“SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEVIL’S DAUGHTER”

CORE NARRATIVE OUTLINE

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“This is an early draft of my proposal for the game's overarching narrative, case structure, characters and other abstractions. Further consideration, iteration and polish required. Not all of this content made the final game.”
BRIEF

We will create, expose and manipulate aspects of Holmes’s life and world including friends, family, Toby, college, music, deduction, law, gender, inequality, racism, mental illness, smoking, love, passion, attraction, drugs, addiction, science and other motifs of the period. The overarching core narrative, instigated by a new master villain, will unravel and bridge between the 4/5 standalone cases.

KEY (ALL PLAYABLE)

- CORE NARRATIVE
- FEVER DREAM
- STANDALONE CASE
- OUTCOME
CORE NARRATIVE OUTLINE

CASE 1 - “PREY TELL”

During this first case (which doubles for the prologue) Watson notices that Holmes’s usually sharp deduction skills are a bit off.

Holmes’s imagination is faltering, playing tricks on him, or perhaps it is just plain forgetfulness. He is also feeling unwell, a LITTLE FEVER.

Watson suggests he hasn’t been sleeping properly for days. The Doctor orders, sleep!

A NEW NEIGHBOUR

After the opening case, Holmes and Watson return home to 221B to discover a new neighbour moving in to 221A (whatever is appropriate to canonical lore. In some versions it has been a house, a flat, a spare room, even a shop next door).

The neighbour is a woman in her late forties, smart, elegant, great smile, healthy, short cropped hair, French speaking, mixed-race descent. Hidden beneath the pomp and appearance is an unfathomably practical woman.

Holmes and Watson are curious because she has an alluring aura, commanding body language, liberal manner, taking no nonsense, outspoken, tough, business-like, feared. Why?

The COACHMAN (also French speaking) unloads her CONSIDERABLE LUGGAGE.

Watson, ever the gentleman, helps with the luggage while Holmes is busy trying to know the new arrival without actually meeting her.

She and the Coachman exchange jokes at Holmes’ expense.
Holmes demonstrates his skills by picking out her regional French accent, class according to manner, language, clothing, skin tone, terms of the greeting and South American descent (French Brazilian). She is neither born or married to wealth and authority, but achieves such through her own endeavour. Her eyes and steely demeanour suggest a very singular individual. How curious. The elegant selection of luggage indicates the initials “A.D'b” with which Holmes attempts to solve her name.

"...Alice De'Bouvier..."

“So, do you expect a tip for that little trick, Sir?” Alice says, half mocking, half playful. “I'll do you later over a cup of tea.” She adds.

“I would be delighted.” Holmes says.

Even here, Holmes’s imagination seems a little clouded, and in his attempts to be his natural acute self (not to impress a lady) he fumbles a few deductions, or knowingly makes guesses. (We can exemplify this in gameplay by obscuring certain clues/things in Holmes’s deduction/dynamic views).

Alice comments on Watson’s gentlemanly assistance with her luggage as opposed to Holmes being more interested in satisfying his analytical mind than help.

"So this is what they mean by an English Gentleman?"

Holmes is somewhat offended by this opinionated, surly woman. Watson is particularly taken by Alice’s charms and enamoured that Holmes may have met his match.

*Here we are playing on the attraction theory of displays of aggression/opposition being contrary to one’s actual intrigue/attraction to the target of one’s scorn.*

The final case is unloaded by the COACHMAN, WHO SHE TIPS with a cigar. She offers Watson one as thanks.

"No thank you, ma'am, im more of a pipe fellow these days." Says Watson.

Alice sparks up a cigar for herself and moves in next door.

221B

Holmes and Watson arrive home, where MRS HUDSON and Watson enjoy witty banter about the new neighbour.

Meanwhile, Holmes heads straight to bed, FEELING UNWELL, requesting some warm milk from Mrs Hudson.
**TEMPTATION**

In the bedroom Holmes is briefly tempted by the cocaine paraphernalia peeking out of his drawer. Instead he huddles up in bed with a blanket.

**FEVER DREAM**

*Holmes experiences a VIVID FEVER DREAM (playable), psychedelic, LSD-like trip, very powerful and immersive.*

*He is aboard a PADDLE STEAMER on the RIVER CLYDE (Scotland) during his CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE DAYS. The scenario features various STUDENTS and TEACHERS. Holmes investigates the dream to learn more of the puzzle.*

**CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)**

**PENCIL PORTRAIT**

Holmes wakes from the strange dream and tries to sketch, with pencil and charcoal, his recollections. It is all very abstract and messy.

*With each fever dream he is able to discern a new clue as to THE DAMAGE TO HIS BRAIN and iterate on the sketch until THE FACE OF THE ENEMY is unveiled.*

**A NICE CUP OF TEA AT 221B**

Holmes is disturbed by chatter outside his door as Mrs Hudson welcomes Alice into 221B for a neighbourly CUP OF TEA and biscuits.

This occasion is attended by Watson, Mrs Hudson, Alice, Toby and Holmes (looking rather peeked and acting strange).
During the conversation, Alice observes and sums up Holmes very well, commenting on his ragged clothes, bloodshot eyes, sweaty disposition and other such aspects that comment on "...substance abuse."

"Use." Holmes corrects her.

“Just a little.” Watson defends.

“More than he’s telling you, Doctor Watson.” Alice adds.

"Oh, please do call me John."

Holmes is impressed and embarrassed at Alice’s accurate deduction.

Alice offers fever remedies to Holmes "...if you were to come and visit me..."

She reveals and discusses her life as a CHEMIST and EXPLORER.

Holmes spots an attractive PENDANT around Alice’s neck, which he concludes is South American tribal. She had the honour of meeting the English gentleman explorer, PERCY HARRISON FAWCETT, during an expedition in the jungles of her homeland. The pendant was a gift from Fawcett.

As Alice excuses herself, to get the new abode fit for purpose, she briefly MEETS LESTRADE arriving at 221B. Polite passing ships.

Holmes, Watson, and Mrs Hudson talk about the nice American lady, although Holmes acts uninterested and ready for the next CASE, which Lestrade conveniently arrives with.

CASE 2 – “A STUDY IN GREEN”

CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

ALICE’S ABODE

In between cases, Holmes spends time trying to solve the enigma of Alice De’Bouvier from a distance while Watson is enjoying speaking with her in person and being the gentleman.

