

A Compendium of Canonical Characters



His Last Bow

Canonical Characters



Arthur Twiddle,
September, 1908

The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge



“The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge” (*His Last Bow*)

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Frederic Dorr Steele,
August, 1908

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Canonical Characters

STRAND MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER, 1908.

Reminiscence of Mr. Sherlock Holmes

By ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

I.—The Singular Experience of Mr. John Scott Eccles.

FIND it recorded in my notebook that it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892. Holmes had received a telegram whilst we sat at our lunch, and he had scribbled a reply. He made no remark, but the matter remained in his thoughts, for he stood in front of the fire afterwards with a thoughtful face, smoking his pipe, and casting an occasional glance at the message. Suddenly he turned upon me with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes.

"I suppose, Watson, we must look upon you as a man of letters," said he. "How do you define the word 'grotesque'?"

"Strange—remarkable," I suggested. He shook his head at my definition. "There is surely something more than that," said he; "some underlying suggestion of the tragic and the terrible. If you cast your mind back to some of those narratives with which you have afflicted a long-suffering public, you will recognise how often the grotesque has deepened into the criminal. Think of that little affair of the red-headed men. That was grotesque enough in the outset, and yet it ended in a desperate attempt at robbery. Or, again, there was that most grotesque affair of the five orange boys, which led straight to a murderous conspiracy. The word puts me on the alert."

"Have you it there?" I asked. He read the telegram aloud. "We have just had most incredible and grotesque experience. May I consult you?—at the Post Office, Charing Cross." "Woman?" I asked.

"Of course. No woman would send a paid telegram. She would

"Will you see him?"

"My dear Watson, you know how bored I have been since we locked up Colonel Carruthers. My mind is like a racing engine, tearing itself to pieces because it is not connected up with the work for which it was built. Life is commonplace, the papers are sterile; audacity and romance seem to have passed for ever from the criminal world. Can you ask me, then, whether I am ready to look into any new problem, however trivial it may prove? But here, unless I am mistaken, is our client."

A measured step was heard upon the stairs, and a moment later a stout, tall, grey-whiskered and solemnly respectable person was ushered into the room. His life history was written in his heavy features and pompous manner. From his spats to his gold-rimmed spectacles he was a Conservative, a Churchman, a good citizen, orthodox and conventional to the last degree. But some amazing experience had disturbed his native composure and left its traces in his bristling hair, his flushed, angry cheeks, and his flurried, excited manner. He plunged instantly into his business.

"I have had a most singular and unpleasant experience, Mr. Holmes," said he. "Never in my life have I been placed in such a situation. It is most improper—most outrageous. I must insist upon some explanation." He swelled and puffed with anger.

"Pray sit down, Mr. Scott Eccles," said Holmes, in a soothing voice. "May I ask in the first place, why you came here at all?"

"Well, sir, it did not appear to me which concerned the police, and you have heard the



"The Adventure of Wisteria

03

Lodge"

(His Last Bow)

Scott Eccles comes to Holmes and Watson to tell of his very mysterious night at Wisteria Lodge, at the invitation of Aloysius Garcia.

The next morning, the household was empty, leaving Eccles alone.

Inspectors Gregson and Baynes arrive to announce Garcia's corpse has been found, and that Eccles is considered a suspect.

Can Holmes assist Eccles in the pursuit of the truth concerning the demise of his curious host?

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G. Dutrac,
June, 1929

The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge



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Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
April, 1921	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
November, 1968	UK	Peter Cushing	Nigel Stock
April, 1988	UK	Jeremy Brett	Edward Harwicke

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
October 01, 1931	NBC	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
September 26, 1936	Mutual/NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
December 18, 1939	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
June 25, 1943	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
May 12, 1947	ABC	Tom Conway	Nigel Bruce
December 26, 1966	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
January 05, 1994	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
2004	Old Court Radio	Jim Crozier	David Hawkes
2008	Jim French	John Patrick Lowrie	Lawrence Albert

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Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge”

(*His Last Bow*)

“My mind is like a racing engine, tearing itself to pieces because it is not connected up with the work for which it was built.”

“A chaotic case, my dear Watson, It will not be possible for you to present in that compact form which is dear to your heart. It covers two continents, concerns two groups of mysterious persons, and is further complicated by the highly respectable presence of our friend, Scott Eccles.”

(Bruno Guttner, 1937, *Der Hund von Baskerville*)

Canonical Characters



John Watson



"The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge"

(His Last Bow)

"it was a bleak and windy day towards the end of March in the year 1892."

"I could tell by numerous subtle signs, which might have been lost upon anyone but myself, that Holmes was on a hot scent."

"The Tiger of San Pedro! He had made his name as the most lewd and bloodthirsty tyrant that had ever governed any country. His name was a terror through all Central America."

"I should say that they were in some way concerned in the murder and had fled from justice."

