

New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

THE CREEPING MAN

By SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

SYNOPSIS OF FIRST INSTALLMENT.

Why did Professor Presbury's faithful dog attack him? Why was the famous professor found crawling on all fours late at night? The professor, though old, is in love with the daughter of a colleague; his suit not turning out to his satisfaction, he paid a visit to the continent. The private secretary of Presbury, Mr. Bennett, has recorded every eccentric move of the professor since his disappearance in love, and is giving Holmes an account of Presbury's actions.

SECOND INSTALLMENT.

"Well, Watson? What make you of that?" asked Holmes.

"Lumbago, possibly. I have known a severe attack make a man walk in just such a way, and nothing would be more trying to the temper."

"Good, Watson! You always keep us flat-footed on the ground. But we can hardly accept lumbago since he was able to stand erect in a moment."

"He was never in better health," said Bennett. "In fact he is stronger than I have known him for years. But there are the facts, Mr. Holmes. It is not a case in which we can consult the police, and yet we are drifting toward disaster. Edith—Miss Presbury—feels as I do that we cannot wait passively any longer."

"It is certainly a very curious, suggestive case. What do you think, Watson?"

"Speaking as a medical man," said I, "it appears to be a case for an alienist. The old gentleman's cerebral processes were disturbed by the love affair. He made a journey abroad in the hope of breaking himself of the passion. His letters and the box may be connected with some other, private transaction—a loan perhaps or share certificates, which are in the box."

"And the wolf-hound no doubt disapproved of the financial bargain. No, no, Watson, there is more in it than this. Now I can only suggest—"

"What Sherlock Holmes was about to suggest will never be known for at this moment the door was opened and a young lady shown into the room. As she appeared Mr. Bennett sprang up with a cry and ran forward with his hands out to meet those which she had herself outstretched."

"Edith, dear! Nothing the matter, I hope?"

"I felt I must follow you. Oh, Jack, I have been so dreadfully frightened! It is awful to be there alone."

"Mr. Holmes, this is the young lady I spoke of. This is my fiancée."

"We were gradually coming to that conclusion, were we not, Watson?" Holmes answered with a smile. "I take it, Miss Presbury, that there was some fresh development in the case, and that you thought we should know."

"Our new visitor, a bright handsome girl, of a conventional English type, smiled back at Holmes as she seated herself beside Mr. Bennett."

"When I found Mr. Bennett had left his hotel, I thought I should probably find him here. Of course, he had told me that he would consult you. But, oh, Mr. Holmes, can you

do nothing for my poor father?"

"I have hopes, Miss Presbury, but the case is still obscure. Perhaps what you have to say may throw some fresh light upon it."

Awakened by Dog.

"It was last night, Mr. Holmes. He had been very strange all day. I am sure that there are times when he has no recollection of what he does. He lives as in a strange dream. Yesterday was such a day. It was not my father with whom I lived. His outward shell was there, but it was not really he."

"Tell me what happened."

"I was awakened in the night by the dog barking most furiously. Poor Roy, he is chained near the stable. I may say that I always sleep with my door locked, for my Jack—as Mr. Bennett will tell you, we all have a feeling of impending danger. My room is on the second floor. It happened that the blind was up in my window, and there was bright moonlight outside. As I lay with my eyes fixed upon the square of light, listening to the frenzied barking of the dog, I was amazed to see my father's face looking in at me. Mr. Holmes, I nearly died of surprise and horror. There it was, pressed against the window pane and one hand seemed to be raised as if to push up the window. If that window had opened I think I should have gone mad. It was no delusion, Mr. Holmes. Don't deceive yourself by thinking so. I dare say it was twenty seconds or so that I lay paralyzed and watched the face."

"Then it vanished, but I could not—I could not spring out of bed and look out after it. I lay cold and shivering till morning. At breakfast he was sharp and fierce in manner, and made no allusion to the adventure of the night. Neither did I, but I gave an excuse for coming to town—and here I am."

"Holmes looked thoroughly surprised at Miss Presbury's narrative."

"My dear young lady, you say that room is on the second floor. Is there a long ladder in the garden?"

"No, Mr. Holmes, that is the amazing part of it. There is no possible way of reaching the window—and yet he was there."

"The date being September 4th," said Holmes, "that certainly complicates matters."

"It was the young lady's turn to look surprised. 'This is the second time that you have alluded to the date, Mr. Holmes,' said Bennett. 'Is it possible that it has any bearing upon the case?'"

"It is possible—very possible—and yet I have not my full material at present."