Watson is charmed by this woman, a muse, enhancing his writing, inspiring, consuming his attention and apparent affections.
HOLMES SENSES THE ENIGMA

Watson observes Holmes’s peculiar behaviour such as listening through the walls of 221B to hear Alice next door, and spying on her through the front window and using the balcony more than usual.

Holmes begins meditating in strange locations of 221B, in corners, the attic, the pantry etc, listening/feeling for Alice’s movements, sounds, echoes, vibrations and resonances.

"What are you really up to, my dear..." Holmes says.

"What on earth is Holmes playing at..." Watson ponders.

SENSES

Holmes can hear Alice’s exceptional singing voice, a gramma phone playing a tune (not necessarily classic orchestral), sounds/smells of laboratory equipment, cigar smoke, accompanied by sensations and hints of her cooking, drinking, personal habits, living schedule, activity etc.

He is allured in his own peculiar way in this private game, which Watson does not approve of.

VOICES

During his spying, Holmes hears or voices and conversations with someone or something else.

Holmes hears various enlightening and beautiful songs played by Alice's grammar phone, hugely contrasting tunes compared to Holmes's repertoire and collection.

Denying his emotional intrigue he tries to neutralise her presence by referring to her as "Neighbour", "Her", "That woman", "Foreigner", "Visitor" etc, and avoids using her name.
DANCE PARTNERS

Holmes solves the sound puzzle to determine how many people are present with Alice, despite rarely if ever witnessing another person, except Watson and Mrs Hudson, entering 221A.

Alice speaks in the first and third person, and flits between past, present and future.

While listening to Alice’s music through the walls, Holmes dances with an invisible partner (imagining her perhaps).

SCENT OF ALICE

Holmes opens his window and balcony door so he can catch the scent coming from Alice’s window nearby. He smells various CHEMICALS and PERFUMES that suggest something rather more interesting.

He uses the 221B front door spy hole to watch Alice as she comes and goes. One day, as Holmes uses the spy hole, a big face appears in the spy hole, startling him. It’s Watson or Alice.

"You are insufferable!"

Mrs Hudson comments harshly on Holmes’s spying, but he assures her it is all for a good cause.

INSIDE 221B

Meanwhile on the opposite side of the wall, Alice is clandestinely behaving in a similar fashion to Holmes, keenly observing and analysing his life and world.

She dances to her grammar phone music with an invisible partner (perhaps imagining Holmes).

While out on the parallel balconies she enjoys tea and Holmes enjoys a cigarette, they suggestively debate privacy, covert actions, spying.

She suggests he could be "...mistaken for a peeping tom..."

"...I’m merely observing nature’s choreography and the effect of the exotic on such..." Says Holmes.
FLOWERS FOR ALICE

Watson, with his own attempts at interacting with Alice, buys her flowers and writes her a short story or poem (refers to her in a story as the "Intriguing lady").

JEALOUSY

The joy in Watson’s spirit and his use of Alice as a muse makes Holmes a little jealous. Or at least we think it is jealousy.

Holmes tells Watson that this woman's manipulative games will hurt his feelings. She is not truly interested in Watson's flowers and poems.

This creates friction, with Watson accusing Holmes of poor play and that Holmes is too terrified to even visit and talk to the new neighbour! This observation by Watson is correct in some respects.

Feeling under the weather, Holmes returns to his bedroom for rest, as recommended by Mrs Hudson. Holmes is tempted by the cocaine use to achieve a corrective mental function.

FEVER DREAM

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CASE 3 – “UNKNOWN CASE”
AN INNOCENT WALK

After the case Holmes goes home to bed, because the fever is getting worse. Watson goes for a walk.

Watson encounters a commotion, and discovers none-other than Alice experiencing racial and sexual prejudice by some local BIGOTS.

"You think you’re better than us?"

Watson intervenes to defend Alice’s honour, but she objects, "As if I am incapable of reprimanding the offenders."

Yes the rascally language is harsh and the tensions upsetting, but the mature and subtle way with which the characters deal with this drama must be intelligent.

Alice confronts the offenders and remarkably gets them to back down, apologise and leave.

Watson is suitably impressed and inquires as to her method.

She explains that words are powerful, whether explained with complexity or simplicity. She merely explained as you would to a child, that they should imagine their lives with her skin gender and prejudices, and how they would feel if it was their daughter, sister or mother etc. Very mysterious, poignant and will have resonance later. In her home country, they may be treated the same offensive way for their speech, clothing and skin colour.

WATSONS STORY NOTES

Watson takes notes for his story.

That evening, Holmes is stumbling around the house, ill, and finds and reads Watson’s story notes and is fascinated by "...the remarkable woman fending of prejudice..."

Watson is besotted, under a spell.

HOLMES PLUCKS UP THE COURAGE

So, Holmes visits 221A.
As he goes to knock on the door he hears MULTIPLE VOICES inside, before Alice answers the door as if she expected Holmes.

Holmes must intellectually dialogue spar with Alice to progress, starting with being invited inside.

**INSIDER**

Enquiring about Alice's "Conversational company", Holmes discovers that she is in fact alone.

Alice says he is mistaken or heard her grammar phone playing songs.

She speaks aloud to herself, perhaps?

They psychoanalyse each other even as they try to act normal over something as simple as a cup of tea or discussion of music next to the coal fire.

Alice is clearly an educated woman, a scientist, and behind closed doors she is a very different personality to when she is outside, without makeup, jewellery or fancy clothes. She is comfortable in her own natural guise.

In her home, a private bubble, she is quite disarming and bedraggled, unkempt, hands-on, sleeves rolled up, tough as nails.

Holmes is even more intrigued.

*Her education, talents, charms and general character is very progressive of the period. Where she would normally confront a variety of violent prejudices, she seems very capable of handling them.*

**ALICE'S LAB**

Alice shows Holmes her fantastic laboratory unpacked from her luggage.

As a chemist, she specialises on cutting-edge effects on the neuroscience of the brain, a taboo subjects of the age, and especially from a woman's point of view, and a foreign woman of ethnicity at that.

She also has state of the art American technology (as shown in some early TV canon) years in advance of Holmes's, where she has begun various experiments of her own.
Holmes admits to the ingenuity of the Americans (especially at the turn of the century).

Together they assemble some kit, like two children playing with a new toy.

Alice’s playfulness tempts Holmes, "...you are welcome to visit and use my equipment..."

