



EXCERPTED FROM THE NOTEBOOKS OF DR. JOHN WATSON



...JUST AFTER BREAKFAST HAD CONQUERED THE CHILL OF A NASTY NOVEMBER MORNING, HOLMES RECEIVED AN INTRIGUING MESSAGE FROM INSPECTOR LESTRADE. DURING THE NIGHT, A MURDER HAD BEEN COMMITTED OUTSIDE THE REGENCY THEATRE, A FEW SHORT BLOCKS FROM OUR BAKER STREET ROOMS. THE INSPECTOR BEGGED TO TAKE THE BENEFIT OF HOLMES' ADVICE, AND MY FRIEND WISHED TO OBLIGE HIM.

ARRIVING AT THE SCENE OF THE OUTRAGE, A DISMAL AND DANK ALLEY BEHIND THE THEATRE, WE WERE POORLY PREPARED FOR WHAT ASSAULTED OUR EYES. A YOUNG WOMAN HAD BEEN STABBED AND SHOCKINGLY MUTILATED. I NEARLY LOST MY BREATH; MY BLOOD RAN FRIGID. TO THIS AMATEUR EYE, THE CRIME BORE A REVOLTING SIMILARITY TO THE SO-CALLED "RIPPER MURDERS", WHICH HAVE TERRORIZED WHITECHAPEL AND MYSTIFIED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE. MY FRIEND, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT SPECULATE. AS ALWAYS, HE EXAMINES EVERYTHING AND ONLY THEN FORMULATES HIS CONCLUSION. LONG EXPERIENCE PERMITTED ME TO READ HIS IMPASSIVE FACE. HE WAS DETERMINED TO BRING THE KILLER TO JUSTICE.

