



In an article by Karl E. Meyer published in The New York Times, (and reprinted by the Florida Bibliophile Society in their newsletter), the author states, "Today's readers tend to forget the originality of Conan Doyle's achievement. He introduced the sidekick formula into crime fiction. Hence Hercule Poirot and Hastings, Chief Inspector Morse and Sergeant Lewis, among the many in a vast legion, and, at a different level, William of Baskerville and the monk Adso in Umberto Eco's Name of the Rose, clearly an homage to Sherlock Holmes."

We thought this would provide an excellent point from which to start.

The Papers on the Sundial

The Adventure of the Distressed Damsel

Although we often think of buddies as being duos (see "A Brief History of Buddies" on page 7), there are no rules that state that this must be the case. Indeed, Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer could be considered buddies. With this mind, it has come to our attention that an uncompleted script for a Three Stooges short was recently found in a footlocker at the law offices of Dewey, Cheatem & Howe. Who played who was not specified, but we can well imagine. The canonical implications are self-evident.—Eds.

Interior. Day. Offices of Holmes, Watson and Lestrade, Private Consulting Detectives and Part-Time Hansom Cab Cleaners. Watson comes into the living room, sees something in the wall.
WATSON: Hey, Holmes, what's the meaning of

this?

HOLMES (*entering, cleaning his pipe*): The meaning of what?

WATSON: The holes in the wall. Old Lady Hudson will throw us out for that.

HOLMES: Why you—

HOLMES slaps WATSON'S forehead.

WATSON: What was that for?

HOLMES: That was for being observant. How many times have I told you not to be observant?

WATSON: Yeah?

HOLMES pokes WATSON in the eyes.

WATSON: What was that for?

HOLMES: That was for being a wise guy.

WATSON: But we're detectives. We're supposed to be wise guys.

HOLMES: Why you— **(Continued on Page 5)**

In this Issue...



"This is how I deal with three-pipe problems."

—Xena, Warrior Princess

Holmes and Xena, together again for the very first time, Page 2

Holmes and Watson, Xena and Gabrielle

One of the more popular syndicated series over the last few years has been *Xena: Warrior Princess*. For those of you unfamiliar with the series, it concerns a woman who was formerly a savage warrior



bent on the complete destruction of her opponents. For years she and her army battled against opponents in order to satisfy her lust for power and destruction.

As the series opens, Xena has lost this tremendous hunger. She is heading back home to Amphipolis to make amends. On the way, she defends a village against a raiding warlord. Gabrielle, a spirited young woman who is bored with her village life and the prospects of a loveless marriage, follows Xena and eventually attaches herself to her, hoping to find life and experience the thrill of adventure. Xena is annoyed at first, but when Gabrielle shows her determination and her strength, she becomes more of a partner.

A simple vehicle for mayhem? This is a distinct possibility as in each episode there is the obligatory fight scene (or two or three). Xena, quite often with Gabrielle's assistance, inevitably defeats the enemy or enemies with a maximum amount of

stuntwork, blood-curdling war cries and pumped-up sound effects.

But is there more than perhaps meets the assaulted-by-special-effects eye? I think so. Consider these parallels between the Canon and the Warrior Princess:

- ◆ Gabrielle is a writer, a scribe, recording their adventures on scrolls. In their travels, they come across many people who know of Xena through Gabrielle's writings.
- ◆ Xena has a dark side, the warrior in her that she is constantly trying to suppress. She is trying to use her powers to right the wrongs she has committed in the past, to make the world slightly better than it currently is. Holmes himself remarked in CHAS, "...I have always had an idea that I would have made a highly efficient criminal." Is Holmes' darker side closer than he would like to admit?
- ◆ Xena has commented several times that she would be lost without Gabrielle. What begins **(continued on page 3)**



(continued from page 2) as a distant relationship, evolves into a closeness and respect for each other that goes far beyond adventure. Watson shows his extreme respect for Holmes when he says the great detective was the “best and the wisest man whom I have ever known.” And Holmes would be lost without his Boswell.

