

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
January, 1893

The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



"The Adventure of the Cardboard Box"

01

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Jim Browner
- 08 - Susan Cushing

Canonical Characters



J. Basté,
1920

The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

02

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

- 09 - Inspector G. Lestrade
- 10 - Sarah Cushing
- 11 - Mary Cushing
- 12 - Alec Fairbairn
- 13 - Algar
- 14 - The Ears
- 15 - Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.

IV.—THE ADVENTURE OF THE CARDBOARD BOX

BY CONAN DOYLE.

IN choosing a few typical cases which illustrate the remarkable mental qualities of my friend, Sherlock Holmes, I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to select those which presented the minimum of sensationalism, while offering a fair field for his talents. It is, however, unfortunately, impossible to entirely separate the sensational from the criminal, and a chronicler is left in the dilemma that he must either sacrifice details which are essential to his statement, and so give a false impression of the problem, or he must use matter which chance, and not choice, has provided him with. With this short preface I shall turn to my notes of what proved to be a strange, though a peculiarly terrible, chain of events.

It was a blazing hot day in August. Baker Street was like an oven, and the glare of the sunlight upon the yellow brickwork of the houses across the road was painful to the eye. It was hard to believe that these were

the same walls which loomed so gloomily through the fogs of winter. Our blinds were half-drawn, and Holmes lay curled upon the sofa, reading and re-reading a letter which he had received by the evening post. Myself, my service in and trained and heat cold, some-

Parliament had risen. Everybody was in town, and I yearned for the glades of the Forest or the shingle of Southsea. A depleted bank account had caused me to postpone my holiday, and as to my companion, neither the country nor the sea presented the slightest attraction to him. He loved to lie in the very centre of five millions of people, with his filaments stretching out and running through them, responsive to every little rumour or suspicion of unsolved crime. Appreciation of Nature found no place among his many gifts, and his only change was when he turned his mind from the evil-doer of the town to track down his brother of the country.

Finding that Holmes was too absorbed for conversation I had tossed aside the barren paper and, leaning back in my chair, I fell into a brown study. Suddenly my companion's voice broke in upon my thoughts.

"You are right, Watson," said he. "It does seem a most preposterous way of settling a dispute."



"I FELL INTO A BROWN STUDY."

The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



"The Adventure of the Cardboard Box"

03

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Sherlock Holmes and John Watson join Inspector Lestrade to investigate a box received by Susan Cushing. The box contains two human ears, which Miss Cushing believes are a practical joke from two previous lodgers, who were medical students.

Holmes, after examining the ears, box, and twine used to secure the box, believes there is a much more sinister reason behind the severed ears than just a prank.

Canonical Characters



J. Dutric,
1927

The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box” (*The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
March, 1923	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Wilis
April 11, 1994	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Hardwicke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
November 05, 1931	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
November 05, 1936	Mutual/ NBC	Luis Hector	Harry West
January 22, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
August 27, 1943	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
April 19, 1960	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1987	BBC	Roy Marsden	John Moffatt
January 12, 1994	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
May 30, 2010		John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

05

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Deduced that Jim Browner
killed two persons.

*“A shocking crime has been
committed, and I think I have
now laid bare every detail of it.”*

*“There is no part of the body
which varies so much as the
human ear. Each ear is as a
rule quite distinctive and
differs from all other ones.”*

(Tom Baker, 1982, The Hound of the Baskervilles)

Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

06

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

“It was a blazing hot day in August. Baker Street was like an oven.”

“A depleted bank account had caused me to postpone my holiday, and as to my companion, neither the country nor the sea presented the slightest attraction to him.”

(Terence Rigby, 1982, The Hound of the Baskervilles)

Canonical Characters



Jim Browner



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

07

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Sailor who married Mary Cushing and killed her and Alec Fairbairn after they were having an affair.

“You can hang me, or do what you like with me, but you cannot punish me as I have been punished already. I cannot shut my eyes but I see those two faces staring at me.”

(Ciaran Hinds, 1994, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”)

Canonical Characters



Susan Cushing



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

08

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Eldest of three sisters, lived at Cross Street, Croydon. Received packet from Belfast with a cardboard box filled with coarse salt and two severed human ears.

“I am convinced, sir, that this matter is a mistake, and that the parcel was never meant for me at all.”

(Johanna David, 1994, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”)

Canonical Characters



Inspector G. Lestrade



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

09

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Obtained confession from
Jim Browner.

Holmes said, “he is as
tenacious as a bulldog when
he once understands what
he has to do.”

*“In that case I may leave
you here, for I have another
small business on hand.”*

(Roger Ashton-Griffiths, 1985, Young Sherlock Holmes)

Canonical Characters



Sarah Cushing



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

10

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Sister of Susan and Mary who had eyes for her brother-in-law, Jim Browner. Suffered from brain fever after Mary's death.

“She was a fine tall woman, black and quick and fierce, with a proud way of carrying her head, and a glint from her eye like a spark from a flint.”

(Deborah Findlay, 1994, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”)

Canonical Characters



Mary Cushing Browner



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

11

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Younger sister of Sarah and
Susan. Married Jim Browner.

“Don’t Jim, don’t!”

Browner saw her “sitting by
the side of Fairbairn, the two
chatting and laughing, with
never a thought for me as I
stood watching them from
the footpath.”

*(Lucy Whybrow, 1994, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, “The
Adventure of the Cardboard Box”)*

Canonical Characters



Alec Fairbairn



“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”

12

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Sailor murdered by Jim
Browner while escorting Mary
Browner on a boat ride.

“He was a dashing, swaggering
chap, smart and curled, who
had seen half the world and
could talk of what he had seen.
He was good company... and
he had wonderful polite ways
with him for a sailor man.”

*(Thierry Harcourt, 1994, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, “The
Adventure of the Cardboard Box”)*

Canonical Characters



Algar



"The Adventure of the
Cardboard Box"

13

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

Friend of Holmes
on the Liverpool
police force who
reported Sarah
Browner was at
her home.

Canonical Characters



The Ears



"The Adventure of the Cardboard Box"

14

(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)

"You have observed, of course," said he at last, "that the ears are not a pair."

"They have been cut off with a blunt instrument, which would hardly happen if a student had done it. I repeat that there is no practical joke here, but that we are investigating a serious crime."

Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,
January, 1893

The Adventure of the Cardboard Box



"The Adventure of the Cardboard Box" (*The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*)

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First
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U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
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January 14, 1893

U.K. -- *The Memoirs of Sherlock
Holmes*,
December 13, 1893 George Newnes Ltd.
U.S. - *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*,
February 02, 1894, Harper & Brothers
Publishers

Chronological
Date:

August
(Watson)
Saturday, August 31, 1889
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

30 of 56 short stories
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ
Abbreviation:

CARD