



## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure XXXVIII – The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter

I can j-u-s-t about squeeze into my old cheerleader outfit from 30 years ago — a spectacle sure to frighten all but the bravest in our pack! No, it's not my costume for the Hounds Halloween party; it's simply my way of celebrating this weekend's tale of a school athlete, *The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter*. Some questions and comments:

A scene that's always intrigued me is Holmes (who has little use for the softer emotions) endeavoring to console Godfrey Staunton. Do you suppose the thinking machine managed to find just the right words of comfort? What might he have said?

Why would Hopkins feel that the disappearance of a prominent young athlete was not a matter for the regular police?

Several Hounds recently considered possible themes in MUSG. What themes do you see in MISS?

Pompey gets all the glory, but the coachman's dog shouldn't be forgotten. He's obedient and stouthearted enough to make an attempt on a man with a stick. I say we adopt this little draghound as our official Hounds of the Internet mascot. He needs a name...what should we call him? "Byte?"



Holmes took a long time to warm up to Dr. Armstrong. The detective's first inclination was wary caution, going so far as to compare Armstrong with a certain Napoleon of crime. Perhaps there was a reason for that cool first impression. Of all the ancient Border clans, the Armstrongs were the most feared — a reputation they worked hard to earn and maintain. The Armstrongs were synonymous with thuggery, rape, theft, arson, and murder. So treacherous were they that most other clans refused to enter alliances with them (the exceptions being the Fairbains and the Nixons). After King James captured the leaders of the Armstrongs in 1610, they were all hanged as a public example of how thieving outlaws would henceforth be dealt with. From that day on, Clan Armstrong had not had a chief. Many survivors of the clan were banished to Ireland, home turf of another family whose name was forever linked with criminal activity...Moriarty.

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