him upon it pressed

"And this man of simple tastes would be the heir to Sir Charles's
".thousands

"He would be the heir to the estate because that is entailed.
willed were it unless money the to heir the be also would He
otherwise by the present owner, who can, of course, do what he
".it with likes

"And have you made your will, Sir Henry?"

"No, Mr. Holmes, I have not. I've had no time, for it was only
I case any in But .stood matters how learned I that yesterday
feel that the money should go with the title and estate. That
the restore to going owner the is How .idea 'uncle poor my was
glories of the Baskervilles if he has not money enough to keep
".together go must dollars and ,land ,House ?property the up

"Quite so. Well, Sir Henry, I am of one mind with you as to the
.delay without Devonshire to down going your of advisability
There is only one provision which I must make. You certainly
".alone go not must

"Dr. Mortimer returns with me."

"But Dr. Mortimer has his practice to attend to, and his house
he world the in goodwill the all With .yours from away miles is
may be unable to help you. No, Sir Henry, you must take with you
".side your by always be will who ,man trusty a ,someone

"Is it possible that you could come yourself, Mr. Holmes?"

"If matters came to a crisis I should endeavour to be present in
consulting extensive my with ,that understand can you but ;person
practice and with the constant appeals which reach me from many
for London from absent be to me for impossible is it ,quarters
an indefinite time. At the present instant one of the most
,blackmailer a by besmirched being is England in names revered
and only I can stop a disastrous scandal. You will see how
".Dartmoor to go to me for is it impossible

"Whom would you recommend, then?"

Holmes laid his hand upon my arm. "If my friend would undertake when side your at having worth better is who man no is there it you are in a tight place. No one can say so more confidently
".I than

The proposition took me completely by surprise, but before I had it wrung and hand the by me seized Baskerville ,answer to time heartily.

"Well, now, that is real kind of you, Dr. Watson," said he. "You matter the about much as just know you and ,me with is it how see as I do. If you will come down to Baskerville Hall and see me
".it forget never 'I through

The promise of adventure had always a fascination for me, and I with eagerness the by and Holmes of words the by complimented was which the baronet hailed me as a companion.

"I will come, with pleasure," said I. "I do not know how I could
".better time my employ

"And you will report very carefully to me," said Holmes. "When .act shall you how direct will I ,do will it as ,comes crisis a I suppose that by Saturday all might be ready?"

"Would that suit Dr. Watson?"

"Perfectly."

"Then on Saturday, unless you hear to the contrary, we shall meet
".Paddington from train -ten the at

We had risen to depart when Baskerville gave a cry, of triumph, brown a drew he room the of corners the of one into diving and boot from under a cabinet.

"My missing boot!" he cried.

"May all our difficulties vanish as easily!" said Sherlock Holmes.

"But it is a very singular thing," Dr. Mortimer remarked. "I
lunched before carefully room this searched

"And so did I," said Baskerville. "Every inch of it."

"There was certainly no boot in it then."

"In that case the waiter must have placed it there while we were
lunching

The German was sent for but professed to know nothing of the
had item Another .up it clear inquiry any could nor ,matter
been added to that constant and apparently purposeless series
.rapidly so other each succeeded had which mysteries small of
Setting aside the whole grim story of Sir Charles's death, we
of limits the within all incidents inexplicable of line a had
two days, which included the receipt of the printed letter, the
,boot brown new the of loss the ,hansom the in spy -black
the loss of the old black boot, and now the return of the new
back drove we as cab the in silence in sat Holmes .boot brown
to Baker Street, and I knew from his drawn brows and keen face
frame to endeavouring in busy was ,own my like ,mind his that
some scheme into which all these strange and apparently disconnected
the into late and afternoon All .fitted be could episodes
evening he sat lost in tobacco and thought.

Just before dinner two telegrams were handed in. The first ran:

Have just heard that Barrymore is at the Hall.

.BASKERVILLE

The second:

Visited twenty-three hotels as directed, but sorry, to report

.Times of sheet cut trace to unable

CARTWRIGHT.

"There go two of my threads, Watson. There is nothing more
We .you against goes everything where case a than stimulating
must cast round for another scent."

"We have still the cabman who drove the spy."

"Exactly. I have wired to get his name and address from the
an were this if surprised be not should I .Registry Official
answer to my question."

The ring at the bell proved to be something even more satisfactory
-rough a and opened door the for ,however ,answer an than
fellow entered who was evidently the man himself.

"I got a message from the head office that a gent at this address
this cab my driven 'I" .he said ",2704 .No for inquiring been had
seven years and never a word of complaint. I came here straight
".me against had you what face your to you ask to Yard the from

"I have nothing in the world against you, my good man," said
you if you for sovereign a half have I ,contrary the On" .Holmes
will give me a clear answer to my questions."

"Well, I've had a good day and no mistake," said the cabman with
"?sir ,ask to wanted you it was What" .grin a

"First of all your name and address, in case I want you again."

"John Clayton, 3 Turpey Street, the Borough. My cab is out of
".Station Waterloo near ,Yard 'Shipley

Sherlock Holmes made a note of it.

"Now, Clayton, tell me all about the fare who came and watched
followed afterwards and morning this 'o ten at house this
the two gentlemen down Regent Street."

The man looked surprised and a little embarrassed. "Why, there's I as much as know to seem you for ,things you telling my good no do already," said he. "The truth is that the gentleman told me him about nothing say to was I that and detective a was he that to anyone."

"My good fellow; this is a very serious business, and you may find from anything hide to try you if position bad pretty a in yourself me. You say that your fare told you that he was a detective?"

"Yes, he did."

"When did he say this?"

"When he left me."

"Did he say anything more?"

"He mentioned his name."

Holmes cast a swift glance of triumph at me. "Oh, he mentioned that name the was What .imprudent was That ?he did ,name his he mentioned?"

"His name," said the cabman, "was Mr. Sherlock Holmes."

Never have I seen my friend more completely taken aback than by .amazement silent in sat he instant an For .reply 'cabman the Then he burst into a hearty laugh.

"A touch, Watson--an undeniable touch!" said he. "I feel a foil prettily very me upon home got He .own my as supple and quick as that time. So his name was Sherlock Holmes, was it?"

"Yes, sir, that was the gentleman's name."

"Excellent! Tell me where you picked him up and all that occurred."

"He hailed me at half-past nine in Trafalgar Square. He said that

do would I if guineas two me offered he and ,detective a was he exactly what he wanted all day and ask no questions. I was glad Hotel Northumberland the to down drove we First .agree to enough and waited there until two gentlemen came out and took a cab from somewhere up pulled it until cab their followed We .rank the near here."

"This very door," said Holmes.

"Well, I couldn't be sure of that, but I dare say my fare knew waited and street the down halfway up pulled We .it about all an hour and a half. Then the two gentlemen passed us, walking, "--along and Street Baker down followed we and

"I know," said Holmes.

"Until we got three-quarters down Regent Street. Then my gentleman away right drive should I that cried he and ,trap the up threw to Waterloo Station as hard as I could go. I whipped up the mare two his up paid he Then .minutes ten the under there were we and guineas, like a good one, and away he went into the station. It' :said he and round turned he leaving was he as just Only might interest you to know that you have been driving Mr. Sherlock ".name the know to come I how 'That '.Holmes

"I see. And you saw no more of him?"

"Not after he went into the station."

"And how would you describe Mr. Sherlock Holmes?"

The cabman scratched his head. "Well, he wasn't altogether such ,age of years forty at him put 'I .describe to gentleman easy an and he was of a middle height, two or three inches shorter than ,beard black a had he and ,toff a like dressed was He .sir ,you cut square at the end, and a pale face. I don't know as I could ".that than more say

"Colour of his eyes?"

"No, I can't say that."

"Nothing more that you can remember?"

"No, sir; nothing."

"Well, then, here is your half-sovereign. There's another one
-Good .information more any bring can you if you for waiting

"Good-night, sir, and thank you!"

John Clayton departed chuckling, and Holmes turned to me with a
.smile rueful a and shoulders his of shrug

"Snap goes our third thread, and we end where we began," said he.
Henry Sir that knew ,number our knew He !rascal cunning The"
Baskerville had consulted me, spotted who I was in Regent Street,
lay would and cab the of number the got had I that conjectured
my hands on the driver, and so sent back this audacious message.
worthy is who foeman a got have we time this ,Watson ,you tell I
of our steel. I've been checkmated in London. I can only wish
about mind my in easy not 'I But .Devonshire in luck better you
it."

"About what?"

"About sending you. It's an ugly business, Watson, an ugly
.it like I less the it of see I more the and ,business dangerous
Yes, my dear fellow, you may laugh, but I give you my word that
Baker in sound and safe back you have to glad very be shall I
Street once more."

Chapter 6
Hall Baskerville

Sir Henry Baskerville and Dr. Mortimer were ready upon the appointed day. Mr. Devonshire, who had been arranged as started we and day, drove with me to the station and gave me his last parting injunctions, advice and

"I will not bias your mind by suggesting theories or suspicions, but I will give you the fullest facts in the report to which you wish I refer," he said, "in the most possible manner to me, and you can leave me to do the theorizing."

"What sort of facts?" I asked.

"Anything which may seem to have a bearing however indirect upon the case of the young Baskerville and the relations especially and his neighbours or any fresh particulars concerning the death of Charles Sir of the last inquiries some made have I. Charles Sir of a few days, but the results have, I fear, been negative. One thing certain is that Desmond James, who appears only to be the next heir, is an elderly gentleman of a very amiable disposition. I really think that we may eliminate him entirely from our calculations. There are some people who remain there actually surround Sir Henry Baskerville upon the moor."

"Would it not be well in the first place to get rid of this couple Barrymore?"

"By no means. You could not make a greater mistake. If they are guilty, it would be a cruel injustice to give up all chance of bringing them home. No, we will preserve them upon our list of suspects. No, there is a groom at the Hall, if I remember right. There are two farmers on the moorland, of whom I believe to be entirely honest, and there is his wife, of whom we know nothing. There is Stapleton, a naturalist, and there is

his sister, who is said to be a young lady of attractions. There
.factor unknown an also is who ,Hall Lafter of ,Frankland .Mr is
and there are one or two other neighbours. These are the folk
".study special very your be must who

"I will do my best."

"You have arms, I suppose?"

"Yes, I thought it as well to take them."

"Most certainly. Keep your revolver near you night and day, and
".precautions your relax never

Our friends had already secured a first-class carriage and were
.platform the upon us for waiting

"No, we have no news of any kind," said Dr. Mortimer in answer
that and ,thing one to swear can I" .questions 'friend my to
is that we have not been shadowed during the last two days. We
one no and ,watch sharp a keeping without out gone never have
could have escaped our notice."

"You have always kept together, I presume?"

"Except yesterday afternoon. I usually give up one day to pure
the of Museum the at it spent I so ,town to come I when amusement
College of Surgeons."

"And I went to look at the folk in the park," said Baskerville.

"But we had no trouble of any kind."

"It was imprudent, all the same," said Holmes, shaking his head
go not will you that ,Henry Sir ,beg I" .grave very looking and
about alone. Some great misfortune will befall you if you do.
"?boot other your get you Did

"No, sir, it is gone forever."

"Indeed. That is very interesting. Well, good-bye," he added
,mind in Bear" .platform the down glide to began train the as
Sir Henry, one of the phrases in that queer old legend which Dr.
of hours those in moor the avoid and ,us to read has Mortimer
darkness when the powers of evil are exalted."

I looked back at the platform when we had left it far behind and
and motionless standing Holmes of figure austere ,tall the saw
gazing after us.

The journey was a swift and pleasant one, and I spent it in
and companions two my of acquaintance intimate more the making
in playing with Dr. Mortimer's spaniel. In a very few hours the
,granite to changed had brick the ,ruddy become had earth brown
and red cows grazed in well-hedged fields where the lush grasses
,damper a if ,richer a of spoke vegetation luxuriant more and
climate. Young Baskerville stared eagerly out of the window and
features familiar the recognized he as delight with aloud cried
of the Devon scenery.

"I've been over a good part of the world since I left it, Dr.
with compare to place a seen never have I but" ;he said ",Watson
it."

"I never saw a Devonshire man who did not swear by his county,"
.remarked I

"It depends upon the breed of men quite as much as on the county,"
the reveals here friend our at glance A" .Mortimer .Dr said
rounded head of the Celt, which carries inside it the Celtic
of was head 'Charles Sir Poor .attachment of power and enthusiasm
a very rare type, half Gaelic, half Ivernian in its characteristics.
were ,Hall Baskerville saw last you when young very were you But
you not?"

"I was a boy in my teens at the time of my father's death and had
South the on cottage little a in lived he for ,Hall the seen never
Coast. Thence I went straight to a friend in America. I tell

as I and Watson. Dr. Watson said to me, "It is as new as all is to you, but I have seen the moor as often as possible to see the moor."

"Are you? Then your wish is easily granted, for there is your finger pointing out the moor," Dr. Mortimer said, "the first sight from the carriage window."

Over the green squares of the fields and the low curve of a wood strange a with hill melancholy, gray a distance the in rose there jagged summit, dim and vague in the distance, like some fantastic eyes his, time long a for sat Baskerville. I dream a in landscape fixed upon it, and I read upon his eager face how much it meant of men the where spot strange that of sight first this, him to his blood had held sway so long and left their mark so deep. the in, accent American his and suit tweed his with, sat he There corner of a prosaic railway-carriage, and yet as I looked at his descendant a true how ever than more felt I face expressive and dark he was of that long line of high-blooded, fiery, and masterful, brows thick his in strength and, valour, pride were There. men his sensitive nostrils, and his large hazel eyes. If on that before lie should quest dangerous and difficult a moor forbidding us, this was at least a comrade for whom one might venture to take. it share bravely would he that certainty the with risk a

The train pulled up at a small wayside station and we all wagonette a, fence white, low the beyond, Outside. descended with a pair of cobs was waiting. Our coming was evidently a great carry to us round clustered porters and -station for, event out our luggage. It was a sweet, simple country spot, but I was soldierly two stood there gate the by that observe to surprised men in dark uniforms who leaned upon their short rifles and glanced gnarled -hard a, coachman The. passed we as us at keenly little fellow, saluted Sir Henry Baskerville, and in a few minutes pasture Rolling. road white, broad the down swiftly flying were we lands curved upward on either side of us, and old gabled houses the behind but, foliage green thick the amid from out peeped peaceful and sunlit countryside there rose ever, dark against the the by broken, moor the of curve gloomy, long the, sky evening jagged and sinister hills.

The wagonette swung round into a side road, and we curved upward on banks high, wheels of centuries by worn lanes deep through either side, heavy with dripping moss and fleshy hart's-tongue light the in gleamed bramble mottled and bracken Bronzing .ferns of the sinking sun. Still steadily rising, we passed over a gushed which stream noisy a skirted and bridge granite narrow swiftly down, foaming and roaring amid the gray boulders. Both oak scrub with dense valley a through up wound stream and road and fir. At every turn Baskerville gave an exclamation of delight, his To .questions countless asking and him about eagerly looking eyes all seemed beautiful, but to me a tinge of melancholy lay waning the of mark the clearly so bore which ,countryside the upon year. Yellow leaves carpeted the lanes and fluttered down upon drove we as away died wheels our of rattle The .passed we as us through drifts of rotting vegetation--sad gifts, as it seemed to heir returning the of carriage the before throw to Nature for ,me of the Baskervilles.

"Halloa!" cried Dr. Mortimer, "what is this?"

A steep curve of heath-clad land, an outlying spur of the moor, an like clear and hard ,summit the On .us of front in lay equestrian statue upon its pedestal, was a mounted soldier, dark was He .forearm his over ready poised rifle his ,stern and watching the road along which we travelled.

"What is this, Perkins?" asked Dr. Mortimer.

Our driver half turned in his seat. "There's a convict escaped the and ,now days three out been 'He .sir ,Princetown from warders watch every road and every station, but they've had no ,sir ,it like 'don here about farmers The .yet him of sight and that's a fact."

"Well, I understand that they get five pounds if they can give
".information

"Yes, sir, but the chance of five pounds is but a poor thing
it ,see You .cut throat your having of chance the to compared
isn't like any ordinary convict. This is a man that would stick
".nothing at

"Who is he, then?"

"It is Selden, the Notting Hill murderer."

I remembered the case well, for it was one in which Holmes had
crime the of ferocity peculiar the of account on interest an taken
and the wanton brutality which had marked all the actions of the
to due been had sentence death his of commutation The .assassin
some doubts as to his complete sanity, so atrocious was his conduct.
huge the rose us of front in and rise a topped had wagonette Our
expanse of the moor, mottled with gnarled and craggy cairns and
.shivering us set and it from down swept wind cold A .tors
Somewhere there, on that desolate plain, was lurking this fiendish
of full heart his ,beast wild a like burrow a in hiding ,man
malignancy against the whole race which had cast him out. It
barren the of suggestiveness grim the complete to this but needed
waste, the chilling wind, and the darkling sky. Even Baskerville
.him around closely more overcoat his pulled and silent fell

We had left the fertile country behind and beneath us. We looked
streams the turning sun low a of rays slanting the ,now it on back
to threads of gold and glowing on the red earth new turned by the
front in road The .woodlands the of tangle broad the and plough
of us grew bleaker and wilder over huge russet and olive slopes,
moorland a passed we then and Now .boulders giant with sprinkled
cottage, walled and roofed with stone, with no creeper to break
cuplike a into down looked we Suddenly .outline harsh its
depression, patched with stunted oaks and firs which had been
narrow ,high Two .storm of years of fury the by bent and twisted
towers rose over the trees. The driver pointed with his whip.

"Baskerville Hall," said he.

Its master had risen and was staring with flushed cheeks and
-lodge the reached had we later minutes few A .eyes shining
a maze of fantastic tracery in wrought iron, with weather-bitten
by surmounted and ,lichens with blotched ,side either on pillars
the boars' heads of the Baskervilles. The lodge was a ruin of
a was it facing but ,rafters of ribs bared and granite black
new building, half constructed, the first fruit of Sir Charles's
.gold African South

Through the gateway we passed into the avenue, where the wheels
their shot trees old the and ,leaves the amid hushed again were
branches in a sombre tunnel over our heads. Baskerville shuddered
glimmered house the where to drive dark ,long the up looked he as
like a ghost at the farther end.

"Was it here?" he asked in a low voice.

"No, no, the yew alley is on the other side."

The young heir glanced round with a gloomy face.

"It's no wonder my uncle felt as if trouble were coming on him in
.man any scare to enough 'It" .he said ",this as place a such
I'll have a row of electric lamps up here inside of six months,
Swan -candle thousand a with ,again it know 'won you and
and Edison right here in front of the hall door."

The avenue opened into a broad expanse of turf, and the house
centre the that see could I light fading the In .us before lay
was a heavy block of building from which a porch projected.
bare clipped patch a with ,ivy in draped was front whole The
here and there where a window or a coat of arms broke through
,towers twin the rose block central this From .veil dark the
ancient, crenelated, and pierced with many loopholes. To right
.granite black of wings modern more were turrets the of left and
A dull light shone through heavy mullioned windows, and from the
there roof -high ,steep the from rose which chimneys high
sprang a single black column of smoke.

"Welcome, Sir Henry! Welcome to Baskerville Hall!"

A tall man had stepped from the shadow of the porch to open the door. The woman of a fine figure stood against the yellow light of the hall. She came out and helped us with our bags and handed them to the man.

"You don't mind my driving straight home, Sir Henry?" said Dr. Mortimer.
"My wife is expecting me."

"Surely you will stay and have some dinner?"

"No, I must go. I shall probably find some work awaiting me. I will be in Barrymore but I would like to show you a better guide than I. Good-bye, and never hesitate to call on me in my service of the Crown."

The wheels died away down the drive while Sir Henry and I turned a corner. It was behind a heavily clanged door and into a fine apartment in which we found ourselves, large, lofty, and the In oak -age of baulks huge with rafters heavily great old-fashioned fireplace behind the high iron dogs a log-fire, it to hands our out held I and Henry Sir snapped and crackled for we were numb from our long drive. Then we gazed round us at the panelling oak the glass stained old of window thin, high the the stags' heads, the coats of arms upon the walls, all dim and a lamp central the of light subdued the in sombre

"It's just as I imagined it," said Sir Henry. "Is it not the very thing that you should think of? To home family old an of picture same hall in which for five hundred years my people have lived. It strikes me as solemn."

I saw his dark face lit up with a boyish enthusiasm as he gazed long but stood he where him upon beat light The him about shadows trailed down the walls and hung like a black canopy luggage our taking from returned had Barrymore him above to our rooms. He stood in front of us now with the subdued -remarkable a was He servant -well a of manner

man, tall, handsome, with a square black beard and pale,
.features distinguished

"Would you wish dinner to be served at once, sir?"

"Is it ready?"

"In a very few minutes, sir. You will find hot water in your
you with stay to ,Henry Sir ,happy be will I and wife My .rooms
until you have made your fresh arrangements, but you will
require will house this conditions new the under that understand
a considerable staff."

"What new conditions?"

"I only meant, sir, that Sir Charles led a very retired life,
,naturally ,would You .wants his after look to able were we and
wish to have more company, and so you will need changes in your
".household

"Do you mean that your wife and you wish to leave?"

"Only when it is quite convenient to you, sir."

"But your family have been with us for several generations, have
breaking by here life my begin to sorry be should I ?not they
an old family connection."

I seemed to discern some signs of emotion upon the butler's white
.face

"I feel that also, sir, and so does my wife. But to tell the
and ,Charles Sir to attached much very both were we ,sir ,truth
his death gave us a shock and made these surroundings very painful
at minds our in easy be again never shall we that fear I .us to
Baskerville Hall."

"But what do you intend to do?"

"I have no doubt, sir, that we shall succeed in establishing given has generosity 'Charles Sir .business some in ourselves us the means to do so. And now, sir, perhaps I had best show you ".rooms your to

A square balustraded gallery ran round the top of the old hall, long two point central this From .stair double a by approached corridors extended the whole length of the building, from which as wing same the in was own My .opened bedrooms the all Baskerville's and almost next door to it. These rooms appeared and ,house the of part central the than modern more much be to the bright paper and numerous candles did something to remove .mind my upon left had arrival our which impression sombre the

But the dining-room which opened out of the hall was a place of separating step a with chamber long a was It .gloom and shadow the dais where the family sat from the lower portion reserved for .it overlooked gallery 'minstrel a end one At .dependents their Black beams shot across above our heads, with a smoke-darkened it light to torches flaring of rows With .them beyond ceiling up, and the colour and rude hilarity of an old-time banquet, it gentlemen -black two when ,now but ;softened have might sat in the little circle of light thrown by a shaded lamp, one's of line dim A .subdued spirit 'one and hushed became voice ancestors, in every variety of dress, from the Elizabethan knight us daunted and us upon down stared ,Regency the of buck the to by their silent company. We talked little, and I for one was the into retire to able were we and over was meal the when glad modern billiard-room and smoke a cigarette.

