

Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia

Adventure I -- A Study in Scarlet

SUMMARY (Diogenes Club)

Watson was serving in India with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. At the battle of Maiwand, he was struck in the shoulder by a Jezail bullet. Murray, his orderly, saved his life and he was sent to England to recover.

While he was looking for lodgings, he met young Stamford at the Criterion bar. Stamford had been a dresser under him at Bart's. Stamford told him that he knew Sherlock Holmes who was also looking for lodgings. He introduced the immortal pair.

Holmes was just perfecting a test for occult blood when Watson met him. After one casual glance in his direction, Holmes said, "You have been in Afghanistan I perceive."

Holmes tells Watson he is a consulting detective and has written an article for the Times called "The Book of Life."

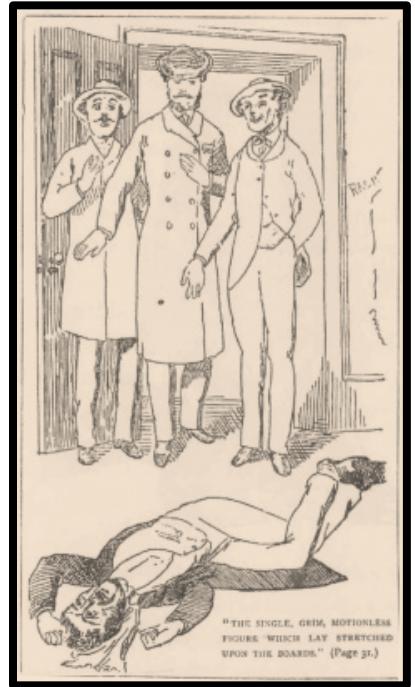
Gregson asks Holmes to help him with a murder in Lauriston Gardens. Enoch Drebber is found dead by poisoning in an empty house. A wedding ring is on the floor beside him. The word "RACHE" is written on the wall in blood.

Hope returned to the house to get the ring but Rance was there. Hope pretended to be drunk and thus avoided capture.

Holmes placed an ad in The Times saying he found a wedding ring in Lariston Gardens. Hope answered the ad disguised as an old woman to get back the ring and gave Holmes the slip in a cab.

Gregson arrests Arthur Charpentier for Drebber's murder because Drebber made unsolicited and unwelcome advances to Alice and Arthur swore revenge.

Strangerson did not return to Charpentier's house after Drebber's murder. Two days later he was



found murdered by stabbing in another hotel. A small pill box was found on the window sill containing two pills. The murder occurred on the second floor of the hotel and the murderer gained access to the room via a ladder at the window.

Holmes feeds half of one of the pills to an old dog but nothing happens. He feeds half of the other pill to the dog and it promptly dies.

A cabman comes to 221B to pick up some boxes. As he leans over to do so, Holmes snaps a pair of handcuffs on him and announces to Lestrade and Gregson that he has caught the murderer, Jefferson Hope.

Hope tells the following story:

John and Lucy were the only two survivors of a wagon train that lost its way in Utah. They were rescued by the Mormons who were on the journey which eventually took them to Salt Lake. They were forced to adopt the Mormon faith.

Ferrier prospered and became one of the wealthiest men in Salt Lake City while Lucy grew to become "The Flower of Utah." Ferrier remained celibate.

Hope comes to Salt Lake and saves Lucy's life in a cattle stampede. His father and Ferrier had been friends in St. Louis. Hope and Lucy fall in love.

Hope leaves to get a silver mine functioning in Nevada and Lucy promises to marry him when he returns.

Brigham Young visits Ferrier and tells him that Lucy must wed one of the Elder's sons in a month. Ferrier plans to flee from Utah and sends word via a wagon train to Hope in Nevada, telling him what has transpired.

Hope tries to carry Lucy and Ferrier to safety, but the two are captured while Hope is away hunting. Ferrier is killed on the spot and Lucy is forced to marry Drebber. She pines away and dies within a month.

Hope tries to kill Drebber and Strangerson from ambush but their security is too tight. He returns to Nevada and prospects. He is unable to return to Salt Lake for five years. He returns in disguise to find that a schism has developed within the church and Drebber and Strangerson have taken all the money they can get and left Utah. Hope tracks them across the United States to Europe and then to England. He carries with him two identical capsules, one poisoned and one placebo. He has taken a job as a cabman in London and when he gets Drebber into his cab (Drebber is drunk), he takes him to the empty house in Lauriston Gardens where he offers him a choice of one of the capsules. Drebber chooses the fatal one. When he catches Strangerson, Strangerson won't play the capsule game so Hope stabs him.

Hope suffers from an aortic aneurysm which causes him to have severe nose bleeds. The aneurysm ruptures the day following his capture and he dies in his cell.

