BULLSMUN IV

The Conundrum of the Crown:

A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

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Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates,



My name is Cullen McManus, and I will be your chair for the The Conundrum of the Crown: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery at BULLSMUN IV! I am a first-year student at the University of South Florida majoring in Environmental Science & Policy, with a minor in chemistry and physics! I am from Punta Gorda, Florida, and I graduated with both my high school diploma and an A.A. degree from Florida SouthWestern State College (go Buccaneers!). This is my first year on the USF MUN team, though I competed in Model UN throughout high school at conferences such as GATORMUN and FHSMUN. As this is the first committee I have both co-created and chaired and I am excited for this committee!

I am so excited to be the chair for this committee this year, as I love the Sherlock Holmes series, whether it be the books, movies, or TV series, and Martin and I have worked hard to make this committee as fun as possible! I also believe that the true crime mystery style committee is going to make for a very unique MUN experience, and I truly believe you will have fun with this committee this year, whether this is your first conference, or your 10,000th conference. Welcome to The Conundrum of the Crown!

See you soon delegates!



Cullen McManus

Chair, The Conundrum of the Crown: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

Letter from the Crisis Director

Hey Delegates,



Welcome to The Conundrum of the Crown: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery! My name is Martin Bergstedt, and I will be your crisis director during this year's BULLSMUN. I'm originally from Enderlin, North Dakota, but I'm now at USF pursuing my degree in International Studies. This is my second year in MUN, but this committee marks the very first I have ever created or directed in any capacity. Outside of MUN, I enjoy making music, watching the Vikings lose every Sunday, and procrastination, which is only a hobby if you do it as much as I do.

I hope you all are as excited for this committee as I am. Sherlock Holmes is one of the most famous characters of all time, and I can't wait to see how this committee plays out with this cast of familiar characters. Whether you've read the books, watched the TV shows, or listened to the greatest podcast ever (Sherlock & Co., go check it out), the Sherlock stories have something for everyone, and they've been my favorites for as long as I can remember. Cullen and I have worked really hard to create an interesting mystery for you all to solve, and I can't wait for you all to get a chance to crack it! Good luck solving the Conundrum of the Crown, and have fun at BULLSMUN IV!

Sincerely,

Martin Bergstedt

Martin Bergstedt

Crisis Director, The Conundrum of the Crown: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

Committee Introduction

Detectives, Criminals, Monarchs, and Citizens, welcome to The Conundrum of the Crown: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery! This committee is based on the Sherlock Holmes series, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Ever since the release of his series, he has become one of the most important literary figures in the history of British and World literature. This has inspired countless films, television adaptations, podcasts, and video games. The committee's setting is primarily inspired by Doyle's 1890 novel *The Sign of Four*, but the overall universe draws from the broader Sherlock Holmes canon. Because of this, characters may come from different books, and some original characters have been added to the committee due to its size, as well as character details in some do deviate from the original story. Therefore, while researching the committee's characters and lore is recommended, we would like you to primarily follow the dossier description.

In many canonical Sherlock stories, characters meet an untimely end, including Holmes himself in *The Adventure of the Final Problem*. The events of this committee take place before the deaths of any of the included characters, even if that makes the timeline a little messy. An important aspect of this committee is that, when you are trying to capture the members of the Sign of Four, you can only go after one of them at a time to keep the mystery going. You will **NOT** be able to kill any other characters in the committee. Delegates should remember that this committee was set in 1900. Modern technologies and methods of communication do not exist. Therefore, your directives and crisis notes must apply to the technology available at that time. Finally, as this committee is split into four categories, no single category will have more power than the others, making it fair, and each category has its own strengths and limitations.

Rules of the Case

This committee will be run a little bit differently compared to other traditional crisis committees. Firstly, one random person in the committee will be assigned as the informant to the Sign of Four, which will be randomly determined during the first session of the committee. This person could be in any of the four blocs and your goal throughout the committee session is to sabotage the committee, and allow the Sign of Four to get away with the crown.

This committee will **NOT** be allowing the use of technology during the session. You will be given two notepads at the beginning of the session and we will be using a two notepad system for crisis notes. All directives and crisis notes will be handwritten during the committee. Let me remind you that pre-writing is **NOT** allowed within the committee, and will get you disqualified from awards in the conference. AI is also **NOT** allowed to be used on directives or crisis notes within the committee as well, as we want your original ideas to shine in this committee.