"My word, it isn't a very cheerful place," said Sir Henry. "I the of out bit a feel I but ,it to down tone can one suppose picture at present. I don't wonder that my uncle got a little ,However .this as house a such in alone all lived he if jumpy if it suits you, we will retire early tonight, and perhaps ".morning the in cheerful more seem may things

I drew aside my curtains before I went to bed and looked out in lay which space grassy the upon opened It .window my from

The Hound of the Baskervilles

front of the hall door. Beyond, two copses of trees moaned and
of rifts the through broke moon half A .wind rising a in swung
racing clouds. In its cold light I saw beyond the trees a broken
.moor melancholy the of curve low ,long the and ,rocks of fringe
I closed the curtain, feeling that my last impression was in
.rest the with keeping

And yet it was not quite the last. I found myself weary and yet
the for seeking ,side to side from restlessly tossing ,wakeful
sleep which would not come. Far away a chiming clock struck out
lay silence deathly a otherwise but ,hours the of quarters the
upon the old house. And then suddenly, in the very dead of the
and ,resonant ,clear ,ears my to sound a came there ,night
unmistakable. It was the sob of a woman, the muffled, strangling
up sat I .sorrow uncontrollable an by torn is who one of gasp
in bed and listened intently. The noise could not have been far
waited I hour an half For .house the in certainly was and away
with every nerve on the alert, but there came no other sound save
.wall the on ivy the of rustle the and clock chiming the

Chapter 7

House Merripit of Stapletons The

The fresh beauty of the following morning did something to efface left been had which impression gray and grim the minds our from upon both of us by our first experience of Baskerville Hall. As through in flooded sunlight the breakfast at sat I and Henry Sir the high mullioned windows, throwing watery patches of colour from glowed panelling dark The .them covered which arms of coats the like bronze in the golden rays, and it was hard to realize that into gloom a such struck had which chamber the indeed was this our souls upon the evening before.

"I guess it is ourselves and not the house that we have to blame!" chilled and journey our with tired were We" .baronet the said by our drive, so we took a gray view of the place. Now we are ".more once cheerful all is it so ,well and fresh

"And yet it was not entirely a question of imagination," I woman a ,someone hear to happen ,example for ,you Did" .answered I think, sobbing in the night?"

"That is curious, for I did when I was half asleep fancy that I there but ,time a quite waited I .sort the of something heard was no more of it, so I concluded that it was all a dream."

"I heard it distinctly, and I am sure that it was really the sob ".woman a of

"We must ask about this right away." He rang the bell and asked seemed It .experience our for account could he whether Barrymore to me that the pallid features of the butler turned a shade paler .question 'master his to listened he as still

"There are only two women in the house, Sir Henry," he answered. other The .wing other the in sleeps who -scullery the is One" is my wife, and I can answer for it that the sound could not have

"her from come

And yet he lied as he said it, for it chanced that after breakfast upon full sun the with corridor long the in Barrymore .Mrs met I her face. She was a large, impassive, heavy-featured woman with red were eyes telltale her But .mouth of expression set stern a and glanced at me from between swollen lids. It was she, then, .it know must husband her so did she if and ,night the in wept who Yet he had taken the obvious risk of discovery in declaring that so weep she did why And ?this done he had Why .so not was it bitterly? Already round this pale-faced, handsome, black-bearded .gloom of and mystery of atmosphere an gathering was there man It was he who had been the first to discover the body of Sir Charles, up led which circumstances the all for word his only had we and to the old man's death. Was it possible that it was Barrymore, The ?Street Regent in cab the in seen had we whom ,all after beard might well have been the same. The cabman had described have easily might impression an such but ,man shorter somewhat a been erroneous. How could I settle the point forever? Obviously find and postmaster Grimpen the see to was do to thing first the whether the test telegram had really been placed in Barrymore's have least at should I ,might it what answer the Be .hands own something to report to Sherlock Holmes.

Sir Henry had numerous papers to examine after breakfast, so that walk pleasant a was It .excursion my for propitious was time the of four miles along the edge of the moor, leading me at last to proved which ,buildings larger two which in ,hamlet gray small a to be the inn and the house of Dr. Mortimer, stood high above the a had ,grocer village the also was who ,postmaster The .rest clear recollection of the telegram.

"Certainly, sir," said he, "I had the telegram delivered to Mr. .directed as exactly Barrymore

"Who delivered it?"

"My boy here. James, you delivered that telegram to Mr. Barrymore
"?not you did ,week last Hall the at

"Yes, father, I delivered it."

"Into his own hands?" I asked.

"Well, he was up in the loft at the time, so that I could not
'Barrymore .Mrs into it gave I but ,hands own his into it put
hands, and she promised to deliver it at once."

"Did you see Mr. Barrymore?"

"No, sir; I tell you he was in the loft."

"If you didn't see him, how do you know he was in the loft?"

"Well, surely his own wife ought to know where he is," said the
is there If ?telegram the get he 'Didn" .testily postmaster
any mistake it is for Mr. Barrymore himself to complain."

It seemed hopeless to pursue the inquiry any farther, but it was
Barrymore that proof no had we ruse 'Holmes of spite in that clear
had not been in London all the time. Suppose that it were so--
Sir seen had who last the been had man same the that suppose
Charles alive, and the first to dog the new heir when he returned
he had or others of agent the he Was ?then What .England to
some sinister design of his own? What interest could he have in
strange the of thought I ?family Baskerville the persecuting
warning clipped out of the leading article of the Times. Was that
upon bent was who someone of doing the possibly it was or work his
counteracting his schemes? The only conceivable motive was that
could family the if that ,Henry Sir by suggested been had which
be scared away a comfortable and permanent home would be secured
would that as explanation an such surely But .Barrymores the for
be quite inadequate to account for the deep and subtle scheming
young the round net invisible an weaving be to seemed which
baronet. Holmes himself had said that no more complex case had
sensational his of series long the all in him to come
investigations. I prayed, as I walked back along the gray, lonely
preoccupations his from freed be soon might friend my that ,road

and able to come down to take this heavy burden of responsibility
.shoulders my from

Suddenly my thoughts were interrupted by the sound of running
,turned I .name by me called which voice a by and me behind feet
expecting to see Dr. Mortimer, but to my surprise it was a stranger
-prim -clean ,slim ,small a was He .me pursuing was who
faced man, flaxen-haired and leanjawed, between thirty and forty
A .hat straw a wearing and suit gray a in dressed ,age of years
tin box for botanical specimens hung over his shoulder and he
.hands his of one in -butterfly green a carried

"You will, I am sure, excuse my presumption, Dr. Watson," said
we moor the on Here" .stood I where to up panting came he as he
are homely folk and do not wait for formal introductions. You
.Mortimer ,friend mutual our from name my heard have possibly may
I am Stapleton, of Merripit House."

"Your net and box would have told me as much," said I, "for I knew
"?me know you did how But .naturalist a was Stapleton .Mr that

"I have been calling on Mortimer, and he pointed you out to me
lay road our As .passed you as surgery his of window the from
the same way I thought that I would overtake you and introduce
"?journey his for worse the none is Henry Sir that trust I .myself

"He is very well, thank you."

"We were all rather afraid that after the sad death of Sir Charles
of much asking is It .here live to refuse might baronet new the
a wealthy man to come down and bury himself in a place of this
to deal great very a means it that you tell not need I but ,kind
the countryside. Sir Henry has, I suppose, no superstitious
"?matter the in fears

"I do not think that it is likely."

"Of course you know the legend of the fiend dog which haunts the
"?family

"I have heard it."

"It is extraordinary how credulous the peasants are about here! such seen have they that swear to ready are them of number Any a creature upon the moor." He spoke with a smile, but I seemed The" .seriously more matter the took he that eyes his in read to story took a great hold upon the imagination of Sir Charles, and ".end tragic his to led it that doubt no have I

"But how?"

"His nerves were so worked up that the appearance of any dog might that fancy I .heart diseased his upon effect fatal a had have he really did see something of the kind upon that last night in I for ,occur might disaster some that feared I .alley yew the was very fond of the old man, and I knew that his heart was weak."

"How did you know that?"

"My friend Mortimer told me."

"You think, then, that some dog pursued Sir Charles, and that he "?consequence in fright of died

"Have you any better explanation?"

"I have not come to any conclusion."

"Has Mr. Sherlock Holmes?"

The words took away my breath for an instant but a glance at the no that showed companion my of eyes steadfast and face placid surprise was intended.

"It is useless for us to pretend that we do not know you, Dr. reached have detective your of records The" .he said ",Watson us here, and you could not celebrate him without being known deny not could he name your me told Mortimer When .yourself

your identity. If you are here, then it follows that Mr. Sherlock naturally am I and ,matter the in himself interesting is Holmes curious to know what view he may take."

"I am afraid that I cannot answer that question."

"May I ask if he is going to honour us with a visit himself?"

"He cannot leave town at present. He has other cases which engage
".attention his

"What a pity! He might throw some light on that which is so dark possible any is there if ,researches own your to as But .us to way in which I can be of service to you I trust that you will your of nature the of indication any had I If .me command suspicions or how you propose to investigate the case, I might
".advice or aid some you give now even perhaps

"I assure you that I am simply here upon a visit to my friend,
".kind any of help no need I that and ,Henry Sir

"Excellent!" said Stapleton. "You are perfectly right to be an was feel I what for reproved justly am I .discreet and wary unjustifiable intrusion, and I promise you that I will not mention
".again matter the

We had come to a point where a narrow grassy path struck off from -boulder ,steep A .moor the across away wound and road the hill lay upon the right which had in bygone days been cut into a a formed us towards turned was which face The .quarry granite dark cliff, with ferns and brambles growing in its niches. From .smoke of plume gray a floated there rise distant a over

"A moderate walk along this moor-path brings us to Merripit House," the have may I that hour an spare will you Perhaps" .he said pleasure of introducing you to my sister."

My first thought was that I should be by Sir Henry's side. But his which with bills and papers of pile the remembered I then

study table was littered. It was certain that I could not help study should I that said expressly had Holmes And .those with the neighbours upon the moor. I accepted Stapleton's invitation, .path the down together turned we and

"It is a wonderful place, the moor," said he, looking round over jagged of crests with ,rollers green long ,downs undulating the granite foaming up into fantastic surges. "You never tire of the .contains it which secrets wonderful the think cannot You .moor It is so vast, and so barren, and so mysterious."

"You know it well, then?"

"I have only been here two years. The residents would call me my But .settled Charles Sir after shortly came We .newcomer a tastes led me to explore every part of the country round, and I ".do I than better it know who men few are there that think should

"Is it hard to know?"

"Very hard. You see, for example, this great plain to the north observe you Do .it of out breaking hills queer the with here anything remarkable about that?"

"It would be a rare place for a gallop."

"You would naturally think so and the thought has cost several spots green bright those notice You .now before lives their scattered thickly over it?"

"Yes, they seem more fertile than the rest."

Stapleton laughed. "That is the great Grimpen Mire," said he. yesterday Only .beast or man to death means yonder step false A" I saw one of the moor ponies wander into it. He never came out. -bog the of out craning time long a quite for head his saw I but it sucked him down at last. Even in dry seasons it is a danger .place awful an is it rains autumn these after but ,it cross to And yet I can find my way to the very heart of it and return

"!ponies miserable those of another is there ,George By .alive

Something brown was rolling and tossing among the green sedges. dreadful a and upward shot neck writhing ,agonized ,long a Then cry echoed over the moor. It turned me cold with horror, but my .mine than stronger be to seemed nerves 'companion

"It's gone!" said he. "The mire has him. Two in two days, and the in there going of way the in get they for ,perhaps ,more many dry weather and never know the difference until the mire has them ".Mire Grimpen great the ,place bad a 'It .clutches its in

"And you say you can penetrate it?"

"Yes, there are one or two paths which a very active man can ".out them found have I .take

"But why should you wish to go into so horrible a place?"

"Well, you see the hills beyond? They are really islands cut off them round crawled has which ,mire impassable the by sides all on in the course of years. That is where the rare plants and the ".them reach to wit the have you if ,are butterflies

"I shall try my luck some day."

He looked at me with a surprised face. "For God's sake put such upon be would blood Your" .he said ",mind your of out idea an my head. I assure you that there would not be the least chance certain remembering by only is It .alive back coming your of complex landmarks that I am able to do it."

"Halloa!" I cried. "What is that?"

A long, low moan, indescribably sad, swept over the moor. It it whence say to impossible was it yet and ,air whole the filled came. From a dull murmur it swelled into a deep roar, and then Stapleton .again once murmur throbbing ,melancholy a into back sank looked at me with a curious expression in his face.

"Queer place, the moor!" said he.

"But what is it?"

"The peasants say it is the Hound of the Baskervilles calling for
quite never but ,before twice or once it heard 'I .prey its
so loud."

I looked round, with a chill of fear in my heart, at the huge
Nothing .rushes of patches green the with mottled ,plain swelling
stirred over the vast expanse save a pair of ravens, which croaked
.us behind tor a from loudly

"You are an educated man. You don't believe such nonsense as
a strange so of cause the is think you do What" .I said "?that
sound?"

"Bogs make queer noises sometimes. It's the mud settling, or
".something or ,rising water the

"No, no, that was a living voice."

"Well, perhaps it was. Did you ever hear a bittern booming?"

"No, I never did."

"It's a very rare bird--practically extinct--in England now,
be not should I ,Yes .moor the upon possible are things all but
surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last
".bitterns the of

"It's the weirdest, strangest thing that ever I heard in my life."

"Yes, it's rather an uncanny place altogether. Look at the hillside
"?those of make you do What .yonder

The whole steep slope was covered with gray circular rings of
.least at them of score a ,stone

"What are they? Sheep-pens?"

"No, they are the homes of our worthy ancestors. Prehistoric man lived here in particular in one no as and ,moor the on thickly lived there since, we find all his little arrangements exactly as he can You .off roofs the with wigwams his are These .them left even see his hearth and his couch if you have the curiosity to .inside go

"But it is quite a town. When was it inhabited?"

"Neolithic man--no date."

"What did he do?"

"He grazed his cattle on these slopes, and he learned to dig for Look .axe stone the supersede to began sword bronze the when tin at the great trench in the opposite hill. That is his mark. Yes, .Watson .Dr ,moor the about points singular very some find will you Oh, excuse me an instant! It is surely Cyclopes."

A small fly or moth had fluttered across our path, and in an speed and energy extraordinary with rushing was Stapleton instant in pursuit of it. To my dismay the creature flew straight for ,instant an for paused never acquaintance my and ,mire great the bounding from tuft to tuft behind it, his green net waving in the made progress irregular ,zigzag ,jerky and clothes gray His .air him not unlike some huge moth himself. I was standing watching extraordinary his for admiration of mixture a with pursuit his activity and fear lest he should lose his footing in the treacherous found ,round turning ,and steps of sound the heard I when ,mire a woman near me upon the path. She had come from the direction in ,House Merripit of position the indicated smoke of plume the which but the dip of the moor had hid her until she was quite close.

I could not doubt that this was the Miss Stapleton of whom I had ,moor the upon few be must sort any of ladies since ,told been and I remembered that I had heard someone describe her as being

and that certainly was me approached who woman The beauty a of a most uncommon type. There could not have been a greater contrast than Stapleton for sister and brother between contrast tinted, with light hair and gray eyes, while she was darker than tall and elegant --England in seen have I whom brunette any She had a proud, finely cut face, so regular that it might have the and mouth sensitive the for not it were impassive seemed beautiful dark, eager eyes. With her perfect figure and elegant moorland lonely a upon apparition strange a, indeed, was she dress path. Her eyes were on her brother as I turned, and then she about was and hat my raised had I me towards pace her quickened to make some explanatory remark when her own words turned all my channel new a into thoughts

"Go back!" she said. "Go straight back to London, instantly."

I could only stare at her in stupid surprise. Her eyes blazed at me and she tapped the ground impatiently with her foot.

"Why should I go back?" I asked.

"I cannot explain." She spoke in a low, eager voice, with a curious lisp in her utterance. "But for God's sake ask you. Go back and never set foot upon the moor again."

"But I have only just come."

"Man, man!" she cried. "Can you not tell when a warning is for away Get !tonight Start !London to back Go ?good own your from this place at all costs! Hush, my brother is coming! Not orchid that getting mind you Would .said have I what of word a for me among the mare's-tails yonder? We are very rich in orchids the see to late rather are you ,course of ,though ,moor the on beauties of the place."

Stapleton had abandoned the chase and came back to us breathing hard and with his face flushed with exertions.

"Halloa, Beryl!" said he, and it seemed to me that the tone of his voice was altogether not what one would expect of a young man of his name.

"Well, Jack, you are very hot."

"Yes, I was chasing a Cyclops. He is very rare and seldom missed. I should have found him in the late autumn. He spoke unconcernedly, but his small light eyes glanced at me from incessantly.

"You have introduced yourselves, I can see."

"Yes. I was telling Sir Henry that it was rather late for him to see the beauties of the moor."

"Why, who do you think this is?"

"I imagine that it must be Sir Henry Baskerville."

"No, no," said I. "Only a humble commoner, but his friend. My name is Dr. Watson."

A flush of vexation passed over her expressive face. "We have been crossing purposes at talking."

"Why, you had not very much time for talk," her brother remarked, with questioning eyes.

"I talked as if Dr. Watson were a resident instead of being merely a visitor. It matters much whether he is early or late for the orchids. But you will come on, will you not?"

A short walk brought us to it, a bleak moorland house, once the seat of a prosperous grazier, but now put into repair and turned into a modern dwelling. An orchard surrounded and stunted trees were usual upon the moor, but it was nipped, and the effect of the whole place was mean and melancholy. We were admitted by a rusty, wizen old manservant.

who seemed in keeping with the house. Inside, however, there were to seemed I which in elegance and with furnished rooms large recognize the taste of the lady. As I looked from their windows the to unbroken rolling moor -granite interminable the at farthest horizon I could not but marvel at what could have brought such in live to woman beautiful this and man educated highly this a place.

"Queer spot to choose, is it not?" said he as if in answer to my do ,happy fairly ourselves make to manage we yet And" .thought we not, Beryl?"

"Quite happy," said she, but there was no ring of conviction in .words her

"I had a school," said Stapleton. "It was in the north country. and mechanical was temperament my of man a to work The uninteresting, but the privilege of living with youth, of helping own 'one with them impressing of and ,minds young those mould to character and ideals was very dear to me. However, the fates were three and school the in out broke epidemic serious A .us against of the boys died. It never recovered from the blow, and much of were it if ,yet And .up swallowed irretrievably was capital my not for the loss of the charming companionship of the boys, I tastes strong my with ,for ,misfortune own my over rejoice could for botany and zoology, I find an unlimited field of work here, .Dr ,this All .am I as Nature to devoted as is sister my and Watson, has been brought upon your head by your expression as ".window our of out moor the surveyed you

"It certainly did cross my mind that it might be a little dull-- ".sister your for than ,perhaps ,you for less

"No, no, I am never dull," said she quickly.

"We have books, we have our studies, and we have interesting .line own his in man learned most a is Mortimer .Dr .neighbours Poor Sir Charles was also an admirable companion. We knew him should I that think you Do .tell can I than more him miss and well

intrude if I were to call this afternoon and make the acquaintance
"Henry Sir of

"I am sure that he would be delighted."

"Then perhaps you would mention that I propose to do so. We may
him for easy more things make to something do way humble our in
until he becomes accustomed to his new surroundings. Will you
?Lepidoptera of collection my inspect and ,Watson .Dr ,upstairs come
I think it is the most complete one in the south-west of England.
almost be will lunch them through looked have you that time the By
ready."

But I was eager to get back to my charge. The melancholy of the
which sound weird the ,pony unfortunate the of death the ,moor
had been associated with the grim legend of the Baskervilles, all
top the on Then .sadness with thoughts my tinged things these
of these more or less vague impressions there had come the definite
intense such with delivered ,Stapleton Miss of warning distinct and
earnestness that I could not doubt that some grave and deep reason
I and ,lunch for stay to pressure all resisted I .it behind lay
set off at once upon my return journey, taking the grass-grown
.come had we which by path

It seems, however, that there must have been some short cut for
was I road the reached had I before for ,it knew who those
astounded to see Miss Stapleton sitting upon a rock by the side
exertions her with flushed beautifully was face Her .track the of
and she held her hand to her side.

"I have run all the way in order to cut you off, Dr. Watson," said
or ,stop not must I .hat my on put to time even not had I" .she
my brother may miss me. I wanted to say to you how sorry I am
Sir were you that thinking in made I mistake stupid the about
Henry. Please forget the words I said, which have no application
".you to whatever

"But I can't forget them, Miss Stapleton," said I. "I am Sir
.mine of concern close very a is welfare his and ,friend 'Henry

Tell me why it was that you were so eager that Sir Henry should
".London to return

"A woman's whim, Dr. Watson. When you know me better you will
".do or say I what for reasons give always cannot I that understand

"No, no. I remember the thrill in your voice. I remember the
Miss ,me with frank be ,please ,Please .eyes your in look
Stapleton, for ever since I have been here I have been conscious
Grimpen great that like become has Life .me round all shadows of
Mire, with little green patches everywhere into which one may
it what then me Tell .track the point to guide no with and sink
was that you meant, and I will promise to convey your warning to
".Henry Sir

An expression of irresolution passed for an instant over her face,
.me answered she when again hardened had eyes her but

"You make too much of it, Dr. Watson," said she. "My brother and
knew We .Charles Sir of death the by shocked much very were I
him very intimately, for his favourite walk was over the moor to
over hung which curse the with impressed deeply was He .house our
the family, and when this tragedy came I naturally felt that there
was I .expressed had he which fears the for grounds some be must
distressed therefore when another member of the family came down
danger the of warned be should he that felt I and ,here live to
which he will run. That was all which I intended to convey.

"But what is the danger?"

"You know the story of the hound?"

"I do not believe in such nonsense."

"But I do. If you have any influence with Sir Henry, take him
The .family his to fatal been always has which place a from away
world is wide. Why should he wish to live at the place of danger?"

"Because it is the place of danger. That is Sir Henry's nature. information definite more some me give can you unless that fear I than this it would be impossible to get him to move."

"I cannot say anything definite, for I do not know anything
".definite

"I would ask you one more question, Miss Stapleton. If you meant not you should why ,me to spoke first you when this than more no wish your brother to overhear what you said? There is nothing
".object could ,else anyone or ,he which to

"My brother is very anxious to have the Hall inhabited, for he He .moor the upon folk poor the of good the for is it thinks would be very angry if he knew that I have said anything which now duty my done have I But .away go to Henry Sir induce might and I will say no more. I must go back, or he will miss me and had and turned She -Good .you seen have I that suspect disappeared in a few minutes among the scattered boulders, while Baskerville to way my pursued ,fears vague of full soul my with ,I Hall.

Chapter 8

Watson .Dr of Report First

>From this point onward I will follow the course of events by
lie which Holmes Sherlock .Mr to letters own my transcribing
before me on the table. One page is missing, but otherwise they
of suspicions and feelings my show and written as exactly are
the moment more accurately than my memory, clear as it is upon
.do possibly can ,events tragic these

Baskerville Hall, October 13th.

:HOLMES DEAR MY

My previous letters and telegrams have kept you pretty well up
-God most this in occurred has that all to as date to
corner of the world. The longer one stays here the more does
and ,vastness its ,soul 'one into sink moor the of spirit the
also its grim charm. When you are once out upon its bosom you
the on ,but ,you behind England modern of traces all left have
other hand, you are conscious everywhere of the homes and the
walk you as you of sides all On .people prehistoric the of work
are the houses of these forgotten folk, with their graves and the
.temples their marked have to supposed are which monoliths huge
As you look at their gray stone huts against the scarred hillsides
-skin a see to were you if and ,you behind age own your leave you
clad, hairy man crawl out from the low door fitting a flint-tipped
presence his that feel would you ,bow his of string the to on arrow
there was more natural than your own. The strange thing is that
been have always must what on thickly so lived have should they
most unfruitful soil. I am no antiquarian, but I could imagine
forced were who race harried and unwarlike some were they that
to accept that which none other would occupy.

All this, however, is foreign to the mission on which you sent
severely your to uninteresting very be probably will and me
practical mind. I can still remember your complete indifference
round earth the or earth the round moved sun the whether to as

the sun. Let me, therefore, return to the facts concerning Sir
.Baskerville Henry

If you have not had any report within the last few days it is
.relate to importance of nothing was there today to up because
Then a very surprising circumstance occurred, which I shall tell
touch in you keep must I ,all of first ,But .course due in you
with some of the other factors in the situation.