(Fritz Odemar, 1937, Der Hund von Baskerville)

Canonical Characters



Aloysius Garcia



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(*His Last Bow*)

The son of the former highest dignitary in San Pedro, was waiting with two trusty companions to kill Juan Murillo to avenge the death of Victor Durando and many others in San Pedro but was killed by Murillo.

“It was Garcia who had, apparently, a criminal enterprise, in hand that night in the course of which he met his death. I say 'criminal' because only a man with a criminal enterprise desires to establish an alibi.”

(Arturo Venegas, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“Wisteria Lodge”)

Canonical Characters



Scott Eccles



“The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge”

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(His Last Bow)

Hired Holmes after being befriended by Aloysius Garcia and invited to dinner at Wisteria Lodge. Awoke the following day to an empty house.

“Have just had most incredible and grotesque experience. May I consult you?”

“From his spats to his gold-rimmed spectacles he was a Conservative, a churchman, a good citizen, orthodox and conventional to the last degree.”

(Donald Churchill, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“Wisteria Lodge”)

Canonical Characters



Victor Durando



“The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge”

(His Last Bow)

Was the San Pedro minister in London and was killed by Murillo.

“A nobler man never lived upon earth. Unhappily, Murillo heard of his excellence, recalled him on some pretext, and had him shot.”

Canonical Characters



John Warner



“The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge”

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(His Last Bow)

Late gardener of High Gable, who was sacked by his employer, Mr. Henderson.

Provided Holmes with the secrets of Henderson’s home. The gossip among the servants is that their master, “Sold his soul to the devil in exchange for money and expects his creditor to come up and claim his own.”

“They’ve gone, Mr. Holmes. They went by the last train. The lady broke away, and I’ve got her in a cab downstairs.”

Canonical Characters



Inspector Gregory



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(His Last Bow)

“An energetic, gallant, and, within his limitations, a capable officer.”

“We wish a statement, Mr. Scott Eccles, as to the events which led up to the death last night of Mr. Aloysius Garcia, of Wisteria Lodge, near Esher.”

“As to Garcia, he was found dead this morning upon Oxshott Common, nearly a mile from his home.”

Canonical Characters



Inspector Baynes



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Surrey Constabulary.

“It was so wrinkled and shrunken and withered that it was difficult to say what it might have been. It was black and leathery and that it bore some resemblance to a dwarfish, human figure.”

“There must have been some very strange people with some very strange ways in this house. One of them is dead.”

(Freddie Jones, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“Wisteria Lodge”)

Canonical Characters



Senora Victor Durando



“The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge”

(His Last Bow)

aka Miss Burnet, English governess
to Juan Murillo aka Mr. Henderson.

*“To us there is no fiend in hell like
Juan Murillo, and no peace in life
while his victims still cry for
vengeance.”*

*“I was confined to my room,
terrorized by the most horrible
threats, cruelly ill-used to break my
spirit—see this stab on my shoulder
and the bruises from end to end of
my arms.”*

Canonical Characters



Mr. Lucas



“The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge”

(*His Last Bow*)

Friend and secretary of Juan Murillo, aka Lopez aka Signor Rulli, “is undoubtedly a foreigner, chocolate brown, wily, suave, and catlike, with a poisonous gentleness of speech.”

Tortured Miss Burnett while holding her captive.

Was found murdered in his hotel room in Madrid.

(Trader Faulkner, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“Wisteria Lodge”)

Canonical Characters



Constable Walters



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"a white-faced, hard-breathing policeman had opened the door, the candle wavering in his trembling hand."

"There was a face looking in at me through the lower pane. Lord, sir, what a face it was! I'll see it in my dreams."

Canonical Characters



Juan Murillo



“The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge”

(*His Last Bow*)

aka Mr. Henderson, once called the Tiger of San Pedro. He killed Garcia.

“He is a man of fifty, strong, active, with iron-gray hair, great bunched black eyebrows, the step of a deer and the air of an emperor—a fierce, masterful man, with a red-hot spirit.”

“He was as cunning as he was cruel, and at the first whisper of coming trouble, he had secretly conveyed his treasures aboard a ship which was manned by devoted adherents.”

(Basil Hoskins, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“Wisteria Lodge”)

Canonical Characters



The Cook



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Lodge”

(*His Last Bow*)

Worked with Garcia to seek revenge on Juan Murillo.

“This fellow is a perfect savage, as strong as a cart-horse and as fierce as the devil. He chewed Downing's thumb nearly off before they could master him. He hardly speaks a word of English, and we can get nothing out of him but grunts.”

“The true voodoo-worshipper attempts nothing of importance without certain sacrifices which are intended to propitiate his unclean gods. The more usual victims are a white cock, which is plucked in pieces alive, or a black goat, whose throat is cut and body burned.”

(Sonny Caldinez, 1988, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*,
“Wisteria Lodge”)

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Arthur Twiddle,
October, 1908

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“The Adventure of Wisteria

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Lodge”

(*His Last Bow*)

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Chronological
Date:

End of March, 1892
(Watson)
March 24, 1890
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

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

Christ
Abbreviation:

WIST