In many canonical Sherlock stories, characters meet an untimely end, including Holmes himself in The Adventure of the Final Problem. The events of this committee take place before the deaths of any of the included characters, even if that makes the timeline a little messy. An important aspect of this committee is that, when you are trying to capture the members of the Sign of Four, you can only go after one of them at a time to keep the mystery going. You will NOT be able to kill any other characters in the committee. Delegates should remember that this committee was set in 1900. Modern technologies and methods of communication do not exist. Therefore, your directives and crisis notes must apply to the technology available at that time. Finally, as this committee is split into

four categories, no single category will have more power than the others, making it fair, and each category has its own strengths and limitations.

Finally, in order to successfully defeat the Sign of Four, you must catch all four members, call out the informant, and retrieve the crown. Due to this, we will be limiting the length of directives to 2 pages worth of content maximum, and you must have a minimum of 10% of the committee in sponsors, and a minimum of 5 signatories in order for directives to be presented to the dais. Your crisis notes must be 0.5-1 pages long, and joint crisis notes are allowed within the committee. You will have two arcs running throughout your crisis notes, and we are asking for your arcs to please merge at the end of the conference.

The Crime

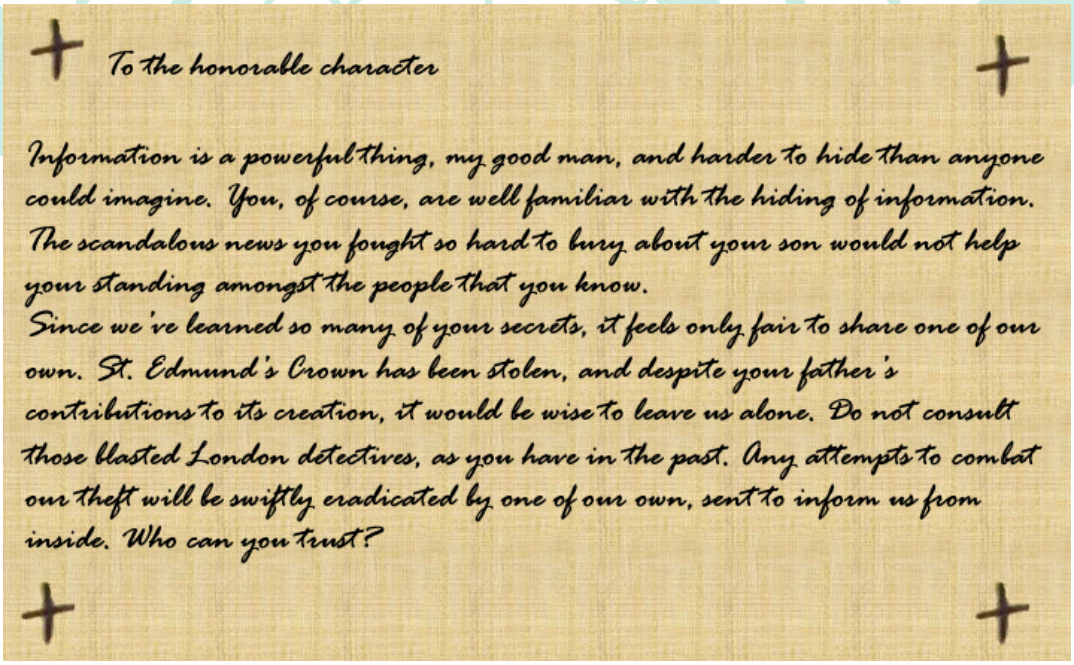
It is not often a seemingly random group of citizens, detectives, criminals, and monarchs all share one commonality. And yet, the threatening letter they received by mail on January 13th, 1900, and the harrowing discovery of the theft of the Crown has emboldened them to work together like nothing else could.

However, one member of this group received a very different letter, one informing them of a potential partnership, wealth beyond their wildest imagination, and power like no one else in the world. They were instructed to infiltrate this group and hinder their attempts to solve this great mystery.

This secret committee must connect the clues to solve the theft of the Crown before these mysterious criminals secure this royal prize for good, or worse, act on the threats detailed in those harrowing letters, all while avoiding the sabotage of their mystery intruder.