One of these, concerning which I have said little, is the escaped
believe to now reason strong is There .moor the upon convict
that he has got right away, which is a considerable relief to
passed has fortnight A .district this of householders lonely the
since his flight, during which he has not been seen and nothing
could he that inconceivable surely is It .him of heard been has
have held out upon the moor during all that time. Of course, so
Any .all at difficulty no is there goes concealment his as far
one of these stone huts would give him a hiding-place. But there
of one slaughter and catch to were he unless eat to nothing is
the moor sheep. We think, therefore, that he has gone, and the
.consequence in better the sleep farmers outlying

We are four able-bodied men in this household, so that we could
uneasy had have I that confess I but ,ourselves of care good take
moments when I have thought of the Stapletons. They live miles
,sister the ,manservant old an ,maid one are There .help any from
and the brother, the latter not a very strong man. They would
Notting this like fellow desperate a of hands the in helpless be
Hill criminal if he could once effect an entrance. Both Sir
suggested was it and ,situation their at concerned were I and Henry
that Perkins the groom should go over to sleep there, but Stapleton
.it of hear not would

The fact is that our friend, the baronet, begins to display a
be to not is It .neighbour fair our in interest considerable
wondered at, for time hangs heavily in this lonely spot to an
beautiful and fascinating very a is she and ,him like man active
woman. There is something tropical and exotic about her which
.brother unemotional and cool her to contrast singular a forms

Yet he also gives the idea of hidden fires. He has certainly a continually her seen have I for ,her over influence marked very glance at him as she talked as if seeking approbation for what glitter dry a is There .her to kind is he that trust I .said she in his eyes and a firm set of his thin lips, which goes with a an him find would You .nature harsh a possibly and positive interesting study.

He came over to call upon Baskerville on that first day, and the the where spot the us show to both us took he morning next very legend of the wicked Hugo is supposed to have had its origin. which place a to moor the across miles some of excursion an was It is so dismal that it might have suggested the story. We found a space grassy ,open an to led which tors rugged between valley short flecked over with the white cotton grass. In the middle of it until end upper the at sharpened and worn ,stones great two rose they looked like the huge corroding fangs of some monstrous beast. .tragedy old the of scene the with corresponded it way every In Sir Henry was much interested and asked Stapleton more than once interference the of possibility the in believe really did he whether of the supernatural in the affairs of men. He spoke lightly, Stapleton .earnest in much very was he that evident was it but was guarded in his replies, but it was easy to see that he said opinion whole his express not would he that and ,might he than less out of consideration for the feelings of the baronet. He told evil some from suffered had families where ,cases similar of us influence, and he left us with the impression that he shared the .matter the upon view popular

On our way back we stayed for lunch at Merripit House, and it was From .Stapleton Miss of acquaintance the made Henry Sir that there the first moment that he saw her he appeared to be strongly not was feeling the if mistaken much am I and ,her by attracted mutual. He referred to her again and again on our walk home, seen not have we that passed has day a hardly then since and something of the brother and sister. They dine here tonight, and would One .week next them to going our of talk some is there imagine that such a match would be very welcome to Stapleton, strongest the of look a caught once than more have I yet and

disapprobation in his face when Sir Henry has been paying some
,doubt no ,her to attached much is He .sister his to attention
and would lead a lonely life without her, but it would seem the
making her of way the in stand to were he if selfishness of height
so brilliant a marriage. Yet I am certain that he does not wish
times several have I and ,love into ripen to intimacy their
observed that he has taken pains to prevent them from being tete-
Sir allow to never me to instructions your ,way the By -a
Henry to go out alone will become very much more onerous if a
My .difficulties other our to added be to were affair love
popularity would soon suffer if I were to carry out your orders
.letter the to

The other day--Thursday, to be more exact--Dr. Mortimer lunched
has and Down Long at barrow a excavating been has He .us with
got a prehistoric skull which fills him with great joy. Never
Stapletons The !he as enthusiast -single a such there was
came in afterwards, and the good doctor took us all to the yew
everything how exactly us show to request 'Henry Sir at alley
occurred upon that fatal night. It is a long, dismal walk, the
narrow a with ,hedge clipped of walls high two between ,alley yew
band of grass upon either side. At the far end is an old tumble-
old the where -moor the is down Halfway -summer down
gentleman left his cigar-ash. It is a white wooden gate with a
theory your remembered I .moor wide the lies it Beyond .latch
of the affair and tried to picture all that had occurred. As
,moor the across coming something saw he there stood man old the
something which terrified him so that he lost his wits and ran
was There .exhaustion and horror sheer of died he until ran and
the long, gloomy tunnel down which he fled. And from what? A
and ,silent ,black ,hound spectral a Or ?moor the of -sheep
monstrous? Was there a human agency in the matter? Did the pale,
dim all was It ?say to cared he than more know Barrymore watchful
and vague, but always there is the dark shadow of crime behind it.

One other neighbour I have met since I wrote last. This is Mr.
south the to miles four some lives who ,Hall Lafter of ,Frankland
of us. He is an elderly man, red-faced, white-haired, and choleric.
large a spent has he and ,law British the for is passion His

fortune in litigation. He fights for the mere pleasure of fighting that so, question a of side either up take to ready equally is and it is no wonder that he has found it a costly amusement. Sometimes him make to parish the defy and way of right a up shut will he open it. At others he will with his own hands tear down some from there existed has path a that declare and gate 'man other time immemorial, defying the owner to prosecute him for trespass. applies he and, rights communal and manorial old in learned is He his knowledge sometimes in favour of the villagers of Fernworthy either periodically is he that so, them against sometimes and carried in triumph down the village street or else burned in have to said is He. exploit latest his to according, effigy about seven lawsuits upon his hands at present, which will probably sting his draw so and fortune his of remainder the up swallow and leave him harmless for the future. Apart from the law he because him mention only I and, person -good, kindly a seems you were particular that I should send some description of the, present at employed curiously is He. us surround who people for, being an amateur astronomer, he has an excellent telescope, the sweeps and house own his of roof the upon lies he which with moor all day in the hope of catching a glimpse of the escaped be would all this to energies his confine would he If. convict well, but there are rumours that he intends to prosecute Dr. of next the of consent the without grave a opening for Mortimer kin because he dug up the Neolithic skull in the barrow on Long gives and monotonous being from lives our keep to helps He. Down a little comic relief where it is badly needed.

And now, having brought you up to date in the escaped convict, let, Hall Lafter of, Frankland and, Mortimer. Dr, Stapletons the me end on that which is most important and tell you more about development surprising the about especially and, Barrymores the of last night.

First of all about the test telegram, which you sent from London have I. here really was Barrymore that sure make to order in already explained that the testimony of the postmaster shows that the or way one proof no have we that and worthless was test the other. I told Sir Henry how the matter stood, and he at once,

whether he had asked and up Barrymore had, fashion downright his in he had received the telegram himself. Barrymore said that he had.

"Did the boy deliver it into your own hands?" asked Sir Henry.

Barrymore looked surprised, and considered for a little time.

"No," said he, "I was in the box-room at the time, and my wife brought me to up it brought

"Did you answer it yourself?"

"No; I told my wife what to answer and she went down to write it."

In the evening he recurred to the subject of his own accord.

"I could not quite understand the object of your questions this mean not do they that trust I" he said "Henry Sir, morning that I have done anything to forfeit your confidence?"

Sir Henry had to assure him that it was not so and pacify him by London the, wardrobe old his of part considerable a him giving outfit having now all arrived.

Mrs. Barrymore is of interest to me. She is a heavy, solid person, puritanical be to inclined and, respectable intensely, limited very You could hardly conceive a less emotional subject. Yet I have, bitterly sobbing her heard I, here night first the on, how you told and since then I have more than once observed traces of tears upon Sometimes, heart her at ever gnaws sorrow deep Some, face her I wonder if she has a guilty memory which haunts her, and sometimes always have I, tyrant domestic a being of Barrymore suspect I felt that there was something singular and questionable in this my all brings night last of adventure the but, character 'man suspicions to a head.

And yet it may seem a small matter in itself. You are aware that in guard on been have I since and, sleeper sound very a not am I this house my slumbers have been lighter than ever. Last night,

passing step stealthy a by aroused was I ,morning the in two about my room. I rose, opened my door, and peeped out. A long black man a by thrown was It .corridor the down trailing was shadow who walked softly down the passage with a candle held in his hand. I .feet his to covering no with ,trousers and shirt in was He could merely see the outline, but his height told me that it was was there and ,circumspectly and slowly very walked He .Barrymore something indescribably guilty and furtive in his whole appearance.

I have told you that the corridor is broken by the balcony which .side farther the upon resumed is it that but ,hall the round runs I waited until he had passed out of sight and then I followed him. farther the of end the reached had he balcony the round came I When corridor, and I could see from the glimmer of light through an these all ,Now .rooms the of one entered had he that door open rooms are unfurnished and unoccupied so that his expedition became were he if as steadily shone light The .ever than mysterious more standing motionless. I crept down the passage as noiselessly as I .door the of corner the round peeped and could

Barrymore was crouching at the window with the candle held against face his and ,me towards turned half was profile His .glass the seemed to be rigid with expectation as he stared out into the watching stood he minutes some For .moor the of blackness intently. Then he gave a deep groan and with an impatient to back way my made I Instantly .light the out put he gesture my room, and very shortly came the stealthy steps passing once fallen had I when afterwards Long .journey return their upon more into a light sleep I heard a key turn somewhere in a lock, but I cannot I means all it What .came sound the whence tell not could guess, but there is some secret business going on in this house I .of bottom the to get shall we later or sooner which gloom of do not trouble you with my theories, for you asked me to furnish this Henry Sir with talk long a had have I .facts with only you morning, and we have made a plan of campaign founded upon my ,now just it about speak not will I .night last of observations but it should make my next report interesting reading.

Chapter 9

Moor the upon Light The

[Second Report of Dr. Watson]

Baskerville Hall, Oct. 15th.

:HOLMES DEAR MY

If I was compelled to leave you without much news during the early for up making am I that acknowledge must you mission my of days lost time, and that events are now crowding thick and fast upon Barrymore with note top my upon ended I report last my In .us at the window, and now I have quite a budget already which will, Things .you surprise considerably ,mistaken much am I unless have taken a turn which I could not have anticipated. In some much become hours -forty last the within have they ways clearer and in some ways they have become more complicated. But .yourself for judge shall you and all you tell will I

Before breakfast on the morning following my adventure I went had Barrymore which in room the examined and corridor the down been on the night before. The western window through which he all above peculiarity one ,noticed I ,has intently so stared had other windows in the house--it commands the nearest outlook on to enables which trees two between opening an is There .moor the one from this point of view to look right down upon it, while which glimpse distant a only is it windows other the all from can be obtained. It follows, therefore, that Barrymore, since looking been have must ,purpose the serve would window this only out for something or somebody upon the moor. The night was very to hoped have could he how imagine hardly can I that so ,dark see anyone. It had struck me that it was possible that some his for accounted have would That .foot on was intrigue love stealthy movements and also for the uneasiness of his wife. The steal to equipped well very ,fellow -striking a is man the heart of a country girl, so that this theory seemed to have had I which door the of opening That .it support to something heard after I had returned to my room might mean that he had reasoned I So .appointment clandestine some keep to out gone

with myself in the morning, and I tell you the direction of my
were they that shown have may result the much however ,suspicions
unfounded.

But whatever the true explanation of Barrymore's movements might
until myself to them keeping of responsibility the that felt I ,be
I could explain them was more than I could bear. I had an interview
all him told I and ,breakfast after study his in baronet the with
that I had seen. He was less surprised than I had expected.

"I knew that Barrymore walked about nights, and I had a mind to
heard have I times three or Two" .he said ",it about him to speak
his steps in the passage, coming and going, just about the hour
".name you

"Perhaps then he pays a visit every night to that particular
.suggested I ",window

"Perhaps he does. If so, we should be able to shadow him and see
Holmes friend your what wonder I .after is he that is it what
would do if he were here."

"I believe that he would do exactly what you now suggest," said
".did he what see and Barrymore follow would He" .I

"Then we shall do it together."

"But surely he would hear us."

"The man is rather deaf, and in any case we must take our chance
he until wait and tonight room my in up sit 'We .that of
passes." Sir Henry rubbed his hands with pleasure, and it was
somewhat his to relief a as adventure the hailed he that evident
quiet life upon the moor.

The baronet has been in communication with the architect who
from contractor a with and ,Charles Sir for plans the prepared
London, so that we may expect great changes to begin here soon.
and ,Plymouth from up furnishers and decorators been have There

it is evident that our friend has large ideas and means to spare. When his family of grandeur is restored to expense or pains, no house is renovated and refurnished, all that he will need are there ourselves. Between complete it, make to wife a, he will pretty clear signs that this will not be wanting if the lady is a woman with an infatuated more man, a seen seldom have I for, willing woman than he is with our beautiful neighbour, Miss Stapleton. smoothly as quite run, not does love true of course the yet. And as one would under the circumstances expect. Today, for example, has which, ripple unexpected very a by broken was surface its caused our friend considerable perplexity and annoyance.

After the conversation which I have quoted about Barrymore, Sir of matter a. As .out go to prepared and hat his on put Henry course I did the same.

"What, are you coming, Watson?" he asked, looking at me in a .way curious

"That depends on whether you are going on the moor," said I.

"Yes, I am."

"Well, you know what my instructions are. I am sorry to intrude, leave not should I that insisted Holmes earnestly how heard you but you, and especially that you should not go alone upon the moor."

Sir Henry put his hand upon my shoulder with a pleasant smile.

"My dear fellow," said he, "Holmes, with all his wisdom, did not the on been have I since happened have which things some foresee moor. You understand me? I am sure that you are the last man out go must I -spoil a be to wish would who world the in alone."

It put me in a most awkward position. I was at a loss what to up picked he mind my up made had I before and ,do to what or say his cane and was gone.

But when I came to think the matter over my conscience reproached of out go to him allowed pretext any on having for bitterly me my sight. I imagined what my feelings would be if I had to return through occurred had misfortune some that confess to and you to my disregard for your instructions. I assure you my cheeks flushed overtake to late too be now even not might It .thought very the at him, so I set off at once in the direction of Merripit House.

I hurried along the road at the top of my speed without seeing moor the where point the to came I until ,Henry Sir of anything path branches off. There, fearing that perhaps I had come in the could I which from hill a mounted I ,all after direction wrong command a view--the same hill which is cut into the dark quarry. quarter a about path moor the on was He .once at him saw I Thence of a mile off, and a lady was by his side who could only be Miss understanding an already was there that clear was It .Stapleton between them and that they had met by appointment. They were making her saw I and ,conversation deep in along slowly walking quick little movements of her hands as if she were very earnest or once and ,intently listened he while ,saying was she what in twice shook his head in strong dissent. I stood among the rocks .next do should I what to as puzzled much very ,them watching To follow them and break into their intimate conversation seemed instant an for never was duty clear my yet and ,outrage an be to to let him out of my sight. To act the spy upon a friend was a observe to than course better no see could I ,Still .task hateful him from the hill, and to clear my conscience by confessing to sudden any if that true is It .done had I what afterwards him danger had threatened him I was too far away to be of use, and was position the that me with agree will you that sure am I yet very difficult, and that there was nothing more which I could do.

Our friend, Sir Henry, and the lady had halted on the path and was I when ,conversation their in absorbed deeply standing were suddenly aware that I was not the only witness of their interview. another and ,eye my caught air the in floating green of wisp A glance showed me that it was carried on a stick by a man who was his with Stapleton was It .ground broken the among moving butterfly-net. He was very much closer to the pair than I was,

instant this At .direction their in moving be to appeared he and Sir Henry suddenly drew Miss Stapleton to his side. His arm was from away straining was she that me to seemed it but ,her round him with her face averted. He stooped his head to hers, and she spring them saw I moment Next .protest in if as hand one raised apart and turn hurriedly round. Stapleton was the cause of the absurd his ,them towards wildly running was He .interruption net dangling behind him. He gesticulated and almost danced with could I meant scene the What .lovers the of front in excitement not imagine, but it seemed to me that Stapleton was abusing Sir the as angry more became which ,explanations offered who ,Henry other refused to accept them. The lady stood by in haughty silence. peremptory a in beckoned and heel his upon turned Stapleton Finally way to his sister, who, after an irresolute glance at Sir Henry, angry 'naturalist The .brother her of side the by off walked gestures showed that the lady was included in his displeasure. he then and ,them after looking minute a for stood baronet The walked slowly back the way that he had come, his head hanging, .dejection of picture very the

What all this meant I could not imagine, but I was deeply ashamed .knowledge 'friend my without scene a intimate so witnessed have to I ran down the hill therefore and met the baronet at the bottom. like ,wrinkled were brows his and anger with flushed was face His one who is at his wit's ends what to do.

"Halloa, Watson! Where have you dropped from?" said he. "You"?all of spite in me after came you that say to mean 'don

I explained everything to him: how I had found it impossible to witnessed had I how and ,him followed had I how ,behind remain all that had occurred. For an instant his eyes blazed at me, into last at broke he and ,anger his disarmed frankness my but a rather rueful laugh.

"You would have thought the middle of that prairie a fairly safe the ,thunder by ,but" ,he said ",private be to man a for place whole countryside seems to have been out to see me do my wooing--"?seat a engaged you had Where !that at wooing poor mighty a and

"I was on that hill."

"Quite in the back row, eh? But her brother was well up to the
"?us on out come him see you Did .front

"Yes, I did."

"Did he ever strike you as being crazy--this brother of hers?"

"I can't say that he ever did."

"I dare say not. I always thought him sane enough until today,
in be to ought I or he either that me from it take can you but
a straitjacket. What's the matter with me, anyhow? You've lived
there Is !now ,straight me Tell .Watson ,weeks some for me near
anything that would prevent me from making a good husband to a
"?loved I that woman

"I should say not."

"He can't object to my worldly position, so it must be myself
hurt never I ?me against he has What .on down this has he that
man or woman in my life that I know of. And yet he would not so
".fingers her of tips the touch me let as much

"Did he say so?"

"That, and a deal more. I tell you, Watson, I've only known her
made was she that felt just I first the from but ,weeks few these
for me, and she, too--she was happy when she was with me, and that
louder speaks that eyes 'woman a in light a 'There .swear 'I
than words. But he has never let us get together and it was only
words few a having of chance a saw I that time first the for today
with her alone. She was glad to meet me, but when she did it
let have 'wouldn she and ,about talk would she that love not was
me talk about it either if she could have stopped it. She kept
she that and ,danger of place a was this that it to back coming
would never be happy until I had left it. I told her that since

she if that and ,it leave to hurry no in was I her seen had I really wanted me to go, the only way to work it was for her to to words many as in offered I that With .me with go to arrange marry her, but before she could answer, down came this brother was He .madman a like him on face a with us at running ,hers of just white with rage, and those light eyes of his were blazing offer I dared How ?lady the with doing I was What .fury with her attentions which were distasteful to her? Did I think that not had he If ?liked I what do could I baronet a was I because been her brother I should have known better how to answer him. were sister his towards feelings my that him told I was it As such as I was not ashamed of, and that I hoped that she might matter the make to seemed That .wife my becoming by me honour no better, so then I lost my temper too, and I answered him she that considering ,perhaps should I than hotly more rather was standing by. So it ended by his going off with her, as you .county this in any as man a puzzled badly as I am here and ,saw Just tell me what it all means, Watson, and I'll owe you more ".pay to hope can I ever than

I tried one or two explanations, but, indeed, I was completely his ,age his ,fortune his ,title 'friend Our .myself puzzled character, and his appearance are all in his favour, and I know his in runs which fate dark this be it unless him against nothing family. That his advances should be rejected so brusquely without should lady the that and wishes own 'lady the to reference any accept the situation without protest is very amazing. However, himself Stapleton from visit a by rest at set were conjectures our that very afternoon. He had come to offer apologies for his with interview private long a after and ,morning the of rudeness Sir Henry in his study the upshot of their conversation was that Merripit at dine to are we that and ,healed quite is breach the House next Friday as a sign of it.

"I don't say now that he isn't a crazy man," said Sir Henry; "I ,morning this me at ran he when eyes his in look the forget 'can but I must allow that no man could make a more handsome apology ".done has he than

"Did he give any explanation of his conduct?"

"His sister is everything in his life, he says. That is natural. They value her. I understand that I am glad and enough. We have always been together, and according to his account he has the that so, companion as her only with man lonely very a been thought of losing her was really terrible to him. He had not but, her to attached becoming was I that, said he, understood when he saw with his own eyes that it was really so, and that that shock a such him gave it, him from away taken be might she for a time he was not responsible for what he said or did. He how recognized he and, passed had that all for sorry very was foolish and how selfish it was that he should imagine that he her for himself to sister his like woman beautiful a hold could whole life. If she had to leave him he had rather it was to a it case any in But, else anyone to than myself like neighbour was a blow to him and it would take him some time before he could upon opposition all withdraw would He, it meet to himself prepare his part if I would promise for three months to let the matter friendship 'lady the cultivating with content be to and rest during that time without claiming her love. This I promised, ".rests matter the so and

So there is one of our small mysteries cleared up. It is something are we which in bog this in anywhere bottom touched have to floundering. We know now why Stapleton looked with disfavour upon one a eligible so was suitor that when --suitor 'sister his as Sir Henry. And now I pass on to another thread which I have in sobs the of mystery the, skein tangled the of out extricated the night, of the tear-stained face of Mrs. Barrymore, of the .window lattice western the to butler the of journey secret Congratulate me, my dear Holmes, and tell me that I have not confidence the regret not do you --agent an as you disappointed which you showed in me when you sent me down. All these things .cleared thoroughly been work 'night one by have

I have said "by one night's work," but, in truth, it was by two up sat I .blank entirely drew we first the on for, work 'nights with Sir Henry in his rooms until nearly three o'clock in the

chiming the except hear we did sort any of sound no but ,morning
clock upon the stairs. It was a most melancholy vigil and ended
were we Fortunately .chairs our in asleep falling us of each by
not discouraged, and we determined to try again. The next night
the making without cigarettes smoking sat and lamp the lowered we
least sound. It was incredible how slowly the hours crawled by,
patient of sort same the by it through helped were we yet and
interest which the hunter must feel as he watches the trap into
we and ,two and ,struck One .wander may game the hopes he which
had almost for the second time given it up in despair when in an
weary our all with chairs our in upright bolt sat both we instant
senses keenly on the alert once more. We had heard the creak of
.passage the in step a

Very stealthily we heard it pass along until it died away in the
out set we and door his opened gently baronet the Then .distance
in pursuit. Already our man had gone round the gallery and the
had we until along stole we Softly .darkness in all was corridor
come into the other wing. We were just in time to catch a glimpse
he as rounded shoulders his ,figure -black ,tall the of
tiptoed down the passage. Then he passed through the same door
darkness the in it framed candle the of light the and ,before as
and shot one single yellow beam across the gloom of the corridor.
we before plank every trying ,it towards cautiously shuffled We
dared to put our whole weight upon it. We had taken the precaution
snapped boards old the ,so even ,but ,us behind boots our leaving of
and creaked beneath our tread. Sometimes it seemed impossible
is man the ,However .approach our hear to fail should he that
fortunately rather deaf, and he was entirely preoccupied in that
peeped and door the reached we last at When .doing was he which
through we found him crouching at the window, candle in hand, his
seen had I as exactly ,pane the against pressed face intent ,white
him two nights before.

