

NICHOLAS MEYER'S

THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION

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DAVID & SCOTT TIPTON • RON JOSEPH

#3 • \$3.99



THE ASTOUNDING JOINT ADVENTURE OF
SHERLOCK HOLMES AND SIGMUND FREUD

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THE ASTOUNDING JOINT ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND SIGMUND FREUD

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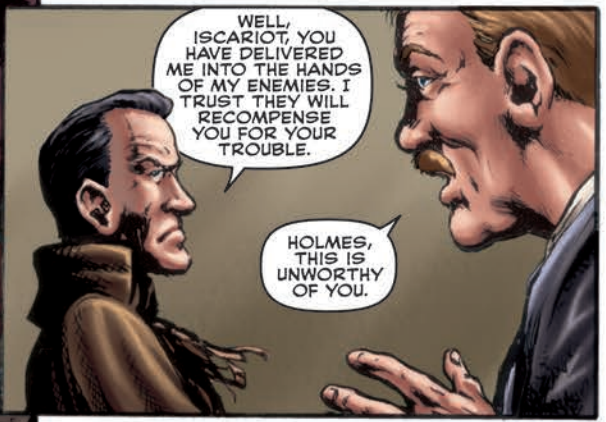
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YOU ARE NOT PROFESSOR MORIARTY. BUT MORIARTY WAS HERE. WHERE IS HE NOW?



AT A HOTEL, I BELIEVE.



WELL, ISCARIOT, YOU HAVE DELIVERED ME INTO THE HANDS OF MY ENEMIES. I TRUST THEY WILL RECOMPENSE YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE.

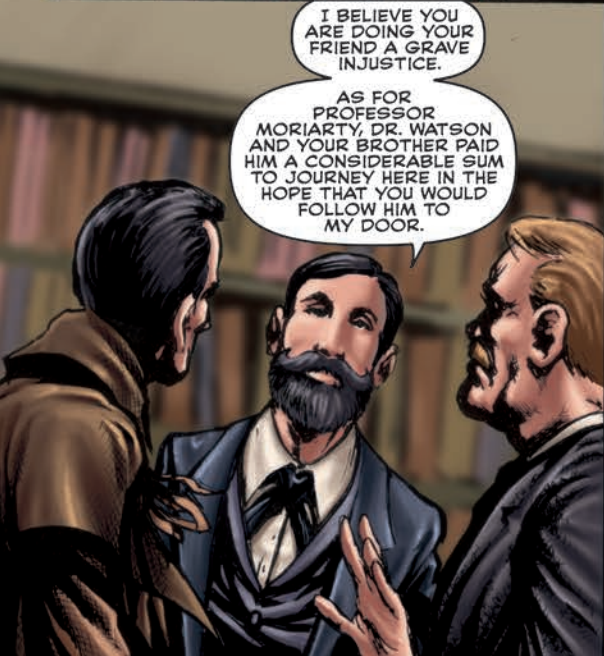
HOLMES, THIS IS UNWORTHY OF YOU.



IS IT? I RECOGNIZED YOUR FOOTPRINTS OUTSIDE THE PROFESSOR'S HOUSE.

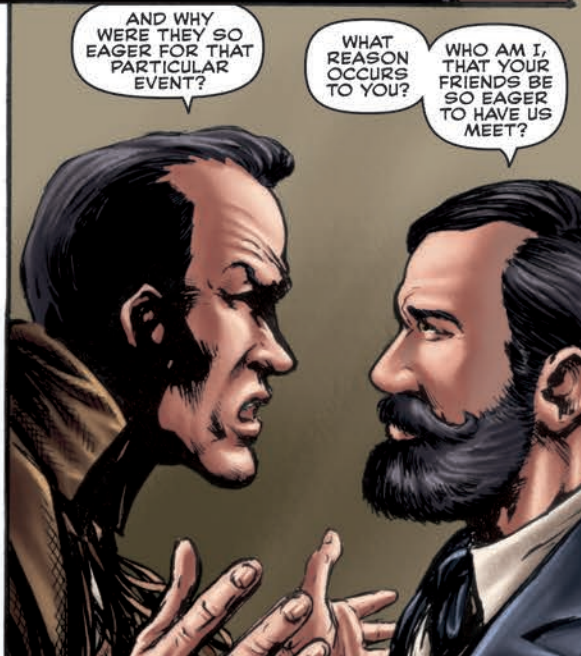
I COULD SEE FOR MYSELF THAT YOU PREPARED FOR A JOURNEY PRECISELY AS LONG AS THE ONE WE UNDERTOOK.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH ME NOW THAT I AM IN YOUR POWER?