- ◆ Although they are not solving mysteries, they are looking for and promoting righteousness, honesty and justice—things that Holmes champions time and time again. The two “fight to protect the powerless even as they struggle with their own inner demons.” Could this sound any more like a bored Holmes turning to his hypodermic needle?
- ◆ Xena battles the gods, while Holmes battles evil. Xena eventually concludes that the gods are no longer relevant, that they are keeping humans ignorant and in need. She decides that they must be destroyed. Similarly, Holmes is trying to rid the world of crime and its consequences.
- ◆ Both Xena and Gabrielle have died and have been reborn. At the end of the



fourth season, both women are crucified by the Romans—hey, they get around. Their souls ascend into heaven where they and the archangels battle



against the demons of hell. The eventual outcome is that the pair are returned to the living. Holmes fell to his death at the end of FINA and is resurrected in EMPT.

- ◆ Comic relief has come in the form of Joxer, a bumbling freelance soldier who traveled quite often with the two. Lestrade offers a foil for Holmes superb intellect, just as Joxer offers a foil for Xena’s superior fighting abilities.

Certainly there are vast differences: Roman Europe vs. Victorian England; trips to the Elysian Fields and Valhalla instead of Dartmoor and Sussex; Amazons instead of Baker Street Irregulars; cyclops, sheiks and centaurs instead of ship captains, Bohemian Kings and blackmailers.

Alas, the adventures concluded after 60 stories. So too shall Xena at the end of this season. However, just as Holmes and Watson live on in paperback and Doubleday reissues, so too shall Xena and Gabrielle live on in reruns.

Twice the Fun, Twice the Action: Movies We Would Not Like to See

A World Full of Madness (1997). Holmes and Watson take on Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen in a determined effort to force them to enroll in acting classes. Their efforts fail miserably and the world succumbs to an endless stream of direct-to-video movies, magazines, books and video games.

I'll Be Back (1991). Watson (Danny DeVito) is abducted by Colonel Sebastian Moran (Dustin Hoffman). Meanwhile Holmes (Arnold Schwarzenegger) must take on Professor Moriarty (Christopher Walken) who has hypnotized Queen Victoria (Diane Keaton). London hangs in the balance until Holmes realizes this is all part of a fiendish conspiracy.

Our Daily Bread (1987). Holmes (Woody Allen) and Watson (Bobcat Goldthwaite) must take on The Baskerville Bakery, a front for an evil culinary conspiracy. Bubba Baskerville (William Shatner) and Billy Bob Baskerville (George Takei) are tainting their pastries with hallucinogens, subjecting London to a complete moral and social breakdown.

The Rest of the Story (1984). When the egos of Norman Mailer and Tom Wolfe threaten to take over the world, Holmes and Watson are called in by the CIA.

Better Left Unsaid (1993). Holmes (Liam Neeson) and Watson (Mel Gibson) take on the ghost of Jack the Ripper (Don Rickles) and his assistant (Robert De Niro). Directed by Wolfgang Peterson.

Death before Death (2001). From an idea by Stanley Kubrick, brought to the screen by Martin Scorsese. Holmes and Watson are reincarnated as extras on the *Baywatch Hawaii* set. When Holmes recognizes the spirits of Professor Moriarty and Gorgiano in two lifeguards, the chase on jetskis is on.

A Fistful of Ire (1967). Clint Eastwood is Sherlock Holmes and Gene Wilder is John Watson in Sergio Leone's Spaghetti Mystery masterpiece. Eli Wallach is The Man with No Face and Ernest Borgnine is the Man with No Belt; together they are determined to settle an old score against their arch-enemies.



The Prussia House (1997). From John Le Carre's novel. Holmes and Watson are sent by Mycroft to infiltrate a secret Austrian Army. What they don't realize is that Mycroft is being manipulated by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Silly Walks.

Among the Clouds (1995). Holmes (Denzel Washington) and Watson (Brad Pitt) find themselves in Nepal learning the secrets of Buddhism from the Dalai Lama (Paul Rubens) and his assistant (Drew Barrymore). But is it really Zen they are learning or are they being programmed to be Tai Chi assassins?

