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No. 21

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SHERLOCK HOLMES

*"The Sign
of the ..."*



**THE MURDERS IN THE
RUE MORGUE**



**THE
PLAYED
HAND**

By CARL H. LUDWIG



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SHERLOCK HOLMES

"The Sign of the 4"

by ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



MURDER STALKED THROUGH THE
FOG-BOUND STREETS OF LONDON!
IT CLAIMED ITS VICTIM AND
MOVED ON! THERE REMAINED
ONLY THE CALLING CARD OF
DEATH — THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!

Illustrated by
ZANSKY



TWO TWENTY ONE BAKER STREET WAS
MAGICAL AND DREAMY NOW...

I am looking for
Mr. Sherlock
Holmes. I need help!

This is Mr. Holmes
and I am Dr.
Watson . . . Your
obedient servant!

You will find this
chair comfortable.

This chair is softer!
Sit here, my dear!

I am Mary Morstan.
My employer, Mrs. Forrester
said you could help me as
you once helped her.

I remember the
Forrester affair. It was
a simple case.

It wasn't simple at all. I was
struggling with Professor
Moriarty on the edge of a cliff!
He lifted me in the air just as I
began to fall, Holmes!

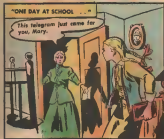
Quiet, Watson! I
want to hear
Miss Morstan's
story!

Mine is a strange story! I
desperately need your aid!

That's your
case!



I was placed in a boarding school where I remained till I was seventeen years of age.



SHERLOCK HOLMES

"I REACHED LONDON WITH JOY IN MY HEART, LITTLE SUSPECTING WHAT AWAITED ME."

The Langham Hotel, please!



"THE STREETS WERE BRIGHT AND BAY. THERE WAS NO HINT OF APPROACHING DISASTER!"



"UPON ARRIVING AT THE HOTEL, I WENT STRAIGHT TO THE DESK."

Captain Morstan's room, please! I'm his daughter.

Yes, Miss Morstan, I see that your father is registered here.



... But he went out last night and hasn't come back as yet! You may wait for him in his room.



That's room two twelve.

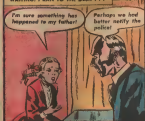
Thank you! I'm sure he'll be back soon.



HOURS AFTER HOURS FASHION PEOPLE PASSED IN THE HALLWAY BUT NO ONE STOPPED AT THE DOOR!



"FINALLY, I COULDN'T STAND THIS ENDLESS WAITING! I RAN TO THE DESK . . ."



I'm sure something has happened to my father!

Perhaps we had better notify the police!

"THE POLICE BEGAN A SEARCH AND THAT NIGHT THEY REPORTED TO ME."



We can find no trace of your father, Miss Marston! There is nothing more we can do!

That was ten years ago and the mystery of my father's disappearance is still unsolved!

There, there! I and Mr. Holmes will solve it!



Isn't there more to your story, Miss Marston?

I'm sorry I broke down! Yes there is more. It happened six years ago!



SHERLOCK HOLMES

"FOUR YEARS AFTER MY FATHER VANISHED, I FOUND A STRANGE ITEM IN THE PAPER . . ."

THE DAILY

If Miss Mary Morstan will publish her address in this paper, she will find it to her advantage.

"I PUBLISHED MY ADDRESS AND THE NEXT DAY . . ."

Package for Miss Morstan

Here I am!

"WHEN I OPENED THE PACKAGE, I FOUND . . ."

" . . . A BEAUTIFUL PEARL!"

Since then, every year on the same date, I've received a similar pearl! I have no clue as to the sender!

Remarkable! Remarkable!

This morning I received this letter.

This should be interesting!





SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES





Your servant, Miss Morston. I am Theobald Sholto, son of Major Sholto, your father's friend! Welcome to my mansion!

These gentlemen are Mr Holmes and Dr Watson.



I had you brought here, Miss Morston, because I have both good and bad news for you! First, the bad - your father is dead!

I know in my heart that he was dead!

My story is a strange one! It is about my father, Major Sholto! He returned from India a very wealthy man but not a powerful one!



"WE EMPLOYED TWO PRIZE-FIGHTERS FOR A BODYGUARD"

My life is in danger! You are to protect me from a man-legged man named Jonathan Small! If you see him ... shoot to kill!



"ONE DAY MY FATHER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM INDIA, MY TWIN-BROTHER AND I WERE HORRIFIED TO SEE"

Father, what's the matter?

THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!

SHERLOCK HOLMES

"WE PUT MY FATHER TO BED, BUT LATER THAT DAY . . ."