We had arranged no plan of campaign, but the baronet is a man to
walked He .natural most the always is way direct most the whom
into the room, and as he did so Barrymore sprang up from the
and livid ,stood and breath his of hiss sharp a with window
trembling, before us. His dark eyes, glaring out of the white

gazed he as astonishment and horror of full were ,face his of mask
from Sir Henry to me.

"What are you doing here, Barrymore?"

"Nothing, sir." His agitation was so great that he could hardly
his of shaking the from down and up sprang shadows the and ,speak
candle. "It was the window, sir. I go round at night to see that
".fastened are they

"On the second floor?"

"Yes, sir, all the windows."

"Look here, Barrymore," said Sir Henry sternly, "we have made up
trouble you save will it so ,you of out truth the have to minds our
to tell it sooner rather than later. Come, now! No lies! What
"?window that at doing you were

The fellow looked at us in a helpless way, and he wrung his hands
.misery and doubt of extremity last the in is who one like together

"I was doing no harm, sir. I was holding a candle to the window."

"And why were you holding a candle to the window?"

"Don't ask me, Sir Henry--don't ask me! I give you my word, sir,
it If .it tell cannot I that and ,secret my not is it that
concerned no one but myself I would not try to keep it from you."

A sudden idea occurred to me, and I took the candle from the
.butler the of hand trembling

"He must have been holding it as a signal," said I. "Let us see
stared and ,done had he as it held I ".answer any is there if
out into the darkness of the night. Vaguely I could discern the
for ,moor the of expanse lighter the and trees the of bank black
the moon was behind the clouds. And then I gave a cry of exultation,
the transfixed suddenly had light yellow of pinpoint tiny a for

dark veil, and glowed steadily in the centre of the black square
.window the by framed

"There it is!" I cried.

"No, no, sir, it is nothing--nothing at all!" the butler broke
"--sir ,you assure I" ;in

"Move your light across the window, Watson!" cried the baronet.
that deny you do ,rascal you ,Now !also moves other the ,See"
it is a signal? Come, speak up! Who is your confederate out
"?on going is that conspiracy this is what and ,yonder

The man's face became openly defiant. "It is my business, and
".tell not will I .yours not

"Then you leave my employment right away."

"Very good, sir. If I must I must."

"And you go in disgrace. By thunder, you may well be ashamed of
hundred a over for mine with lived has family Your .yourself
years under this roof, and here I find you deep in some dark plot
".me against

"No, no, sir; no, not against you!" It was a woman's voice, and
was ,husband her than horrorstruck more and paler ,Barrymore .Mrs
standing at the door. Her bulky figure in a shawl and skirt
feeling of intensity the for not it were comic been have might
upon her face.

"We have to go, Eliza. This is the end of it. You can pack our
.butler the said " ,things

"Oh, John, John, have I brought you to this? It is my doing,
and sake my for except nothing done has He .mine --Henry Sir
because I asked him."

"Speak out, then! What does it mean?"

"My unhappy brother is starving on the moor. We cannot let him
food that him to signal a light The gates very our at perish
is ready for him, and his light out yonder is to show the spot
.it bring to which to

"Then your brother is--"

"The escaped convict, sir--Selden, the criminal."

"That's the truth, sir," said Barrymore. "I said that it was not
have you now But you to it tell not could I that and secret my
heard it, and you will see that if there was a plot it was not
.you against

This, then, was the explanation of the stealthy expeditions at
stared both I and Henry Sir window the at light the and night
at the woman in amazement. Was it possible that this stolidly
most the of one as blood same the of was person respectable
notorious criminals in the country?

"Yes, sir, my name was Selden, and he is my younger brother. We
way own his him gave and lad a was he when much too him humoured
in everything until he came to think that the world was made for
as Then .it in liked he what do could he that and ,pleasure his
he grew older he met wicked companions, and the devil entered
name our dragged and heart 'mother my broke he until him into
in the dirt. From crime to crime he sank lower and lower until
the from him snatched has which God of mercy the only is it
scaffold; but to me, sir, he was always the little curly-headed
.would sister elder an as with played and nursed had I that boy
That was why he broke prison, sir. He knew that I was here and
himself dragged he When .him help to refuse not could we that
here one night, weary and starving, with the warders hard at his
cared and him fed and in him took We ?do we could what ,heels
for him. Then you returned, sir, and my brother thought he would
cry and hue the until else anywhere than moor the on safer be
was over, so he lay in hiding there. But every second night we
,window the in light a putting by there still was he if sure made

and if there was an answer my husband took out some bread and meat
he as long as but ,gone was he that hoped we day Every .him to
was there we could not desert him. That is the whole truth, as
is there if that see will you and woman Christian honest an am I
blame in the matter it does not lie with my husband but with me,
".has he that all done has he sake whose for

The woman's words came with an intense earnestness which carried
.them with conviction

"Is this true, Barrymore?"

"Yes, Sir Henry. Every word of it."

"Well, I cannot blame you for standing by your own wife. Forget
talk shall we and ,two you ,room your to Go .said have I what
further about this matter in the morning."

When they were gone we looked out of the window again. Sir Henry
.faces our upon in beat wind night cold the and ,open it flung had
Far away in the black distance there still glowed that one tiny
.light yellow of point

"I wonder he dares," said Sir Henry.

"It may be so placed as to be only visible from here."

"Very likely. How far do you think it is?"

"Out by the Cleft Tor, I think."

"Not more than a mile or two off."

"Hardly that."

"Well, it cannot be far if Barrymore had to carry out the food
By .candle that beside ,villain this ,waiting is he And .it to
thunder, Watson, I am going out to take that man!"

The same thought had crossed my own mind. It was not as if the had secret Their .confidence their into us taken had Barrymores been forced from them. The man was a danger to the community, nor pity neither was there whom for scoundrel unmitigated an excuse. We were only doing our duty in taking this chance of and brutal his With .harm no do could he where back him putting violent nature, others would have to pay the price if we held our Stapletons the neighbours our ,example for ,night Any .hands might be attacked by him, and it may have been the thought of .adventure the upon keen so Henry Sir made which this

"I will come," said I.

"Then get your revolver and put on your boots. The sooner we ".off be and light his out put may fellow the as ,better the start

In five minutes we were outside the door, starting upon our the amid ,shrubbery dark the through hurried We .expedition dull moaning of the autumn wind and the rustle of the falling and damp of smell the with heavy was air night The .leaves decay. Now and again the moon peeped out for an instant, but we as just and ,sky the of face the over driving were clouds came out on the moor a thin rain began to fall. The light still .front in steadily burned

"Are you armed?" I asked.

"I have a hunting-crop."

"We must close in on him rapidly, for he is said to be a desperate mercy our at him have and surprise by him take shall We .fellow before he can resist."

"I say, Watson," said the baronet, "what would Holmes say to this? is evil of power the which in darkness of hour that about How exalted?"

The Hound of the Baskervilles

As if in answer to his words there rose suddenly out of the vast upon heard already had I which cry strange that moor the of gloom the borders of the great Grimpen Mire. It came with the wind a then ,mutter deep ,long a ,night the of silence the through rising howl, and then the sad moan in which it died away. Again ,strident ,it with throbbing air whole the ,sounded it again and wild, and menacing. The baronet caught my sleeve and his face .darkness the through white glimmered

"My God, what's that, Watson?"

"I don't know. It's a sound they have on the moor. I heard it ".before once

It died away, and an absolute silence closed in upon us. We stood .came nothing but ,ears our straining

"Watson," said the baronet, "it was the cry of a hound."

My blood ran cold in my veins, for there was a break in his voice .him seized had which horror sudden the of told which

"What do they call this sound?" he asked.

"Who?"

"The folk on the countryside."

"Oh, they are ignorant people. Why should you mind what they "?it call

"Tell me, Watson. What do they say of it?"

I hesitated but could not escape the question.

"They say it is the cry of the Hound of the Baskervilles."

He groaned and was silent for a few moments.

"A hound it was," he said at last, "but it seemed to come from
".think I ,yonder over ,away miles

"It was hard to say whence it came."

"It rose and fell with the wind. Isn't that the direction of
"?Mire Grimpen great the

"Yes, it is."

"Well, it was up there. Come now, Watson, didn't you think
You .child a not am I ?hound a of cry the was it that yourself
need not fear to speak the truth."

"Stapleton was with me when I heard it last. He said that it
".bird strange a of calling the be might

"No, no, it was a hound. My God, can there be some truth in all
so from danger in really am I that possible it Is ?stories these
dark a cause? You don't believe it, do you, Watson?"

"No, no."

"And yet it was one thing to laugh about it in London, and it is
hear to and moor the of darkness the in here out stand to another
such a cry as that. And my uncle! There was the footprint of the
think 'don I .together fits all It .lay he as him beside hound
that I am a coward, Watson, but that sound seemed to freeze my
"!hand my Feel .blood very

It was as cold as a block of marble.

"You'll be all right tomorrow."

"I don't think I'll get that cry out of my head. What do you
"?now do we that advise

"Shall we turn back?"

"No, by thunder; we have come out to get our man, and we will not as likely as -hell a and ,convict the after We .it do after us. Come on! We'll see it through if all the fiends of .moor the upon loose were pit the

We stumbled slowly along in the darkness, with the black loom of burning light of speck yellow the and ,us around hills craggy the steadily in front. There is nothing so deceptive as the distance glimmer the sometimes and ,night -pitch a upon light a of seemed to be far away upon the horizon and sometimes it might see could we last at But .us of yards few a within been have whence it came, and then we knew that we were indeed very close. which rocks the of crevice a in stuck was candle guttering A flanked it on each side so as to keep the wind from it and also of direction the in save ,visible being from it prevent to Baskerville Hall. A boulder of granite concealed our approach, .light signal the at it over gazed we it behind crouching and It was strange to see this single candle burning there in the one the --it near life of sign no with ,moor the of middle straight yellow flame and the gleam of the rock on each side of it.

"What shall we do now?" whispered Sir Henry.

"Wait here. He must be near his light. Let us see if we can get .him of glimpse a

The words were hardly out of my mouth when we both saw him. Over was there ,burned candle the which of crevice the in ,rocks the thrust out an evil yellow face, a terrible animal face, all seamed bristling a with ,mire with Foul .passions vile with scored and beard, and hung with matted hair, it might well have belonged to .hillsides the on burrows the in dwelt who savages old those of one The light beneath him was reflected in his small, cunning eyes like darkness the through left and right to fiercely peered which a crafty and savage animal who has heard the steps of the hunters.

Something had evidently aroused his suspicions. It may have been to neglected had we which signal private some had Barrymore that give, or the fellow may have had some other reason for thinking

wicked his upon fears his read could I but ,well not was all that face. Any instant he might dash out the light and vanish in the .same the did Henry Sir and ,therefore forward sprang I .darkness At the same moment the convict screamed out a curse at us and had which boulder the against up splintered which rock a hurled sheltered us. I caught one glimpse of his short, squat, strongly the At .run to turned and feet his to sprang he as figure built same moment by a lucky chance the moon broke through the clouds. running man our was there and ,hill the of brow the over rushed We with great speed down the other side, springing over the stones long lucky A .goat mountain a of activity the with way his in shot of my revolver might have crippled him, but I had brought unarmed an shoot to not and attacked if myself defend to only it man who was running away.

We were both swift runners and in fairly good training, but we him saw We .him overtaking of chance no had we that found soon for a long time in the moonlight until he was only a small speck .hill distant a of side the upon boulders the among swiftly moving We ran and ran until we were completely blown, but the space panting sat and stopped we Finally .wider ever grew us between on two rocks, while we watched him disappearing in the distance.

And it was at this moment that there occurred a most strange and turning were and rocks our from risen had We .thing unexpected to go home, having abandoned the hopeless chase. The moon was tor granite a of pinnacle jagged the and ,right the upon low stood up against the lower curve of its silver disc. There, ,background shining that on statue ebony an as black as outlined I saw the figure of a man upon the tor. Do not think that it my in never have I that you assure I .Holmes ,delusion a was life seen anything more clearly. As far as I could judge, the a legs his with stood He .man thin ,tall a of that was figure little separated, his arms folded, his head bowed, as if he were which granite and peat of wilderness enormous that over brooding lay before him. He might have been the very spirit of that from far was man This .convict the not was It .place terrible the place where the latter had disappeared. Besides, he was a to out him pointed I surprise of cry a With .man taller much

the baronet, but in the instant during which I had turned to
of pinnacle sharp the was There .gone was man the arm his grasp
granite still cutting the lower edge of the moon, but its peak
.figure motionless and silent that of trace no bore

I wished to go in that direction and to search the tor, but it
quivering still were nerves 'baronet The .away distance some was
from that cry, which recalled the dark story of his family, and
seen not had He .adventures fresh for mood the in not was he
this lonely man upon the tor and could not feel the thrill which
.me to given had attitude commanding his and presence strange his
"A warder, no doubt," said he. "The moor has been thick with
explanation his perhaps ,Well ".escaped fellow this since them
may be the right one, but I should like to have some further proof
people Princetown the to communicate to mean we Today .it of
where they should look for their missing man, but it is hard lines
back him bringing of triumph the had actually not have we that
as our own prisoner. Such are the adventures of last night, and
very you done have I that ,Holmes dear my ,acknowledge must you
well in the matter of a report. Much of what I tell you is no
I that best is it that feel I still but ,irrelevant quite doubt
should let you have all the facts and leave you to select for
helping in you to service most of be will which those yourself
you to your conclusions. We are certainly making some progress.
their of motive the found have we go Barrymores the as far So
actions, and that has cleared up the situation very much. But
remains inhabitants strange its and mysteries its with moor the
as inscrutable as ever. Perhaps in my next I may be able to throw
could you if be it would all of Best .also this upon light some
come down to us. In any case you will hear from me again in the
.days few next the of course

Chapter 10

Watson .Dr of Diary the from Extract

So far I have been able to quote from the reports which I have forwarded to Sherlock Holmes. Now, however, I have arrived at a point in my narrative where I am compelled to abandon this method and to trust to my recollections, aided by the diary which I kept at the time. A few scenes those which will latterly be mentioned in the extracts are indelibly fixed in every detail upon my memory. I then proceeded to follow our abortive chase of the convict and our other strange experiences upon the moor.

October 16th. A dull and foggy day with a drizzle of rain. The clouds now rise which banked in the distance to show the dreary curves of the moor, with thin, silver veins gleaming boulders distant the hills the sides of which upon where the light strikes upon their wet faces. It is melancholy the after reaction black as in is baronet The .in and outside excitements of the night. I am conscious myself of a weight at present --danger impending of feeling a and heart my which is the more terrible because I am unable to define it.

And have I not cause for such a feeling? Consider the long sinister some to pointed all have which incidents of sequence influence which is at work around us. There is the death of the conditions the exactly so fulfilling ,Hall the of occupant last of the family legend, and there are the repeated reports from .moor the upon creature strange a of appearance the of peasants Twice I have with my own ears heard the sound which resembled the it that ,impossible ,incredible is It .hound a of baying distant should really be outside the ordinary laws of nature. A spectral its with air the fills and footmarks material leaves which hound howling is surely not to be thought of. Stapleton may fall in one have I if but ,also Mortimer and ,superstition a such with quality upon earth it is common sense, and nothing will persuade to descend to be would so do To .thing a such in believe to me

the level of these poor peasants, who are not content with a mere
from shooting -hell with him describe needs must but dog fiend
his mouth and eyes. Holmes would not listen to such fancies, and
this heard twice have I and ,facts are facts But .agent his am I
crying upon the moor. Suppose that there were really some huge
But .everything explain to far go would that ;it upon loose hound
where could such a hound lie concealed, where did it get its food,
It ?day by it saw one no that it was how ,from come it did where
must be confessed that the natural explanation offers almost as
,hound the from apart ,always And .other the as difficulties many
there is the fact of the human agency in London, the man in the
This .moor the against Henry Sir warned which letter the and ,cab
at least was real, but it might have been the work of a protecting
enemy or friend that is Where .enemy an of as easily as friend
now? Has he remained in London, or has he followed us down here?
?tor the upon saw I whom stranger the be he --he Could

It is true that I have had only the one glance at him, and yet
no is He .swear to ready am I which to things some are there
one whom I have seen down here, and I have now met all the
,Stapleton of that than taller far was figure The .neighbours
far thinner than that of Frankland. Barrymore it might possibly
that certain am I and ,us behind him left had we but ,been have
he could not have followed us. A stranger then is still dogging
shaken never have We .London in us dogged stranger a as just ,us
him off. If I could lay my hands upon that man, then at last we
this To .difficulties our all of end the at ourselves find might
one purpose I must now devote all my energies.

My first impulse was to tell Sir Henry all my plans. My second
as little as speak and game own my play to is one wisest and
possible to anyone. He is silent and distraught. His nerves have
say will I .moor the upon sound that by shaken strangely been
nothing to add to his anxieties, but I will take my own steps to
.end own my attain

We had a small scene this morning after breakfast. Barrymore
in closeted were they and ,Henry Sir with speak to leave asked
his study some little time. Sitting in the billiard-room I more

pretty a had I and ,raised voices of sound the heard once than
good idea what the point was which was under discussion. After
.me for called and door his opened baronet the time a
"Barrimore considers that he has a grievance," he said. "He
-brother his hunt to part our on unfair was it that thinks
down when he, of his own free will, had told us the secret."

The butler was standing very pale but very collected before us.

"I may have spoken too warmly, sir," said he, "and if I have, I
very was I ,time same the At .pardon your beg I that sure am
much surprised when I heard you two gentlemen come back this
poor The .Selden chasing been had you that learned and morning
fellow has enough to fight against without my putting more upon
".track his

"If you had told us of your own free will it would have been a
rather or ,us told only you" ,baronet the said ",thing different
your wife only told us, when it was forced from you and you could
".yourself help not

"I didn't think you would have taken advantage of it, Sir Henry--
'didn I indeed

"The man is a public danger. There are lonely houses scattered
.nothing at stick would who fellow a is he and ,moor the over
You only want to get a glimpse of his face to see that. Look at
to himself but one no with ,example for ,house 'Stapleton .Mr
defend it. There's no safety for anyone until he is under lock
".key and

"He'll break into no house, sir. I give you my solemn word upon
.again country this in anyone trouble never will he But .that
I assure you, Sir Henry, that in a very few days the necessary
to way his on be will he and made been have will arrangements
South America. For God's sake, sir, I beg of you not to let the
the up given have They .moor the on still is he that know police
chase there, and he can lie quiet until the ship is ready for him.
.trouble into me and wife my getting without him on tell 'can You

I beg you, sir, to say nothing to the police."

"What do you say, Watson?"

I shrugged my shoulders. "If he were safely out of the country
".burden a of -tax the relieve would it

"But how about the chance of his holding someone up before he goes?"

"He would not do anything so mad, sir. We have provided him with
where show to be would crime a commit To .want can he that all
he was hiding."

"That is true," said Sir Henry. "Well, Barrymore--"

"God bless you, sir, and thank you from my heart! It would have
".again taken been he had wife poor my killed

"I guess we are aiding and abetting a felony, Watson? But, after
so ,up man the give could I if as feel 'don I heard have we what
there is an end of it. All right, Barrymore, you can go."

With a few broken words of gratitude the man turned, but he
.back came then and hesitated

"You've been so kind to us, sir, that I should like to do the
and ,Henry Sir ,something know I .return in you for can I best
perhaps I should have said it before, but it was long after the
about word a breathed never 'I .out it found I that inquest
it yet to mortal man. It's about poor Sir Charles's death."

The baronet and I were both upon our feet. "Do you know how he
"?died

"No, sir, I don't know that."

"What then?"

"I know why he was at the gate at that hour. It was to meet a woman"

"To meet a woman! He?"

"Yes, sir."

"And the woman's name?"

"I can't give you the name, sir, but I can give you the initials. L. L. were initials Her"

"How do you know this, Barrymore?"

"Well, Sir Henry, your uncle had a letter that morning. He had well and man public a was he for ,letters many great a usually known for his kind heart, so that everyone who was in trouble was was there ,chanced it as ,morning that But .him to turn to glad only this one letter, so I took the more notice of it. It was .hand 'woman a in addressed was it and ,Tracey Coombe from"

"Well?"

"Well, sir, I thought no more of the matter, and never would have was she ago weeks few a Only .wife my for been not it had done cleaning out Sir Charles's study--it had never been touched since back the in letter burned a of ashes the found she --death his of the grate. The greater part of it was charred to pieces, but writing the and ,together hung ,page a of end the ,slip little one could still be read, though it was gray on a black ground. It it and letter the of end the at postscript a be to us to seemed said: 'Please, please, as you are a gentleman, burn this letter, the signed were it Beneath .clock o ten by gate the at be and initials L. L."

"Have you got that slip?"

"No, sir, it crumbled all to bits after we moved it."

"Had Sir Charles received any other letters in the same writing?"

"Well, sir, I took no particular notice of his letters. I should
".alone come to happened it only ,one this noticed have not

"And you have no idea who L. L. is?"

"No, sir. No more than you have. But I expect if we could lay
'Charles Sir about more know should we lady that upon hands our
death."

"I cannot understand, Barrymore, how you came to conceal this
".information important

"Well, sir, it was immediately after that our own trouble came
Sir of fond very us of both were we ,sir ,again then And .us to
Charles, as we well might be considering all that he has done for
well 'it and ,master poor our help 'couldn up this rake To .us
to go carefully when there's a lady in the case. Even the best
"--us of

"You thought it might injure his reputation?"

"Well, sir, I thought no good could come of it. But now you have
unfairly you treating be would it if as feel I and ,us to kind been
not to tell you all that I know about the matter."

"Very good, Barrymore; you can go." When the butler had left us
this of think you do what ,Watson ,Well" .me to turned Henry Sir
new light?"

"It seems to leave the darkness rather blacker than before."

"So I think. But if we can only trace L. L. it should clear up
that know We .much that gained have We .business whole the
there is someone who has the facts if we can only find her. What
"?do should we think you do

"Let Holmes know all about it at once. It will give him the clue not does it if mistaken much am I .seeking been has he which for bring him down."

I went at once to my room and drew up my report of the morning's been had he that me to evident was It .Holmes for conversation very busy of late, for the notes which I had from Baker Street which information the upon comments no with ,short and few were I had supplied and hardly any reference to my mission. No doubt yet And .faculties his all absorbing is case blackmailing his this new factor must surely arrest his attention and renew his .here were he that wish I .interest

October 17th. All day today the rain poured down, rustling on convict the of thought I .eaves the from dripping and ivy the out upon the bleak, cold, shelterless moor. Poor devil! Whatever And .them for atone to something suffered has he ,crimes his then I thought of that other one--the face in the cab, the figure unseen --deluged that in out also he Was .moon the against watcher, the man of darkness? In the evening I put on my dark of full ,moor sodden the upon far walked I and waterproof imaginings, the rain beating upon my face and the wind whistling ,now mire great the into wander who those help God .ears my about for even the firm uplands are becoming a morass. I found the from and ,watcher solitary the seen had I which upon tor black its craggy summit I looked out myself across the melancholy downs. ,heavy the and ,face russet their across drifted squalls Rain slate-coloured clouds hung low over the landscape, trailing in the In .hills fantastic the of sides the down wreaths gray distant hollow on the left, half hidden by the mist, the two were They .trees the above rose Hall Baskerville of towers thin the only signs of human life which I could see, save only those .hills the of slopes the upon thickly lay which huts prehistoric Nowhere was there any trace of that lonely man whom I had seen .before nights two spot same the on

As I walked back I was overtaken by Dr. Mortimer driving in his outlying the from led which track moorland rough a over -dog farmhouse of Foulmire. He has been very attentive to us, and to Hall the at called not has he that passed has day a hardly see how we were getting on. He insisted upon my climbing into much him found I .homeward lift a me gave he and -dog his troubled over the disappearance of his little spaniel. It had such him gave I .back come never had and moor the to on wandered consolation as I might, but I thought of the pony on the Grimpen .again dog little his see will he that fancy not do I and ,Mire

"By the way, Mortimer," said I as we jolted along the rough road, of distance driving within living people few are there suppose I" this whom you do not know?"