I BELIEVE YOU ARE DOING YOUR FRIEND A GRAVE INJUSTICE.


AS FOR PROFESSOR MORIARTY, DR. WATSON AND YOUR BROTHER PAID HIM A CONSIDERABLE SUM TO JOURNEY HERE IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WOULD FOLLOW HIM TO MY DOOR.



AND WHY WERE THEY SO EAGER FOR THAT PARTICULAR EVENT?

WHAT REASON OCCURS TO YOU?

WHO AM I, THAT YOUR FRIENDS BE SO EAGER TO HAVE US MEET?



BEYOND THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A BRILLIANT JEWISH PHYSICIAN WHO WAS BORN IN HUNGARY AND STUDIED FOR A TIME IN PARIS, AND THAT SOME THEORIES OF YOURS ALIENATED THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY SO THAT YOU HAVE SEVERED YOUR CONNECTIONS WITH VARIOUS HOSPITALS, I CAN DEDUCE LITTLE.


YOU ARE MARRIED, POSSESS A SENSE OF HONOR, AND ENJOY READING SHAKESPEARE.




BUT THIS IS WONDERFUL!

COMMONPLACE. I AM STILL AWAITING AN EXPLANATION.

DR. WATSON MAY TELL YOU THAT IT IS DANGEROUS FOR ME TO LEAVE LONDON.




IT GENERATES IN THE CRIMINAL CLASSES AN UNHEALTHY EXCITEMENT WHEN MY ABSENCE IS DISCOVERED.




STILL, I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU GUESSED THE DETAILS OF MY LIFE WITH SUCH UNCANNY ACCURACY.

I NEVER GUESS. IT IS AN APPALLING HABIT, DESTRUCTIVE TO THE LOGICAL FACULTY.




A PRIVATE STUDY IS AN IDEAL PLACE FOR OBSERVING FACETS OF A MAN'S CHARACTER. THAT THE STUDY BELONGS TO YOU, EXCLUSIVELY, IS EVIDENT FROM THE DUST.

NOT EVEN THE MAID IS PERMITTED IN HERE.




YOUR EDITIONS OF THE KORAN, THE KING JAMES BIBLE, AND THE BOOK OF MORMON ARE ACROSS THE ROOM FROM YOUR COPY OF THE TALMUD AND HEBREW BIBLE. THESE, THEREFORE, CONSTITUTE SOME SPECIAL IMPORTANCE.

AND WHAT COULD THAT BE, SAVE THAT YOU ARE YOURSELF OF THE JEWISH FAITH? IS THAT NOT A MENORAH ON YOUR DESK?



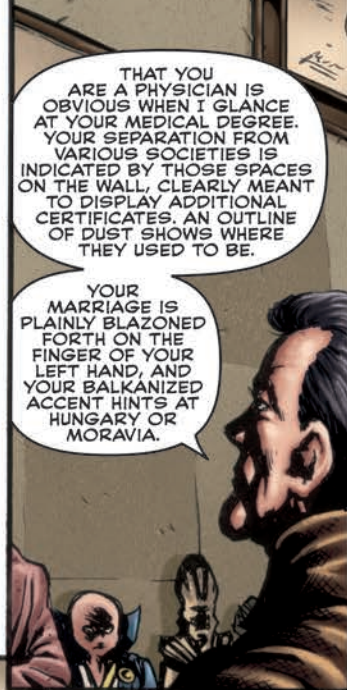
YOUR STUDIES IN FRANCE ARE TO BE INFERRED FROM THE MANY MEDICAL WORKS YOU POSSESS IN FRENCH.

