

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Return of Sherlock Holmes



## Canonical Characters



Frederic Dorr Steele,  
September, 1903

## The Adventure of the Empty House



### "The Adventure of the Empty House"

01

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Sherlock Holmes
- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Colonel Sebastian Moran



## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
October, 1903

## The Adventure of the Empty House



## "The Adventure of the Empty House"

02

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 08 - Honourable Ronald Adair
- 09 - Lady Maynooth
- 10 - Parker
- 11 - Inspector Lestrade
- 12 - Mrs. Hudson
- 13 - Data! Data!



# Canonical Characters

THE STRAND MAGAZINE.

OCTOBER, 1903.

## THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

### I.—*The Adventure of the Empty House.*

**I**T was in the spring of the year 1894 that all London was interested, and the fashionable world dismayed, by the murder of the Honourable Ronald Adair under most unusual and inexplicable circumstances. The public has already learned those particulars of the crime which came out in the police investigation; but a good deal was suppressed upon that occasion, since the case for the prosecution was so overwhelmingly strong that it was not necessary to bring forward all the facts. Only now, at the end of nearly ten years, am I allowed to supply those missing links which make up the whole of that remarkable chain. The crime was of interest in itself, but that interest was as nothing to me compared to the inconceivable sequel, which afforded me the greatest shock and surprise of any event in my adventurous life. Even now, after this long interval, I find myself thrilling as I think of it, and feeling once more that sudden flood of joy, amazement, and incredulity which utterly submerged my mind. Let me say to that public which has shown so much interest in those glimpses which I have occasionally given them of the thoughts and speculations of a very remarkable man that I do not blame me if I have not shared my knowledge with them, for I should have thought it my first duty to have done so had I not been barred by a positive prohibition on my own lips, which was only removed on the third of last month. It is a fact that my close intimacy with the Honourable Ronald Adair had interested me

deeply in crime, and that after his disappearance I never failed to read with care the various problems which came before the public, and I even attempted more than once for my own private satisfaction to employ his methods in their solution, though with indifferent success. There was none, however, which appealed to me like this tragedy of Ronald Adair. As I read the evidence at the inquest, which led up to a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown, I realized more clearly than I had ever done the loss which the community had sustained by the death of Sherlock Holmes. There were points about this strange business which would, I was sure, have specially appealed to him, and the efforts of the police would have been supplemented, or more probably anticipated, by the trained observation and the alert mind of the first criminal agent in Europe. All day as I drove upon my round I turned over the case in my mind, and found no explanation which appeared to me to be adequate. At the risk of telling a twice-told tale I will recapitulate the facts as they were known to the public at the conclusion of the inquest.

The Honourable Ronald Adair was the second son of the Earl of Maynooth, at the time Governor of one of the Australasian Colonies. Adair's mother had returned to Australia to undergo the operation for cataract, and she, her son Ronald, and his daughter Hilda were living together in Park Lane. The youth moved in the highest society, had, so far as was known, no vices, and no particular friends.

## The Adventure of the Empty House



## "The Adventure of the Empty House"

03

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

John Watson is presumably now a widower and has returned to medical practice. However, having retained an interest in crime from his association with Holmes, Watson is drawn to Park Lane to view the activities around the murder of Ronald Adair, a card player and partner of Col. Sebastian Moran. While Watson attempts to apply Holmes' methods to determine who is behind the murder, his efforts are unsuccessful.

All he actually gets for his efforts is bumping into an old man carrying a load of books, who berates him for not paying attention. But this chance encounter turns out to be much more than that, as Watson will soon experience one of the biggest shocks of his life.