"Hardly any, I think."

"Can you, then, tell me the name of any woman whose initials are ".L .L

He thought for a few minutes.

"No," said he. "There are a few gipsies and labouring folk for no is there gentry or farmers the among but ,answer 'can I whom one whose initials are those. Wait a bit though," he added after she --.L .L are initials --Lyons Laura is There" .pause a lives in Coombe Tracey."

"Who is she?" I asked.

"She is Frankland's daughter."

"What! Old Frankland the crank?"

"Exactly. She married an artist named Lyons, who came sketching The .her deserted and blackguard a be to proved He .moor the on fault from what I hear may not have been entirely on one side. Her had she because her with do to anything have to refused father married without his consent and perhaps for one or two other

one young the and sinner old the between ,So .well as reasons
the girl has had a pretty bad time."

"How does she live?"

"I fancy old Frankland allows her a pittance, but it cannot be
Whatever .involved considerably are affairs own his for ,more
she may have deserved one could not allow her to go hopelessly
here people the of several and ,about got story Her .bad the to
did something to enable her to earn an honest living. Stapleton
.myself trifle a gave I .another for Charles Sir and ,one for did
It was to set her up in a typewriting business."

He wanted to know the object of my inquiries, but I managed to
is there for ,much too him telling without curiosity his satisfy
no reason why we should take anyone into our confidence. Tomorrow
see can I if and ,Tracey Coombe to way my find shall I morning
this Mrs. Laura Lyons, of equivocal reputation, a long step will
of chain this in incident one clearing towards made been have
mysteries. I am certainly developing the wisdom of the serpent,
extent inconvenient an to questions his pressed Mortimer when for
I asked him casually to what type Frankland's skull belonged, and
have I .drive our of rest the for craniology but nothing heard so
not lived for years with Sherlock Holmes for nothing.

I have only one other incident to record upon this tempestuous
Barrymore with conversation my was This .day melancholy and
just now, which gives me one more strong card which I can play
.time due in

Mortimer had stayed to dinner, and he and the baronet played
the into coffee my me brought butler The .afterwards ecarte
library, and I took the chance to ask him a few questions.

"Well," said I, "has this precious relation of yours departed,
"?yonder out lurking still he is or

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"I don't know, sir. I hope to heaven that he has gone, for he has heard not of his trouble but nothing brought has since I left out food for him last, and that was three days ago."

"Did you see him then?"

"No, sir, but the food was gone when next I went that way."

"Then he was certainly there?"

"So you would think, sir, unless it was the other man who took it."

I sat with my coffee-cup halfway to my lips and stared at Barrymore.

"You know that there is another man then?"

"Yes, sir; there is another man upon the moor."

"Have you seen him?"

"No, sir."

"How do you know of him then?"

"Selden told me of him, sir, a week ago or more. He's in hiding, don't you know, but I can't make out as far as convict a not 'he but, too like it, Dr. Watson--I tell you straight, sir, that I don't like the earnestness of passion sudden a with spoke He ".it

"Now, listen to me, Barrymore! I have no interest in this matter to except object no with here come have I .master your of that but help him. Tell me, frankly, what it is that you don't like."

Barrymore hesitated for a moment, as if he regretted his outburst .words in feelings own his express to difficult it found or

"It's all these goings-on, sir," he cried at last, waving his hand foul "There" .moor the faced which window -rain the towards play somewhere, and there's black villainy brewing, to that I'll

way his on Henry Sir see to ,sir ,be should I glad Very !swear
back to London again!"

"But what is it that alarms you?"

"Look at Sir Charles's death! That was bad enough, for all that
There .night at moor the on noises the at Look .said coroner the
not a man would cross it after sundown if he was paid for it. Look
!waiting and watching and ,yonder out hiding stranger this at
What's he waiting for? What does it mean? It means no good to
to be shall I glad very and ,Baskerville of name the of anyone
be quit of it all on the day that Sir Henry's new servants are
".Hall the over take to ready

"But about this stranger," said I. "Can you tell me anything
,hid he where out find he Did ?say Selden did What ?him about
or what he was doing?"

"He saw him once or twice, but he is a deep one and gives nothing
he soon but ,police the was he that thought he first At .away
found that he had some lay of his own. A kind of gentleman he
not could he doing was he what but ,see could he as far as ,was
make out."

"And where did he say that he lived?"

"Among the old houses on the hillside--the stone huts where the
".live to used folk old

"But how about his food?"

"Selden found out that he has got a lad who works for him and
for Tracey Coombe to goes he say dare I .needs he all brings
what he wants."

"Very good, Barrymore. We may talk further of this some other
,window black the to over walked I gone had butler the When ".time
and I looked through a blurred pane at the driving clouds and at
night wild a is It .trees -wind the of outline tossing the
indoors, and what must it be in a stone hut upon the moor. What
a such in lurk to man a leads which be it can hatred of passion
place at such a time! And what deep and earnest purpose can he
the upon hut that in ,There !trial a such for calls which have
moor, seems to lie the very centre of that problem which has
have not shall day another that swear I .sorely so me vexed
passed before I have done all that man can do to reach the heart
.mystery the of

Chapter 11
The Man in the Moon

The extract from my private diary which forms the last chapter time a ,October of eighteenth the to up narrative my brought has when these strange events began to move swiftly towards their are days few next the of incidents The .conclusion terrible indelibly graven upon my recollection, and I can tell them without the from them start I .time the at made notes the to reference day which succeeded that upon which I had established two facts Tracey Coombe of Lyons Laura .Mrs that one the ,importance great of had written to Sir Charles Baskerville and made an appointment with other the ,death his met he that hour and place very the at him that the lurking man upon the moor was to be found among the stone I possession my in facts two these With .hillside the upon huts felt that either my intelligence or my courage must be deficient .places dark these upon light further some throw not could I if

I had no opportunity to tell the baronet what I had learned about with remained Mortimer .Dr for ,before evening the upon Lyons .Mrs him at cards until it was very late. At breakfast, however, I would he whether him asked and discovery my about him informed care to accompany me to Coombe Tracey. At first he was very us of both to seemed it thoughts second on but ,come to eager that if I went alone the results might be better. The more I .obtain might we information less the visit the made we formal left Sir Henry behind, therefore, not without some prickings of .quest new my upon off drove and ,conscience

When I reached Coombe Tracey I told Perkins to put up the horses, .interrogate to come had I whom lady the for inquiries made I and I had no difficulty in finding her rooms, which were central and I as and ,ceremony without in me showed maid A .appointed well entered the sitting-room a lady, who was sitting before a Remington face Her .welcome of smile pleasant a with up sprang ,typewriter fell, however, when she saw that I was a stranger, and she sat .visit my of object the me asked and again down

The first impression left by Mrs. Lyons was one of extreme beauty. Her hair and eyes were of the same rich hazel colour, and her cheeks, though considerably freckled, were flushed with the pink dainty bloom of the delicate brunette. At the heart of the sulphur rose. Admiration was, I repeat, the first something which struck me. There was criticism second, but the impression was subtly wrong with the face, some coarseness of expression, some imperfections which marred its perfect beauty. But these, of course, are afterthoughts. At the moment of her presence I was conscious simply that she was a very handsome woman, and that she was asking me the reasons for how instant that until understood quite not had I .visit my delicate my mission was.

"I have the pleasure," said I, "of knowing your father."

It was a clumsy introduction, and the lady made me feel it. "There owe I" .said she ",me and father my between common in nothing is him nothing, and his friends are not mine. If it were not for might I hearts kind other some and Baskerville Charles Sir late the have starved for all that my father cared."

"It was about the late Sir Charles Baskerville that I have come .you see to here

The freckles started out on the lady's face.

"What can I tell you about him?" she asked, and her fingers played .typewriter her of stops the over nervously

"You knew him, did you not?"

"I have already said that I owe a great deal to his kindness. If interest the to due largely is it myself support to able am I which he took in my unhappy situation."

"Did you correspond with him?"

The lady looked quickly up with an angry gleam in her hazel eyes.

"What is the object of these questions?" she asked sharply.

"The object is to avoid a public scandal. It is better that I outside pass should matter the that than here them ask should our control."

She was silent and her face was still very pale. At last she .manner her in defiant and reckless something with up looked

"Well, I'll answer," she said. "What are your questions?"

"Did you correspond with Sir Charles?"

"I certainly wrote to him once or twice to acknowledge his delicacy ".generosity his and

"Have you the dates of those letters?"

"No."

"Have you ever met him?"

"Yes, once or twice, when he came into Coombe Tracey. He was a ".stealth by good do to preferred he and ,man retiring very

"But if you saw him so seldom and wrote so seldom, how did he you as ,you help to able be to affairs your about enough know say that he has done?"

She met my difficulty with the utmost readiness.

"There were several gentlemen who knew my sad history and united friend intimate and neighbour a ,Stapleton .Mr was One .me help to of Sir Charles's. He was exceedingly kind, and it was through ".affairs my about learned Charles Sir that him

I knew already that Sir Charles Baskerville had made Stapleton bore statement 'lady the so ,occasions several upon almoner his the impress of truth upon it.

"Did you ever write to Sir Charles asking him to meet you?" I .continued

Mrs. Lyons flushed with anger again. "Really, sir, this is a ".question extraordinary very

"I am sorry, madam, but I must repeat it."

"Then I answer, certainly not."

"Not on the very day of Sir Charles's death?"

The flush had faded in an instant, and a deathly face was before rather saw I which "No" the speak not could lips dry Her .me than heard.

"Surely your memory deceives you," said I. "I could even quote a a are you as ,please ,Please' ran It .letter your of passage gentleman, burn this letter, and be at the gate by ten o'clock."

I thought that she had fainted, but she recovered herself by a .effort supreme

"Is there no such thing as a gentleman?" she gasped.

"You do Sir Charles an injustice. He did burn the letter. But acknowledge You .burned when even legible be may letter a sometimes now that you wrote it?"

"Yes, I did write it," she cried, pouring out her soul in a torrent no have I ?it deny I should Why .it write did I" .words of reason to be ashamed of it. I wished him to help me. I believed him asked I so ,help his gain could I interview an had I if that to meet me."

"But why at such an hour?"

"Because I had only just learned that he was going to London next could I why reasons were There .months for away be might and day not get there earlier."

"But why a rendezvous in the garden instead of a visit to the
"?house

"Do you think a woman could go alone at that hour to a bachelor's
"?house

"Well, what happened when you did get there?"

"I never went."

"Mrs. Lyons!"

"No, I swear it to you on all I hold sacred. I never went.
".going my prevent to intervened Something

"What was that?"

"That is a private matter. I cannot tell it."

"You acknowledge then that you made an appointment with Sir Charles deny you but ,death his met he which at place and hour very the at that you kept the appointment."

"That is the truth."

Again and again I cross-questioned her, but I could never get past .point that

"Mrs. Lyons," said I as I rose from this long and inconclusive putting and responsibility great very a taking are you" ,interview yourself in a very false position by not making an absolutely aid the in call to have I If .know you that all of breast clean of the police you will find how seriously you are compromised.

instance first the in you did why ,innocent is position your If deny having written to Sir Charles upon that date?"

"Because I feared that some false conclusion might be drawn from .scandal a in involved myself find might I that and it

"And why were you so pressing that Sir Charles should destroy "?letter your

"If you have read the letter you will know."

"I did not say that I had read all the letter."

"You quoted some of it."

"I quoted the postscript. The letter had, as I said, been burned that was it why again once you ask I .legible all not was it and you were so pressing that Sir Charles should destroy this letter ".death his of day the on received he which

"The matter is a very private one."

"The more reason why you should avoid a public investigation."

"I will tell you, then. If you have heard anything of my unhappy reason had and marriage rash a made I that know will you history to regret it."

"I have heard so much."

"My life has been one incessant persecution from a husband whom by faced am I day every and ,side his upon is law The .abhor I the possibility that he may force me to live with him. At the that learned had I Charles Sir to letter this wrote I that time there was a prospect of my regaining my freedom if certain expenses ,happiness ,mind of --me to everything meant It .met be could self-respect--everything. I knew Sir Charles's generosity, and would he lips own my from story the heard he if that thought I help me."

"Then how is it that you did not go?"

"Because I received help in the interval from another source."

"Why then, did you not write to Sir Charles and explain this?"

"So I should have done had I not seen his death in the paper next
".morning

The woman's story hung coherently together, and all my questions she if finding by it check only could I .it shake to unable were had, indeed, instituted divorce proceedings against her husband .tragedy the of time the about or at

It was unlikely that she would dare to say that she had not been be would trap a for ,been had really she if Hall Baskerville to necessary to take her there, and could not have returned to an Such .morning the of hours early the until Tracey Coombe excursion could not be kept secret. The probability was, part a ,least at ,or ,truth the telling was she that ,therefore of the truth. I came away baffled and disheartened. Once again across built be to seemed which wall dead that reached had I every path by which I tried to get at the object of my mission. manner her of and face 'lady the of thought I more the yet And the more I felt that something was being held back from me. Why every against fight she should Why ?pale so turn she should admission until it was forced from her? Why should she have been explanation the Surely ?tragedy the of time the at reticent so of all this could not be as innocent as she would have me believe. but ,direction that in farther no proceed could I moment the For must turn back to that other clue which was to be sought for .moor the upon huts stone the among

And that was a most vague direction. I realized it as I drove ancient the of traces showed hill after hill how noted and back people. Barrymore's only indication had been that the stranger them of hundreds many and ,huts abandoned these of one in lived are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the moor. But

man the me shown had it since guide a for experience own my had I himself standing upon the summit of the Black Tor. That, then, explore should I there From .search my of centre the be should every hut upon the moor until I lighted upon the right one. If at ,lips own his from out find should I it inside were man this the point of my revolver if necessary, who he was and why he had of crowd the in us from away slip might He .long so us dogged Regent Street, but it would puzzle him to do so upon the lonely tenant its and hut the find should I if ,hand other the On .moor should not be within it I must remain there, however long the It .London in him missed had Holmes .returned he until ,vigil would indeed be a triumph for me if I could run him to earth .failed had master my where

Luck had been against us again and again in this inquiry, but now was fortune good of messenger the And .aid my to came it last at none other than Mr. Frankland, who was standing, gray-whiskered on opened which ,garden his of gate the outside -red and to the highroad along which I travelled.

"Good-day, Dr. Watson," cried he with unwonted good humour, "you glass a have to in come and rest a horses your give really must of wine and to congratulate me."

My feelings towards him were very far from being friendly after was I but ,daughter his of treatment his of heard had I what anxious to send Perkins and the wagonette home, and the opportunity that Henry Sir to message a sent and alighted I .one good a was I should walk over in time for dinner. Then I followed Frankland -dining his into

"It is a great day for me, sir--one of the red-letter days of my double a off brought have I" .chuckles many with cried he ",life event. I mean to teach them in these parts that law is law, and have I .it invoke to fear not does who here man a is there that established a right of way through the centre of old Middleton's front own his of yards hundred a within ,sir ,it across slap ,park door. What do you think of that? We'll teach these magnates that ,commoners the of rights the over roughshod ride cannot they

confound them! And I've closed the wood where the Fernworthy folk there that think to seem people infernal These .picnic to used are no rights of property, and that they can swarm where they like .Dr ,decided cases Both .bottles their and papers their with Watson, and both in my favour. I haven't had such a day since I ".warren own his in shot he because trespass for Morland John Sir had

"How on earth did you do that?"

"Look it up in the books, sir. It will repay reading--Frankland but ,pounds 200 me cost It .Bench 'Queen of Court ,Morland .v I got my verdict."

"Did it do you any good?"

"None, sir, none. I am proud to say that I had no interest in have I .duty public of sense a from entirely act I .matter the no doubt, for example, that the Fernworthy people will burn me that it did they time last police the told I .tonight effigy in they should stop these disgraceful exhibitions. The County afforded not has it and ,sir ,state scandalous a in is Constabulary me the protection to which I am entitled. The case of Frankland the of attention the before matter the bring will Regina .v public. I told them that they would have occasion to regret their ".true come have words my already and ,me of treatment

"How so?" I asked.

The old man put on a very knowing expression. "Because I could induce would nothing but ;know to dying are they what them tell me to help the rascals in any way."

I had been casting round for some excuse by which I could get .it of more hear to wish to began I now but ,gossip his from away I had seen enough of the contrary nature of the old sinner to surest the be would interest of sign strong any that understand way to stop his confidences.

"Some poaching case, no doubt?" said I with an indifferent manner.

"Ha, ha, my boy, a very much more important matter than that!
"?"moor the on convict the about What

I stared. "You don't mean that you know where he is?" said I.

"I may not know exactly where he is, but I am quite sure that I
never it Has .him on hands their lay to police the help could
struck you that the way to catch that man was to find out where
"?"him to it trace so and food his got he

He certainly seemed to be getting uncomfortably near the truth.
upon anywhere is he that know you do how but" ;I said ",doubt No"
the moor?"

"I know it because I have seen with my own eyes the messenger who
".food his him takes

My heart sank for Barrymore. It was a serious thing to be in the
a took remark next his But .busybody old spiteful this of power
weight from my mind.

"You'll be surprised to hear that his food is taken to him by a
.roof the upon telescope my through day every him see I .child
He passes along the same path at the same hour, and to whom should
"?"convict the to except going be he

Here was luck indeed! And yet I suppressed all appearance of
was unknown our that said had Barrymore !child A .interest
supplied by a boy. It was on his track, and not upon the convict's,
it knowledge his get could I If .stumbled had Frankland that
might save me a long and weary hunt. But incredulity and
.cards strongest my evidently were indifference

"I should say that it was much more likely that it was the son
".dinner 'father his out taking shepherds moorland the of one of

The least appearance of opposition struck fire out of the old whiskers gray his and ,me at malignantly looked eyes His .autocrat bristled like those of an angry cat.

"Indeed, sir!" said he, pointing out over the wide-stretching see you do ,Well ?yonder over Tor Black that see you Do" .moor the low hill beyond with the thornbush upon it? It is the stoniest would shepherd a where place a that Is .moor whole the of part be likely to take his station? Your suggestion, sir, is a most ".one absurd

I meekly answered that I had spoken without knowing all the facts. .confidences further to him led and him pleased submission My

"You may be sure, sir, that I have very good grounds before I with again and again boy the seen have I .opinion an to come his bundle. Every day, and sometimes twice a day, I have been or ,me deceive eyes my Do .Watson .Dr ,moment a wait --able is there at the present moment something moving upon that hillside?"

It was several miles off, but I could distinctly see a small dark .gray and green dull the against dot

"Come, sir, come!" cried Frankland, rushing upstairs. "You will ".yourself for judge and eyes own your with see

The telescope, a formidable instrument mounted upon a tripod, his clapped Frankland .house the of leads flat the upon stood eye to it and gave a cry of satisfaction.

"Quick, Dr. Watson, quick, before he passes over the hill!"

There he was, sure enough, a small urchin with a little bundle reached he When .hill the up slowly toiling ,shoulder his upon the crest I saw the ragged uncouth figure outlined for an instant furtive a with him round looked He .sky blue cold the against and stealthy air, as one who dreads pursuit. Then he vanished .hill the over

"Well! Am I right?"

"Certainly, there is a boy who seems to have some secret errand."

"And what the errand is even a county constable could guess. But secrecy to you bind I and me from have they shall word one not also, Dr. Watson. Not a word! You understand!"

"Just as you wish."

"They have treated me shamefully--shamefully. When the facts thrill a that think to venture I Regina .v Frankland in out come of indignation will run through the country. Nothing would induce might it cared they all For .way any in police the help to me have been me, instead of my effigy, which these rascals burned to me help will You !going not are you Surely .stake the at empty the decanter in honour of this great occasion!"

But I resisted all his solicitations and succeeded in dissuading kept I .me with home walking of intention announced his from him the road as long as his eye was on me, and then I struck off boy the which over hill stony the for made and moor the across had disappeared. Everything was working in my favour, and I swore perseverance or energy of lack through be not should it that that I should miss the chance which fortune had thrown in my way.

The sun was already sinking when I reached the summit of the hill, side one on -golden all were me beneath slopes long the and and gray shadow on the other. A haze lay low upon the farthest Belliver of shapes fantastic the juttred which of out -sky and Vixen Tor. Over the wide expanse there was no sound and no aloft soared ,curlew or gull a ,bird gray great One .movement in the blue heaven. He and I seemed to be the only living things The .it beneath desert the and sky the of arch huge the between barren scene, the sense of loneliness, and the mystery and urgency nowhere was boy The .heart my into chill a struck all task my of to be seen. But down beneath me in a cleft of the hills there them of middle the in and ,huts stone old the of circle a was there was one which retained sufficient roof to act as a screen

This .it saw I as me within leaped heart My .weather the against must be the burrow where the stranger lurked. At last my foot within was secret --place hiding his of threshold the on was my grasp.

As I approached the hut, walking as warily as Stapleton would do satisfied I ,butterfly settled the near drew he net poised with when myself that the place had indeed been used as a habitation. A opening dilapidated the to led boulders the among pathway vague which served as a door. All was silent within. The unknown My .moor the on prowling be might he or ,there lurking be might nerves tingled with the sense of adventure. Throwing aside my ,and revolver my of butt the upon hand my closed I ,cigarette walking swiftly up to the door, I looked in. The place was empty.

But there were ample signs that I had not come upon a false scent. in rolled blankets Some .lived man the where certainly was This a waterproof lay upon that very stone slab upon which Neolithic a in heaped were fire a of ashes The .slumbered once had man rude grate. Beside it lay some cooking utensils and a bucket place the that showed tins empty of litter A .water of -half had been occupied for some time, and I saw, as my eyes became -half a and pannikin a ,light checkered the to accustomed bottle of spirits standing in the corner. In the middle of the this upon and ,table a of purpose the served stone flat a hut stood a small cloth bundle--the same, no doubt, which I had seen contained It .boy the of shoulder the upon telescope the through a loaf of bread, a tinned tongue, and two tins of preserved my ,it examined having after ,again down it set I As .peaches heart leaped to see that beneath it there lay a sheet of paper ,read I what was this and ,it raised I .it upon writing with roughly scrawled in pencil: "Dr. Watson has gone to Coombe Tracey."

For a minute I stood there with the paper in my hands thinking not and ,then ,I was It .message curt this of meaning the out Sir Henry, who was being dogged by this secret man. He had not --perhaps ,boy --agent an set had he but ,himself me followed upon my track, and this was his report. Possibly I had taken no observed been not had which moor the upon been had I since step

and reported. Always there was this feeling of an unseen force,
,delicacy and skill infinite with us round drawn net fine a
holding us so lightly that it was only at some supreme moment
.meshes its in entangled indeed was one that realized one that

If there was one report there might be others, so I looked round
of ,however ,trace no was There .them of search in hut the
anything of the kind, nor could I discover any sign which might
in lived who man the of intentions or character the indicate
this singular place, save that he must be of Spartan habits and
the of thought I When .life of comforts the for little cared
heavy rains and looked at the gaping roof I understood how strong
that in him kept had which purpose the be must immutable and
inhospitable abode. Was he our malignant enemy, or was he by
the leave not would I that swore I ?angel guardian our chance
hut until I knew.