SUMMARY (ACD Encyclopedia)

In 1881, John Watson, a former doctor with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers Regiment, returns to London after being injured at the battle of Maiwand during the second Afghanistan war. With an income of only 9 shillings and 6 pence per day, he quickly finds himself out of money and decides to seek cheaper housing. One day at the Criterion Restaurant he meets Stamford, with whom he used to work at St Bartholomew Hospital, and shares his plans. Stamford tells him he knows someone from the chemistry laboratory who has been complaining about having trouble finding a roommate. Watson is interested and so meets Holmes. After a brief discussion on their respective habits, they agree to share the apartment, 221B Baker Street owned by a landlady: Mrs. Hudson. Their cohabitation begins peacefully. Holmes seems easygoing, although very discreet about himself and a bit eccentric. Watson observes him, making a list of Holmes' areas of knowledge and ignorance, but is unable to determine his profession. One day, Watson reads an article by Holmes about the science of deduction. At first unconvinced by his flatmate's theories, Watson is won over when Holmes gives a demonstration of his methods. Eventually he reveals his occupation to Watson: Consulting Detective.

Soon after, Holmes receives a telegram from Gregson, a Scotland Yard detective, requesting Holmes' help with the mysterious death of Enoch Drebber. There is blood on the floor of the empty house where Drebber was found, but the victim has been poisoned and has no injuries. Holmes decides to join Gregson and Lestrade at the crime scene in Brixton. Accompanied by Watson, Holmes examines first the area around the house, where he finds fresh cab prints, and then the crime scene itself. A wedding ring and a book belonging to a certain Stangerson is found on the body, and the word "Rache" written in letters of blood is seen on the wall in a corner of the room. The next morning, Holmes is visited by Gregson, claiming he has found the murderer, the brother of a woman whom Drebber had attempted to assault. But Lestrade rushes in immediately after Gregson, announcing that Stangerson was just found and had been murdered as well.

Stangerson had been stabbed in the hotel room where he had been hiding since Drebber's murder. The word "Rache" was again written on a wall. A telegram saying, "J.H. is in Europe" was found on the corpse, and a small box with two pills in it was found on the windowsill. Holmes jumps for joy, announcing that he has solved the case. He gives the pills one at a time to an old dog; the first pill does him nothing, but the second kills him. Then, Wiggins, the leader of the Baker Street Irregulars, comes and warns Holmes that the cab Holmes had wanted is downstairs. Holmes has the cab driver come upstairs and promptly handcuffs him. Then he presents him to the police officers as Jefferson Hope, the murderer of Drebber and Stangerson.

Hope, who hasn't got long to live due to an aneurysm, tells his story. It goes back to 1847. In the Sierra

Blanco, a plain of the USA. A man, John Ferrier, and a little girl, the only survivors of a group of migrants lost in the desert, were saved from certain death by a caravan of Mormons. John Ferrier and little Lucy, whom he decided to adopt, agreed to convert to the religion of their rescuers and settle in the town founded by the members of the caravan, Salt Lake City. Over the years, his farm was prosperous and Lucy became a pretty young woman. She met a young man named Jefferson Hope, a non-Mormon. They became engaged and agreed to marry after his return from a business trip. But while he was away, the community leaders, told Lucy to choose a Mormon husband within a month, either Stangerson or Drebber. As the threats became more urgent, an escape was planned for the last day of the ultimatum. Unfortunately, the attempt failed. John Ferrier was killed and Lucy was married to Drebber, but she died of grief a month later. On the burial day, Hope showed up and tore the wedding ring off Lucy's hand. He swore to devote his life to avenging her death.

When Drebber and Stangerson left Salt Lake City, he hunted them down across the USA and even followed them in Europe. He took a job as a cab driver and managed to take Drebber to the empty apartment without being recognized. Then revealing himself, he forced Drebber to choose between two pills, one poisoned and the other innocuous; Drebber would take one and Hope would swallow the second, and God would make the choice as to who lives and who dies. Hope, whose nose bled from the excitement, wrote the word "Rache" on the wall with his blood in an attempt to lead the police in the wrong direction. Realizing that he has left Lucy's ring behind, he returned to search for it but found the crime scene already occupied by a police officer. A few days later, breaking in Stangerson's room, Hope presented him with the choice of pills, but Stangerson threw himself at Hope and Hope killed him in the fight.

Hope died of his aneurysm the night before his trial was to begin. Holmes later explains to Watson how he had deduced the identity of the murderer and how he had used the Irregulars in finding the cabbie. When he shows Watson the papers, in which Gregson and Lestrade are given credit for solving the crime, Watson determines to set the record straight.

SUMMARY ([Wikipedia](#))

Part I: The Reminiscences of Watson

In 1881, Doctor John Watson has returned to London after serving in the Second Anglo-Afghan War. He is looking for a place to live, and an old friend tells him that Sherlock Holmes is looking for someone to split the rent at a flat at 221B Baker Street but cautions Watson about Holmes's eccentricities. Holmes and Watson meet, and after assessing each other and the rooms, they move in. Holmes reveals that he is a "consulting detective" and that his frequent guests are clients. After a demonstration of Holmes's deductive skills, Watson's disbelief turns into astonishment.

