

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

By William S. Dorn



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

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR

DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date of the 'wedding')

CLUES:

1. Watson says, "It was a few weeks before my own marriage ... " (287)
2. Watson was married late in 1888 or early in 1889
3. The other side of the note from Francis Hay Moulton to Hattie Doran was a fragment of a hotel bill dated Oct. 4 (296)
4. October 4, 1888 was on Thursday
5. The Morning Post reported that "... on Wednesday last ... the wedding had taken place ... " (289)

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1, 2, and 3 imply the 'wedding' was after October 4, 1888
B. A, 4, and 5 imply the 'wedding' was the Wednesday following October 4

The 'wedding' was on Wednesday, October 10, 1888

*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR VOCABULARY WORDS

- piquant (287) – **appealingly provocative**
- Jezail bullet (287) – **bullet from a long and heavy Afghan rifle**
- crest (287) – **device placed above the shield on a coat of arms**
- epistle (287) – **letter**
- fish-monger (287) – **fish seller**
- tide-waiter (287) – **customs officer who boards ships when they dock**
- agony column (288) – **personal advertisements in newspaper**
- quill pen (288) – **pen made from the hollow stem-like main shaft of a feather taken from a fowl**
- azure (288) – **blue**
- caltrops (288) – **spiked iron pyramidal devices**
- fess sable (288) – **wide, black horizontal band forming the middle section of a shield**
- Plantagenet (288) – **English ruling dynasty (1154-1485) from Henry II to Richard III**
- Tudor (288) – **English ruling dynasty (1485-1603), including Henry VII and his descendants Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I**
- distaff (288) – **woman's**
- little god's arrows (289) – **Cupid's arrows**
- dowry (289, 292) – **money or goods which a woman brings to her husband in marriage**
- singular (290) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual; remarkable**
- consternation (290) – **state of paralyzing dismay**
- footman (290) – **man-servant dressed in a private uniform usually with knee breeches and who performs certain household chores such as answering the door, waiting on tables, etc.**
- ulster (290, 299) – **long, loose fitting, rough overcoat usually belted**
- danseuse (290) – **female professional dancer**

- petulance (291) – **state of being cross or quarrelsome**
grizzled (291) – **flecked with gray**
foppishness (291) – **looking like a dandy; being pretentious**
frock-coat (291) – **close fitting, double-breasted, knee length coat**
gaiters (291) – **covering for the ankle and lower leg**
basket chair (291) – **high-backed wicker armchair**
cut to the quick (291) – **severely hurt (the quick is at the base of the finger nail)**
tomboy (292) – **girl considered boyish or masculine in behavior**
impetuous (292) – **impulsive and passionate**
repugnant (292) – **offensive or repulsive**
lustrous (292) – **having a sheen or glow**
fait accompli (292) – **a thing accomplished and supposedly irrevocable**
vestry (292) – **room in a church where the clergy put on their robes and where these robes and other sacred objects are stored; a sacristy**
pew (292, 298, 300) – **one of the long, fixed benches with backs that are arranged in rows for the seating of a congregation in church**
deposes (293) – **testifies**
sideboard (295) – **dining room furniture having drawers and shelves for linens and tableware**
pea jacket (295) – **short overcoat worn by sailors, comes from the Dutch word ‘pij’ meaning coat**
cravat (295) – **scarf**
nautical (295) – **like a sailor**
riveted (196) – **engrossed or with attention held**
epicurean (296) – **particular in taste especially of food and drink**
woodcock (296) – **North American game bird having brownish plumage, short legs, and a long bill**
pâté de foie gras (296) – **food paste made of goose liver**
advocate (297) – **someone who pleads in another’s behalf**
parlance (300) – **speech; an idiom**
paternal (300) – **fatherly**

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Why was Holmes not concerned about Lord Robert St. Simon's treatment of Flora Miller who Lord Robert unceremoniously discarded after allowing her to become 'devotedly attached' to him?

Holmes and other upper class people often considered people of the lower class unworthy of the same consideration as they themselves were. (See also Question 2 in "A Scandal in Bohemia").

2. Watson repeatedly refers to the title character of the story as "Lord St. Simon", but that is improper. He could be addressed either as "Lord Robert St. Simon" or "Lord Robert" but never as "Lord St. Simon". How can you account for this oversight by Watson?

It is a serious faux pas on the part of either Holmes or Watson.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. Hattie Doran disappeared
 - a. just before her wedding to the title character
 - b. at the breakfast shortly after the wedding to the title character
 - c. on the honeymoon after the wedding to the title character
 - d. none of the above

2. The title character was
 - a. Sir George Burnwell
 - b. Lord Robert St. Simon
 - c. The Duke of Balmoral
 - d. none of the above

3. Flora Miller was
 - a. the bridesmaid at the wedding
 - b. a step-sister of the bride
 - c. a former lady friend of the bridegroom
 - d. none of the above

* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. Where were Hatty Doran's wedding clothes found floating?
 - a. the Serpentine
 - b. the Thames
 - c. the fountain at Trafalgar Square
 - d. none of the above

2. Where were the Moultons staying when Holmes visited them?
 - a. Berkeley Square
 - b. Gordon Square
 - c. Russell Square
 - d. none of the above

3. What kind of coat was Lord Robert St. Simon wearing when he first visited Holmes?
 - a. an astrakhan-coat
 - b. a frock-coat
 - c. a great-coat
 - d. none of the above

4. In what part of the United States did Hatty Doran meet Francis Hay Moulton?
 - a. California
 - b. Nevada
 - c. the Rocky Mountains
 - d. none of the above

[#]The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. At what theatre did Flora Millar perform?
 - a. the Allegro
 - b. the Haymarket
 - c. the Lyceum
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of Lord Robert St. Simon's estate?
 - a. Birchmoor
 - b. Briarbae
 - c. Hurlstone
 - d. none of the above

3. What were the strains of royal blood in Lord Robert St. Simon?
 - a. Plantagenet and Stuart
 - b. Stuart and Tudor
 - c. Plantagenet and Tudor
 - d. none of the above

4. What color were the gloves that Lord Robert St. Simon was wearing at his first interview with Holmes?
 - a. black
 - b. green
 - c. yellow
 - d. none of the above

[&] The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

ANSWERS TO QUIZZES FOR THE ADVENTURES

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
A Scandal in Bohemia				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	c
Advanced	b	a	b	b
The Red-Headed League				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	a	b
Advanced	b	c	b	a
A Case of Identity				
Simple	b	b	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	c	b
Advanced	c	b	d	c
The Boscombe Valley Mystery				
Simple	a	b	b	xx
Intermediate	c	b	b	b
Advanced	b	a	c	a
The Five Orange Pips				
Simple	b	b	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	b	c
Advanced	c	a	b	a
The Man with the Twisted Lip				
Simple	b	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	c	b	a
Advanced	b	a	c	b
The Blue Carbuncle				
Simple	a	b	c	xx
Intermediate	c	b	a	a
Advanced	b	b	c	c
The Speckled Band				
Simple	c	c	b	xx
Intermediate	c	a	a	b
Advanced	a	c	c	c

The Adventures

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
The Engineer's Thumb				
Simple	b	a	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	c	b
Advanced	b	c	c	a
The Noble Bachelor				
Simple	b	b	c	xx
Intermediate	a	b	b	c
Advanced	a	a	c	c
The Beryl Coronet				
Simple	b	b	b	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	b	c	b	c
The Copper Beeches				
Simple	a	a	b	xx
Intermediate	a	a	c	b
Advanced	a	b	c	c