



The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Inc.
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Norwegian Explorer January 2011 Events

Baker Street West: Sunday, January 30 at 5:00 pm

We will be celebrating Sherlock Holmes' birthday on Sunday, January 30 starting at 5:00 pm at Brit's Pub (1110 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis). Reports from the Sherlock Holmes dinners in New York will be given. Write or call Norwegian Explorer Vice President Tom Gottwalt (gottwaltt@aol.com or 763-559-9373) for reservations.

The Norwegian Explorers Study Group will be discussing The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 2 pm.

The Study Group will be discussing the novel The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist on Saturday, January 22nd at 2:00 pm at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., St. Paul. See the enclosed notice.

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed, please do. Make your check payable to "The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota" and return it with this form to this address:

Gary Thaden, 2301 Aldrich Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55405

_____ Single Membership - \$15.00

_____ Family Membership - \$20.00

_____ Additional Contribution

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Home or Business _____

Sherlockian Expertise _____

Email address _____

Are you interested in joining or remaining in the monthly study group? Yes ___ No ___

Can this information be included in a future directory for members? Yes ___ No ___

You may have read of the remarkable explorations of a Norwegian named Sigerson..."
"The Adventure of the Empty House"

Saturday, January 22, 2011

2:00-4:00 pm

We will ponder: **The Solitary Cyclist**

The fourth story in **The Return of Sherlock Holmes**, published in Collier's, December 26, 1903 and in Strand Magazine, January 1904.

Redmond's Delicate Question: In a case that involves kidnapping, if not rape, Holmes acts not only with his professional skills but also with his fists to defend the lady's safety and honor. He also demonstrates elaborate courtesy and gallantry, and teases her a little about her legitimate love life. Is he in fact the perfect gentleman -- for his own era, if not for our own?

Questions to consider:

- ◆ Watson twice refers to Violet as 'beautiful' and as 'very handsome' and 'graceful.' Holmes describes many attributes, but not physical beauty. When Holmes says Watson 'sees but does not observe,' is it merely that they 'observe' differently?
- ◆ Watson comes back from his jaunt expecting praise from Holmes for a job well done, and receives only criticism for his failings. How long would most of us continue a relationship in which we were constantly belittled?
- ◆ Holmes describes his fight in the tavern as 'delicious.' As someone who has little physical contact with anyone, does fighting replace intimacy for him?
- ◆ When Watson says 'my sedentary life began to tell upon me... Holmes, however, was always in training, for he had inexhaustible stores of nervous energy upon which to draw,' can a doctor really believe that nervous energy is a substitute for actual physical exercise?



Additional questions to consider:

- ◆ If Woodley's future fortune depended upon his marrying the girl, wouldn't it have benefitted him to behave as a gentleman in order to win her? (*Proves Captain Kirk's claim that a good man can fake being bad, but a bad man cannot fake being good.*)
- ◆ Would anyone believe that a woman forced into a wedding ceremony as Violet was would be legally bound? Was it really necessary to try to kill Woodley? ("*You're too late. She's my wife.*" -- "*No, she's your widow.*")
- ◆ Nothing was mentioned of Carruthers' wife and the mother of his child. Did she exist? Or was the child merely an orphan Carruthers bailed out of the poorhouse? What would have happened to her if her father went to prison? (*Mr. Carruthers was a widower, but he had engaged a lady housekeeper, a very respectable, elderly person, called Mrs. Dixon, to look after his establishment. The child was a dear, and everything promised well. Mr. Carruthers was very kind and very musical, and we had most pleasant evenings together.*)
- ◆ If, as Violet suggests, she would certainly recognize her fiancé, wouldn't she also recognize a man she spent every weeknight with?
- ◆ Who was the solitary cyclist? Violet, or the stranger following her? ("*That's the man!*" *I gasped. A solitary cyclist was coming towards us. His head was down and his shoulders rounded, as he put every ounce of energy that he possessed on to the pedals. He was flying like a racer.*) *From Rosemary Michaud: "Most Sherlockian scholars agree that Bob Carruthers is indeed the title character of the story, and he is certainly one of those people who give the Canon its great depth and breadth. Not quite a bad man, not quite a good man, a hot-headed guy with a mysterious past - and the entire story hinges on his unpredictable actions."*
- ◆ What does Holmes mean when he says, "When in your report you said that you had seen the cyclist as you thought arrange his necktie in the shrubbery, that alone should have told me all?"

Saint Anthony Park Library
2245 Como Avenue, St Paul
(651) 642-0411

Metro Transit Bus Route #3