ONLY A BRILLIANT MIND CAN PENETRATE THE MYSTERIES OF MEDICINE IN A FOREIGN TONGUE.



THAT YOU ENJOY SHAKESPEARE IS TO BE DEDUCED FROM THE FACT THAT THE BOOK HAS BEEN REPLACED UPSIDE-DOWN.

THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE NOT ADJUSTED THE VOLUME SUGGESTS YOU INTEND CONSULTING IT AGAIN PRESENTLY.



THAT YOU ARE A PHYSICIAN IS OBVIOUS WHEN I GLANCE AT YOUR MEDICAL DEGREE. YOUR SEPARATION FROM VARIOUS SOCIETIES IS INDICATED BY THOSE SPACES ON THE WALL, CLEARLY MEANT TO DISPLAY ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES. AN OUTLINE OF DUST SHOWS WHERE THEY USED TO BE.

YOUR MARRIAGE IS PLAINLY BLAZONED FORTH ON THE FINGER OF YOUR LEFT HAND, AND YOUR BALKANIZED ACCENT HINTS AT HUNGARY OR MORAVIA.



YOU SAID I POSSESSED A SENSE OF HONOR.

I INFER IT FROM THE FACT THAT YOU TROUBLED TO REMOVE THE PLAQUES OF THOSE SOCIETIES TO WHICH YOU NO LONGER BELONG.



I ASKED YOU BEFORE WHY YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD BEEN TRICKED INTO COMING HERE.

I HAVE NO IDEA.

IF YOU ARE IN TROUBLE, SAY SO, AND I WILL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU, THOUGH WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE ABOUT SECURING MY SERVICES IN THIS FASHION--

THEN IT IS YOU WHO ARE NOT BEING LOGICAL.

AS YOU POINT OUT, THE METHOD USED TO LURE YOU HERE WAS UNORTHODOX. CLEARLY WE DID NOT THINK YOU WOULD COME OF YOUR OWN ACCORD.

DOES THIS SUGGEST NOTHING TO YOU?

THAT I WOULD NOT WISH TO COME.

I AM IN NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY-- OTHER THAN THE PROFESSIONAL ONE TO WHICH YOU HAVE ALLUDED.

PRECISELY; AND WHY? I MIGHT BE YOUR ENEMY, PROFESSOR MORIARTY MIGHT BE, AS WELL, EVEN--EXCUSE ME--DR. WATSON.

BUT YOUR BROTHER? IS IT LIKELY WE ARE ALL IN LEAGUE AGAINST YOU? WHY? IF NOT TO DO YOU HARM, THEN PERHAPS TO DO YOU GOOD?

WHAT GOOD MIGHT THAT BE?



YOU ARE NOT BEING CANDID, HERR HOLMES. FOR YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM AN ABOMINABLE ADDICTION, AND YOU CHOOSE TO WRONG YOUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE COMBINED TO HELP YOU THROW OFF ITS YOKE RATHER THAN ADMIT YOUR CONDITION.

YOU DISAPPOINT ME. IS THIS THE HOLMES I HAVE READ ABOUT?

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ARE SO SUBJUGATED BY THIS DRUG THAT YOU DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR DIFFICULTY AS WELL AS YOUR OWN HYPOCRISY IN CONDEMNING THE FRIENDS WHO, SOLELY OUT OF CONCERN FOR YOUR WELL-BEING, HAVE INTERVENED ON YOUR ACCOUNT.



I HELD MY BREATH. I HAD NEVER HEARD ANYONE ADDRESS HOLMES IN SUCH FASHION. I FEARED SOME OUTBREAK OF FURY ON THE PART OF MY UNFORTUNATE FRIEND.





YOU?

