

Scenes That Didn't Make It -- #1

Later that day, on a summons from Holmes, I arrived at the Diogenes Club and was shown to a walnut reading room. Holmes was sitting there in reverie, musing over a length of board. I recalled reading of a dark Spaniard, something of a dashing ladies man, who had been found murdered the previous day in the study of his country house. A broken support board from the wall of the study, which was under extensive repair, was found amongst the containers of brown paint and assumed to be the murder weapon. I had no doubt that Holmes was ruminating over this very item.

Unwilling to interrupt his thoughts, I fell into a leather chair opposite Holmes and began reading a book of poetry I discovered on a small adjoining table.

"Watson!" exclaimed Holmes suddenly. "Do you realize what's happening? I'm in a brown study in a brown study of a brown stud of a brown study of a brown stud!"

But I scarcely heard him. I was deep in thought, studying Browning.

JW,

I have cut this scene from your manuscript. Everyone knows that no one can talk in the Diogenes Club. Good Lord, man, sometimes I think you're making all of this up.

Best,

ACD