(Continued from page 1)

There is a knock at the door.

WATSON: I'll get it.

WATSON goes to the door, peeps through the hole, sees a very attractive woman. He steps back, adjusts his suit, licks his hands and slicks down his hair. He opens the door.

WATSON: Come in, fair mistress.

WATSON extends his hand, thinks better of it, wipes it on his suit and then extends it again.

VIOLET BASKERVILLE enters the room, shakes WATSON'S hand.

VIOLET: Mr. Holmes, I so need your help.

HOLMES (*rushing over to VIOLET*): Excuse me, ma'am, but I am Sherlock Holmes.

WATSON: You said I could be Holmes for the next case.

HOLMES: I changed my mind. (*To VIOLET*) Do come in.

VIOLET walks to the couch, collapses crying.

HOLMES and WATSON collide with each other trying to get to VIOLET. They slap and trip each other as VIOLET sobs. Finally, HOLMES pushes WATSON into the wall—a bust of Napoleon tips from side to side and then falls on WATSON—and rushes over to VIOLET'S side and kneels.

HOLMES: What is it? How can we help you?

VIOLET (*crying*): It's my husband. I just...just don't know if...

HOLMES: You don't think he loves you anymore, do you? Why that no-good, dirty little—I'll moiderize him.

VIOLET: No, it's not that. He's in awful trouble. But it's not his fault.

HOLMES: Of course, it isn't his fault. I could tell that the minute you came here. The way your hat looked.

VIOLET: My hat?

HOLMES: Yes. Y'see, you wore it cocked to your left side. If you wore it to the back, that would mean that he was taking some kind of youth potion. If you wore it to the right side that

would mean that he was employing some red-headed lackeys. If you wore it forward, that would mean that he found a treasure at the bottom of the Thames.

VIOLET: Why, Mr. Holmes. You do amaze me.

HOLMES (*kicking the carpet with his foot*): Shucks, ma'am, sometimes I amaze myself.

WATSON: But, Holmes, she was wearing her hat to your left, which would be *her* right.

HOLMES (*slapping WATSON on the forehead*): Why you. Knock it off, melonhead.

LESTRADE comes in from the front door.

LESTRADE: (*holding up three bananas*) Hey, Holmes, look what I found at the market.

HOLMES: Can't you see we're talking with a client here?

LESTRADE (*spotting VIOLET*): Hey, you're cute. Ruff, ruff. Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk.

HOLMES grabs Lestrade by the nostrils, drags him away from VIOLET.

LESTRADE yells.

HOLMES: Ixnay on the utecay. She's a married woman.

LESTRADE: Why you—

He boxes HOLMES' ears, hits him under the chin.

HOLMES waves his hand in front of LESTRADE'S face, then slaps him. LESTRADE punches HOLMES in the stomach; when he doubles over, he hits HOLMES in the forehead.

Meanwhile, WATSON is talking with VIOLET. She smiles, and HOLMES notices. LESTRADE swings his fist, but HOLMES leaps toward VIOLET and LESTRADE'S momentum carries him into the table, knocking the silverware all over the floor. A fork embeds itself into WATSON'S hand.

HOLMES (*to WATSON*): I know what you're trying to do. Amscray. Now, tell me what the problem is...?

VIOLET: Violet, Violet Baskerville.

HOLMES: Baskerville? Of Baskerville, Demerville, Openshaw and Clay? Jewelers to the Royal family, members of Parliament, and the occasional Bohemian King?

VIOLET nods her head. (Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

HOLMES grabs WATSON drags him across the room.

HOLMES: Do you know what this means?

WATSON: That you'll stop dragging us across the room by our noses?

HOLMES: No, you idiot. It means that if we solve this case we'll have money to burn.

WATSON: I thought you said you weren't interested in money.

HOLMES (*slapping WATSON*) You're observing again. (*Returning to VIOLET*) So, Mrs. Baskerville, how can we help you?

DISSOLVE TO

Exterior. Creepy mansion. A wolf howls in the distance. A full moon is hidden behind the clouds.

