

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Canonical Characters



Sydney Paget
September, 1891

A Case of Identity



"A Case of Identity" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

01

- 01 – Cover Card
- 02 – Summary
- 03 – Filmography/ Radiography
- 04 – Sherlock Holmes
- 05 – John Watson
- 06 – Mary Sutherland
- 07 – James Windibank
- 08 – Mrs. Windibank
- 09 – Data! Data!

Canonical Characters

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.

ADVENTURE III.—A CASE OF IDENTITY.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

"MY dear fellow," said Sherlock Holmes, as we sat on either side of the fire in his lodgings at Baker-street, "life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent. We would not dare conceive the things which are really mere commonplaces of existence. If we could fly out of that window hand in hand, hover over this great city, gently remove the roofs, and peep in at the queer things which are going on, the strange coincidences, the plannings, the cross-purposes, the wonderful chains of events, working through generations, and leading to the most *outré* results, it would make all fiction with its conventionalities and foreseen conclusions most stale and unprofitable."

"And yet I am not convinced of it," I answered. "The cases which come to light in the papers are, as a rule, bald enough, and vulgar enough. We have in our police reports realism pushed to its extreme limits, and yet the result is, it must be confessed, neither fascinating nor artistic."

"A certain selection and discretion must be used in producing a realistic effect," remarked Holmes. "This is wanting in the police report, where more stress is laid perhaps upon the platitudes of the magistrate than upon the details, which to an observer contain the vital essence of the whole matter. Depend upon it there is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace."

I smiled and shook my head. "I can quite understand you thinking so," I said. "Of course, in your position of unofficial adviser and helper to everybody who is utterly puzzled, throughout three continents, you are brought in contact with all the strange and bizarre. But here"—I picked up the morning paper from the table—"let us put it to a practical test. The first heading upon which I come is 'Husband's cruelty to his wife.' A column of print, but I know it that it is all perfectly true. There is, of course, the push, the pull, the pathetic sister or

landlady. The crudest of writers invent nothing more crude."

"Indeed, your example is an unfavourable one for your argument," said Holmes, turning the paper, and glancing his eye down at it. "This is the Dundas separation case, as it happens, I was engaged in clearing up some small points in connection with it. The husband was a teetotaler, there was no other woman, and the conduct complained of was that he had drifted into the habit of winding up every meal by taking out his false teeth and hurling them at his wife, which you will allow is not an action likely to occur to the imagination of the average story-teller. Take a pinch of snuff, doctor, and acknowledge that I have scored over you in your example."

He held out his snuffbox of old gold, with a great amethyst in the centre of the lid. Its splendour was in such contrast to his homely ways and simple life that I could not help commenting upon it.

"Ah," said he, "I forgot that I had not seen you for some weeks. It is a little souvenir from the King of Bohemia in return for my assistance in the case of the Irene Adler papers."

"And the ring?" I asked, glancing at a remarkable brilliant which sparkled upon his finger.

"It was from the reigning family of Holland, though the matter in which I served them was of such delicacy that I cannot confide it even to you, who have been good enough to chronicle one or two of my little problems."

"And have you any on hand just now?" I asked with interest.

"Some ten or twelve, but none which present any feature of interest. The important, you understand, without being interesting. Indeed, I have found that usually in unimportant matters there is a field for the observation, and a quick analysis of cause and effect, which gives the charm to an investigation. Larger crimes are apt to be more or less the bigger the crime, the more obvious the motive. The smaller, for one rather intricate case, has been referred to



"A Case of Identity" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

02

Miss Mary Sutherland, a typist by trade, consults Sherlock Holmes because her fiancé Mr Hosmer Angel, who she met at the gasfitter's ball, disappeared just before their wedding.

An inheritance from her deceased Uncle helps support her mother and step-father, and though Sherlock Holmes believes the case to be quite simple, he must still find the evidence to solve the mystery of the missing groom-to-be.

Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich,
1906

A Case of Identity



“A Case of Identity” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

03

Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
July 09, 1922	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
May 05, 1932	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
November 30, 1941	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 30, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
January 23, 1955	NBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
June 26, 1969	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
October 28, 1977	CBS	Kevin McCarthy	Court Benson
November 21, 1990	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams

Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“A Case of Identity”
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