**ATTRACTIONS**

Holmes and Alice exchange knowledge and skills, equally intriguing and impressing the other. It is strange to Holmes that this woman conjures feelings long since lost or shut off on purpose (regarding distinct attraction to the opposite sex).

However, the attraction to Alice is an evolving respect and admiration of knowledge, independence and eccentricity, not a sexual context.

Holmes and Alice enjoy stimulating conversation, personality, charm, like magnets drawing closer. The innuendo is present but sophisticated.

*Perhaps Alice is much older than Holmes and their growing relationship/acquaintance is more a reflection of Holmes "mother" issues.*

Because of the era and degrees of drug use acceptance and naivety, Alice explains that her research has found cocaine to have terrible side effects on the brain. She recommends that Holmes cease using. Holmes appreciates her concern but believes he is in control.

**MRS HUDSON COMMENTS**

It is innocent old Mrs Hudson who comments that this American lady is fast becoming a suitor for Holmes.

*To see Holmes find love (depending on your view of the Irene Adler canon). This is Hudson’s opinion.*

*This suggestion disturbs Holmes, "...the perfect match for me... and she just so happens to move in next door? Poppycock. There are no such coincidences." Holmes snaps.*

*On the other hand, Watson is a realist but frosty regarding Holmes and Alice's burgeoning relationship.*

It is as if Holmes is deliberately trying to jeopardize any potential romance with the mysterious Alice De'Bouvier. He forcefully clears his mind of her and deliberately resorts to
COCaine use (seen/used and suggested in a few Holmes canon books and TV episodes) to supposedly help him trip-focus on the standalone cases.

**FEver DreaM**

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**Waking World**

Holmes believes that with each fever dream, his ability to deduce the meaning is heightening.

**The Door Key**

Watson visits Alice with the intention of posting the poem under her door, but he discovers her having TROUBLE WITH HER DOOR KEY.

Watson, ever the gentleman fixer, offers to assist but she uses her hair pins to pick the lock and get in.

Alice offers a cup of and to read the poem, but bashful Watson declines due to a prior engagement.

"Are you avoiding me, John?"

"On the contrary, I have a case to tackle, now that Sherlock is... out of commission."

As he departs, she reads the poem.
CASE 4 – “INFAMY”

Watson leads on this case.

CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

DEDUCTIVE DAMAGE

Holmes’s memory and mental issues (which twist the gameplay) appear to be early signs of AFASIA (word salad, mixing up words, speech) and ALZHEIMERS (memory problems), which were largely unknown during the era. Thus Holmes is receiving help and questions from Watson who steps up to the plate to fill in the gaps in the cases. Even Mrs Hudson and Lestrade comment about Holmes memory not being what it used to be.

The memory issues affect Holmes’s ability to accurately deduce, thus making mistakes and relying more on Watson, which emotionally disturbs Holmes like never before.

Potential for some interesting gameplay here.

Holmes ostracises himself in his room due to his greatest weapon, his mind, being vulnerable. Watson and Alice work together to help him.

We get to see the emotional horror of a man losing his mental faculties and powers of deduction - forgetting names, clues, places and times.

Holmes snaps out of his feverish stupor when TOBY THE DOG CRIES OUT IN PAIN.

TOBY TROUBLE

Watson discovers poor Toby in great discomfort, whimpering, his LEG IS BROKEN.

"Poor blighter”

Despite his bedraggled and ill state Holmes is horrified by poor Toby’s injury. Closer examination reveals boot polish on Toby’s fur and shoe heel shaped bruising suggesting TOBY WAS KICKED.

Toby whimpers, in pain and is fearful of humans.

"Who would do such a thing?!” Mrs Hudson sobs.
Holmes’s inspection of evidence suggests the boot belonged to a person of relative wealth, due to the type of boot polish and heel pattern.

Watson or a VET is summoned to tend to Toby’s leg.

**PREJUDICE RELenting**

As Holmes steps outside 221B he witnesses the two RACIST BIGOTS FROM EARLIER, with buckets and sponges, scrubbing away offensive graffiti from Alice’s front window/door.

Her influence over them is quite impressive, offering a more discerning cultural point of view.

She also has her own gang of Irregulars networking throughout the area.

**A MAJOR CLUE**

Holmes discovers a BIZARRE AND WORRYING CLUE that highlights a MAJOR CHARACTER (a SUSPECT or WITNESS) from previous STANDALONE CASE is part of a much bigger, sinister core narrative scheme.

*This SUSPECT or WITNESS can be randomised from a few specific characters from case 1-4.*

Holmes decides to trail that specific MAJOR CHARACTER urgently.

**BIZARRE RENDEZVOUS**

Holmes DISGUISES himself and tracks the MAJOR CHARACTER along a LONDON CANAL PATH, past boats and swans, to an impressive BRIDGE UNDERPASS.

In the shadows beneath the bridge the major character rendezvous with ANOTHER MAJOR CHARACTER (a SUSPECT or WITNESS from standalone case 1-4).

The meeting looks suspicious.
THE CORE VILLAIN

As Holmes spies from cover he sees a SHADOW FIGURE (THE CORE VILLAIN) join the two major characters under the bridge.

Holmes listens in and detects a very odd conversation. The Shadow Figure uses expressive hand gestures, speaks in a French accent, uses overly poetic dialogue and smokes a pipe when speaking to the other two.

As the Shadow Figure speaks to the other two major characters, they react like puppets.

Holmes believes it to be HYPNOSIS. This Shadow Figure is implanting SUBLIMINAL INSTRUCTIONS in the minds the two major characters.

The two leave the bridge to act out their hypnotised endeavours, leaving Holmes to confront the Shadow Figure. The Shadow Figure spots him and flees. Holmes gives chase.

HOLMES CHASES THE VILLAIN

The chase is exciting and dynamic (like the chase in The Awakened).

Holmes does not catch the Shadow Figure, but manages to tear the villains JACKET POCKET, causing a DIARY PAGE TO FALL OUT.

Holmes now has the POCKET FABRIC FRAGMENT and DIARY PAGE as CLUES to examine even though the assailant has escaped, this time.

VILLAINS DIARY PAGE

Holmes examines the pocket cloth fragment, and determines it is an expensive European brand of coat.

The fabric also has a distinct scent of tobacco, which Holmes recreates a clue from his knowledge of tobaccos. It is a Mexican brand.

Next Holmes examines the torn page which shows it is PAGE 9 of 15, showing A LIST OF CODE NAMES relating to a variety of MAJOR CHARACTER NAMES (seen throughout the game so far). However linking codenames to actual character names requires solving a puzzle.