I HAVE TAKEN COCAINE AND AM FREE OF ITS POWER. IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME, I WILL HELP YOU TO FREE YOURSELF AS WELL.

HOW?



IT WILL TAKE TIME. AND IT WILL NOT BE PLEASANT. FOR THE DURATION, I HAVE ARRANGED THAT YOU BOTH SHALL REMAIN HERE AS MY GUESTS. WILL THAT--

IT'S NO USE! EVEN NOW I AM OVERCOME BY THIS HIDEOUS COMPULSION!

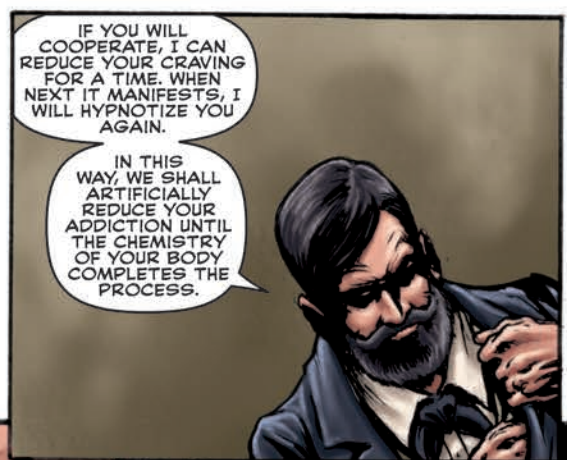


I CAN STOP THIS COMPULSION FOR A TIME. SIT, PLEASE.



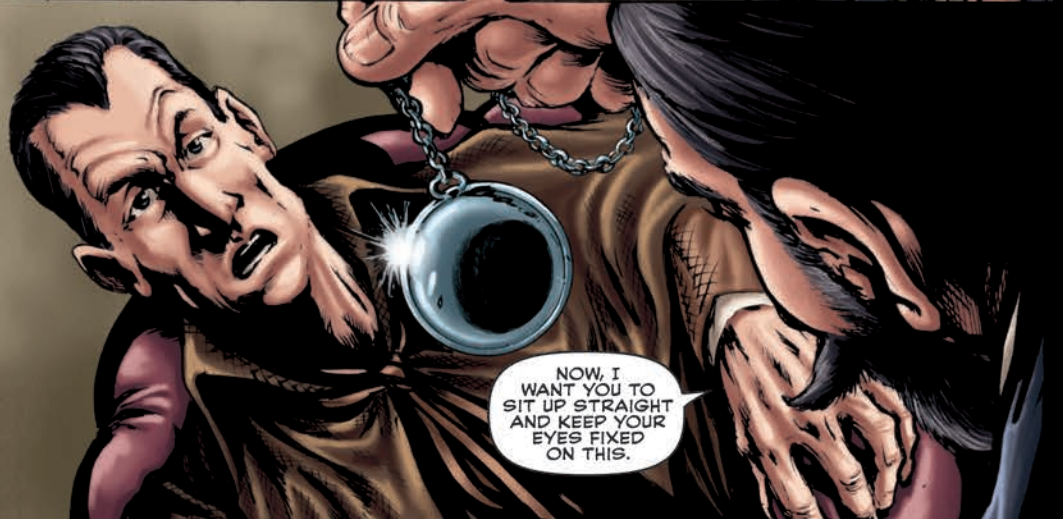
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF THE PRACTICE OF HYPNOTISM?

DO YOU PROPOSE TO MAKE ME BARK LIKE A DOG AND CRAWL ABOUT ON ALL FOURS?



IF YOU WILL COOPERATE, I CAN REDUCE YOUR CRAVING FOR A TIME. WHEN NEXT IT MANIFESTS, I WILL HYPNOTIZE YOU AGAIN.

IN THIS WAY, WE SHALL ARTIFICIALLY REDUCE YOUR ADDICTION UNTIL THE CHEMISTRY OF YOUR BODY COMPLETES THE PROCESS.



NOW, I WANT YOU TO SIT UP STRAIGHT AND KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON THIS.