# Canonical Characters



Martin Van Maële,  
1906

# The Adventure of the Empty House



## “The Adventure of the Empty House” (*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
September 17, 1921	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
October 20, 1951	UK	Alan Wheatley	Raymond Francis
July 09, 1986	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
October 05, 1932	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
October 15, 1936	Mutual/ NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
September 29, 1940	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
April 11, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Alfred Shirley
April 17, 1955	NBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
November 27, 1961	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
February 24, 1993	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams



## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



## “The Adventure of the Empty House” 05

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

*“My dear Watson, I owe you a thousand apologies. I had no idea that you would be so affected.”*

*“it was all-important that it should be thought I was dead.”*

*“You may have heard of the explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson, but I am sure that it never occurred to you that you were receiving news of your friend.”*

*“Work is the best antidote to sorrow, my dear Watson.”*

*(Carleton Hobbs, 1961, Sherlock Holmes, “The Empty House”)*



## Canonical Characters



John Watson



### “The Adventure of the Empty House” 06

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

“It was in the spring of the year 1894 that all London was interested, and the fashionable world dismayed, by the murder of the Honourable Ronald Adair under most unusual and inexplicable circumstances.”

“With convulsive strength he seized Holmes by the throat, but I struck him on the head with the butt of my revolver, and he dropped again upon the floor.”

*“Holmes! Is it really you? Can it indeed be that you are alive? Is it possible that you succeeded in climbing out of that awful abyss?”*

(Norman Shelley, 1961, *Sherlock Holmes*, “The Empty House”)



## Canonical Characters



Colonel Sebastian Moran



### “The Adventure of the Empty House” 07

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

“The second most dangerous man in London.” Chief of staff to Prof. Moriarty. Once of Her Majesty’s Indian Army. Crack shot and gambler who killed Ronald Adair.

“Then his finger tightened on the trigger. There was a strange, loud whiz and a long, silvery tinkle of broken glass.”

*“You fiend! You clever, clever fiend!”*

*(Eric Matruin, 1951, Sherlock Holmes, “The Empty House”)*



## Canonical Characters



Honourable Ronald Adair



## "The Adventure of the Empty House" 08

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

The second son of the Earl of Maynooth living with sister Hilda at 427 Park Lane. Broke off engagement with Miss Edith Woodley. Was found shot in a locked room on the second floor.

"Adair had discovered that Moran was cheating. Very likely he had spoken to him privately, and had threatened to expose him unless he voluntarily resigned his membership from the club."

*(Paul Lacoux, 1986, The Return of Sherlock Holmes, "The Empty House")*



## Canonical Characters



Lady Maynooth



## “The Adventure of the Empty House” 09

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

Ronald Adair’s mother had returned from Australia to undergo an operation for cataract, and she, her son, and her daughter Hilda, were living together at 427 Park Lane.

Lady Maynooth returned to find her son shot in his second floor room.

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Canonical Characters



Parker



“The Adventure of the Empty House” 10

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

Associate of Moriarty’s gang, a garroter by trade who shadowed Holmes at 221B.

Holmes considered Parker a harmless fellow, “I cared nothing for him.”

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Canonical Characters



Inspector Lestrade



“The Adventure of the Empty House” 11

(*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

Scotland Yard inspector who arrested Colonel Sebastian Moran for the murder of Honourable Ronald Adair.

*“What charge, sir? Why, of course, the attempted murder of Mr. Sherlock Holmes.”*

(Bill Owen, 1951, *Sherlock Holmes, “The Empty House”*)



Canonical Characters



Mrs. Hudson



“The Adventure of the Empty House” 10

*(The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*

Landlady of Holmes and  
Watson at 221 Baker  
Street.

Moved dummy of  
Holmes in front of  
window every 15 minutes.

*“I went to it on my knees,  
sir, just as you told me.”*

*(Iris Vandeleur, 1951, Sherlock Holmes, “The Empty House”)*



## Canonical Characters



Stanley Armstrong,  
March, 1905

## The Adventure of the Empty House



## “The Adventure of the Empty House” (*The Return of Sherlock Holmes*)

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First  
Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,  
October, 1903  
U.S. -- *Collier's*  
September 26, 1903

U.K. -- *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,  
March 07, 1905, George Newnes Ltd.  
U.S. -- *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,  
February, 1905, McClure, Phillips & Co.

Chronological  
Date:

Spring, 1894  
(Watson)  
Thursday, April 05, 1894  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

# 08 of 56 short stories  
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ  
Abbreviation:

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