So, multiple people who Holmes has interacted with could be hypnotised.
Intriguing.

Holmes attempts to deduce the phrases and codes but his fever is worsening and he is caught up in an urgent NEW STANDALONE CASE.

**CASE 5 – “CHAIN REACTION”**

**CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)**

**HOME SWEET HOME**

Once home, Holmes tries to fight the worsening fever and mental deficiency by taking COCAINE to stay cerebral.

He attempts to examine the CORE VILLAIN’S DIARY PAGE found earlier but the torn page makes decoding it difficult.

Holmes passes by Alice who is speaking with some of the Baker Street Irregulars, teaching them a cool COIN TRICK, before giving them a coin for a LOCAL NEWSPAPER, while her USUAL COACHMAN WAITS.

Holmes greets Alice but then enters 221B rather curtly.

Alice departs on the coach.

**THE VILLAINS PHRASE BOOK**

Holmes is shocked to DECODE the name of SOME IMPORTANT CHARACTERS (who we have seen playing big roles throughout the standalone cases) and most shocking of all is the name, DOCTOR J WATSON!

Holmes has solved 70% of WATSON’S CODE PHRASE (due to the page corner being torn/missing).

Holmes is intrigued why WATSON IS PART OF THIS TWISTED HYPNOTIC GAME but does not know the full PHRASE to TEST or UNLOCK WATSON’S HYPNOSIS.
HOLMES’S CONCERN FOR WATSON

Holmes confronts Watson with hypnosis idea, but he thinks the concept is preposterous.

Watson berates Holmes for trying to steal Alice's affection away from him!

Yes, it all sounds rather hysterical and romantic from Watson. Holmes has belittled and mocked Watson for the last time! Holmes even suggests hypnotising Watson again himself to help unravel the current core villain's hypnosis, but Watson refuses.

Holmes suggests that the hypnosis may have caused Watson to hurt Toby!

Regardless, Holmes cunningly uses the various PHRASES to see what effect they have on Watson. Watson's reaction is frightening, PUSHING HOLMES DOWN THE STAIRS!

As Holmes fades in and out of consciousness at the bottom of the stairs, he looks up (player POV) to see Watson moving about frantically, rummaging through items in the abode and stealing something.

HOLMES BLACKS OUT.

FEVER DREAM

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CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)
HOLMES WAKES

Holmes wakes on the floor, injured and deeply troubled by the cruel affect the hypnosis of this SHADOW FIGURE is having on Watson.

From his vantage point on the floor in the hall, Holmes notices A PAIR OF SHOES with HAIR STUCK TO THE SOLE. He examines the shoe and finds that it is DOG HAIR and BLOOD RESIDUAL matching TOBY’S HAIR and the shoe BELONG TO HOLMES?!

Did Holmes kick Toby without realusing?!

"...A single shoe, where is the other? What madness is this!?”

CRYING

Holmes can HEAR HOWLING. He searches 221B and discovers that the HOWLING IS COMING FROM TOBY hiding under the stairs as Mrs Hudson wields Holmes’s other shoe, trying to strike the poor dog. Mrs Hudson seems monstrous!

Holmes protests, only for Mrs Hudson to attack him with the broom. He restrains Mrs Hudson in a chair with rope or belts. She appears to have harmed Toby!

But this wholesome old lady is acting out of character, surely affected by this insane mind control as well. Poor Toby. Poor Mrs Hudson!

Who is responsible, why?!

Holmes either DOES have Mrs Hudson’s name on the HYPNOSIS PHRASE PAGE or he tries a new technique to break Mrs Hudson’s hypnosis and SUCCEEDS!

Mrs Hudson is distraught at what she has done to poor Toby under hypnosis. She explains the horror of being fully aware of the actions she performed, however, her mind was not her own. It was like being imprisoned in her own mind, watching from the inside out, powerless.

"...I knew it was wrong, terrible, a nightmare... poor Toby, will he ever forgive me!” Mrs Hudson says.

Holmes realises that Toby is not hypnotised, as an animal he is immune, his ONLY TRUSTED COMPANION at this time.
HOLMES ARRESTED

Suddenly 221B is raided by the POLICE, led by LESTRADE, discovering Holmes in a state, Mrs Hudson tied to the chair and Toby whimpering under the stairs.

Holmes IS ARRESTED BY LESTRADE for HIDING CASE EVIDENCE over the years.

Watson, corrupted by hypnosis, is responsible for bringing the police down on Holmes, having revealed all manner of Holmes's mischievous dealings. Watson used his deep, personal history of their partnership to hit Holmes where it hurts.

Holmes says it is a misunderstanding.

*We will demonstrate Holmes hiding/stealing case evidence during one/some of our earlier standalone cases, to get ahead of the police but also due to his tormented fever mind (this occurred in canon).*

PUBLIC ARREST

As Holmes is escorted out of 221B in handcuffs and into the jail horse coach, he is HOUNDED BY REPORTERS AND PUBLIC. They have been alerted to his embarrassing predicament (surely by Watson). But the nature of the attention seems orchestrated, like someone is trying to make a point.

Even Alice, her Coachman and the Baker Street Irregulars witness Holmes's disgrace. Alice says she will attend his hearing to help, because this is clearly a mistake.

A FRIENDLY BETRAYAL

At the Old Bailey/Scotland Yard, Holmes is roughed up and humiliated by the police and especially Lestrade.

Something is amiss here. Is Holmes having another fever dream? Is Lestrade under the influence?

Holmes tries to explain that Watson is unsound of mind. Lestrade explains that Watson was the one who turned evidence against Holmes, and also ITEMS PRECIOUS TO HOLMES like his cocaine paraphernalia.

WATSON IS NOT AVAILABLE.
LESTRADE’S ANGER

Lestrade is upset by Holmes theft of case evidence over the years, which he did to get ahead of the police in many respects. This HUMILIATED AND RESTRICTED LESTRADE.

No consideration for others.

"You've directly affected me putting food on my families table and cost me a promotion because of your tampering!" Says Lestrade.

Lestrade is torn between his appreciation of Holmes’s detective skills and the fact that these skills are usually at the expense of his own reputation.

Holmes argues his case with firm, even going so far as to apologise with caveats, but Lestrade is too bitter.

OLD BAILEY / SCOTLAND YARD

Somehow, the wheels of law and justice have been warped and various evidence and witness statements, true and false, are painting a terrible picture of Holmes.