DISSOLVE TO

Interior. Creepy mansion.

HOLMES, WATSON and LESTRADE enter the living room, drop their bags on the floor.

HOLMES: Baskerville Mansion. Man, what a place.

WATSON: Some mansion. I don't think that moat has been cleaned in years.

HOLMES: So the cleaning crew has had the last few days off.

WATSON: More like the last decade.

A very tall BUTLER enters from another door and picks up two of the bags. He is completely deadpan.

LESTRADE (*reacting to the BUTLER*): Ang-ang-ang-ang.

The BUTLER walks through the extravagantly decorated yet dusty living room with the bags.

LESTRADE follows him but is distracted by a huge portrait that looks vaguely like WATSON.

WATSON: So where do you suppose the jewels are?

HOLMES: You heard Mrs. Baskerville. They're somewhere in the house.

WATSON: But where?

HOLMES: We will use our deductive reasoning powers to figure this out. If I were a jewel where would I be?

WATSON: I know: on a finger.

HOLMES: Jewels, you moron, not jewel.

WATSON: But you said "jewel."

HOLMES slaps WATSON again.

WATSON: I know, I know, stop observing.

HOLMES: We'll have to search this place from top to bottom.

WATSON: But that could take days— weeks.

What about our other clients?

HOLMES: Our other clients aren't the Baskervilles.

WATSON: How do we know Old Lady Baskerville is on the up-and-up?

HOLMES: Because she said so. And she's not so old.

The BUTLER returns, picks up two more bags and retraces his steps. LESTRADE runs over to him.

LESTRADE (*grabbing the suitcase*) Hey, that's my bag. No one touches it but me.

The BUTLER does not release his grip.

LESTRADE: Oh, a wise guy, eh? Ruff, ruff.

He backs up, runs at the BUTLER, misses him and sprawls into a chair, knocking it over.

WATSON: I don't get it, Holmes. If the Baskervilles are so rich, then why do they own a dump like this?

HOLMES: Elementary, my dear moron. The Baskervilles don't want anyone knowing that they are so rich.

WATSON: But everyone already knows.

HOLMES glares at WATSON. WATSON slaps his own forehead.

Behind him, LESTRADE is hanging onto the BUTLER'S back as he is going up the stairs, still trying to pry the suitcase out of his hands.

HOLMES: We'll start tomorrow searching through the house.

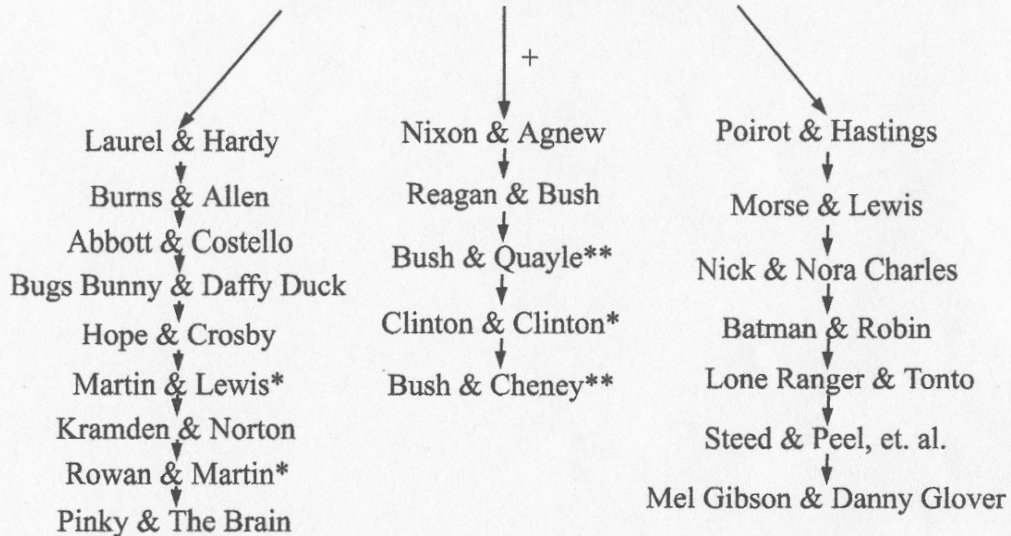
WATSON: I'd rather start tonight. This place gives me the creeps. The sooner we get out of here the better as far as I'm concerned.