The Letter and The Crown

The letters received by these seemingly unconnected strangers contained very little information, and yet, so very much. The envelopes contained no return address, no signature, just the name of the recipient, written in dark red ink, on the front. Each envelopes' message was unique to its recipient. Some contained dangerous, embarrassing information that was known only to the recipients, plus a threat to leak the story at a moment's notice. Others, the names and addresses of family and friends, a warning that the sender is not to be messed with. Others, signed notices of trusted criminal partners defecting to this mysterious organization.



To the honorable character

Information is a powerful thing, my good man, and harder to hide than anyone could imagine. You, of course, are well familiar with the hiding of information. The scandalous news you fought so hard to bury about your son would not help your standing amongst the people that you know.

Since we've learned so many of your secrets, it feels only fair to share one of our own. St. Edmund's Crown has been stolen, and despite your father's contributions to its creation, it would be wise to leave us alone. Do not consult those blasted London detectives, as you have in the past. Any attempts to combat our theft will be swiftly eradicated by one of our own, sent to inform us from inside. Who can you trust?

A sample of the letters received by each member in committee, including the notice that an informant had infiltrated their group.

The letter reads:

To the Honorable Characters,

Information is a powerful thing, my good man, and harder to hide than anything you can imagine. You, of course, are well familiar with the hiding of information. The scandalous news you fought hard to bury about your son would not help your standing amongst the people that you know.

Since we've learned so many of your secrets, it feels only fair to share one of your own. St. Edward's Crown has been stolen, and despite your father's contributions to its creation, it would be wise to leave us alone. Do not consult those blasted London detectives, as you have in the past. Any attempts to combat our theft will be swiftly eradicated by one of our own, sent to inform from the inside. Who can you trust?

Yours Truly,

The Sign of Four

Throughout each of these notices, one piece of information remained consistent. Every note contained a warning that if a group was formed to solve this mystery, these mysterious criminals had thought of an undetectable sabotage; an informant on the inside. If every member of the committee would be aware that one among them could not be trusted, then how could they trust anyone?

St. Edward Crowns, the stolen treasure, is the single most important artifact in Europe. The headpiece contains jewels and gemstones and features craftsmanship from every nation on the continent. It was meant to symbolize an everlasting peace for the region, a balance that has become quite strained by the Crown's sudden disappearance.



St. Edwards Crown (Source)

When it was first created, an agreement was reached that the Crown would be displayed in every nation, each having possession for one year before it was transported to the next. This transfer was set to be completed as usual, with an armored transport making its way to Germany.

But disaster struck somewhere along the way. The iron cart carrying the treasure was broken and toppled, the horses seemingly disappeared into the night, and the dozen soldiers marching alongside the transport lay dead on the ground. News of the disappearance of the artifact has not reached the general public, and much of the monarchy would like to keep it that way.

The "Sign" of the Four Suspects

The committee has just assembled for the very first time, in utter secrecy, in the basement of the Hofbrauhaus Beer Hall in Munich, Germany. While there is a general animosity in the room, as rival detectives, master criminals, and power-hungry monarchs try to cooperate, the room quiets when Detective Holmes introduces his deductions. The markings in the corners of the letters were not decorative, as many had immediately assumed. Rather, they matched up to markings left at various major thefts scattered around Europe, including the theft of some valuable pearls, which the criminals claimed credit for before disappearing. The criminals call themselves "The Sign of Four," and while their identities are unknown, they are infamous amongst criminals all across Europe.



The Hofbrauhaus Beer Hall in Munich, Germany (Source)

The "four assailants" theory matches up with the scene of the crime, where 3 guards lay at each corner of the cart, each set with unique wounds. While the criminals tried to leave no trace of their actions behind, four pieces of evidence were uncovered.

The first, a small poison dart, containing lethal amounts of a poison only ever before seen in a minuscule village in India, hidden deep within the Himalayas, that is known to distribute this poison only to former residents of the village. The second, a scrap of fabric, was purchased from a small vendor in Germany the day before. The third, a trail of blood leading into the woods, indicates that one of the assailants must have some form of injury or scarring. The last, less tangible evidence, is found by analyzing the northwestern corner of the cart, where 3 soldiers lay dead, attacked by some blunt object. More interesting, however, are the footprints left by the attacker, which appear to belong to a man with only one leg. The most pressing matter of debate has been the methods of solving this mystery. The wide variety of perspectives has introduced two questions that threaten to tear this investigation apart: secrecy and procedure.

