



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure VI – The Boscombe Valley Mystery

Anstruther	Neighboring physician who looked after Watson’s practice when he was away assisting Holmes
Assizes, The	Periodical session held by superior court judges who are directed the assizes or verdicts of juries for the purpose of trying criminal cases; James McCarthy was acquitted at the Assizes
Australia	Smallest of the continents; since 1901 it has been a federated commonwealth composed of its six former British colonies; Old Turner was a prospector there when he first met Charles McCarthy
Baker Street	Most famous of all London Streets, the residence of Sherlock Holmes from the 1880s to 1903, during the greatest part of his professional life as a consulting detective; also, the residence of John Watson for much of that same period
Ballarat	City and gold-field in Victoria, Australia; John Tuner had been from the area, earned his fortune there, and had been known as “Black Jack Ballarat”; young McCarthy hears his father issue the last two syllables “a rat” before dying
Ballarat Gang	Gang of bushrangers to which John Turner belonged; active in the 1860s
Baxter, Richard	Eminent Nonconformer divine, Holmes claimed to be thinking of Baxter’s words when he said, “There, but for the grace of God, goes Sherlock Holmes”
Bermuda Dockyard	Area where James McCarthy’s barmaid-wife had a previous husband working at; may refer to the actual dockyard on Bermuda island, in the West Indies, or could be a fictionalized name of a dock-yard round Bristol
Boscombe Pool	Charles McCarthy found there by his son James
Boscombe Valley	Country district in Herefordshire, scene of the murder mystery involving the McCarthy family
Bristol	Port city in Gloucestershire, in the south-west of England; James McCarthy had been

	away there for three days before his father's death
Cobb, John	Groom employed by Charles McCarthy, who had accompanied him to Ross before McCarthy's murder
Crowder, William	Gamekeeper in the employ of John Turner, who witnessed senior McCarthy and his son walking to the pond before the elder was murdered
Dutch East Indies	(Netherlands India) Holmes declared John Turner's murderer had smoked an "Indian cigar" of the variety which are rolled in Rotterdam
Hatherley Farm	Farm at which the McCarthys lived, and where the father was murdered
Hereford	County-town of Herefordshire; James McCarthy was imprisoned there, charged with the murder of his father, following an argument
Hereford Arms	Hotel at Ross where Holmes and Watson stayed, while investigating the murder of Charles McCarthy, at the request of Inspector Lestrade
Herefordshire	Western inland county of England, cattle-raising was the primary industry; Boscombe Valley was there, not far from Ross
Holmes, Sherlock	The world's first and only consulting detective; born in approximately 1854; ancestors were country squires; Watson described Holmes as "bohemian" in his habits and lifestyle; said to have a "cat-like" love of personal cleanliness, at the same time Holmes is an eccentric with no regard for contemporary standards of tidiness or good order.
Lestrade, G.	Inspector at Scotland Yard; he was retained by those who believed in James McCarthy's innocence
London	Largest city in the world during the Victorian period, capital of England and the British Empire, located in the south-eastern part of England on the River Thames; extended into the counties of Surrey, Ken, Middlesex, and Essex; Holmes notes the London press had not had very full accounts of the murder
McCarthy, Charles	One time wagon driver in the Australian goldfields; lived for years off the bounty of John Turner, whose past he knew, and who finally killed him; Charles' son, James, was initially accused of the murder; Charles as he was dying, mumbled some allusion to 'a rat'

McCarthy, James	Son of Charles McCarthy, who was accused of killing his father, but was cleared by Holmes and acquitted; James did nothing to improve his own position by refusing to divulge the nature of the argument with his father, and stated his father's last words referred to a rat
Melbourne	Capital of the Australian colony of Victoria; the Ballarat Gang robbed a gold shipment bound for there
Meredith, George	English poet and novelist; Holmes insisted upon discussing him rather than the Boscombe Valley Mystery
Moran	Lodgekeeper of the Boscombe Valley estate
Moran, Patience	14-year old daughter of the lodgekeeper of the Boscombe Valley estate, she was a witness in the case of Charles McCarthy's death and told her mother what she had seen, James and Charles McCarthy quarreling at Boscombe pool
Paddington Station	Railway station in Paddington, London terminus of the Great Western Railway; Holmes wired Watson to meet hm there to catch the 11:15 for the Boscombe Valley from Paddington Station
Petrarch	Italian poet and scholar; Holmes read a pocket edition of his works on the train to Boscombe Valley
Reading	County-town of Berkshire, a manufacturing town and an important railway junction; Holmes busied himself with the newspapers he had brought with him until their train was past Reading
Regent Street	One of London's finest streets, extending north of Oxford Street to the south of Piccadilly, containing many of the city's best shops; John Turner met Charles McCarthy in Regent Street, as McCarthy was at the end of his money
Registry Office	(District Registry) Office in a provincial town for the transaction and recording of legal documents; Registrars may exercise limited judicial authority, including civil marriage; James McCarthy and his barmaid-wife were married at a Registry Office in Bristol
Ross	Town in Herefordshire; Boscombe Valley was said to be not far from there
Rotterdam	Chief commercial port of the Netherlands; John Tuner smoked an Indian cigar of the variety which were rolled in Rotterdam

Scotland Yard	Popular name given to the Metropolitan Police Force of London, and specifically to its Criminal Investigation Department (CID); the location of the CID is the New Scotland Yard, close to the Thames River; Lestrade was a Scotland Yard inspector
Severn	Second largest river in England, flowing into the Bristol Channel; Holmes and Watson crossed this river on their way to the Boscombe Valley area
Stroud Valley	Narrow and picturesque valley in Western England; the train which Holmes and Watson took to Herefordshire passed through there
Swindon	Important railway town in the south-west of England; the train Holmes and Watson took to Herefordshire stopped there for lunch
Turner, Alice	Daughter of John Turner; Charles McCarthy was adamantly against his son, James, marrying her; she ultimately married James after her father's death
Turner, John	English squire, formerly an Australian bushranger known as Black Jack of Ballarat; after settling in England, he was blackmailed by Charles McCarthy, a former victim, whom he finally killed
Victoria	Formerly a British colony in the south-eastern part of Australia; old Turner and McCarthy had known one another there
Watson, John H.	Friend and biographer of Sherlock Holmes, it appears he was borne in the early 1850s; took his Degree of Doctor in Medicine in 1878; served as a staff surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; while serving in the Army Medical Department, he was severely wounded in the Battle of Maiwand in Afghanistan; his wound and general impairment of health earned him a retirement and wound pension
Watson, Mary	(Mrs. John H. Watson) nee Morstan, not a great deal is known about her life after she is married to Watson; she was a devoted and thoughtful wife, ever wishing her husband to be happy; it is presumed she passed away sometime between 1891 and 1894, cause unknown; she encouraged Watson to accompany Holmes in the mysterious death of Charles McCarthy
Willows, Dr.	Doctor who attended John Turner, who described his patient as being "a wreck, and his nervous system is shattered"