Watson accused Holmes as have other respected figures (that we have seen throughout the game).

Weak, ill and cornered, Holmes falls into a troubled deep sleep in his cell.

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ALICE IN THE CELL

Holmes is woken by the clang of his cell door opening, to be faced by Alice. They discuss the insane situation and what can be done to help.

He is the talk of the city, with newspapers selling like wildfire at the public showcase of the great detective’s arrest.

Alice is escorted away for questioning by the police, accused of being HOLMES’S ACCOMPLICE.

THE BACK DOOR

Meanwhile, during the commotion, Lestrade escorts Holmes OUT OF THE STATION via a back door. He whispers to Holmes, friendly, agreeing that this is obviously a set up.

Holmes is relieved to hear a friend like Lestrade is sympathetic to his plight.

However, Holmes is more concerned for the treatment of Watson than his reputation. He must now try to convince Lestrade that Watson’s apparent betrayal is the prelude to a far more sinister and grand crime. Holmes is not really trying to convince Lestrade of his own innocence, because much of the evidence is true – Holmes did steal, hoard and even destroy some case evidence for his own personal gains (this concept is canon).

"The true villain of this masterpiece has removed me from the case, and I am the only person who can thwart them before they deliver their master stroke." Holmes says.

Just when he thinks things are improving, Lestrade instead reveals that his sympathy is a twisted joke, as he dumps Holmes in a JAIL WAGON. Holmes is restrained and gagged before the wagon departs.

"I’ve always wanted to do this to you, you arrogant prick!" Lestrade says.

Lestrade must be hypnotised, right?
OPTIONAL

During the prior arrest/police sequence we could see Holmes in a court case scene, with evidence passed and he is sentenced. Also, as he is put in the cells and/or on the way to the asylum, Holmes could try to escape custody.

It could all be part of a feverish dream, where the people Holmes has dealt with over the core narrative and cases, such as victims, suspects, criminals and friends, are judging him harshly, as if Dante's Inferno!

ASYLUM

Holmes is taken to a REMOTE ASYLUM where he is incarcerated against his will in a STRAIGHT JACKET and PADDED CELL.

Days pass as he sweats off the drugs and fever, it seems, detoxing, going cold turkey (or is it...).

SYSTEMATIC POISONING

Holmes concludes that the various hypnotised people around him these last few weeks have been systematically POISONING HIM (against their true nature), triggering his fever dreams. His astute mind is trying to fight the poison by introducing such into the fever dreams.

Who could the core villain be and what is their cruel motive?

THOUGHTS OF TOBACCO

Holmes obsesses over the Mexican tobacco scent found on the piece of fabric torn from the Shadow Figure during the canal chase.

Alice is a smoker of exquisite cigars, including the Mexican variety, however she also tipped the coachman with a cigar.

Hmm.
**SHOCK TREATMENT**

Holmes suffers at the hands of the asylum WARDEN'S orders, who instructs orderlies to give him shock treatment, threatening to damage his acute mind!

"...the mind is a delicate wonder and fragile thing... I am invited by an... Admirer, of yours... to breach it... gently..." Says the Warden.

The sadistic Warden exhibits a tick. Is he hypnotised too?!

Back in his cell, Holmes is terrified, enfeebled and powerless it seems.

“...Watson... I need you...” Holmes whimpers.

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**CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)**

**WATSON PAYS A VISIT**

Doctor Watson pays a visit to the asylum to further twist the knife in Holmes’s heart. They bicker about stolen evidence, and stealing Alice from him. Alice is missing and her 221A apartment ransacked!

"She doesn’t deserve a cold man like you, Holmes, but a gentleman like me."

"You are not yourself John..."

"Your jealousy and ego has endangered that woman!"
Watson recommends to the asylum Warden that Holmes remains here. The Warden concurs.

**SICK WELL**

During the incarceration, Holmes appears to eat the poisoned food and take the administered drugs. The orderlies don't watch and pester him if he obeys.

Holmes speaks to the friendly patient (Clarice) in the cell opposite and gets her to cooperate by playing a game to distract the orderlies.

Holmes is able to sweat out the core villains drugs/poison then examine his mind, memories and past cases to find fresh clues the villains overarching scheme.

"...Chemistry... Alice is party to this..."

**MENTAL SOLUTIONS**

Holmes uses the isolation to refocus his mind by solving puzzle iterations to do with the HYPNOSIS CODEWORD PHRASES.

He succeeds in learning the OFF PHRASE for Watson.

**HOLMES ESCAPES**

Holmes escapes the asylum using bribery, disguises, manipulation, puzzle solving and sneaking.

**EVIL WATSON (CREepy)**

During the escape Holmes finds Watson in a morgue, caught in a deranged hypnotic loop.

He draws a gun and SHOOTS HOLMES IN THE LEG. Holmes hits the ground, wounded and horrified at his Boswells betrayal, only for Watson to stand over him ready to deliver a killing shot.
Holmes looks finished, but uses WATSON’S OFF PHRASE (with a flickering light) to dazzle and break him out of a terribly deep and twisted hypnosis. Just in the nick of time.

Watson comes to his senses with the gun pointed at his wounded friend, bleeding out.

"Oh, Holmes... please forgive me!"

Watson (playable surgical puzzle) uses the asylum medical facilities to surgically remove the bullet from his friend.

**HOLMES AND WATSON PIECE IT TOGETHER**

Watson appears to be sound of mind.

Once out of the asylum, Holmes and Watson prepare for absolute justice against this nameless master villain.

They piece together the clues from the standalone cases to solve a series of (previously unseen) messages from the core villain.

"...you are invited to a special occasion at LOCH BRIOCH in the SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS..."

**THE TICKS**

*Each hypnotised person exhibits an odd TICK/QUIRK, like an OCD, subtle/unrecognisable to most people, but open to interpretation by Holmes. He must solve each persons tick, combined with the diary page codes, to then solve the HYPNOTIC CONTROL PHRASES.*

*Over the core narrative arc Holmes can piece together the phrases to SWITCH PEOPLE OFF and ON.*

**JOURNEY TO SCOTLAND**

Watson and Holmes take a TRAIN and COACH JOURNEY to get to the highlands of Scotland.

Watson investigates a commotion on the train.