"Possibly you are thinking of the connection between insanity and phases of the moon?"

"No, it was quite a different line of thought. Possibly you can leave your notebook with me and I will check the dates. Now I think, Watson, the case is a very simple one. It is perfectly clear. This young lady has informed us—and I have the greatest confidence in her intuition—that her father remembers little or nothing that occurs upon that certain date. We will therefore call upon him as if he had given us an appointment upon such a date. He will put it down to his own lack of memory. Thus we will open our campaign by having a good close view of him."

"That is excellent," said Mr. Bennett. "I warn you, however, that the professor is irascible and violent at times."

Will Claim Appointment.

Holmes smiled. "There are reasons why we should come at once, very cogent reasons, if my theories hold good. Tomorrow, Mr. Bennett, will certainly see us in Camford. There is, if I remember right, an inn called the Chequers where the port used to be above mediocrity, and the linen was above reproach. I think, Watson, that our lot for the next few days might lie in less pleasant places."

"Monday morning found us on our way to the famous university town—an easy effort on the part of Holmes, who had no roots to pull up, but one which involved the frantic planning and hurrying on my part, as my practice was by this time not inconsiderable. Holmes made no allusion to the case until after we had deposited our suitcases at the ancient hostel of which he had spoken."

"I think, Watson, that we can catch the professor just before lunch. He lectures at eleven, and should have

an interval at home."

"What possible excuse have we for calling?"

Holmes glanced at his notebook. "There was a period of excitement upon Aug. 26. We will assume that he is a little hazy as to what he does at such times. If we insist that we are there by appointment I think he will hardly venture to contradict us. Have you the effrontery necessary to put it through?"

"We can but try."

"Excellent, Watson! Compound of the busy bee and excelsior. We can but try—the motto of the firm. A friendly native will surely guide us."

Such a one on the back of a smart hansom swept us past a row of ancient colleges, and finally turning into a tree-lined drive, pulled up at the door of a charming house, with round windows and covered with purple wisteria. Professor Presbury was certainly surrounded with every sign not only of comfort, but of luxury. Even as we walked up a grizzled head appeared at the front window and we were aware of a pair of keen eyes from under shaggy brows which surveyed us through large horn glasses.

A moment later we were actually in his sanctum, and the mysterious scientist whose vagaries had brought us from London was standing before us. There was certainly no sign of eccentricity either in his manner or appearance, for he was a portly, large, well-dressed man, with a dignified bearing which a lecturer needs. His eyes were his most remarkable feature. He was keen, observant, and clever to the verge of cunning."

He looked at our cards. "Pray sit down, gentlemen. What can I do for you?"

Mr. Holmes smiled amiably. "It was the question which I was about to put to you, professor."

"To me, sir?"

"Possibly there is some mistake. I heard through a second person that Professor Presbury of Camford had need of my services."

"Oh, indeed?" It seemed to me that there was a malicious sparkle in the intense gray eyes. "You heard that, intense gray eyes. May I ask the name of your informant?"

"I am sorry, professor, but the matter was rather confidential. If I have made a mistake there is no harm done. I can only express my regret."

Convulsed With Rage.

"Not at all, I should wish to go further into this matter. It interests me. Have you any scrap of writing, any letter or telegram to bear out your assertion?"

"No, I have not."

"I presume that you do not go so far as to assert that I summoned you?"

"I would rather answer no questions," said Holmes.

"No, I dare say not," said the professor with asperity. "However, that particular answer can be answered very easily without your aid."

He walked across the room to the bell. Our London friend, Mr. Bennett, answered the call.

"Come in, Mr. Bennett. These two gentlemen have come from London under the impression that they have been summoned. You handle all my correspondence. Have you a note of anything going to a person named 'Holmes'?" His eyes were snapping with a flush.

"That is conclusive," said the professor, glaring angrily at me. "He leaned forward with his two hands upon the table. 'It seems to me that your position is a very questionable one.'"

"I can only repeat that I am sorry that we have made a needless intrusion."

"Hardly enough, Mr. Holmes!" the old man cried in a high, screaming voice, with extraordinary malignancy upon his face. He got up and he shook his two hands at us with furious passion. "You can hardly get out of it so easily as that. His face was convulsed and he grinned and kibbled at us in his senseless rage. I am convinced that we should have had to fight our way out of the room if Mr. Bennett had not intervened."

"My dear professor," he cried, "consider your position! Consider the scandal at the University! Mr. Holmes is a well-known man. You cannot possibly treat him with such discourtesy."