I've called you in because I am dying, and I have a confession to make. I have wronged the daughter of my friend, Captain Morston!

What do you mean, father?

In India, Captain Morston and I discovered a treasure! I brought it here and hid it without giving Morston his share. He followed me to London and came here! I remember that night . . .

You've cheated me long enough, Sholto! Now I want my share of the treasure for my daughter!

Easy, Morston! Remember you have a weak heart!

"SUDDENLY . . ."

You blockhead! You pinned it! . . . Oh! my heart!

Morston! . . . Good God! . . . He's dead!



Marston died of a heart attack! I feared that I might be accused of murdering him so I hid his body and said nothing!

But father, what of the treasure?

This necklace is a small part of it. I want you to take the treasure and send half of it to Miss Marston when I die!

But where is the treasure hidden?

The treasure is in... JONATHAN SMALL! ... Don't let him get out! Keep him out. He'll kill me!

LEGENDY... AT OPEN WINDOW, JOHN THOMAS SMALL DROPS A NOTE INTO THE ROOM.

He's disappeared. He left this note!

But Bartholomew! Father is dead! The shock was too much for him!

What does the note say?

THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!





Bertholmeau and I spent months searching the garden and the house but we couldn't find the treasure! All we had was the rockless from which we sent you a pearl each year!

So YOU sent the pearls! It was kind of you!



It was the best we could do to make up for our father's greed! And now I have good news!



My brother still lives at my father's house . . . Pondicherry Lodge. Yesterday he sent word that he had found the treasure! Tonight we shall go there and divide the spoils!



But it is so late! Hadn't we better wait until morning?

There are some things it is best to do under cover of night.



Drive quickly to Pondicherry Lodge!

ONCE AGAIN OUR FRIENDS MOVE THROUGH THE FOG-SOUND NIGHT THIS TIME TO PONDICHERRY LODGE TO FIND . . . WHAT?



SHERLOCK HOLMES









SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES





SHERLOCK HOLMES

"WE BURIED THE TREASURE AND I MADE FOUR MAPS . . . ONE FOR EACH OF US. WE ALL SIGNED THE MAPS . . . THE SIGN OF THE FOUR!"



"HOWEVER . . . SOMEONE HAD SEEN US THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER. WE WERE CAUGHT AND TRIED. THE NERVOUS WERE KILLED AND I WAS SENTENCED TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE ON BLAIR ISLAND!"

Blair Island, Small! Don't get too friendly with the pygmies! They're conniving!



"BLAIR ISLAND WAS A LYING HILL!"

Dig harder, Small! We don't like shirkard!



"ONE DAY MAJOR SHOLTO, COMMANDER OF THE PRISON, AND CAPTAIN MORSEAH, HIS AIDE, CAME TO MY CELL."

If you tell us where you hid the treasure, Small, we'll help you escape and share the treasure with you!



"IT WAS MY ONLY CHANCE TO LEAVE BLAIR ISLAND ALIVE. I GAVE MAJOR SHOLTO MY MAP. HE AGREED TO LOOK FOR THE TREASURE AND, IF HE FOUND IT, TO ARRANGE FOR MY ESCAPE."



"MAJOR SHOLTO LEFT THE ISLAND MONTHS WENT BY ONE DAY CAPTAIN HOBSTAN CAME UP TO ME

Major Sholto has found the treasure and gone back to England! Small we've both been tricked!



"I SWORE THAT I'D ESCAPE AND KILL SHOLTO WITH MY BARE HANDS! ONE NIGHT I SLIPPED AWAY WITH TONDA, A PTOMT I HAD ONCE BEFRIENDED."



"FOR WEEKS WE DRIFTED ALONG I WAS CLOSE TO DEATH WHEN A STEAMER PICKED US UP."



"I WORKED MY WAY TO ENGLAND AND ARRIVED IN TIME TO SEE MAJOR SHOLTO DIE."



I'm sorry I once killed Bartholomew. It was a mistake. The treasure is on the Azores. I wish I could have killed Sholto myself. He was up.



Thus ends the case of THE SON OF THE FOOL!

An amazing piece of deduction. Holmes! Amazing!

Elementary, my dear Jones. Elementary! And now let's break the news to Mary Morstan.