Holmes visualises the clues to piece together the core narrative. This time he has more control over the preceding fever dream:
CASE 6 – “FEVER DREAM” (PLAYABLE)

COLLEGE TRIP

To Holmes as a young man (20-30yrs) during his Cambridge days. He rarely had friends, merely acquaintances, and very few who could challenge his intellect (canon suggests many of his adventures happened when he was young).

We are aboard the "MADAME DESTINY" PADDLE STEAMER on the river Clyde, during an apparently innocent COLLEGE BOAT TRIP.

Holmes explores the steamer and meets/speaks with fellow Students, Teachers, the Headmaster and the Ship’s Captain, scrutinising them.

He deduces various interesting factors about each person, but especially that a FEW SPECIFIC STUDENTS and the HEADMASTER express a FEAR OF WATER.

A CALLOUS MIND

Holmes meets a WELL-TRAVELLED FOREIGN STUDENT, a brilliant but callous young fellow, OTTO HEINZINGER (a fake name perhaps).

Holmes recognises Heinzinger as the same HORSE COACHMAN that accompanied Alice on several occasions outside Baker Street.

Is Heinzinger an accomplice, or vice versa, or perhaps manipulating Alice?

Holmes clicks to various moments throughout the game where Heinzinger was subtly present, a master of disguise.

They intellectually spar, intrigued by the others peculiar notions. However, Holmes finds Heinzinger’s study of hypnotically implanting suggestions rather sinister and corrupting.

"...such power would make you quite the dangerous fellow, Otto..."

Heinzinger says his methods blossomed from the desire to non-violeently deal with social issues, racial bigotry and hatred towards him throughout his life.
"...chemistry, lateral thinking and hypnosis were the key to such corrective ways. But that was just the tip of the iceberg. With my... talents, I realised I could accomplish so much more..."

Heinzinger reveals he is years ahead of the research community and has several people "Under his spell", a sort of real-time laboratory. His human subjects include the school Headmaster, the Matron and several students!

Heinzinger suggests he could make one of them jump over board as a demonstration. They are his puppets.

Holmes is as deeply intrigued by Otto's icy craft as he is concerned by Otto's arrogance. Can Heinzinger really manipulate innocent people’s minds and influence them?

At this stage Heinzinger’s techniques are in their infancy.

**HYPNOTISING HOLMES**

Heinzinger offers to hypnotise Holmes who declines, wanting to stay in control of his own faculties. Regardless, Heinzinger says that he had actually been subtly attempting to hypnotise Holmes throughout their current conversation anyway, BUT FAILED.

Heinzinger became fascinated by Holmes’s unique mind because of this apparent immunity to his poweeful hypnosis. A very rare sign.

Holmes takes offence to this and they scuffle on the deck. He vows to see Heinzinger arrested and his reputation destroyed for his lack of ethics. Heinzinger calls Holmes a hypocrite, whose potential is trapped in his wonderfully abnormal brain.

**THE HEADMASTER**

Screams aboard the boat interrupt the scuffle.

Holmes reaches the commotion to see the HEADMASTER jump overboard into the raging river, to great alarm.

Holmes glimpses Heinzinger’s cunning smile.

Only Holmes realises that the Headmaster FEARS WATER and CANNOT NOT SWIM, so dives in to rescue him.

Was he rescued? Did the Headmaster die? Where did Heinzinger go?
BREAKING THE FEVER

Suddenly the fever dreams played throughout the game make sense. Everything has led to this moment, the revelation of OTTO HEINZINGER as the CORE VILLAIN of the present day and why.

CORE NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

SKETCHING OTTO

Holmes wakes (still on the train) from his enlightening fever dream and puts the final touches to his pencil sketch of the villain – Otto Heinzinger!

He then notices WATSON HAS VANISHED from the train cabin and BLOOD STAINS and WATSON’S HANKERCHIEF suggest a STRUGGLE. Exploring the train reveals it is eerily empty.

"...am I still in the dream... hypnotised..." Says Holmes.

MENTAL BLOCK

Until now Holmes had been unable to see the truth of Heinzinger’s culpability because of a POWERFUL HYPNOTIC DRUG INDUCED MENTAL BLOCK, put there recently BY HEINZINGER.

Heinzinger had somehow spiked Holmes’s drinks, cocaine supply and other things near the beginning of the game, as early as the pleasant cup of tea and chatter with ALICE DE’BOUVIER the day she moved in.

"Alice!?"

Holmes is disheartened by the very real chance that Alice is responsible for poisoning him.

“But why?!”

He is jarred by the flurry of realisations and betrayals.
SCOTLAND - LOCH BRIOCH

AT NIGHT by horse coach Holmes reaches a small Scottish CASTLE TOWER on the west shore of the LOCH.

Out across the water Holmes sees none other than the decommissioned, “MADAME DESTINY”, the paddle steamer from his Cambridge days.

Holmes uses a ROW BOAT (solves puzzles to get the oars and maybe patch a hole) to row out and board the eerie remains of the Madame Destiny.

Onboard he finds WATSON tied to the LEFT PADDLE WHEEL and ALICE tied to the RIGHT WHEEL.

“We are alike, you and I, Mister Holmes.” Says OTTO HEINZINGER as he reveals himself.

“Alike, yes, but the subtle differences are enough to shine a light on my graces and your diabolical nature.” Says Holmes.

“Again you are mistaken Sherlock. I embrace love and social skills as if... an art. You dont even see their true strokes.”

BLOCKED FROM VIEW

MAJOR HYPNOTISED CHARACTERS that have been featured throughout the core narrative and standalone cases have a form of mental blindness to the Heinzingers presence.

Other un-hypnotised folk may describe a MYSTERIOUS INDIVIDUAL but have little detail.

Only Holmes has been able to GLIMPSE THIS FIGURE throughout the story (but only in his fever dream recollections), like an hallucination, a figment of his imagination that others fail to see.

MOCKING HOLMES

Holmes claims that a bruised ego is Heinzinger’s motive for the terrible CHEMICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL and HYPNOTIC abuse that has damaged so many lives!
Heinzinger says Holmes’s mockery of his "art of hypnosis" at Cambridge was misplaced. He was merely using humans to test the development of work, including the wonderful Alice De’Bouvier.

**FINDING ALICE AND FAWCETT**

Heinzinger met Alice in South-America. The talented woman was a gift to his studies. She had been conversing with "...that foolish explorer, Percy Harrison Fawcett...", when Heinzinger intervened.

"...It was I who sent Fawcett off into the jungle never to return. With him out of the way, I could appreciate Alice's company and unique talents in chemistry..."