"Sulkily or hot—if I may call him so—cleared the path to the door. We were glad to find ourselves outside the house and in the quiet of the tree-lined drive. Holmes seemed greatly amused by the episode."

"Our learned friend's nerves are somewhat out of order," said he. "Perhaps our intrusion was a little crude, and yet we have gained that personal contact which I desired. But dear me, Watson, he is surely at our heels. The villain still pursues us!"

There were the sounds of running feet behind, but it was, to my relief, not the formidable professor, but his assistant who appeared round the curve of the drive. He came panting up to us.

"I am sorry, Mr. Holmes. I wish to apologize."

"My dear sir, there is no need. It is all in the way of professional experience."

"I have never seen him in a more dangerous mood. But he grows more sinister. You can understand now why his daughter and I are alarmed. And yet his mind is perfectly clear."

"Too clear," said Holmes. "That was my miscalculation. It is evident that his memory is much more reliable than I had thought. By the way, can we, before we go, see the window of Miss Presbury's room?"

Takes View of House.

Mr. Bennett pushed his way through some shrubs and we had a view of the side of the house.

"It is there. The second on the left."

"Dear me, it seems hardly accessible. And yet you will observe that there is a creeper below and a water-pipe above which give some foothold."

"I could not climb it myself," said Mr. Bennett.

"Very likely. It would certainly be a dangerous exploit for any normal man."

"There was one other thing I wished to tell you, Mr. Holmes. I have the address of the man in London to whom the professor writes. He seems to have written this morning and I got it from his blotting paper. It is an ignoble position for a trusted secretary, but what else can I do?"

Holmes glanced at the paper, and put it in his pocket.

"Do not—any name. Slavonic, I imagine. Well, it is an important link in the chain. We return to London this afternoon, Mr. Bennett. I see no good purpose to be served by our remaining. We cannot arrest the professor because he has done no crime, nor can we place him under constraint for he cannot be proved to be mad. No action is as yet possible."

"Then what on earth are we to do?"

"A little patience, Mr. Bennett. Things will soon develop. Unless I am mistaken, next Saturday may mark a crisis. Certainly we shall be in Camford on that day. Meanwhile the general position is certainly unpleasant, and if Miss Presbury can prolong her visit—"

"That is easy."

"Then let her stay till we can assure her that all danger is past. Meanwhile let him have his way and do not cross him. As long as he is in a good humor all is well."

"There he is!" said Bennett in a startled whisper. Looking between the branches we

D. D. D.
for Eczema,
Ordinary
Strength,
Reg. 35c. 21c
Reg. \$1.77c

Lucerne
Large
Bath Soap
3 Cakes 25c

Dreco
Medicine,
Reg. \$1.25,
77c

Listerine
Small . . . 29c
Medium . . . 54c
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Peps
For Coughs,
Formerly
50c, Now
25c

Zonox
Fix-a-Kold
Tablets,
Per Box,
22c

Dr. Chase's
Ointment,
Reg. 60c,
42c

Minty's
Shaving
Cream,
Per Tube,
35c

Dr. Chase's
Kidney and
Liver Pills,
Reg. 35c,
23c

Dr. Chase's
Nerve
Food,
Reg. 60c,
42c

Rheuma,
(the rheuma-
tism remedy)
Reg. \$1.25,
99c

Beecham's
Pills
Reg. 35c. 22c
Reg. 50c. 33c

Dr. Chase's
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Remedy
Reg. 75c,
54c

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Kidney Pills,
Reg. 50c
33c

Dr. Chase's
Catarrh
Powder,
Reg. 35c,
24c

Asprolax
(for Colds)
Reg. 60c,
39c

Standard Drug Stores

Hold An Easter-Time Sale On Thursday and Saturday

Please note, that although our stores will be open on Good Friday for the convenience of the public, these special prices are good only on Thursday and Saturday. Also note the fact that you will receive a dainty, useful souvenir free of charge, but above all, do not fail to note the remarkable features and exceptional prices contained in this big list of BARGAINS FOR TODAY AND SATURDAY.

EASTER-TIME SALE
KODAK PRODUCTS

To our knowledge this is the first time in Western Ontario these articles have been offered at less than the set prices.

Eastman's Films.

No. 127, vest pocket size . . . 22c, 3 for 65c

No. 120, No. 2, Brownie size . . . 22c, 3 for 65c

No. 116, No. 2A . . . 25c, 2 for 49c

No. 118, 3 1/4 x 4 1/4 size . . . 39c

No. 122, post card size, 48c, 2 for 95c

Brownie Box Cameras.