Outside the sun was sinking low and the west was blazing with
patches ruddy in back shot was reflection Its .gold and scarlet
by the distant pools which lay amid the great Grimpen Mire. There
blur distant a there and ,Hall Baskerville of towers two the were
of smoke which marked the village of Grimpen. Between the two,
sweet was All .Stapletons the of house the was ,hill the behind
and mellow and peaceful in the golden evening light, and yet as
but Nature of peace the of none shared soul my them at looked I
quivered at the vagueness and the terror of that interview which
a but nerves tingling With .nearer bringing was instant every
fixed purpose, I sat in the dark recess of the hut and waited
.tenant its of coming the for patience sombre with

And then at last I heard him. Far away came the sharp clink of
coming ,another yet and another Then .stone a upon striking boot a
nearer and nearer. I shrank back into the darkest corner and
myself discover to not determined ,pocket my in pistol the cocked
until I had an opportunity of seeing something of the stranger.
Then .stopped had he that showed which pause long a was There
once more the footsteps approached and a shadow fell across the
.hut the of opening

The Hound of the Baskervilles

"It is a lovely evening, my dear Watson," said a well-known voice.
".in than outside comfortable more be will you that think really I"

Chapter 12
Moor the on Death

For a moment or two I sat breathless, hardly able to believe my a while ,me to back came voice my and senses my Then .ears crushing weight of responsibility seemed in an instant to be lifted belong could voice ironical ,incisive ,cold That .soul my from to but one man in all the world.

"Holmes!" I cried--"Holmes!"

"Come out," said he, "and please be careful with the revolver."

I stooped under the rude lintel, and there he sat upon a stone upon fell they as amusement with dancing eyes gray his ,outside my astonished features. He was thin and worn, but clear and the by roughened and sun the by bronzed face keen his ,alert wind. In his tweed suit and cloth cap he looked like any other catlike that with ,contrived had he and ,moor the upon tourist love of personal cleanliness which was one of his characteristics, if as perfect as linen his and smooth as be should chin his that he were in Baker Street.

"I never was more glad to see anyone in my life," said I as I .hand the by him wrung

"Or more astonished, eh?"

"Well, I must confess to it."

"The surprise was not all on one side, I assure you. I had no that less still ,retreat occasional my found had you that idea you were inside it, until I was within twenty paces of the door."

"My footprint, I presume?"

"No, Watson, I fear that I could not undertake to recognize your seriously you If .world the of footprints the all amid footprint desire to deceive me you must change your tobacconist; for when I ,Street Oxford ,Bradley marked cigarette a of stub the see I know that my friend Watson is in the neighbourhood. You will see that at ,doubt no ,down it threw You .path the beside there it supreme moment when you charged into the empty hut."

"Exactly."

"I thought as much--and knowing your admirable tenacity I was ,reach within weapon a ,ambush in sitting were you that convinced waiting for the tenant to return. So you actually thought that "?criminal the was I

"I did not know who you were, but I was determined to find out."

"Excellent, Watson! And how did you localize me? You saw me, imprudent so was I when ,hunt convict the of night the on ,perhaps as to allow the moon to rise behind me?"

"Yes, I saw you then."

"And have no doubt searched all the huts until you came to this "?one

"No, your boy had been observed, and that gave me a guide where ".look to

"The old gentleman with the telescope, no doubt. I could not make He ".lens the upon flashing light the saw I first when out it rose and peeped into the hut. "Ha, I see that Cartwright has been have you So ?paper this 'What .supplies some up brought to Coombe Tracey, have you?"

"Yes."

"To see Mrs. Laura Lyons?"

"Exactly."

"Well done! Our researches have evidently been running on parallel a have shall we expect I results our unite we when and ,lines fairly full knowledge of the case."

"Well, I am glad from my heart that you are here, for indeed the for much too becoming both were mystery the and responsibility my nerves. But how in the name of wonder did you come here, and Street Baker in were you that thought I ?doing been you have what working out that case of blackmailing."

"That was what I wished you to think."

"Then you use me, and yet do not trust me!" I cried with some ,hands your at better deserved have I that think I" .bitterness Holmes."

"My dear fellow, you have been invaluable to me in this as in have I if me forgive will you that beg I and ,cases other many seemed to play a trick upon you. In truth, it was partly for the of appreciation my was it and ,it did I that sake own your danger which you ran which led me to come down and examine the is it you and Henry Sir with been I Had .myself for matter confident that my point of view would have been the same as yours, opponents formidable very our warned have would presence my and to be on their guard. As it is, I have been able to get about ,Hall the in living been I had done have possibly not could I as and I remain an unknown factor in the business, ready to throw ".moment critical a at weight my all in

"But why keep me in the dark?"

"For you to know could not have helped us and might possibly have ,something me tell to wished have would You .discovery my to led or in your kindness you would have brought me out some comfort brought I .run be would risk unnecessary an so and ,other or Cartwright down with me--you remember the little chap at the of loaf a :wants simple my after seen has he --office express

bread and a clean collar. What does man want more? He has given both and feet of pair active very a upon eyes of pair extra an me have been invaluable."

"Then my reports have all been wasted!" --My voice trembled as I .them composed had I which with pride the and pains the recalled

Holmes took a bundle of papers from his pocket.

"Here are your reports, my dear fellow, and very well thumbed, only are they and ,arrangements excellent made I .you assure I delayed one day upon their way. I must compliment you exceedingly an over shown have you which intelligence the and zeal the upon extraordinarily difficult case."

I was still rather raw over the deception which had been practised from anger my drove praise 'Holmes of warmth the but ,me upon my mind. I felt also in my heart that he was right in what he should I that purpose our for best really was it that and said not have known that he was upon the moor.

"That's better," said he, seeing the shadow rise from my face. --Lyons Laura .Mrs to visit your of result the me tell now And" it was not difficult for me to guess that it was to see her that person one the is she that aware already am I for ,gone had you in Coombe Tracey who might be of service to us in the matter. probable exceedingly is it today gone not had you if ,fact In that I should have gone tomorrow."

The sun had set and dusk was settling over the moor. The air ,There .warmth for hut the into withdrew we and chill turned had sitting together in the twilight, I told Holmes of my conversation some repeat to had I that he was interested So .lady the with of it twice before he was satisfied.

"This is most important," said he when I had concluded. "It fills complex most this in bridge to unable been had I which gap a up affair. You are aware, perhaps, that a close intimacy exists"?Stapleton man the and lady this between

"I did not know of a close intimacy."

"There can be no doubt about the matter. They meet, they write, puts this, Now, them between understanding complete, a is there a very powerful weapon into our hands. If I could only use it --wife his detach to

"His wife?"

"I am giving you some information now, in return for all that you Stapleton Miss as here passed has who lady The, me given have is in reality his wife."

"Good heavens, Holmes! Are you sure of what you say? How could --her with love in fall to Henry Sir permitted have he

"Sir Henry's falling in love could do no harm to anyone except make not did Henry Sir that care particular took He, Henry Sir love to her, as you have yourself observed. I repeat that the --sister his not and wife his is lady

"But why this elaborate deception?"

"Because he foresaw that she would be very much more useful to --woman free a of character the in him

All my unspoken instincts, my vague suspicions, suddenly took shape colourless impassive that In, naturalist the upon centred and man, with his straw hat and his butterfly-net, I seemed to see --craft and patience infinite of creature --terrible something with a smiling face and a murderous heart.

"It is he, then, who is our enemy--it is he who dogged us in --?London

"So I read the riddle."

"And the warning--it must have come from her!"

"Exactly."

The shape of some monstrous villainy, half seen, half guessed,
.long so me girt had which darkness the through loomed

"But are you sure of this, Holmes? How do you know that the
"?wife his is woman

"Because he so far forgot himself as to tell you a true piece
and ,you met first he when occasion the upon autobiography of
I dare say he has many a time regretted it since. He was once
one no is there ,Now .England of north the in schoolmaster a
more easy to trace than a schoolmaster. There are scholastic
the in been has who man any identify may one which by agencies
profession. A little investigation showed me that a school had
who man the that and ,circumstances atrocious under grief to come
had owned it--the name was different--had disappeared with his
missing the that learned I When .agreed descriptions The .wife
man was devoted to entomology the identification was complete."

The darkness was rising, but much was still hidden by the shadows.

"If this woman is in truth his wife, where does Mrs. Laura Lyons
.asked I "?in come

"That is one of the points upon which your own researches have
the cleared has lady the with interview Your .light a shed
situation very much. I did not know about a projected divorce
Stapleton regarding ,case that In .husband her and herself between
as an unmarried man, she counted no doubt upon becoming his wife."

"And when she is undeceived?"

"Why, then we may find the lady of service. It must be our first
,Watson ,think you 'Don --us of --her see to duty
that you are away from your charge rather long? Your place should
".Hall Baskerville at be

The last red streaks had faded away in the west and night had a gleaming were stars faint few A .moor the upon settled violet sky.

"One last question, Holmes," I said as I rose. "Surely there is it of meaning the is What .me and you between secrecy of need no all? What is he after?"

Holmes's voice sank as he answered:

"It is murder, Watson--refined, cold-blooded, deliberate murder. even ,him upon closing are nets My .particulars for me ask not Do as his are upon Sir Henry, and with your help he is already almost It .us threaten can which danger one but is There .mercy my at is that he should strike before we are ready to do so. Another then until but ,complete case my have I --most the at --day guard your charge as closely as ever a fond mother watched her yet and ,itself justified has today mission Your .child ailing I could almost wish that you had not left his side. Hark!"

A terrible scream--a prolonged yell of horror and anguish--burst the turned cry frightful That .moor the of silence the of out blood to ice in my veins.

"Oh, my God!" I gasped. "What is it? What does it mean?"

Holmes had sprung to his feet, and I saw his dark, athletic outline thrust head his ,stooping shoulders his ,hut the of door the at forward, his face peering into the darkness.

"Hush!" he whispered. "Hush!"

The cry had been loud on account of its vehemence, but it had it Now .plain shadowy the on off far somewhere from out pealed burst upon our ears, nearer, louder, more urgent than before.

"Where is it?" Holmes whispered; and I knew from the thrill of .soul the to shaken was ,iron of man the ,he that voice his

"Where is it, Watson?"

"There, I think." I pointed into the darkness.

"No, there!"

Again the agonized cry swept through the silent night, louder
a ,it with mingled sound new a And .ever than nearer much and
deep, muttered rumble, musical and yet menacing, rising and falling
.sea the of murmur constant ,low the like

"The hound!" cried Holmes. "Come, Watson, come! Great heavens,
"!late too are we if

He had started running swiftly over the moor, and I had followed
ground broken the among somewhere from now But .heels his at
immediately in front of us there came one last despairing yell,
another Not .listened and halted We .thud heavy ,dull a then and
sound broke the heavy silence of the windless night.

I saw Holmes put his hand to his forehead like a man distracted.
.ground the upon feet his stamped He

"He has beaten us, Watson. We are too late."

"No, no, surely not!"

"Fool that I was to hold my hand. And you, Watson, see what comes
has worst the if ,Heaven by ,But !charge your abandoning of
happened we'll avenge him!"

Blindly we ran through the gloom, blundering against boulders,
rushing and hills up panting ,bushes gorse through way our forcing
down slopes, heading always in the direction whence those dreadful
,him round eagerly looked Holmes rise every At .come had sounds
but the shadows were thick upon the moor, and nothing moved upon
.face dreary its

"Can you see anything?"

"Nothing."

"But, hark, what is that?"

A low moan had fallen upon our ears. There it was again upon cliff sheer a in ended rocks of ridge a side that On !left our which overlooked a stone-strewn slope. On its jagged face was it towards ran we As .object irregular ,dark some -spread the vague outline hardened into a definite shape. It was a doubled head the ,ground the upon downward face man prostrate under him at a horrible angle, the shoulders rounded and the body So .somersault a throwing of act the in if as together hunched grotesque was the attitude that I could not for the instant realize ,whisper a Not .soul his of passing the been had moan that that not a rustle, rose now from the dark figure over which we stooped. an with again up it held and him upon hand his laid Holmes exclamation of horror. The gleam of the match which he struck which pool ghastly the upon and fingers clotted his upon shone widened slowly from the crushed skull of the victim. And it shone within faint and sick hearts our turned which else something upon us--the body of Sir Henry Baskerville!

There was no chance of either of us forgetting that peculiar ruddy morning first the on worn had he which one very --suit tweed that we had seen him in Baker Street. We caught the one clear even ,out went and flickered match the then and ,it of glimpse as the hope had gone out of our souls. Holmes groaned, and his .darkness the through white glimmered face

"The brute! The brute!" I cried with clenched hands. "Oh Holmes, ".fate his to him left having for myself forgive never shall I

"I am more to blame than you, Watson. In order to have my case my of life the away thrown have I ,complete and rounded well client. It is the greatest blow which has befallen me in my would he --know I could --know I could how But .career risk his life alone upon the moor in the face of all my warnings?"

"That we should have heard his screams--my God, those screams!--and hound a of brute this is Where !him save to unable been have yet which drove him to his death? It may be lurking among these rocks answer shall He ?he is where ,Stapleton And .instant this at for this deed."

"He shall. I will see to that. Uncle and nephew have been a of sight very the by death to frightened one --murdered beast which he thought to be supernatural, the other driven to have we now But .it from escape to flight wild his in end his to prove the connection between the man and the beast. Save from ,latter the of existence the to swear even cannot we ,heard we what since Sir Henry has evidently died from the fall. But, by heavens, another before power my in be shall fellow the ,is he as cunning day is past!"

We stood with bitter hearts on either side of the mangled body, had which disaster irrevocable and sudden this by overwhelmed brought all our long and weary labours to so piteous an end. over rocks the of top the to climbed we rose moon the as Then which our poor friend had fallen, and from the summit we gazed ,away Far .gloom half and silver half ,moor shadowy the over out miles off, in the direction of Grimpen, a single steady yellow of abode lonely the from come only could It .shining was light the Stapletons. With a bitter curse I shook my fist at it as I .gazed

"Why should we not seize him at once?"

"Our case is not complete. The fellow is wary and cunning to the If .prove can we what but ,know we what not is It .degree last we make one false move the villain may escape us yet."

"What can we do?"

"There will be plenty for us to do tomorrow. Tonight we can only ".friend poor our to offices last the perform

Together we made our way down the precipitous slope and approached
agony The stones silvered the against clear and black body the
of those contorted limbs struck me with a spasm of pain and
tears with eyes my blurred

"We must send for help, Holmes! We cannot carry him all the way
"mad you are heavens Good Hall the to

He had uttered a cry and bent over the body. Now he was dancing
-self stern my be this Could hand my wringing and laughing and
contained friend? These were hidden fires, indeed!

"A beard! A beard! The man has a beard!"

"A beard?"

"It is not the baronet--it is--why, it is my neighbour, the convict!"

With feverish haste we had turned the body over, and that dripping
no be could There moon clear cold the to up pointing was beard
doubt about the beetling forehead, the sunken animal eyes. It
light the in me upon glared had which face same the indeed was
of the candle from over the rock--the face of Selden, the criminal.

Then in an instant it was all clear to me. I remembered how the
to wardrobe old his handed had he that me told had baronet
Barrymore. Barrymore had passed it on in order to help Selden
The 'Henry Sir all was --cap shirt Boots escape his in
tragedy was still black enough, but this man had at least deserved
matter the how Holmes told I country his of laws the by death
stood, my heart bubbling over with thankfulness and joy.

"Then the clothes have been the poor devil's death," said he.
some from on laid been has hound the that enough clear is It"
article of Sir Henry's--the boot which was abstracted in the
is There down man this ran so --probability all in hotel
one very singular thing, however: How came Selden, in the darkness,
"trail his on was hound the that know to

"He heard him."

"To hear a hound upon the moor would not work a hard man like this recapture risk would he that terror of paroxysm a such into convict by screaming wildly for help. By his cries he must have run a "?know he did How .track his on was animal the knew he after way long

"A greater mystery to me is why this hound, presuming that all "--correct are conjectures our

"I presume nothing."

"Well, then, why this hound should be loose tonight. I suppose would Stapleton .moor the upon loose run always not does it that not let it go unless he had reason to think that Sir Henry would ".there be

"My difficulty is the more formidable of the two, for I think that may mine while ,yours of explanation an get shortly very shall we remain forever a mystery. The question now is, what shall we do the to here it leave cannot We ?body 'wretch poor this with foxes and the ravens."

"I suggest that we put it in one of the huts until we can ".police the with communicate

"Exactly. I have no doubt that you and I could carry it so far. 'that all by ,himself man the 'It ?this 'what ,Watson ,Halloa wonderful and audacious! Not a word to show your suspicions--not ".ground the to crumble plans my or ,word a

A figure was approaching us over the moor, and I saw the dull red distinguish could I and ,him upon shone moon The .cigar a of glow the dapper shape and jaunty walk of the naturalist. He stopped .again on came then and ,us saw he when

"Why, Dr. Watson, that's not you, is it? You are the last man time this at moor the on out see to expected have should I that of night. But, dear me, what's this? Somebody hurt? Not--don't

and me past hurried He "Henry Sir friend our is it that me tell
stooped over the dead man. I heard a sharp intake of his breath
.fingers his from fell cigar the and

"Who--who's this?" he stammered.

"It is Selden, the man who escaped from Princetown."

Stapleton turned a ghastly face upon us, but by a supreme effort he
looked He .disappointment his and amazement his overcome had
sharply from Holmes to me. "Dear me! What a very shocking affair!"
"?die he did How

"He appears to have broken his neck by falling over these rocks.
".cry a heard we when moor the on strolling were I and friend My

"I heard a cry also. That was what brought me out. I was uneasy
".Henry Sir about

"Why about Sir Henry in particular?" I could not help asking.

"Because I had suggested that he should come over. When he did
his for alarmed became naturally I and ,surprised was I come not
safety when I heard cries upon the moor. By the way"--his eyes
anything hear you 'Holmes to face my from again darted
else besides a cry?"

"No," said Holmes; "did you?"

"No."

"What do you mean, then?"

"Oh, you know the stories that the peasants tell about a phantom
.moor the upon night at heard be to said is It .on so and ,hound
I was wondering if there were any evidence of such a sound tonight."

"We heard nothing of the kind," said I.

"And what is your theory of this poor fellow's death?"

"I have no doubt that anxiety and exposure have driven him off and state crazy a in moor the about rushed has He .head his eventually fallen over here and broken his neck."

"That seems the most reasonable theory," said Stapleton, and he you do What" .relief his indicate to took I which sigh a gave think about it, Mr. Sherlock Holmes?"

My friend bowed his compliments. "You are quick at identification," .he said

"We have been expecting you in these parts since Dr. Watson came ".tragedy a see to time in are You .down

"Yes, indeed. I have no doubt that my friend's explanation will to back remembrance unpleasant an take will I .facts the cover London with me tomorrow."

"Oh, you return tomorrow?"

"That is my intention."

"I hope your visit has cast some light upon those occurrences which "?us puzzled have

Holmes shrugged his shoulders.

"One cannot always have the success for which one hopes. An not has It .rumours or legends not and facts needs investigator been a satisfactory case."

My friend spoke in his frankest and most unconcerned manner. .me to turned he Then .him at hard looked still Stapleton

"I would suggest carrying this poor fellow to my house, but it justified feel not do I that fright a such sister my give would in doing it. I think that if we put something over his face he

".morning until safe be will

And so it was arranged. Resisting Stapleton's offer of hospitality, naturalist the leaving ,Hall Baskerville to off set I and Holmes to return alone. Looking back we saw the figure moving slowly smudge black one that him behind and ,moor broad the over away on the silvered slope which showed where the man was lying who .end his to horribly so come had

Chapter 13

Nets the Fixing

"We're at close grips at last," said Holmes as we walked together pulled he How !has fellow the nerve a What" .moor the across himself together in the face of what must have been a paralyzing his to victim a fallen had man wrong the that found he when shock plot. I told you in London, Watson, and I tell you now again, ".steel our of worthy more foeman a had never have we that

"I am sorry that he has seen you."

"And so was I at first. But there was no getting out of it."

"What effect do you think it will have upon his plans now that "?here are you knows he

"It may cause him to be more cautious, or it may drive him to may he ,criminals clever most Like .once at measures desperate be too confident in his own cleverness and imagine that he has ".us deceived completely

"Why should we not arrest him at once?"

"My dear Watson, you were born to be a man of action. Your ,supposing But .energetic something do to always is instinct for argument's sake, that we had him arrested tonight, what on prove could We ?that for be we should off better the earth nothing against him. There's the devilish cunning of it! If he ,evidence some get could we agent human a through acting were but if we were to drag this great dog to the light of day it would ".master its of neck the round rope a putting in us help not

"Surely we have a case."

"Not a shadow of one--only surmise and conjecture. We should be ".evidence such and story a such with came we if court of out laughed

"There is Sir Charles's death."

"Found dead without a mark upon him. You and I know that he died are how but, him frightened what also know we and, fright sheer of we to get twelve stolid jurymen to know it? What signs are there know we course Of ?fangs its of marks the are Where ?hound a of that a hound does not bite a dead body and that Sir Charles was prove to have we But .him overtook brute the ever before dead all this, and we are not in a position to do it."

"Well, then, tonight?"

"We are not much better off tonight. Again, there was no direct saw never We .death 'man the and hound the between connection the hound. We heard it, but we could not prove that it was of absence complete a is There .trail 'man this upon running motive. No, my dear fellow; we must reconcile ourselves to the our worth is it that and, present at case no have we that fact while to run any risk in order to establish one."

"And how do you propose to do so?"

"I have great hopes of what Mrs. Laura Lyons may do for us when own my have I And .her to clear made is affairs of position the plan as well. Sufficient for tomorrow is the evil thereof; but ".last at hand upper the have to past is day the before hope I

I could draw nothing further from him, and he walked, lost in .gates Baskerville the as far as ,thought

"Are you coming up?"

"Yes; I see no reason for further concealment. But one last him Let .Henry Sir to hound the of nothing Say .Watson ,word think that Selden's death was as Stapleton would have us believe. to have will he which ordeal the for nerve better a have will He undergo tomorrow, when he is engaged, if I remember your report ".people these with dine to ,aright

"And so am I."

"Then you must excuse yourself and he must go alone. That will I, dinner for late too are we if, now And, arranged easily be think that we are both ready for our suppers."

Sir Henry was more pleased than surprised to see Sherlock Holmes, would events recent that expecting been days some for had he for bring him down from London. He did raise his eyebrows, however, any nor luggage any neither had friend my that found he when explanations for its absence. Between us we soon supplied his baronet the to explained we supper belated a over then and, wants as much of our experience as it seemed desirable that he should news the breaking of duty unpleasant the had I first But, know to Barrymore and his wife. To him it may have been an unmitigated he world the all To, apron her in bitterly wept she but, relief was the man of violence, half animal and half demon; but to her the, girlhood own her of boy wilful little the remained always he child who had clung to her hand. Evil indeed is the man who has, him mourn to woman one not

"I've been moping in the house all day since Watson went off in some have should I guess I" .baronet the said ", morning the credit, for I have kept my promise. If I hadn't sworn not to go a had I for, evening lively more a had have might I alone about message from Stapleton asking me over there."

"I have no doubt that you would have had a more lively evening," appreciate you suppose 'don I, way the By" .drily Holmes said that we have been mourning over you as having broken your neck?"

Sir Henry opened his eyes. "How was that?"

"This poor wretch was dressed in your clothes. I fear your servant ".police the with trouble into get may him to them gave who

"That is unlikely. There was no mark on any of them, as far as ".know I

"That's lucky for him--in fact, it's lucky for all of you, since am I .matter this in law the of side wrong the on all are you not sure that as a conscientious detective my first duty is not most are reports 'Watson .household whole the arrest to incriminating documents."