**DEDUCING THE MASTERPIECE**

Holmes explains Heinzinger’s master plan, with Heinzinger filling in the blanks, impressed:

- It is personal. Heinzinger is fascinated by Holmes.
- It is a twisted experiment to break down Holmes’s exceptional mental defences with CHEMISTRY, PSYCHOLOGY and HYPNOSIS.
- Various suspects, criminals and witnesses glimpsed throughout the game were actually Heinzinger in disguise, observing and playing his hypnotic tricks to test his methods.
- People hypnotised over the game include Watson, Mrs Hudson, Lestrade, Alice, and he even tried it on Toby and Miss Caitlin Moriarty (the daughter).
- It was never personal or to cause harm or vengeance. Such instincts and desires are below Heinzinger. His motive was purely the pursuit of science, manipulation, control and the forced evolution of the brain. Curiosity and knowledge. Human subjects are by far the most interesting, and especially one as remarkable as Sherlock Holmes.
- Heinzinger made use of Alice’s chemistry, especially a unique substance native to the depths of the South American jungle. Alice discovered this with Percy Harrison Fawcett.
• Alice’s advanced chemistry and early neuroscience provided Heinzinger with the necessary intoxicating ingredients to poison subjects and achieve greater hypnosis.

• It appears Alice is merely another pawn in this game, powerless to see her incredible research being manipulated for such horrendous purposes.

• Other motive revelations...

GETTING PHYSICAL

Heinzinger is impressed with Holmes’ deductions, but states: “…It was nothing personal.”

"It is always personal. Very personal.” Holmes replies.

HEINZINGER ACTIVATES THE STEAMER ENGINE! The paddle wheels begin to slowly rotate with Watson and Alice tied to each! Their lives are in the balance.

Heinzinger jams the controls so that the wheels cannot be stopped. The old steamer is rumbling intensely, crumbling and THREATENING TO SINK.

CHOICES

Holmes is caught in a race against time and a complex dilemma:

• HELP BOTH WATSON AND ALICE but ALLOW HEINZINGER TO ESCAPE:
  o Therefore HEINZINGER ESCAPES JUSTICE (uses the rowing boat).
  o But HOLMES GAINS MORE TIME TO TRY TO SAVE WATSON and/or ALICE.

Or

• FOCUS SERVING JUSTICE ON HEINZINGER:
  o EXECUTE HEINZINGER.
  o ARREST him (cuff him to the boats anchor chain).
    ▪ If Holmes ARRESTS or EXECUTES Heinzinger then Holmes has WASTED PRECIOUS TIME that could have been spent saving Watson and Alice.
DILEMMA - SAVING WATSON AND ALICE

Either way, Holmes then turns his attention to Watson and Alice tied to the wheels as they turn to drown them. The ancient ship is breaking up.

They are distressed and screaming, trapped in the complex puzzle, which takes into account the TIME LEFT FROM HOW HOLMES DEALT WITH HEINZINGER.

CHOICE - LADY AND GENTLEMAN

"...save Alice before it's too late!" Says Watson.

"...I deserve to suffer this fate..." Says Alice. "My life’s work is being abused by that creature!"

Holmes must decide which order/how to tackle the intense puzzles to stop the wheels turning:

- RESCUE WATSON FIRST

Or

- RESCUE ALICE FIRST

Or

- TRY TO WORK ON BOTH simultaneously.

It’s a race against time as the turning wheels threaten to drown them!

OUTCOME - ALLOWED HEINZINGER TO ESCAPE

Although Heinzinger has been allowed to escape, Holmes HAS MORE TIME to try to save Alice and Watson.

- If Holmes chooses to RESCUE WATSON first and solves the associated puzzle, WATSON IS RESCUED but Watson is angry that Holmes chose him over Alice.
- If Holmes chooses to RESCUE ALICE first and solves the associated puzzle, Alice is thankful but distraught at poor Watson’s plight.
• However if Holmes (the player of course) is quick and astute enough to SOLVE BOTH WHEEL PUZZLES in time then he can RESCUE WATSON AND ALICE in the nick of time.
• The price of these rescue attempts is that HEINZINGER HAS ESCAPED JUSTICE in the ROWING BOAT.
• If Holmes RUNS OUT OF TIME then ALICE AND/OR WATSON WILL DROWN.

OUTCOME - EITHER WAY

As the once glorious PADDLE STEAMER SINKS, Holmes and the RESCUED HOSTAGE/S (Watson and/or Alice, depending on the choices) swim ashore.

If Holmes ARRESTED HEINZINGER (cuffed him) then Heinzinger goes down with the boat or has picked the cuffs and escaped using a rowing boat.

If Heinzinger was allowed to escape then he escaped in a rowing boat already.

OUTCOME - RESCUED ALICE but NOT WATSON

If Holmes succeeded in RESCUING ALICE but NOT WATSON, then after the steamer sinks and HOLMES AND ALICE ARE SAFE ON THE WEST SHORE (opposite the castle), they gaze at the murky water of Watson's demise.

"JOHN!" Alice shouts.

"WATSON!" Holmes calls out.

There is no sign of him.

Holmes is too distraught, unfathomable emotions surfacing, lips quivering, eyes flitting as he mutters “…Watson... my dearest Watson... I have failed you.”

OUTCOME - RESCUED WATSON but NOT ALICE (or failed to save both)

If Holmes FAILED TO SAVE BOTH, then Watson drifts onto the shore, UNCONSCIOUS BUT ALIVE.
If Holmes RESCUED WATSON, BUT NOT ALICE, then after the steamer has sunk HOLMES AND WATSON EMERGE ON THE EAST SHORE and gaze out at the murky water of Alice’s demise. They call out her name “ALICE!”

It’s too dark to see clearly and Alice does not reply or appear, lost amidst the confusion.

Angry Watson scuffles with Holmes for not saving her. More through emotion than hate.

"Alice... I’m sorry... I have failed you..." Says Holmes, too distraught, unfathomable emotions surfacing.

ALICE IS LOST in the watery depths of the loch, PRESUMED DEAD.

Heinzinger either DIED or was allowed to ESCAPE.

**CORE NARRATIVE (AFTERMATH)**

**DAWN**

The SCOTTISH POLICE are now present and searching the shore, AMIDST DEBRIS OF THE STEAMER.

Holmes and Watson are at the loch castle/road, wrapped in warmer clothing against the cold, where Alice may also be present (IF RESCUED). Each has an opinion on the outcome and the effect on their lives, friendships and professional relationships.

