



The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure XVII – The Adventure of the Yellow Face

As others have noted, YELL is an odd story. But I enjoy much of it! Some things to consider:

In the introduction to YELL Watson says that Holmes' versatility and energy were admirable when the detective was at his wit's end. What are some other examples of this in the canon? Does NORW qualify, where Holmes has that low point at breakfast followed by his writhing merriment when he sees the bogus fingerprint?

Co-incidentally, Violet Hunter was repeatedly at her "wit's end." She was a versatile and energetic person, too. Maybe this is another reason why Watson paired them in his mind.

I'm always enchanted by the page boy. We'll let him be "Billy," though this is a story that doesn't specifically name him. Who else but this beautifully-drawn character could drop the word "sir" 8 times in a mere 12 lines (Doubleday edition)? And he does it so effortlessly!



Isn't it possible that John Hebron is of mixed race, not 100 percent black? Isn't that why he has "unmistakable signs upon his features of his African descent?" If this is possible, then his daughter is no more than one-quarter black, despite her dark skin.

We're assured that except for an occasional encounter with cocaine, Sherlock Holmes has no vices. Is that really true?

YELL makes me think of Elton John. Isn't he originally from Pinner, and doesn't he now make his home in Atlanta?

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