"But how about the case?" asked the baronet. "Have you made are I and Watson that know 'don I ?tangle the of out anything much the wiser since we came down."

"I think that I shall be in a position to make the situation rather difficult exceedingly an been has It .long before you to clear more and most complicated business. There are several points upon which ".same the all coming is it --light want still we

"We've had one experience, as Watson has no doubt told you. We all not is it that swear can I so ,moor the on hound the heard empty superstition. I had something to do with dogs when I was that muzzle can you If .one hear I when one know I and ,West out one and put him on a chain I'll be ready to swear you are the ".time all of detective greatest

"I think I will muzzle him and chain him all right if you will ".help your me give

"Whatever you tell me to do I will do."

"Very good; and I will ask you also to do it blindly, without ".reason the asking always

"Just as you like."

"If you will do this I think the chances are that our little "--doubt no have I .solved be soon will problem

He stopped suddenly and stared fixedly up over my head into the so and it was intent so and ,face his upon beat lamp The .air still that it might have been that of a clear-cut classical statue, .expectation and alertness of personification a

"What is it?" we both cried.

I could see as he looked down that he was repressing some internal with shone eyes his but ,composed still were features His .emotion amused exultation.

"Excuse the admiration of a connoisseur," said he as he waved opposite the covered which portraits of line the towards hand his wall. "Watson won't allow that I know anything of art but that ,Now .differ subject the upon views our because jealousy mere is these are a really very fine series of portraits."

"Well, I'm glad to hear you say so," said Sir Henry, glancing much know to pretend 'don I" .friend my at surprise some with about these things, and I'd be a better judge of a horse or a for time found you that know 'didn I .picture a of than steer such things."

"I know what is good when I see it, and I see it now. That's a and ,yonder over silk blue the in lady that ,swear 'I ,Kneller the stout gentleman with the wig ought to be a Reynolds. They "?presume I ,portraits family all are

"Every one."

"Do you know the names?"

"Barrymore has been coaching me in them, and I think I can say ".well fairly lessons my

"Who is the gentleman with the telescope?"

"That is Rear-Admiral Baskerville, who served under Rodney in the paper of roll the and coat blue the with man The .Indies West is Sir William Baskerville, who was Chairman of Committees of the ".Pitt under Commons of House

"And this Cavalier opposite to me--the one with the black velvet "?lace the and

"Ah, you have a right to know about him. That is the cause of the of Hound the started who ,Hugo wicked the ,mischief the all Baskervilles. We're not likely to forget him."

I gazed with interest and some surprise upon the portrait.

"Dear me!" said Holmes, "he seems a quiet, meek-mannered man .eyes his in devil lurking a was there that say dare I but ,enough I had pictured him as a more robust and ruffianly person."

"There's no doubt about the authenticity, for the name and the ".canvas the of back the on are ,1647 ,date

Holmes said little more, but the picture of the old roysterer continually were eyes his and ,him for fascination a have to seemed fixed upon it during supper. It was not until later, when Sir trend the follow to able was I that ,room his to gone had Henry of his thoughts. He led me back into the banqueting-hall, his -time the against up it held he and ,hand his in candle bedroom stained portrait on the wall.

"Do you see anything there?"

I looked at the broad plumed hat, the curling love-locks, the framed was which face severe ,straight the and ,collar lace white between them. It was not a brutal countenance, but it was prim, coldly a and ,mouth -thin -firm a with ,stern and ,hard intolerant eye.

"Is it like anyone you know?"

"There is something of Sir Henry about the jaw."

"Just a suggestion, perhaps. But wait an instant!" He stood upon curved he ,hand left his in light the up holding ,and ,chair a his right arm over the broad hat and round the long ringlets.

"Good heavens!" I cried in amazement.

The face of Stapleton had sprung out of the canvas.

"Ha, you see it now. My eyes have been trained to examine faces criminal a of quality first the is It .trimmings their not and investigator that he should see through a disguise."

"But this is marvellous. It might be his portrait."

"Yes, it is an interesting instance of a throwback, which appears portraits family of study A .spiritual and physical both be to is enough to convert a man to the doctrine of reincarnation. The ".evident is --Baskerville a is fellow

"With designs upon the succession."

"Exactly. This chance of the picture has supplied us with one of ,him have we ,Watson ,him have We .links missing obvious most our and I dare swear that before tomorrow night he will be fluttering a ,pin A .butterflies own his of one as helpless as net our in cork, and a card, and we add him to the Baker Street collection!" away turned he as laughter of fits rare his of one into burst He from the picture. I have not heard him laugh often, and it has .somebody to ill boded always

I was up betimes in the morning, but Holmes was afoot earlier .drive the up coming ,dressed I as him saw I for ,still

"Yes, we should have a full day today," he remarked, and he rubbed ,place in all are nets The" .action of joy the with hands his and the drag is about to begin. We'll know before the day is out he whether or ,pike leanjawed ,big our caught have we whether

has got through the meshes."

"Have you been on the moor already?"

"I have sent a report from Grimpen to Princetown as to the death troubled be will you of none that promise can I think I .Selden of in the matter. And I have also communicated with my faithful of door the at away pined have certainly would who ,Cartwright my hut, as a dog does at his master's grave, if I had not set ".safety my about rest at mind his

"What is the next move?"

"To see Sir Henry. Ah, here he is!"

"Good-morning, Holmes," said the baronet. "You look like a general ".staff the of chief his with battle a planning is who

"That is the exact situation. Watson was asking for orders."

"And so do I."

"Very good. You are engaged, as I understand, to dine with our ".tonight Stapletons the friends

"I hope that you will come also. They are very hospitable people, ".you see to glad very be would they that sure am I and

"I fear that Watson and I must go to London."

"To London?"

"Yes, I think that we should be more useful there at the present ".juncture

The baronet's face perceptibly lengthened.

"I hoped that you were going to see me through this business. is one when places pleasant very not are moor the and Hall The alone."

"My dear fellow, you must trust me implicitly and do exactly what been have should we that friends your tell can You .you tell I happy to have come with you, but that urgent business required .Devonshire to return to soon very hope We .town in be to us Will you remember to give them that message?"

"If you insist upon it."

"There is no alternative, I assure you."

I saw by the baronet's clouded brow that he was deeply hurt by .desertion our as regarded he what

"When do you desire to go?" he asked coldly.

"Immediately after breakfast. We will drive in to Coombe Tracey, come will he that pledge a as things his leave will Watson but back to you. Watson, you will send a note to Stapleton to tell ".come cannot you that regret you that him

"I have a good mind to go to London with you," said the baronet. "?alone here stay I should Why"

"Because it is your post of duty. Because you gave me your word ".stay to you tell I and ,told were you as do would you that

"All right, then, I'll stay."

"One more direction! I wish you to drive to Merripit House. Send to intend you that know them let and ,however ,trap your back walk home."

"To walk across the moor?"

"Yes."

"But that is the very thing which you have so often cautioned me
".do to not

"This time you may do it with safety. If I had not every confidence
essential is it but ,it suggest not would I courage and nerve your in
that you should do it."

"Then I will do it."

"And as you value your life do not go across the moor in any
Merripit from leads which path straight the along save direction
House to the Grimpen Road, and is your natural way home."

"I will do just what you say."

"Very good. I should be glad to get away as soon after breakfast
".afternoon the in London reach to as so ,possible as

I was much astounded by this programme, though I remembered that
visit his that before night the on Stapleton to said had Holmes
would terminate next day. It had not crossed my mind however,
how understand I could nor ,him with go to me wish would he that
we could both be absent at a moment which he himself declared to
implicit but ,however ,it for nothing was There .critical be
obedience; so we bade good-bye to our rueful friend, and a couple
and Tracey Coombe of station the at were we afterwards hours of
had dispatched the trap upon its return journey. A small boy was
.platform the upon waiting

"Any orders, sir?"

"You will take this train to town, Cartwright. The moment you
,name my in ,Baskerville Henry Sir to wire a send will you arrive
to say that if he finds the pocketbook which I have dropped he
".Street Baker to post registered by it send to is

"Yes, sir."

"And ask at the station office if there is a message for me."

The boy returned with a telegram, which Holmes handed to me. It
:ran

Wire received. Coming down with unsigned warrant. Arrive five-
.Lestrade .forty

"That is in answer to mine of this morning. He is the best of
,Now .assistance his need may we and ,think I ,professionals the
Watson, I think that we cannot employ our time better than by
".Lyons Laura .Mrs ,acquaintance your upon calling

His plan of campaign was beginning to be evident. He would use
really were we that Stapletons the convince to order in baronet the
gone, while we should actually return at the instant when we were
by mentioned if ,London from telegram That .needed be to likely
Sir Henry to the Stapletons, must remove the last suspicions from
closer drawing nets our see to seemed I Already .minds their
around that leanjawed pike.

Mrs. Laura Lyons was in her office, and Sherlock Holmes opened
considerably which directness and frankness a with interview his
amazed her.

"I am investigating the circumstances which attended the death
,here friend My" .he said " ,Baskerville Charles Sir late the of
Dr. Watson, has informed me of what you have communicated, and
".matter that with connection in withheld have you what of also

"What have I withheld?" she asked defiantly.

"You have confessed that you asked Sir Charles to be at the gate
his of hour and place the was that that know We 'o ten at
death. You have withheld what the connection is between these
".events

"There is no connection."

"In that case the coincidence must indeed be an extraordinary one. ,connection a establishing in succeed shall we that think I But after all. I wish to be perfectly frank with you, Mrs. Lyons. implicate may evidence the and ,murder of one as case this regard We not only your friend Mr. Stapleton but his wife as well."

The lady sprang from her chair.

"His wife!" she cried.

"The fact is no longer a secret. The person who has passed for ".wife his really is sister his

Mrs. Lyons had resumed her seat. Her hands were grasping the arms with white turned had nails pink the that saw I and ,chair her of the pressure of her grip.

"His wife!" she said again. "His wife! He is not a married man."

Sherlock Holmes shrugged his shoulders.

"Prove it to me! Prove it to me! And if you can do so--!"

The fierce flash of her eyes said more than any words.

"I have come prepared to do so," said Holmes, drawing several papers in taken couple the of photograph a is Here" .pocket his from York four years ago. It is indorsed 'Mr. and Mrs. Vandeleur,' ,also her and ,him recognizing in difficulty no have will you but if you know her by sight. Here are three written descriptions that at who ,Vandeleur .Mrs and .Mr of witnesses trustworthy by time kept St. Oliver's private school. Read them and see if you ".people these of identity the doubt can

She glanced at them, and then looked up at us with the set, rigid .woman desperate a of face

"Mr. Holmes," she said, "this man had offered me marriage on the condition that he would prevent my husband from getting a divorce. I lied to me, the villain, in every conceivable way. Not one word all that I imagined I -- why? And he told me ever he has truth of was for my own sake. But now I see that I was never anything to him with faith preserve I should. Why? His hands in tool a but who never kept any with me? Why should I try to shield him from, like you what me? Ask? Acts wicked own his of consequences the and there is nothing which I shall hold back. One thing I swear dreamed never I letter the wrote I when that is that and, you to of any harm to the old gentleman, who had been my kindest friend."

"I entirely believe you, madam," said Sherlock Holmes. "The perhaps and, you to painful very be must events these of recital it will make it easier if I tell you what occurred, and you can this of sending The .mistake material any make I if me check letter was suggested to you by Stapleton?"

"He dictated it."

"I presume that the reason he gave was that you would receive with connected expenses legal the for Charles Sir from help your divorce?"

"Exactly."

"And then after you had sent the letter he dissuaded you from"?appointment the keeping

"He told me that it would hurt his self-respect that any other though that and, object an such for money the find should man he was a poor man himself he would devote his last penny to ".us divided which obstacles the removing

"He appears to be a very consistent character. And then you heard"?paper the in death the of reports the read you until nothing

"No."

"And he made you swear to say nothing about your appointment with
"Charles Sir

"He did. He said that the death was a very mysterious one, and
He .out came facts the if suspected be certainly should I that
frightened me into remaining silent."

"Quite so. But you had your suspicions?"

She hesitated and looked down.

"I knew him," she said. "But if he had kept faith with me I should
".him with so done have always

"I think that on the whole you have had a fortunate escape," said
,it knew he and power your in him had have You" .Holmes Sherlock
and yet you are alive. You have been walking for some months very
-good you wish must We .precipice a of edge the to near
now, Mrs. Lyons, and it is probable that you will very shortly
".again us from hear

"Our case becomes rounded off, and difficulty after difficulty
for waiting stood we as Holmes said ",us of front in away thins
the arrival of the express from town. "I shall soon be in the
narrative connected single a into put to able being of position
one of the most singular and sensational crimes of modern times.
in incidents analogous the remember will criminology of Students
Godno, in Little Russia, in the year '66, and of course there are
possesses case this but ,Carolina North in murders Anderson the
some features which are entirely its own. Even now we have no
much very be shall I But .man wily very this against case clear
surprised if it is not clear enough before we go to bed this night."

The London express came roaring into the station, and a small,
.carriage -first a from sprung had man a of bulldog wiry
We all three shook hands, and I saw at once from the reverential
learned had he that companion my at gazed Lestrade which in way
a good deal since the days when they had first worked together.
reasoner the of theories the which scorn the remember well could I

used then to excite in the practical man.

"Anything good?" he asked.

"The biggest thing for years," said Holmes. "We have two hours in it employ might we think I .starting of think need we before getting some dinner and then, Lestrade, we will take the London night pure the of breath a you giving by throat your of out fog air of Dartmoor. Never been there? Ah, well, I don't suppose ".visit first your forget will you

Chapter 14

Baskervilles the of Hound The

One of Sherlock Holmes's defects--if, indeed, one may call it a full his communicate to loath exceedingly was he that --defect plans to any other person until the instant of their fulfilment. loved which ,nature masterful own his from doubt no came it Partly to dominate and surprise those who were around him. Partly also any take to never him urged which ,caution professional his from chances. The result, however, was very trying for those who were under suffered often had I .assistants and agents his as acting it, but never more so than during that long drive in the darkness. make to about were we last at ;us of front in was ordeal great The our final effort, and yet Holmes had said nothing, and I could only thrilled nerves My .be would action of course his what surmise with anticipation when at last the cold wind upon our faces and me told road narrow the of side either on spaces void ,dark the that we were back upon the moor once again. Every stride of the our to nearer us taking was wheels the of turn every and horses supreme adventure.

Our conversation was hampered by the presence of the driver of trivial of talk to forced were we that so ,wagonette hired the matters when our nerves were tense with emotion and anticipation. at we when ,restraint unnatural that after ,me to relief a was It last passed Frankland's house and knew that we were drawing near to up drive not did We .action of scene the to and Hall the to the door but got down near the gate of the avenue. The wagonette ,forthwith Tracey Coombe to return to ordered and off paid was while we started to walk to Merripit House.

"Are you armed, Lestrade?"

The little detective smiled. "As long as I have my trousers I have I -hip my have I as long as and -hip a have something in it."

"Good! My friend and I are also ready for emergencies."

"You're mighty close about this affair, Mr. Holmes. What's the
"now game

"A waiting game."

"My word, it does not seem a very cheerful place," said the
slopes gloomy the at him round glancing ,shiver a with detective
of the hill and at the huge lake of fog which lay over the Grimpen
".us of ahead house a of lights the see I" .Mire

"That is Merripit House and the end of our journey. I must
".whisper a above talk to not and tiptoe on walk to you request

We moved cautiously along the track as if we were bound for the
yards hundred two about were we when us halted Holmes but ,house
from it.

"This will do," said he. "These rocks upon the right make an
".screen admirable

"We are to wait here?"

"Yes, we shall make our little ambush here. Get into this hollow,
?Watson ,not you have ,house the inside been have You .Lestrade
Can you tell the position of the rooms? What are those latticed
"?end this at windows

"I think they are the kitchen windows."

"And the one beyond, which shines so brightly?"

"That is certainly the dining-room."

"The blinds are up. You know the lie of the land best. Creep
'heaven for --doing are they what see and quietly forward
sake don't let them know that they are watched!"

I tiptoed down the path and stooped behind the low wall which reached I shadow its in Creeping .orchard stunted the surrounded a point whence I could look straight through the uncurtained window.

There were only two men in the room, Sir Henry and Stapleton. the of side either on me towards profiles their with sat They round table. Both of them were smoking cigars, and coffee and ,animation with talking was Stapleton .them of front in were wine but the baronet looked pale and distraught. Perhaps the thought heavily weighing was moor -ill the across walk lonely that of upon his mind.

As I watched them Stapleton rose and left the room, while Sir Henry at puffing ,chair his in back leaned and again glass his filled his cigar. I heard the creak of a door and the crisp sound of other the on path the along passed steps The .gravel upon boots side of the wall under which I crouched. Looking over, I saw the the of corner the in -out an of door the at pause naturalist orchard. A key turned in a lock, and as he passed in there was or minute a only was He .within from noise scuffling curious a so inside, and then I heard the key turn once more and he passed I and ,guest his rejoin him saw I .house the reentered and me crept quietly back to where my companions were waiting to tell .seen had I what them

"You say, Watson, that the lady is not there?" Holmes asked when .report my finished had I

"No."

"Where can she be, then, since there is no light in any other
"?kitchen the except room

"I cannot think where she is."

I have said that over the great Grimpen Mire there hung a dense, banked and direction our in slowly drifting was It .fog white itself up like a wall on that side of us, low but thick and well great a like looked it and ,it on shone moon The .defined

shimmering ice-field, with the heads of the distant tors as rocks and it towards turned was face 'Holmes .surface its upon borne he muttered impatiently as he watched its sluggish drift.

"It's moving towards us, Watson."

"Is that serious?"

"Very serious, indeed--the one thing upon earth which could have already is It .now ,long very be 'can He .plans my disarranged ten o'clock. Our success and even his life may depend upon his ".path the over is fog the before out coming

The night was clear and fine above us. The stars shone cold and ,soft a in scene whole the bathed -half a while ,bright uncertain light. Before us lay the dark bulk of the house, against outlined hard chimneys bristling and roof serrated its the silver-spangled sky. Broad bars of golden light from the One .moor the and orchard the across stretched windows lower of them was suddenly shut off. The servants had left the kitchen. ,men two the where -dining the in lamp the remained only There the murderous host and the unconscious guest, still chatted over .cigars their

Every minute that white woolly plain which covered one-half of Already .house the to closer and closer drifting was moor the the first thin wisps of it were curling across the golden square already was orchard the of wall farther The .window lighted the of invisible, and the trees were standing out of a swirl of white both round crawling came -fog the it watched we As .vapour corners of the house and rolled slowly into one dense bank on ship strange a like floated roof the and floor upper the which upon a shadowy sea. Holmes struck his hand passionately upon the .impatience his in feet his stamped and us of front in rock

"If he isn't out in a quarter of an hour the path will be covered. ".us of front in hands our see to able be 'won we hour an half In

"Shall we move farther back upon higher ground?"

"Yes, I think it would be as well."

So as the fog-bank flowed onward we fell back before it until we
,sea white dense that still and ,house the from mile a half were
with the moon silvering its upper edge, swept slowly and inexorably
.on

"We are going too far," said Holmes. "We dare not take the chance
we costs all At .us reach can he before overtaken being his of
must hold our ground where we are." He dropped on his knees and
hear I that think I ,God Thank" .ground the to ear his clapped
him coming."

A sound of quick steps broke the silence of the moor. Crouching
in bank -silver the at intently stared we stones the among
front of us. The steps grew louder, and through the fog, as
.awaiting were we whom man the stepped there ,curtain a through
He looked round him in surprise as he emerged into the clear,
close passed ,path the along swiftly came he Then .night starlit
to where we lay, and went on up the long slope behind us. As he
man a like ,shoulder either over continually glanced he walked
who is ill at ease.

"Hist!" cried Holmes, and I heard the sharp click of a cocking
"!coming 'It !out Look" .pistol

There was a thin, crisp, continuous patter from somewhere in the
yards fifty within was cloud The .bank crawling that of heart
of where we lay, and we glared at it, all three, uncertain what
'Holmes at was I .it of heart the from break to about was horror
elbow, and I glanced for an instant at his face. It was pale and
suddenly But .moonlight the in brightly shining eyes his ,exultant
they started forward in a rigid, fixed stare, and his lips parted
terror of yell a gave Lestrade instant same the At .amazement in
and threw himself face downward upon the ground. I sprang to my
the by paralyzed mind my ,pistol my grasping hand inert my ,feet
dreadful shape which had sprung out upon us from the shadows of
not but ,hound -coal enormous an ,was it hound A .fog the

such a hound as mortal eyes have ever seen. Fire burst from its muzzle its glare smouldering a with glowed eyes its mouth open and hackles and dewlap were outlined in flickering flame. Never more anything could brain disordered a of dream delirious the in savage, more appalling, more hellish be conceived than that dark fog of wall the of out us upon broke which face savage and form

With long bounds the huge black creature was leaping down the So friend our of footsteps the upon hard following track paralyzed were we by the apparition that we allowed him to pass fired both I and Holmes Then nerve our recovered had we before together, and the creature gave a hideous howl, which showed that bounded but however pause not did He him hit had least at one onward. Far away on the path we saw Sir Henry looking back, his glaring horror in raised hands his moonlight the in white face helplessly at the frightful thing which was hunting him down. to fears our all blown had hound the from pain of cry that But the winds. If he was vulnerable he was mortal, and if we could Holmes as run man a seen I have Never him kill could we him wound ran that night. I am reckoned fleet of foot, but he outpaced me as us of front In professional little the outpaced I as much as we flew up the track we heard scream after scream from Sir Henry beast the see to time in was I hound the of roar deep the and spring upon its victim, hurl him to the ground, and worry at his of barrels five emptied had Holmes instant next the But throat his revolver into the creature's flank. With a last howl of agony feet four back its upon rolled it air the in snap vicious a and pawing furiously, and then fell limp upon its side. I stooped, head shimmering dreadful the to pistol my pressed and panting but it was useless to press the trigger. The giant hound was dead.

Sir Henry lay insensible where he had fallen. We tore away his saw we when gratitude of prayer a breathed Holmes and collar that there was no sign of a wound and that the rescue had been a made he and shivered eyelids friend our Already time in feeble effort to move. Lestrade thrust his brandy-flask between us at up looking were eyes frightened two and teeth baronet the

"My God!" he whispered. "What was it? What, in heaven's name,
"it was

"It's dead, whatever it is," said Holmes. "We've laid the family
"forever and once ghost

In mere size and strength it was a terrible creature which was
it and bloodhound pure a not was It .us before stretched lying
was not a pure mastiff; but it appeared to be a combination of
Even .lioness small a as large as and ,savage --two the
now in the stillness of death, the huge jaws seemed to be dripping
ringed were eyes cruel -deep ,small the and flame bluish a with
with fire. I placed my hand upon the glowing muzzle, and as I
.darkness the in gleamed and smouldered fingers own my up them held

"Phosphorus," I said.

"A cunning preparation of it," said Holmes, sniffing at the dead
his with interfered have might which smell no is There" .animal
power of scent. We owe you a deep apology, Sir Henry, for having
not but ,hound a for prepared was I .fright this to you exposed
for such a creature as this. And the fog gave us little time to
".him receive

"You have saved my life."

"Having first endangered it. Are you strong enough to stand?"

"Give me another mouthful of that brandy and I shall be ready
you do What .up me help will you if ,Now !So .anything for
propose to do?"

"To leave you here. You are not fit for further adventures
back go will us of other or one ,wait will you If .tonight
with you to the Hall."

