



Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Adventure XII -- The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor

SUMMARY (Diogenes Club)

Watson is living at Baker Street, but is due to be married in a few weeks.

Aloysius struck it rich in the California gold fields. Hattie and Frank were in love. They secretly married and he went away to seek his fortune. He did not return and after several years, Hattie read in a newspaper that he had been killed in an Apache raid on a gold camp.

Hattie's father took her to London for the season where she became reacquainted with St. Simon whom she had met on one of his visits to California. They subsequently became engaged and married.

Immediately after the wedding and before the marriage was consummated, Frank showed up and Hattie and he ran away together, leaving St. Simon and the rest of the wedding party at breakfast.

Holmes finds the run-away couple and they come back and apologize to St. Simon who is very disappointed because he is broke and could well have used the large dowry that Hattie was to bring to their marriage.



SUMMARY (ACD Encyclopedia)

Lord Robert St Simon visits Sherlock Holmes because his fiancée, Miss Hatty Doran, disappeared on the day of her wedding. After the Lord's narrative, Holmes thinks he has already solved the case. He goes out for a few hours and then ask Lord St Simon to come at Baker Street. He also invited Miss Doran that he found.

She is accompanied by Francis Hay Moulton, an American. When they are all gathered, Miss Doran explains what happened. She was married in the USA, but Francis, her husband, had been attacked by Apaches and it was reported that there was no survivors.

A few months later she met Lord St Simon and the new marriage was planned in London. But the day of the ceremony, Francis reappeared and she decided to go with him and hid in London. Sherlock Holmes had deduced the presence of a former husband, American, and the place where she was hiding thanks to a note found by Lestrade. Lord St Simon leaves Baker Street upset and bachelor again.

SUMMARY (Wikipedia)

Lord Robert St. Simon's new American bride, Hatty Doran, has disappeared almost immediately after the wedding. The servants had prevented an old love interest of his from forcing her way into the wedding breakfast, Hatty had been seen in whispered conversation with her maid, and Inspector Lestrade arrives with the news that Hatty's wedding dress and ring have been found floating in the Serpentine. Holmes quickly solves the mystery, locating Hatty at a hotel with a mysterious, "common-looking" man who had picked up her dropped bouquet after the ceremony. The man turns out to be Hatty's husband Frank, whom she had thought dead in America, and who had managed to locate her only moments before she was to marry Lord St. Simon. Frank and Hatty had just determined to go to Lord St. Simon in order to explain the situation when Holmes found them.

The story entails the disappearance of Hatty, Lord St. Simon's bride on the day of their marriage. She participates in the wedding, but disappears from the reception.

The events of the wedding day are most perplexing to Lord St. Simon as it seemed to him that his bride, Miss Hatty Doran of San Francisco, was full of enthusiasm about their impending marriage. St. Simon tells Holmes that he noticed a change in the young lady's mood just after the wedding ceremony. She was uncharacteristically sharp with him. The only thing out of the ordinary at the church where the wedding took place was Hatty's little accident: she dropped her wedding bouquet and a gentleman in the front pew picked it up and handed it back to her.

After the bridal party entered Hatty's father's house for the wedding breakfast, a former companion of St. Simon, the dancer Flora Millar, caused a disturbance at the door and was ejected. Hatty was seen talking to her maid upon arrival at the house; ten minutes into the wedding breakfast, Hatty claimed "a sudden indisposition" and retired to her room. A short time later, it was discovered that she had left the house.

There are many questions that Holmes must sift through. Who was that woman trying to get in to the wedding breakfast? Who was that man in the front pew? Who was that man seen going into Hyde Park with Hatty? Why were Hatty's wedding dress and ring found washed up on the shore of the Serpentine? What had become of her?

For Holmes it proves rather an elementary case, for he has dealt with similar cases and this one is not so complex to unravel, despite the confusion it causes Dr. Watson and Inspector Lestrade, the latter of which attempted to drag the Serpentine in search of Lady St. Simon's body. Holmes finds Hatty and the strange man from the front pew, and the dénouement takes the form of Holmes having Hatty explain herself to Lord Robert. Hatty and the mystery man, Francis H. Moulton, were husband and wife. They parted on the day of their wedding so that he could try to amass a fortune by prospecting. He was reported killed in an Apache raid on a mining camp where he was working. Hatty had given him up for dead, met Lord Robert, and decided to marry him, even though her heart still belonged to Frank. Frank had only been taken prisoner by the Apache raiders, and he escaped and tracked Hatty to London. He arrived at the church in time for the ceremony and she recognized him instantly. Rather than have her make a scene at the church, he gestured her to be silent, and wrote a note which he slipped to her as he returned her bouquet. She had wanted to abscond without ever telling anybody, but Holmes had tracked them down and convinced them that it would be better to have the full truth. However, Lord Robert is unmoved by Hatty's apologies and feels that he has been very ill used.