MANY THINGS HAPPEN ON THE
FACE OF THE EARTH WHICH MAN
CANNOT EXPLAIN. WITH
ALL HIS SCIENCE, THESE THINGS
ARE CALLED SUPERNATURAL. IT IS
NOT WISE TO LAUGH AT THEM.
HE WHO LAUGHES DE
MORIBUNDY LISTEN TO THE STORY
OF

The FLAYED HAND

By GUY DE MAUPASSANT

Illustrated by
ALLEN DUNN

THE FLAYED HAND

I challenge you to guess what this box contains!

A bottlecap?

A cow?

You may just bet I'll wager that you've never seen the likes of this before!



THE FLAYED HAND !!!



Whose hand is it?!

This is the hand of an insane criminal who died in execution thirty-oh! His name was

... MIMMY MATSON!

All men are my enemies! I will rob, burn and murder until the world is destroyed!





THE FLAYED HAND





DIE!
DIE!
DIE!

Look
well
There
he is!



My hand! Oh,
my God! My
hand!



Get the
me
away from
him!

All my
strength
shall die!

I'll
strangle
you with
my
love
hand!

He is dying
from loss of
blood!

It was his
life or
ours!
There
was
nothing
else to do.

He's
dead!

I shall keep
his hand as
an example
to all
murderers!



I'll come
back! I'll
... I'll
Agh!

THE FLAYED HAND



WHEN PETER REACHED HIS ROOM

What nonsense! How can the head of a dead man harm me?



BUT AS He DOZED OFF



Who's here? Speak up!



There's no one here! Someone is playing a joke!

This is no joke, Peter! Look behind you!



The head! It's moving! Who are you?

I am the ghost of Henry Motson! I have come from the grave to get my head!



When I have my head again, I shall rest in my grave! But first you will die! You have laughed at me!

NO!
NO!
NO!



THE FLAYED HAND



Get! All my enemies
Get! Hal! Hal!



AS PETER'S LIFELESS BODY FELL TO
THE FLOOR, THE HAND
DISAPPEARED! NOTHING MOVED
IN THE ROOM EXCEPT . . . DEATH!



Is anything
wrong?

The young man who lives
here has been found
strangled to death!

What? ?



Foul Peter? Who could
have done this?

That's what we can't understand! No one
could have gotten in, yet there are the
marks of a hand on his throat!



You may well wonder but no one
will ever know the truth! . . . For
the dead never betray their
secret! Hal! Hal!



Could it be possible? . . .
The hand disappeared?

I wonder! I wonder!

THE END

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

by
EDGAR ALLAN POE

Illustrated by
REYNOLD L. HICKS



AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, RUE MORGUE WAS USUALLY AT PEACE WITH THE WORLD. THE ONLY SOUNDS TO BREAK THE QUIET WERE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT AMATEUR DETECTIVE, DUPIN AND HIS FRIEND, POE, ALL WAS SERENE BUT TONIGHT . . . TWO WOMEN WERE TO BE . . . BRUTALLY MURDERED ! ! !

THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

Four gay Paris is indeed!
Surely this is the most
queer city in the world,
Saggs!

Paris is a strange city,
Peel! One never knows
what may happen next!

SUDDENLY!

When did I tell you? Quickly,
Peel! That's a woman's voice!
She must be in terrible danger!

HA! HA!
Don't be silly,
Peel!

You see, Paris is quick to create
trouble! I hope we're not too
late!

Save me!

The door is locked! We'll have to break it down!

This is Mrs. L'Espanaye's house! It has a stout
door! We'll have to get an old pole to use as a
battering ram!



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE



Miss L'Espanaye seems to have been strangled first then her neck was broken. She has been killed by a merciless and very powerful murderer!





THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE



Then we must capture this ape before there are more murders! What is the first thing to do?

First we shall put an ad in the paper!



The ape is not from a zoo or we would have heard about it before! Therefore we must try to find the ape's owner! The power of the press will bring him to our doorstep!



Caught! - A very large Ape, this morning in Bourlogne Park. Owner may have it back by calling at 13 Calais St.

I want this advertisement inserted immediately!

Our next edition goes to press in fifteen minutes! I'll get it in for you, sir!



Now we shall go home and wait for our friend, the owner of the ape, to appear!



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

FOUR HOURS LATER



You have my man here? I came to get him!

Before we give him to you we would like to know more about him! Please sit down!



Tell us how you happen to own this coat!

Five years ago our boat landed in Barcelona!



THE CAPTAIN ASSEMBLED ALL HANDS

I'm giving you men two hours. You'll have to get back to time as the ship leaves without you!

Come on, Jim! Let us go to the market where there should be many good things to buy!



Ago, ago, ago!



"WE WENT TO THE MARKET PLACE AND THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS..."