LESTRADE, now at the top of the stairs, slips off the BUTLER'S back and falls down the staircase.

He stands, groggy, wipes (Continued on page 7)

A Brief History of Buddies

Holmes & Watson



*Broke up due to irreconcilable differences.

**Although technically buddies, only one member was significant.

+This linkage has been hotly debated.

(Continued from page 6) his face several times with his hands. Seeing the BUTLER come out of a room, LESTRADE runs up the stairs. The BUTLER steps out of the way and LESTRADE flies out the window. A moment later we hear a loud splash off camera.

WATSON sits down in a chair and it immediately collapses. He stands up, goes over to the fireplace.

WATSON: Maybe the jewels are in the flue. He gets down on his hands and knees and looks up into the fireplace. He pulls on the damper, causing black dust to fall on him. As he stands up, his torso completely black, LESTRADE runs in through the front door, completely wet.

HOLMES is completely oblivious to all this as he takes out a calabash pipe and stuffs it full of tobacco. He lights a match, tries to light the tobacco. It doesn't work, and he goes through five matches. As WATSON walks up, he blows through the pipe, spitting tobacco into WATSON'S face.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately for Watson's forehead, the screenplay ends here. We suspect that the jewels Mrs. Baskerville is trying to find are stolen and that she isn't really Mrs. Baskerville at all. When they locate the loot, she steps in with a gun. But Lestrade's ongoing feud with the butler results in her getting knocked into the moat. The portrait of Watson's ancestor, however, is fodder for another episode.—Eds.

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If you are planning on attending the eleventh Florida Wessex Cup and haven't mailed in your reservation yet, please telephone David McCallister immediately. On Saturday, February 10, join us in the Skye Terrace Dining Room for a panoramic view of the racetrack as we bet and bite. Your choice of a 10 oz. New York Strip Steak or Grilled Salmon w/Lemon Butter, plus Clubhouse admission, racing program, PPoF program, tax and gratuity is included in the \$17 per person price. Parking, additional tips, wagering, and drinks are on your own.

Everyone is welcome, even non- or neo-Sherlockians.

Call David McCallister at

Listed below is the info he will need:

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Address _____

Phone/E-mail _____

Your choice of food:

_____ 10oz. New York Strip

_____ Grilled Salmon w/Lemon Butter

If you don't know how to get there, don't forget to tell David. You'll need to make arrangements for getting your tickets from David beforehand or at the front gate.

26th Annual Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida

Come one! Come all! Please fill in the reservation form below if you are planning on attending the 26th Spring Gathering of the Pleasant Places of Florida on May 5th. "Holmes, however, like all great artists, lived for his art's sake" We gather at 11:30am at the Cafe' of the Arts in Sarasota, Florida. Lunch at noon.

Our case this time is *Black Peter*. Please be sure to review it and prepare yourself for David McCallister's Watson and Mycroft quizzes!

Cost is \$5 per person to cover the costs of programme and wine for toasts. Lunch will be from the menu. You may also enclose a donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund in the same check if you so desire. We are requesting volunteers for additional presentations as well as toasts. Please mark the appropriate lines on your reservation form.

As a side note, this place is across the street from the John & Mabel Ringling Museum of Art which is open on Saturdays with free admission.

Count me in for the 26th Spring Gathering! I'll be there at 11:30am, ready to digest a delicious repast and facts on *The Adventure of Black Peter*!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone/E-mail _____

_____ I am willing to volunteer for a toast. (Even if you don't, you may be assigned one.)

_____ I desire to make a presentation on _____

I understand that you'll be sending me details on how to get to the meeting place and will let me know if I have an assigned toast.

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations.

I've also enclosed \$_____ as a donation to the Marshall/Wood Fund.

Mail reservations to: Wanda Dow,

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