No. 2, 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 size . . . \$2.44

No. 2A, 2 1/4 x 4 1/4 size . . . \$3.44

EASTER-TIME SALE
Yardley's Old
English Lavender
Preparations

Lavender Water, small . . . \$1.25

Large . . . \$2.25

Lavender Soap, small . . . 20c

Large, 35c, or 3 cakes \$1.00

Lavender Complexion Powder . . . \$1.00

Lavender Compact, large \$1.50

Lavender Vanishing Cream . . . 60c

Lavender Cold Cream . . . 75c

Lavender Solid Brilliance, tin . . . 50c

Jar . . . 60c

Lavender Bath Salts, small . . . \$1.25

Large . . . \$3.00

Lavender Silk Sachet, pkg. . . 60c

Lavender Smelling Salts . . . 60c

Lavender Shaving Bowl \$1.25

Lavender Blossom, pkg. . . 25c

Lavender Talcum, tin . . . 40c

Lavender Shampoo, also other odors, 2 for 25c, or 6 for 60c

Lavender Bath Tablets . . . 2 for 25c, or 12 for \$1.25

EASTER-TIME SALE
MOTH PREVENTIVES

The "Sun" Moth Bag, a side opening Bag, made of heavy toned paper; size 24x37 inches . . . \$1.14

Kennedy's Supreme Package, a pkg. containing three bags of assorted sizes . . . \$1.00

Larvex, a mixture for spraying garments, rendering them impervious to moths; pint size bottle, complete with sprayer . . . \$1.75

Moth Balls, small pkg. . . 10c

Large pkgs. . . 15c

Moth Flakes, large pkgs. . . 10c

EASTER-TIME SALE
TOOTHBRUSHES

A Big Range of Assorted 40c values.

Today and Saturday, 25c, 2 for 49c

EASTER-TIME SALE
STATIONERY

Zonox Linen Writing Pads.

One Pad, small size, with 15c pkg. Envelopes . . . 19c

One Pad, folio size, with 15c pkg. Envelopes . . . 24c

One Pad, large size, with 15c pkg. of Envelopes . . . 29c

Today and Saturday.

EASTER-TIME SALE
THERMOS KIT

Complete with genuine pint-size Thermos Vacuum Bottle, for . . . \$1.89

Kit, separate . . . \$1.00

Bottle, separate . . . \$1.00

Gibbs' English
Preparations

Dentifrice, small . . . 25c

Large . . . 40c

Dental Paste, tubes . . . 40c

Superfatted Toilet Soap . . . 25c

EASTER-TIME SALE
Williams' Shaving Cream

Double size tubes . . . 50c

Parisian Sage (for the hair)

Reg. \$1.20 a bottle . . . 99c

Pebeco Tooth Paste

Reg. 50c a tube . . . 33c, 2 for 65c

Emulsified Coconut Oil Shampoo . . . 22c

James' Stropping Machine

For Gillette blades . . . \$1.49

Toilet Paper

Our regular 8-oz. roll . . . 5 for 39c

EASTER-TIME SALE
Gillette Safety
Razor

The gold-plated razor, in cigarette case holder,

Today and Saturday, 89c

FREE
TO MILADY

A dainty, useful sample of some fine Toilet Preparations to each lady customer today

and Saturday. Make sure you receive yours. It is free.

EASTER-TIME SALE
Zam-Buk
Preparations

Zam-Buk Ointment . . . 37c

Zam-Buk Soap . . . 19c

Zam-Buk Shaving Stick . . . 35c

Zam-Buk Shaving Refill . . . 25c

Zam-Buk Shaving Cream . . . 35c

EASTER-TIME SALE
Household
Thermometers

A wonderful opportunity to secure a Mercury Weather

Thermometer, suitable for inside or outdoors. Three assorted styles, each . . . 29c

Today and Saturday

EASTER-TIME SALE
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Talcum, per tin . . . 22c

Day Cream, reg. 50c . . . 34c

Skin Food, reg. 50c . . . 34c

Liquid Brilliance . . . 29c

Liquid Shampoo . . . 29c

Today and Saturday

EASTER-TIME SALE
HOT WATER BOTTLES

K. & S. Ironclad Bottles, guaranteed for 1 year . . . 99c

S. D. L. Hot Water Bottle, guaranteed for 2 years \$1.49

Today and Saturday

EASTER-TIME SALE
CIGARS
(by the box)

Jap—

Box of 10 . . . 82c