Holmes and Watson (and Alice if alive) examine the aftermath of the scene, walking amidst the smashed boat debris looking for Heinzinger (and/or Alice).

IF HEINZINGER WAS EXECUTED aboard the boat then HIS DEAD BODY IS FOUND washed up.

IF ALICE WAS NOT SAVED then the Police report that HER BODY HAS NOT BEEN FOUND.

**RESULT - IF HEINZINGER SURVIVED**

IF HEINZINGER WAS ARRESTED BY HOLMES then HEINZINGER IS FOUND ALIVE and is still cuffed. A bittersweet ending that Heinzinger should survive but Alice could/did die. The police arrest/secure Heinzinger.
RESULT - IF HEINZINGER AND ALICE SURVIVED

Heinzinger rants that Holmes has not thwarted his plans, it’s all an experiment, a learning exercise. No jail can hold him. These words trigger Alice to snatch a Police Constables revolver and SHOOT HEINZINGER DEAD.

Alice weeps at what she has done but says Heinzinger deserved it for the atrocities he committed, manipulating her and others like puppets.

RESULT - IF HEINZINGER LIVED BUT ALICE DIED

If Alice died then Heinzinger rants at Holmes and grumbles at the death of Alice.

"I really thought you of all people would have saved her. But that cold and calculating mind was not up to the challenge!"

Watson (or perhaps an actually emotional Holmes) throttles Heinzinger, but the police pull them apart and arrest Heinzinger.

Holmes promises Heinzinger that he will rot for the rest of his life in the worst prison imaginable.

Heinzinger seems... happy.

RESULT - IF ALICE AND HEINZINGER DIED / ESCAPED

Then it is a variant of the outcomes and mystery.

CORE NARRATIVE (CONCLUSIONS)

SOMBRE FRIENDS

Back at 221B, Holmes and Watson’s relationship has been affected by the Heinzinger/Alice affair. They sombrely discuss the situation and tie up loose ends of dialogue, although we can play on the emotional aspects.

The STRAND NEWSPAPER sold by Wiggin’s states whatever the core narrative outcome is - executed, arrested, died, lost or escaped etc. It is front page news, perhaps presented with
an appropriate headline, “FAILURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES” etc, "HOLMES TACKLES ARCH NEMESIS FROM COLLEGE DAYS”.

CONCLUSION - IF ALICE DIED

If ALICE DIED then Holmes, Watson and Mrs Hudson (with Toby present with a splinted leg) discuss Alice's effect on their lives.

Ironically the only one who can claim to be of sound mind and judgement during the core narrative and Heinzinger’s menace, is Holmes, which makes some of his icy decisions all the more gruelling for Watson to accept.

Watson goes for a walk to contemplate the friendship, displaying a tick/quick/twitch, suggesting he may still be hypnotised.

Meanwhile, the brooding Holmes tries to disguise the effect of the core narrative and Alice's death on him. He turns on his grammar phone (or imagines Alice's) and the SAME GLORIOUS TUNE that he and Alice had unknowingly invisibly danced to at the start.

This story is not about Holmes falling in love with another, but about falling in love with a personality, attraction, dynamic qualities. Also discovering the thrill of another person fulfilling/igniting an aspect of his personality that he never realised existed or had long since been subdued or tried to bury in his mind (since childhood, Irene, psychology etc). Either way, that strange toiling feeling is made all the more poignant by such feelings/notions being ripped away from Holmes.

Holmes DANCES WITH AN INVISIBLE PARTNER, a tear in his eye.

FADE OUT. THE END.

CONCLUSION - IF ALICE SURVIVED:

Watson mentions that Alice is due to leave for America any moment now and that Holmes should come and wave her off. But Holmes declines.

Watson, rather perturbed, heads outside to help PACK ALICE’S luggage onto the coach.

Holmes, too emotionally confused by unfolding events, observes from the 221B window.

Alice gives Watson a hug and kiss, shares a word about Holmes and waves goodbye. She boards the coach and is ferried away, never to be seen again.
Perhaps she glances back up at Holmes in the window, knowing he is observing, because that is simply his way.

Holmes tries to disguise the core narrative's effect on him. He considers using the grammar phone (but it reminds him bitterly of what has just departed) so instead finds his violin, on which he plays a HEART RENDING TUNE, a traditional cleanser.

So although there is no devotion of love, there is a sign of affection at least. Did Alice ever actually love Holmes or just the concept of Holmes and vice versa? Was it the raw attraction of intellect, uniqueness and mystery to be discovered? Was it largely an illusion?

Also, outside we see Watson display a tick/quirk/twitch as he is waving goodbye to Alice on the coach, suggesting he may still be hypnotised.

FADE OUT. THE END.

**POST CREDITS – EPILOGUE**

**ONE LAST DREAM**

A pleasant, peaceful dream of Holmes wandering the Madame Destiny on the Clyde. He notices an apparition of his YOUNGER SELF (from the Cambridge days) speaking with YOUNG HEINFZINGER during their first meeting all those years ago.

But then Holmes looks up to see YOUNG ALICE looking down at them from the veranda above, observing.

“Alice? But... you weren’t aboard the Madame Destiny back then... were you?”

She gives Holmes a knowing smile and wave, her diabolical experiment afoot. Is she the true master villain?

Holmes has a flash of DEDUCTION stitching multiple threads together:

- The foreign remedy tea served by Alice on that first day.
- Her Mexican cigars.
- The holes in Alice’s wall spying on Holmes.
• Her scientific equipment.
• Her use of sound (music) and chemistry.
• The cocaine having an unfamiliar effect on Holmes and that she was aware of his use.
• Various people’s strange ticks/quirks.
• When confronted with racial prejudice in the street Alice subtly hypnotised the two bigots, hence the rapid correction of their behaviour.
• Seemingly innocuous and innocent comments made by Alice.
• Could Alice really have been controlling the entire scheme from plain sight?
• Otto Heinzinger was merely her accomplice, right hand, apprentice or even patsy?
• Is it a coincidence that Alice’s acquaintance, the legendary Percy Harrison Fawcett, vanished during an expedition into the South American jungle in pursuit of the City of Z and that she survived?
• Has Holmes still not fully recovered from the effect of the fever dreams yet?

Holmes snaps awake, aghast.

"Dear god... no... a nightmare... surely... have I been so blind..."

**THE END**