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1. I was talking about this magazine, \_ K \_ o \_ s \_ h \_ e \_ r \_ G \_ o \_ u \_ r \_ m \_ e \_ t. I am not

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sure what the cover dish is, but it looks to be oversize chunks of meat with soggy carrots and beans swimming in a sort of gravy that has an eighth of an inch of fat floating at the top. And this is the dish on the cover. This is the one that is supposed to sell the magazine! They go downhill from there.

Now I open up the magazine and what do I find? There is, in an advertisement, a recipe for Yom Tov ("Good Day") Gefilte Fish Pie. Now I don't know how many of you out there are familiar with gefilte fish. I know the lucky ones aren't. Gefilte fish are balls or cakes of ground fish in a sort of half-jelled sauce. Originally it was not developed to eat, I believe. Kosher farmers would bury cakes of gefilte fish around the boundary of their farmyard. That way they would not have to chase away the neighbor's pigs. There are some smells too disgusting even for a pig. Then one year during a famine, a farmer dug up and ate a gefilte fish ball and declared it good. It became part of standard kosher cuisine. Years later the farmer was credited with a second discovery for the same incident when it became known that what he'd actually discovered was a truffle.

Anyway, this ad starts out, "Everyone knows that <brand name> Gefilte Fish is great right out of the jar." (I prefer it to be right out of the city I'm in.) And then they go on to tell you that their gift to you is this recipe for Gefilte Fish Pie. Now take it from me, if you find the concept of a fish pie to be revolting, it is orders of magnitude worse as a gefilte fish pie. In no other human cuisine in the world could there be anything else like Gefilte Fish Pie. In kosher cooking it might actually be one of the better dishes. Jews believe in suffering and they think of Gefilte Fish Pie as the edible equivalent of a hair shirt.

2. A correction: Last week in my review of \_ A \_ W \_ o \_ r \_ l \_ d \_ L \_ o \_ s \_ t I claimed a

planet with 10 times the radius of Earth would have 100 times the gravity, thinking it has 1000 times the mass, but you're 10 times as far from the center of gravity. As a couple of people have pointed out, I forgot the inverse square law, so the gravity is only ten times Earth's. Rusty \_ s \_ t \_ i \_ l \_ I couldn't walk around normally, but he probably wouldn't be a smudge on the ground either. (Maybe I should claim it was just a test to see who's reading closely. Yeah, that's it! It was a test!) [-ecl]

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Freedom is an indivisible word. If we want to enjoy it, and fight for it, we must be prepared to extend it to everyone, whether they are rich or poor, whether they agree with us or not, no matter what their race or the color of their skin.

-- Wendell L. Willkie

THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES edited by Sebastian Wolfe  
Citadel Press, 1991 (1989c), ISBN 0-8065-1235-0, \$10.95.  
A book review by Evelyn C. Leeper  
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Frequently "new" collections of Sherlock Holmes stories consist primarily of stories which have previously been collected elsewhere. So when I saw this collection of lesser-known stories, including one appearing here for the first time, I was immediately interested. Alas, I forgot there is often a reason why some stories are rarely reprinted: they're not very good.

Wolfe claims to have tried to balance burlesques, parodies, and pastiches, but seems to have overloaded the book with too many of the first two. (A burlesque is "a literary or dramatic work that seeks to ridicule by means of grotesque exaggeration or comic imitation." A parody is a "literary or musical work in which the style of the author or work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule." A pastiche is "a literary, artistic, or musical work

that imitates the style of previous work.") Maybe I just prefer more serious stories, but I found most of the take-offs--be they burlesques or parodies--annoying. This included Maurice Baring's "From the Diary of Sherlock Holmes," John Dickson Carr's "The Adventure of the Paradol Chamber" and "The Adventure of the Cork-Singleton Papers," Robert L. Fish's "The Adventure of the Dog in the Knight," and Stephen Leacock's "The Great Detective." Of this batch, only P. G. Wodehouse's "From a Detective's Notebook" was at all entertaining. My major objection to all of these is that they make Holmes even more of a buffoon than Nigel Bruce made Watson. Even John Lennon's outrageous word-play couldn't save "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield."

Of the serious stories, most deal with Holmes copies, rather than Holmes himself. "The Martian Crown Jewels" by Poul Anderson postulates a Martian Holmes (Syaloch, actually) who lives on "The Street of Those Who Prepare Nourishment in Ovens" and who solves a most unlikely mystery--but then, the solution may not be any more unlikely than some of Doyle's. Anthony Boucher's "The Anomaly of the Empty Man" has its Dr. Verner (Verner being the name of one of Holmes's distant relatives) with a nicely ambiguous ending. "The Adventure of the Snitch in Time" by August Derleth and Mack Reynolds uses the Solar Pons character of the former and the science fiction sensibilities of the latter to write a story that unfortunately requires the central character to be more of a lawyer and less of a detective. H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" story, "Dr. Montalba, Obsequist," has little to recommend it; its concept is unusual, but not well-developed.

Sherlock Holmes \_ p \_ e \_ r \_ s \_ e appears in only two serious stories: Ardath Mayhar's "The Affair of the Midnight Midget" and Philip Jose ' Farmer's "The Adventure of the Three Madman." The former is a new story, never before published. It chronicles a heretofore unknown case, but for a change is told by Mrs. Hudson rather than by Dr. Watson or an external narrator. This puts the writer at a disadvantage, however, because s/he is forced to recount most of the solution of the "mystery" by recounting by letter to Dr. Watson what Holmes has said. (To write the story \_ a \_ s a story would be out of

keeping with Mrs. Hudson's character.) Watson at least could give us background and clues as he described accompanying Holmes, but Mrs. Hudson gets almost everything secondhand, and we get it filtered further.

The Farmer piece is the longest in the book and is in keeping with Farmer's other pastiches of famous fictional characters (e.g., Tarzan, Doc Savage). Farmer had previously written a book-length (well, a short-book-length) Holmes pastiche titled T\_h\_e\_A\_d\_v\_e\_n\_t\_u\_r\_e\_o\_f\_t\_h\_e\_P\_e\_e\_r\_l\_e\_s\_s\_P\_e\_e\_r. Like that tale, "The Adventure of the Three Madman" is also set in Africa; like the other, this also has an unusual set of supporting characters, including Kipling's Mowgli, a tribe out of H. Rider Haggard, and a Hollywood film crew, as well as German spies and British aviators. (Estimating the likelihood of a film crew making a movie in Central Africa during World War I, even if the Germans and the British weren't fighting right there at that time, is left as an exercise for the reader.) Farmer does as well with this mix as anyone could--and of course manages to include zeppelins as well--but it was all just a little over the top for me.

Of all the stories, only the Anderson, Boucher, and Derleth/Reynolds appealed to me. Even adding the Farmer in (as I suspect most people would), this collection is marginal at best.

Readers would do better with Martin H. Greenburg's N\_e\_w\_A\_d\_v\_e\_n\_t\_u\_r\_e\_s\_o\_f

S\_h\_e\_r\_l\_o\_c\_k\_H\_o\_l\_m\_e\_s or even Richard L. Green's

F\_u\_r\_t\_h\_e\_r\_A\_d\_v\_e\_n\_t\_u\_r\_e\_s\_o\_f

S\_h\_e\_r\_l\_o\_c\_k\_H\_o\_l\_m\_e\_s.