He tried to stagger to his feet; but he was still ghastly pale
he where ,rock a to him helped We .limb every in trembling and
sat shivering with his face buried in his hands.

timber of baulk -worm old the for support a as period some which spanned the roof. To this post a figure was tied, so secure to used been had which sheets the in muffled and swathed it that one could not for the moment tell whether it was that of was and throat the round passed towel One .woman a or man a secured at the back of the pillar. Another covered the lower grief of full --eyes dark two it over and ,face the of part and shame and a dreadful questioning--stared back at us. In a .Mrs and ,bonds the unswathed ,gag the off torn had we minute Stapleton sank upon the floor in front of us. As her beautiful whiplash a of weal red clear the saw I chest her upon fell head across her neck.

"The brute!" cried Holmes. "Here, Lestrade, your brandy-bottle! and -ill from fainted has She !chair the in her Put exhaustion."

She opened her eyes again.

"Is he safe?" she asked. "Has he escaped?"

"He cannot escape us, madam."

"No, no, I did not mean my husband. Sir Henry? Is he safe?"

"Yes."

"And the hound?"

"It is dead."

She gave a long sigh of satisfaction.

"Thank God! Thank God! Oh, this villain! See how he has treated with saw we and ,sleeves her from out arms her shot She "!me horror that they were all mottled with bruises. "But this is tortured has he that soul and mind my is It --nothing and defiled. I could endure it all, ill-usage, solitude, a life the to cling still could I as long as ,everything ,deception of

hope that I had his love, but now I know that in this also I have sobbing passionate into broke She ".tool his and dupe his been as she spoke.

"You bear him no good will, madam," said Holmes. "Tell us then ,evil in him aided ever have you If .him find shall we where help us now and so atone."

"There is but one place where he can have fled," she answered. .mire the of heart the in island an on mine tin old an is There" It was there that he kept his hound and there also he had made he where is That .refuge a have might he that so preparations would fly."

The fog-bank lay like white wool against the window. Holmes held .it towards lamp the

"See," said he. "No one could find his way into the Grimpen Mire ".tonight

She laughed and clapped her hands. Her eyes and teeth gleamed .merriment fierce with

"He may find his way in, but never out," she cried. "How can he and he ,together them planted We ?tonight wands guiding the see I, to mark the pathway through the mire. Oh, if I could only him had have would you indeed Then .today out them plucked have at your mercy!"

It was evident to us that all pursuit was in vain until the fog the of possession in Lestrade left we Meanwhile .lifted had house while Holmes and I went back with the baronet to Baskerville withheld be longer no could Stapletons the of story The .Hall from him, but he took the blow bravely when he learned the truth 'night the of shock the But .loved had he whom woman the about adventures had shattered his nerves, and before morning he lay The .Mortimer .Dr of care the under fever high a in delirious two of them were destined to travel together round the world that man hearty ,hale the more once become had Henry Sir before

he had been before he became master of that ill-omened estate.

And now I come rapidly to the conclusion of this singular narrative, fears dark those share reader the make to tried have I which in and vague surmises which clouded our lives so long and ended in hound the of death the after morning the On .manner a tragic so the fog had lifted and we were guided by Mrs. Stapleton to the helped It .bog the through pathway a found had they where point us to realize the horror of this woman's life when we saw the .track 'husband her on us laid she which with joy and eagerness We left her standing upon the thin peninsula of firm, peaty soil a it of end the From .bog widespread the into out tapered which small wand planted here and there showed where the path zigzagged and pits -green those among rushes of tuft to tuft from foul quagmires which barred the way to the stranger. Rank reeds heavy a and decay of odour an sent -water slimy ,lush and miasmatic vapour onto our faces, while a false step plunged us which ,mire quivering ,dark the into -thigh once than more shook for yards in soft undulations around our feet. Its tenacious it into sank we when and ,walked we as heels our at plucked grip it was as if some malignant hand was tugging us down into those which in clutch the was purposeful and grim so ,depths obscene it held us. Once only we saw a trace that someone had passed that which grass cotton of tuft a amid From .us before way perilous bore it up out of the slime some dark thing was projecting. Holmes and ,it seize to path the from stepped he as waist his to sank had we not been there to drag him out he could never have set his .air the in boot black old an held He .again land firm upon foot "Meyers, Toronto," was printed on the leather inside.

"It is worth a mud bath," said he. "It is our friend Sir Henry's
".boot missing

"Thrown there by Stapleton in his flight."

"Exactly. He retained it in his hand after using it to set the
,up was game the knew he when fled He .track the upon hound
still clutching it. And he hurled it away at this point of his
".safety in far so came he that least at know We .flight

But more than that we were never destined to know, though there finding of chance no was There .surmise might we which much was footsteps in the mire, for the rising mud oozed swiftly in upon morass the beyond ground firmer reached last at we as but ,them we all looked eagerly for them. But no slightest sign of them Stapleton then ,story true a told earth the If .eyes our met ever never reached that island of refuge towards which he struggled of heart the in Somewhere .night last that upon fog the through the great Grimpen Mire, down in the foul slime of the huge morass is man -cruel and cold this ,in him sucked had which forever buried.

Many traces we found of him in the bog-girt island where he had -half shaft a and -driving huge A .ally savage his hid with rubbish showed the position of an abandoned mine. Beside ,miners the of cottages the of remains crumbling the were it driven away no doubt by the foul reek of the surrounding swamp. bones gnawed of quantity a with chain and staple a these of one In showed where the animal had been confined. A skeleton with a .debris the among lay it to adhering hair brown of tangle

"A dog!" said Holmes. "By Jove, a curly-haired spaniel. Poor that know not do I ,Well .again pet his see never will Mortimer this place contains any secret which we have not already fathomed. hence and ,voice its hush not could he but ,hound his hide could He came those cries which even in daylight were not pleasant to hear. at -out the in hound the keep could he emergency an On Merripit, but it was always a risk, and it was only on the supreme dared he that ,efforts his all of end the as regarded he which ,day do it. This paste in the tin is no doubt the luminous mixture with by ,course of ,suggested was It .daubed was creature the which the story of the family hell-hound, and by the desire to frighten convict a of devil poor the wonder No .death to Charles Sir old ran and screamed, even as our friend did, and as we ourselves might darkness the through bounding creature a such saw he when ,done have of the moor upon his track. It was a cunning device, for, apart peasant what ,death his to victim your driving of chance the from would venture to inquire too closely into such a creature should he

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in it said I ?moor the upon ,done have many as ,it of sight get
London, Watson, and I say it again now, that never yet have we
lying is who he than man dangerous more a down hunt to helped
yonder"--he swept his long arm towards the huge mottled expanse
into merged it until away stretched which bog -green of
the russet slopes of the moor.

Chapter 15
Retrospection A

It was the end of November, and Holmes and I sat, upon a raw and -sitting our in fire blazing a of side either on ,night foggy in Baker Street. Since the tragic upshot of our visit to Devonshire in ,importance utmost the of affairs two in engaged been had he the first of which he had exposed the atrocious conduct of Colonel Nonpareil the of scandal card famous the with connection in Upwood Club, while in the second he had defended the unfortunate Mme. in her over hung which murder of charge the from Montpensier connection with the death of her step-daughter, Mlle. Carere, the months six found was ,remembered be will it as ,who lady young later alive and married in New York. My friend was in excellent of succession a attended had which success the over spirits difficult and important cases, so that I was able to induce him waited had I .mystery Baskerville the of details the discuss to patiently for the opportunity for I was aware that he would never would mind logical and clear his that and ,overlap to cases permit not be drawn from its present work to dwell upon memories of the on ,London in ,however ,were Mortimer .Dr and Henry Sir .past their way to that long voyage which had been recommended for the us upon called had They .nerves shattered his of restoration that very afternoon, so that it was natural that the subject .discussion for up come should

"The whole course of events," said Holmes, "from the point of and simple was Stapleton himself called who man the of view direct, although to us, who had no means in the beginning of part learn only could and actions his of motives the knowing of the facts, it all appeared exceedingly complex. I have had the and ,Stapleton .Mrs with conversations two of advantage the case has now been so entirely cleared up that I am not aware that will You .us to secret a remained has which anything is there find a few notes upon the matter under the heading B in my indexed ".cases of list

"Perhaps you would kindly give me a sketch of the course of events
".memory from

"Certainly, though I cannot guarantee that I carry all the facts
of way curious a has concentration mental Intense .mind my in
blotting out what has passed. The barrister who has his case at
his upon expert an with argue to able is and ends 'fingers his
own subject finds that a week or two of the courts will drive it
the displaces cases my of each So .more once head his of out all
last, and Mlle. Carere has blurred my recollection of Baskerville
my to submitted be may problem little other some Tomorrow .Hall
notice which will in turn dispossess the fair French lady and the
,however ,goes hound the of case the as far So .Upwood infamous
I will give you the course of events as nearly as I can, and you
.forgotten have may I which anything suggest will

"My inquiries show beyond all question that the family portrait
He .Baskerville a indeed was fellow this that and ,lie not did
was a son of that Rodger Baskerville, the younger brother of Sir
,America South to reputation sinister a with fled who ,Charles
where he was said to have died unmarried. He did, as a matter of
is name real whose ,fellow this ,child one had and ,marry ,fact
the same as his father's. He married Beryl Garcia, one of the
sum considerable a purloined having ,and ,Rica Costa of beauties
of public money, he changed his name to Vandeleur and fled to
.Yorkshire of east the in school a established he where ,England
His reason for attempting this special line of business was that
upon tutor consumptive a with acquaintance an up struck had he
the voyage home, and that he had used this man's ability to make
and ,however died ,tutor the ,Fraser .success a undertaking the
the school which had begun well sank from disrepute into infamy.
to name their change to convenient it found Vandeleurs The
Stapleton, and he brought the remains of his fortune, his schemes
of south the to entomology for taste his and ,future the for
England. I learned at the British Museum that he was a recognized
has Vandeleur of name the that and ,subject the upon authority
been permanently attached to a certain moth which he had, in his
.describe to first the been ,days Yorkshire

"We now come to that portion of his life which has proved to be made evidently had fellow The .us to interest intense such of inquiry and found that only two lives intervened between him and ,were plans his Devonshire to went he When .estate valuable a I believe, exceedingly hazy, but that he meant mischief from the him with wife his took he which in way the from evident is first in the character of his sister. The idea of using her as a decoy been have not may he though ,mind his in already clearly was certain how the details of his plot were to be arranged. He meant tool any use to ready was he and ,estate the have to end the in or run any risk for that end. His first act was to establish second his and ,could he as home ancestral his to near as himself was to cultivate a friendship with Sir Charles Baskerville and .neighbours the with

"The baronet himself told him about the family hound, and so continue will I as ,Stapleton .death own his for way the prepared to call him, knew that the old man's heart was weak and that a .Mortimer .Dr from learned had he much So .him kill would shock He had heard also that Sir Charles was superstitious and had taken instantly mind ingenious His .seriously very legend grim this suggested a way by which the baronet could be done to death, and the to guilt the home bring to possible hardly be would it yet real murderer.

"Having conceived the idea he proceeded to carry it out with content been have would schemer ordinary An .finesse considerable to work with a savage hound. The use of artificial means to make The .part his upon genius of flash a was diabolical creature the dog he bought in London from Ross and Mangles, the dealers in their in savage most and strongest the was It .Road Fulham possession. He brought it down by the North Devon line and walked without home it get to as so moor the over distance great a exciting any remarks. He had already on his insect hunts learned -hiding safe a found had so and ,Mire Grimpen the penetrate to for the creature. Here he kennelled it and waited his chance.

"But it was some time coming. The old gentleman could not be Stapleton times Several .night at grounds his of outside decoyed lurked about with his hound, but without avail. It was during by seen was ,ally his rather or ,he that quests fruitless these peasants, and that the legend of the demon dog received a new Charles Sir lure might wife his that hoped had He .confirmation to his ruin, but here she proved unexpectedly independent. She sentimental a in gentleman old the entangle to endeavour not would attachment which might deliver him over to his enemy. Threats She .her move to refused blows ,say to sorry am I ,even and would have nothing to do with it, and for a time Stapleton was .deadlock a at

"He found a way out of his difficulties through the chance that him made ,him for friendship a conceived had who ,Charles Sir the minister of his charity in the case of this unfortunate woman, he man single a as himself representing By .Lyons Laura .Mrs acquired complete influence over her, and he gave her to understand he husband her from divorce a obtaining her of event the in that would marry her. His plans were suddenly brought to a head by the on Hall the leave to about was Charles Sir that knowledge his advice of Dr. Mortimer, with whose opinion he himself pretended beyond get might victim his or ,once at act must He .coincide to his power. He therefore put pressure upon Mrs. Lyons to write on interview an her give to man old the imploring ,letter this the evening before his departure for London. He then, by a chance the had so and ,going from her prevented ,argument specious for which he had waited.

"Driving back in the evening from Coombe Tracey he was in time to bring to and ,paint infernal his with it treat to ,hound his get the beast round to the gate at which he had reason to expect that its by incited ,dog The .waiting gentleman old the find would he master, sprang over the wicket-gate and pursued the unfortunate gloomy that In .alley yew the down screaming fled who ,baronet tunnel it must indeed have been a dreadful sight to see that huge bounding ,eyes blazing and jaws flaming its with ,creature black after its victim. He fell dead at the end of the alley from heart border grassy the upon kept had hound The .terror and disease

while the baronet had run down the path, so that no track but the had creature the still lying him seeing On .visible was 'man probably approached to sniff at him, but finding him dead had was which print the left it that then was It .again away turned actually observed by Dr. Mortimer. The hound was called off and was mystery a and ,Mire Grimpen the in lair its to away hurried left which puzzled the authorities, alarmed the countryside, and .observation our of scope the within case the brought finally

"So much for the death of Sir Charles Baskerville. You perceive impossible almost be would it really for ,it of cunning devilish the to make a case against the real murderer. His only accomplice ,grotesque the and ,away him give never could who one was inconceivable nature of the device only served to make it more Stapleton .Mrs ,case the in concerned women the of Both .effective and Mrs. Laura Lyons, were left with a strong suspicion against old the upon designs had he that knew Stapleton .Mrs .Stapleton man, and also of the existence of the hound. Mrs. Lyons knew death the by impressed been had but ,things these of neither occurring at the time of an uncancelled appointment which was ,influence his under were them of both ,However .him to known only and he had nothing to fear from them. The first half of his task .remained still difficult more the but accomplished successfully was

"It is possible that Stapleton did not know of the existence of from it learn soon very would he case any In .Canada in heir an his friend Dr. Mortimer, and he was told by the latter all details idea first 'Stapleton .Baskerville Henry of arrival the about was that this young stranger from Canada might possibly be done He .all at Devonshire to down coming without London in death to distrusted his wife ever since she had refused to help him in long her leave not dared he and ,man old the for trap a laying out of his sight for fear he should lose his influence over her. They .him with London to her took he that reason this for was It lodged, I find, at the Mexborough Private Hotel, in Craven Street, search in agent my by upon called those of one actually was which of evidence. Here he kept his wife imprisoned in her room while Street Baker to Mortimer .Dr followed ,beard a in disguised ,he and afterwards to the station and to the Northumberland Hotel.

fear a such had she but ;plans his of inkling some had wife His
of her husband--a fear founded upon brutal ill-treatment--that
.danger in be to knew she whom man the warn to write not dare she
If the letter should fall into Stapleton's hands her own life
the adopted she ,know we as ,Eventually .safe be not would
expedient of cutting out the words which would form the message,
the reached It .hand disguised a in letter the addressing and
baronet, and gave him the first warning of his danger.

"It was very essential for Stapleton to get some article of Sir
he ,dog the use to driven was he case in ,that so attire 'Henry
might always have the means of setting him upon his track. With
,once at this about set he audacity and promptness characteristic
and we cannot doubt that the boots or chamber-maid of the hotel
,however ,chance By .design his in him help to bribed well was
the first boot which was procured for him was a new one and,
and returned it had then He .purpose his for useless ,therefore
obtained another--a most instructive incident, since it proved
,hound real a with dealing were we that mind my to conclusively
as no other supposition could explain this anxiety to obtain an
and outre more The .one new a to indifference this and boot old
grotesque an incident is the more carefully it deserves to be
case a complicate to appears which point very the and ,examined
is, when duly considered and scientifically handled, the one which
.it elucidate to likely most is

"Then we had the visit from our friends next morning, shadowed
rooms our of knowledge his From .cab the in Stapleton by always
and of my appearance, as well as from his general conduct, I am
no by been has crime of career 'Stapleton that think to inclined
means limited to this single Baskerville affair. It is suggestive
considerable four been have there years three last the during that
burglaries in the west country, for none of which was any criminal
,May in ,Court Folkestone at ,these of last The .arrested ever
was remarkable for the cold-blooded pistolling of the page, who
that doubt cannot I .burglar solitary and masked the surprised
Stapleton recruited his waning resources in this fashion, and
.man dangerous and desperate a been has he years for that

"We had an example of his readiness of resource that morning when in audacity his of also and ,successfully so us from away got he sending back my own name to me through the cabman. From that ,London in case the over taken had I that understood he moment and that therefore there was no chance for him there. He returned ".baronet the of arrival the awaited and Dartmoor to

"One moment!" said I. "You have, no doubt, described the sequence left have you which point one is there but ,correctly events of unexplained. What became of the hound when its master was in London?"

"I have given some attention to this matter and it is undoubtedly a had Stapleton that question no be can There .importance of confidant, though it is unlikely that he ever placed himself in old an was There .him with plans his all sharing by power his manservant at Merripit House, whose name was Anthony. His ,years several for traced be can Stapletons the with connection as far back as the schoolmastering days, so that he must have been .wife and husband really were mistress and master his that aware This man has disappeared and has escaped from the country. It while ,England in name common a not is Anthony that suggestive is Antonio is so in all Spanish or Spanish-American countries. The a with but ,English good spoke ,herself Stapleton .Mrs like ,man curious lisping accent. I have myself seen this old man cross It .out marked had Stapleton which path the by Mire Grimpen the is very probable, therefore, that in the absence of his master known have never may he though ,hound the for cared who he was it the purpose for which the beast was used.

"The Stapletons then went down to Devonshire, whither they were I how to as now word One .you and Henry Sir by followed soon stood myself at that time. It may possibly recur to your memory were words printed the which upon paper the examined I when that fastened I made a close inspection for the water-mark. In doing conscious was and ,eyes my of inches few a within it held I so of a faint smell of the scent known as white jessamine. There a that necessary very is it which ,perfumes -seventy are criminal expert should be able to distinguish from each other, depended experience own my within once than more have cases and

upon their prompt recognition. The scent suggested the presence the towards turn to began thoughts my already and ,lady a of Stapletons. Thus I had made certain of the hound, and had guessed .country west the to went we ever before criminal the at

"It was my game to watch Stapleton. It was evident, however, be would he since ,you with were I if this do not could I that keenly on his guard. I deceived everybody, therefore, yourself in be to supposed was I when secretly down came I and ,included London. My hardships were not so great as you imagined, though investigation the with interfere never must details trifling such of a case. I stayed for the most part at Coombe Tracey, and only the near be to necessary was it when moor the upon hut the used scene of action. Cartwright had come down with me, and in his I .me to assistance great of was he boy country a as disguise was dependent upon him for food and clean linen. When I was so ,you watching frequently was Cartwright ,Stapleton watching that I was able to keep my hand upon all the strings.

"I have already told you that your reports reached me rapidly, .Tracey Coombe to Street Baker from instantly forwarded being They were of great service to me, and especially that one was I 'Stapleton of biography of piece truthful incidentally able to establish the identity of the man and the woman and knew considerably been had case The .stood I how exactly last at complicated through the incident of the escaped convict and the cleared you also This .Barrymores the and him between relations up in a very effective way, though I had already come to the same .observations own my from conclusions

"By the time that you discovered me upon the moor I had a complete could which case a not had I but ,business whole the of knowledge go to a jury. Even Stapleton's attempt upon Sir Henry that night help not did convict unfortunate the of death the in ended which us much in proving murder against our man. There seemed to be had we so do to and -red him catch to but alternative no to use Sir Henry, alone and apparently unprotected, as a bait. we client our to shock severe a of cost the at and ,so did We succeeded in completing our case and driving Stapleton to his

,is this to exposed been have should Henry Sir That .destruction
I must confess, a reproach to my management of the case, but we
spectacle paralyzing and terrible the foreseeing of means no had
which the beast presented, nor could we predict the fog which
succeeded We .notice short such at us upon burst to him enabled
in our object at a cost which both the specialist and Dr. Mortimer
our enable may journey long A .one temporary a be will me assure
friend to recover not only from his shattered nerves but also from
,sincere and deep was lady the for love His .feelings wounded his
and to him the saddest part of all this black business was that
.her by deceived been have should he

"It only remains to indicate the part which she had played
an exercised Stapleton that doubt no be can There .throughout
influence over her which may have been love or may have been fear,
incompatible means no by are they since ,both possibly very or
emotions. It was, at least, absolutely effective. At his command
limits the found he though ,sister his as pass to consented she
of his power over her when he endeavoured to make her the direct
as far so Henry Sir warn to ready was She .murder to accessory
she could without implicating her husband, and again and again
capable been have to seems himself Stapleton .so do to tried she
of jealousy, and when he saw the baronet paying court to the lady,
help not could he still ,plan own his of part was it though even
interrupting with a passionate outburst which revealed the fiery
By .concealed cleverly so manner -self his which soul
encouraging the intimacy he made it certain that Sir Henry would
or sooner would he that and House Merripit to come frequently
later get the opportunity which he desired. On the day of the
had She .him against suddenly turned wife his ,however ,crisis
learned something of the death of the convict, and she knew that
Sir that evening the on outhouse the in kept being was hound the
Henry was coming to dinner. She taxed her husband with his
showed he which in followed scene furious a and ,crime intended
her for the first time that she had a rival in his love. Her
that saw he and ,hatred bitter to instant an in turned fidelity
she would betray him. He tied her up, therefore, that she might
that ,doubt no ,hoped he and ,Henry Sir warning of chance no have
when the whole countryside put down the baronet's death to the

his win could he do would certainly they as family his of curse wife back to accept an accomplished fact and to keep silent upon a made he case any in that fancy I this In .knew she what miscalculation, and that, if we had not been there, his doom would does blood Spanish of woman A .sealed been have less the none not condone such an injury so lightly. And now, my dear Watson, detailed more a you give cannot I ,notes my to referring without account of this curious case. I do not know that anything essential ".unexplained left been has

"He could not hope to frighten Sir Henry to death as he had done ".hound bogie his with uncle old the

"The beast was savage and half-starved. If its appearance did the paralyze would it least at ,death to victim its frighten not resistance which might be offered."

"No doubt. There only remains one difficulty. If Stapleton came the ,he that fact the explain he could how ,succession the into heir, had been living unannounced under another name so close to suspicion causing without it claim he could How ?property the and inquiry?"

"It is a formidable difficulty, and I fear that you ask too much are present the and past The .it solve to me expect you when within the field of my inquiry, but what a man may do in the future husband her heard has Stapleton .Mrs .answer to question hard a is discuss the problem on several occasions. There were three possible ,America South from property the claim might He .courses establish his identity before the British authorities there and so he or ,all at England to coming ever without fortune the obtain might adopt an elaborate disguise during the short time that he with accomplice an furnish might he ,again ,or ;London in be need the proofs and papers, putting him in as heir, and retaining a from doubt cannot We .income his of proportion some upon claim what we know of him that he would have found some way out of the of weeks some had have we ,Watson dear my ,now And .difficulty severe work, and for one evening, I think, we may turn our thoughts '.Huguenots Les' for box a have I .channels pleasant more into

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Have you heard the De Reszkes? Might I trouble you then to be little a for 'Marcini at stop can we and ,hour an half in ready dinner on the way?"

We make these texts available for fun and relaxation, but also run a research project about the script.

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