Look at that ape! He's a cute little rascal! I'll buy him and keep him as a pet!



"I BOUGHT THE APE AND KEPT HIM WITH ME ON MY TRAVELS! AS TIME PASSED, HE GREW BIGGER AND STRONGER!"



"ONE OF MY SHEPMATES USED TO TEASE THE APE ALL THE TIME! I WARNED HIM TO STAY AWAY BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN AND..."



"ONE DAY HE GOT TOO CLOSE!"



Ohhh! My leg is broken!

Jeez, your pet is dangerous! Tomorrow we reach Paris. You will leave the ship and take the ape with you!



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

"HERE, IN PARIS, I KEPT THE APE CHAINED IN MY ROOM! HE WOULD SIT AND WATCH ME FOR HOURS!"



"LAST NIGHT, WHEN I CAME HOME . . ."

How did you break loose? Give me the razor!"



"THE BEAST LAUGHED AT ME AND JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW . . . HE DISAPPEARED!"



"This is the last I saw of him! Where is he?"

Monsieur, last night after escaping, your ape went to the Rue Morgue where he killed two women! And he is still at large!"



Man alive! We must find him and kill him quickly before there are more murders!"

That is exactly what we plan to do!"



We had better move ourselves! We are fighting a dangerous killer! Let's go!"



The ape will go where there are trees. We are sure to find him in Boislognon Park!"



THE MURDERS IN THE RUE MORGUE

Let us separate but don't wander off too far if anyone sees anything, he must call the others!



I'm sure I saw that bush crawl! I'll make a little check!



THE APES !!



BUT BEFORE POE COULD FIRE . . .



Help, Dupin! Help!



The beauty killer is dead! The mystery of the murders in the Rue Morgue is solved! !



THE END

EDGAR ALLAN POE

Born in Boston January 19, 1809, Edgar Poe was orphaned in early childhood. Adopted by John Allan, a wealthy tobacco merchant of Richmond, Virginia, he was brought up in luxury and was a precocious child who could read, dance, draw, and declaim poetry at the age of six. After an unsatisfactory career at the University of Virginia and West Point, Poe embarked on a stormy literary future. His first success came when he won a prize of \$100 for his story, "A Manuscript Found in a Bottle." As editor of the Southern Literary Messenger, he wrote his best tales but gained more attention at that time for his vitriolic criticisms which made him extremely unpopular. In 1841, he published "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," the model of many subsequent detective stories. While connected with the Evening Mirror in New York, he wrote his famous poem, "The Raven," which met with immediate and widespread popularity. Poe's death at the age of forty, after a strange and varied life, was shrouded in mystery. Found unconscious on a street in Baltimore and taken to a hospital, he died the next day, October 7, 1849.



GUY de MAUPASSANT

Guy de Maupassant has had no peer as the perfect master of the short story. Completely divorced from the romantic school of writing, he saw life clearly, objectively, and expressed what he saw in uncolored prose. He insisted upon using "le mot juste," that is the one word that could express the meaning he sought to convey.

De Maupassant, born in 1850, was the son of a well-to-do Paris stockbroker. He was educated at the Rouen Lycee and attended literary meetings at the home of Gustave Flaubert. There the great names of literature congregated, but the young Maupassant seldom shared in the conversation.

With the publication in 1880 of his short story, "Boule de Suif," Guy de Maupassant revealed himself as an expert writer of prose and a consummate master of the story. He repeated this success again and again in his subsequent works, and though his critics often objected to his subject matter, they were unable to deny his brilliant mastery of his art. Whether it be a short story, a travel book, or an elaborate novel, it never fell short of his incomparable genius.



CONAN DOYLE

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English novelist, was born on May 22, 1859, the eldest son of the Artist Charles Doyle. Educated in England, Germany, and Edinburgh, Scotland, where he graduated as a doctor of medicine in 1885. While practicing medicine he wrote "A Study in Scarlet," in which he first introduced his famous character, Sherlock Holmes.

In 1891, Conan Doyle published "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," which achieved instant and enormous popularity. These ingenious stories of detecting crime and disentangling mysteries, cleverly conceived by a man of science, found many imitators, but none that ever equaled the original. Doyle returned to his hero in "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes," "The Hound of the Baskervilles," and "The Return of Sherlock Holmes."

In addition to these, Doyle wrote many novels and plays. He served as a doctor in South Africa during the Boer War, was knighted in 1902, and died in 1930. With all his many accomplishments, the fame of Conan Doyle will rest most securely on the interesting character of the gentleman of Baker Street.





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