A telegram requests a consultation in a murder case. Watson accompanies Holmes to the crime scene, an abandoned house on Brixton Road. Inspectors Gregson and Lestrade are already on the scene. The victim is identified as Enoch Drebber, and documents found on his person reveal that he has a secretary, Joseph Stangerson. On one wall, written in red, is "RACHE" (German for "revenge"), which Holmes dismisses as a ploy to fool the police. He deduces that the victim died from poison and supplies a description of the murderer. Upon moving Drebber's body, they discover a woman's gold wedding ring.

Holmes places notices in several newspapers about the ring and buys a facsimile of it, hoping to draw the murderer – who has apparently already tried to retrieve the ring – out of hiding. An old woman answers the advertisement, claiming that the ring belongs to her daughter. Holmes gives her the duplicate and follows her, but she evades him. This leads Holmes to believe that she was an accomplice, or perhaps the actual murderer in disguise.

A day later, Gregson visits Holmes and Watson, telling them that he has arrested a suspect. He had gone to Madame Charpentier's Boarding House where Drebber and Stangerson had stayed before the murder. He learned from her that Drebber, a drunk, had attempted to kiss Mrs. Charpentier's daughter, Alice, which caused their immediate eviction. Drebber, however, came back later that night and attempted to grab Alice, prompting her older brother to attack him. He attempted to chase Drebber with a cudgel but claimed to have lost sight of him. Gregson has him in custody on this circumstantial evidence.

Lestrade then arrives and reveals that Stangerson has been murdered. His body was found near his hotel window, stabbed through the heart; above it was written "RACHE". The only things Stangerson had with him were a novel, a pipe, a telegram saying "J.H. is in Europe", and a small box containing two pills. Holmes tests the pills on an old and sickly Scottish terrier in residence at Baker Street. The first pill produces no evident effect, but the second kills the terrier. Holmes deduces that one was harmless and the other poison.

Just at that moment, a very young street urchin named Wiggins arrives. He is the leader of the Baker Street Irregulars, a group of street children Holmes employs to help him occasionally. Wiggins states that he's summoned the cab Holmes wanted. Holmes sends him down to fetch the cabby, claiming to need help with his luggage. When the cabby comes upstairs and bends for the trunk, Holmes handcuffs and restrains him. He then announces the captive cabby as Jefferson Hope, the murderer of Drebber and Stangerson.

Part II: "The Country of the Saints"

The story flashes back to the Salt Lake Valley in Utah in 1847, where John Ferrier and a little girl named Lucy, the only survivors of a small party of pioneers, are rescued from death by a large party of Latter-day Saints led by Brigham Young, but only on the condition that they adopt and live under the Mormon faith.

Years later, a now-grown Lucy befriends and falls in love with a man named Jefferson Hope. However, Young forbids her from marrying outside the faith, and demands that she marry either Joseph Stangerson or Enoch Drebber, both sons of members of the church's Council of Four. Ferrier, who has adopted Lucy and sworn to never marry his daughter to a Mormon, immediately sends word to Hope.

Lucy is given one month to choose between her suitors. Hope finally arrives on the eve of the last day and they all escape under cover of darkness. The Mormons intercept the escapees while Hope is away hunting, as their food had run out. Ferrier is killed while Lucy is forcibly married to Drebber and dies a month later from a broken heart. Hope breaks into Drebber's house the night before Lucy's funeral to kiss her body and remove her wedding ring. He swears vengeance on Drebber and Stangerson, but he begins to suffer from an aortic aneurysm, causing him to leave the mountains to earn money and recuperate. When he returns several years later, he learns that Drebber and Stangerson have fled Salt Lake City after a schism between the Mormons. Hope pursues them, eventually tracking them to Cleveland, then to Europe.

In London, Hope becomes a cabby and eventually finds Drebber and Stangerson. After the altercation with Madame Charpentier's son, Drebber gets into Hope's cab and spends several hours drinking. Eventually, Hope takes him to the house on Brixton Road, where Hope forces Drebber to recognize him and to choose between two pills, one of which is harmless and the other poison. Drebber takes the poisoned pill, and as he dies, Hope shows him Lucy's wedding ring. The excitement coupled with his aneurysm causes his nose to bleed; he uses the blood to write "RACHE" on the wall above Drebber to confound the investigators. Stangerson, on learning of Drebber's murder, refuses to leave his hotel room. Hope climbs in through the window and gives Stangerson the same choice of pills, but he is attacked and nearly strangled by Stangerson and forced to stab him in the heart.

Hope dies from his aneurysm the night before he is to appear in court. Holmes reveals to Watson how he had deduced the identity of the murderer, then shows Watson the newspaper; Lestrade and Gregson are given full credit. Outraged, Watson states that Holmes should record the adventure and publish it. Upon Holmes's refusal, Watson decides to do it himself.