



## Harrap 's The House of Silk

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*Anthony Horowitz*

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320 pages

Extrait

The Wimbledon Art Dealer

'Influenza is unpleasant,' Sherlock Holmes remarked, 'but you are right in thinking that, with your wife's help, the child will recover soon.'

'I very much hope so,' I replied, then stopped and gazed at him in wide-eyed astonishment. My tea had been halfway to my lips but I returned it to the table with such force that the cup and the saucer almost parted company. 'But for Heaven's sake, Holmes !' I exclaimed. 'You have taken the very thoughts from my head. I swear I have not uttered a word about the child nor his illness. You know that my wife is away - that much you might have deduced from my presence here. But I have not yet mentioned to you the reason for her absence and I am certain that there has been nothing in my behaviour that could have given you any due.'

It was in the last days of November, the year 1890, when this exchange took place. London was in the grip of a merciless winter, the streets so cold that the very gas lamps seemed frozen solid and what little light they gave out subsumed by the endless fog. Outside, people drifted along the pavements like ghosts, with their heads bowed and their faces covered, while the growlers rattled past, their horses anxious to be home. And I was glad to be in, with a fire blazing in the hearth, the familiar smell of tobacco in the air and - for all the clutter and chaos with which my friend chose to surround himself - a sense that everything was in its right place.

I had telegraphed my intention to take up my old room and stay with Holmes for a short while, and I had been delighted to receive his acquiescence by return. My practice could manage without me. I was temporarily alone. And I had it in mind to watch over my friend until I was certain that he was fully restored to health. For Holmes had deliberately starved himself for three days and three nights, taking neither food nor water, in order to persuade a particularly cruel and vengeful adversary that he was close to death. The ruse had succeeded triumphantly, and the man was now in the capable hands of Inspector Morton of the Yard. But I was still concerned about the strain that Holmes had placed upon himself and thought it advisable to keep an eye on him until his metabolism was fully restored. Présentation de l'éditeur  
The House of Silk (La maison de soie), un roman policier qui fait revivre Sherlock Holmes, fut publié en 2011.

Holmes et Watson ont la visite d'un marchand d'art, Edmond Carstairs, qui explique craindre pour sa vie. À la suite de la disparition d'œuvres de John Constable qui devaient être livrées à un Américain, les membres du « gang des casquettes plates » ont été retrouvés et tués, sauf l'un d'entre eux qui a pris la fuite ; or Carstairs semble depuis peu sous la surveillance d'un américain avec une casquette plate...Biographie de l'auteur

Né en 1957, Anthony Horowitz a écrit de nombreux livres pour enfants et adolescents. En Angleterre, son pays d'origine, il est également connu pour ses scénarios de séries télévisées. Certains de ses livres, comme L'île du Crâne, Le Faucon malté ou Satanée grand-mère, collectionnent les prix et sa dernière création Les Aventures d'Alex Rider, remporte un succès sans précédent.

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