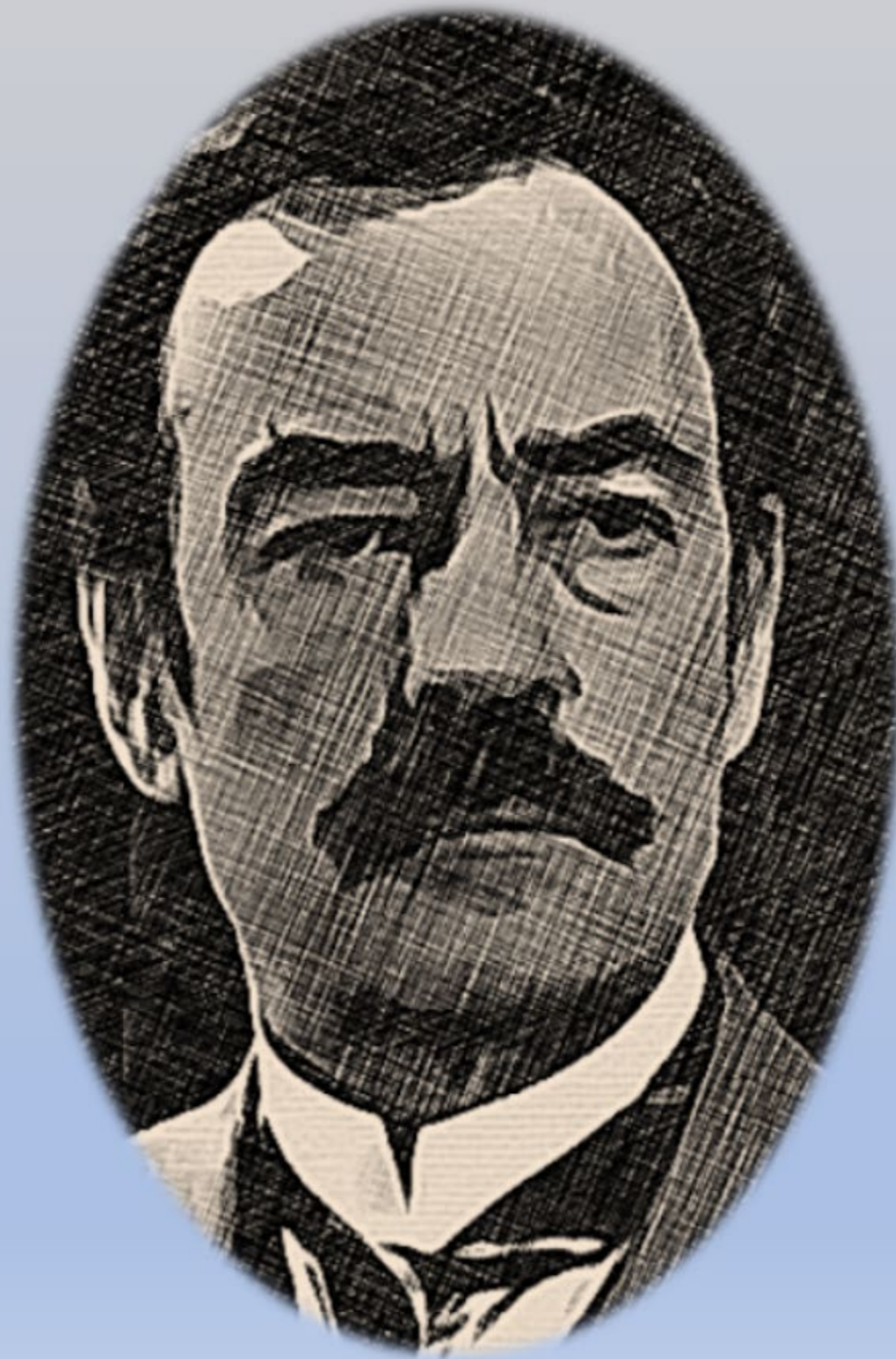
04

Identified Mr.
Windibank’s typewriter as
the one used to send
messages from Hosmer
Angel.

*“It is my business to know
things. Perhaps I have
trained myself to see what
others overlook.”*

—
(Ellie Norwood, 1921, *A Case of Identity*)

Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



"A Case of Identity" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

05

"...while her body oscillated backward and forward, and her fingers fidgeted with her glove buttons. Suddenly, with a plunge, as of the swimmer who leaves the bank, she hurried across the road, and we heard the sharp clang of the bell."

"The cases which come to light in the papers are, as a rule, bald enough, and vulgar enough."

(Richard Johnson, 1991, *The Crucifer of Blood*)

Canonical Characters



Mary Sutherland



“A Case of Identity” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

06

Plumber’s daughter who consulted Holmes after her fiancé Hosmer Angel vanished on their wedding day. “We got to the church first, and when the four-wheeler drove up we waited for him to step out, but he never did.”

“I shall be true to Hosmer. He shall find me ready when he comes back.”

(Edna Flugrath, 1921, *A Case of Identity*)

Canonical Characters



James Windibank
(aka Hosmer Angel)



“A Case of Identity” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

07

The step-father of Mary Sutherland, who disguised as Hosmer Angel, courted and proposed to her and vanished on the morning of their wedding in a plot to retain control of her income.

“I have done nothing actionable from the first, but as long as you keep that door locked, you lay yourself open to an action for assault and illegal constraint.”

Canonical Characters



Mrs. Windibank



"A Case of Identity" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

08

The mother of Mary Sutherland, who assisted her husband, James Windibank, in the conning of the daughter through disguises, and whispery voice. Mrs. Windibank increased her culpability with her expressed admiration toward the suitor.

Canonical Characters



Gaston Simoes
da Fonseca,
1909

A Case of Identity



"A Case of Identity" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

09

First
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,
September, 1891

U.S. -- *The Courier-Journal*
September 05, 1891

U.K. -- *The Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes*,
October 14, 1892 George Newnes Ltd.
U.S. - *The Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes*,
October 15, 1892, Harper & Brothers
Publishers

Chronological
Date:

n/a
(Watson)
Tuesday, October 18, 1887
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

35 of 56 short stories
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ
Abbreviation:

IDEN

© Legion of Zoom 2022