The monarchy and criminals are left in a dangerous position, and support total secrecy during the investigation to ensure the public is not made aware of their involvement. The citizens and detectives, on the other hand, have always supported an open-book investigation and have proposed a continent-wide manhunt in which everyone does their part to return the stolen treasure.

While both parties agree this mystery must be solved quickly, how that ending is reached has seen fierce debate. The detectives and the monarchy have their hands tied by their positions and are staunchly opposed to any investigative technique that does not follow proper legal procedure. The citizens and criminals, however, are arguing for a swift, brutal, and occasionally slightly illegal investigation to restore normal life as soon as possible. One member, of course, supports dropping the matter entirely, though they would never show it.

The Evidence Log



Evidence #1: The Poison Dart Frog (Source)



Evidence #2: The Piece of Fabric (Source)



Evidence #3: Trail of Blood Leading into Forest (Source)



Evidence #4: The Crime Scene (Source)



Evidence #5: The Footprints (Source)



Evidence #6: The Tool Recovered at the Scene (Source)

Solve The Crime And Recover The Crown… Or *Else.*

However the mystery is solved, it must be solved quickly. News of the missing crown could spark war, criminal uprising, and untold dangers for Europe. Not only is the fate of the crown on the line, but **so are yours.**

Monarchs, if you let them steal the crown, what will people think of you? That you are rulers who cannot protect what is yours? That your power means nothing when someone can simply walk into your world and take it? If you cannot solve this crime, you may lose more than a Crown. You may lose the trust that holds your nation together, and when that trust disappears, your enemies will be waiting.

Criminals, if you let them steal the crown, the criminal network will unravel. One group steals the Crown. Another retaliates. Governments begin investigating. Detectives begin digging. Every secret, every connection, every crime becomes another thread leading back to you. If you cannot control what happens next, you may find yourselves behind bars, or worse, at the mercy of the very people you thought you controlled.

Citizens, if you let them steal the crown, your belongings could be next. The jewels, heirlooms, fortunes, and family symbols that represent everything you have built could be next. The Sign of Four may be hunting the Crown today, but tomorrow, they, or someone worse, could be hunting you.

Detective, if you let them steal the crown, who will trust the detectives to solve the crimes? A stolen Crown is not merely a crime, it is a test of whether you are capable of protecting the people who depend on you. Fail here, and your reputation, your careers, and your freedom may be the next things stolen.

And remember this, crime solvers:

No. Criminal. Is. Perfect.

They leave fingerprints. They leave witnesses. They leave contradictions in their stories. They leave mistakes in their plans. Every crime *l*eaves a trail, you just have to dig through the brush to follow it.

Somewhere in this room is the truth.

Someone *k*nows something. Someone is hiding something. Someone is lying. *An*d trust is a *d*angerous thing. You may think you know who stands beside you, but are you certain? The Sign of Four does not work alone. Someone in this very committee is feeding them information. Someone you trust may not be working towards the same goals as you. *L*ying to you.

So question *e*verything. Question the evidence. Question the stories. Question e*a*ch other.

Because the person helping you solve this mystery may be the very perso*n* helping you enemies stay one step ahead.

The question is whether you will uncover the truth before it's too late.

When that clock runs out, there will be no second chance.

Find the Crown. Find the Sign of Four. Find the Informant. Before they find <u>YOU.</u>

Questions to Consider

1. Which piece of evidence at the scene of the crime should the committee investigate first?
2. What should be prioritized during this investigation: secrecy or transparency, routine or results?
3. Are the Four hiding out together somewhere, or did they split off? If so, who has the Crown?
4. How are the "Sign of Four" communicating, and could they be intercepted?
5. What is the best method to catch the informant without diverting too much attention from the investigation at hand?
6. As the informant, how can you ensure this mystery remains unsolved, without incriminating yourself?
7. How can all four groups work together, even with different rivalries and ideologies?

Dossier

Civilians

Alicia Drake, Proprietor of a Private Inquiry Agency

Alicia Drake is the owner of a small, but well respected, private inquiry agency operating in Central London. Over the years, she built a reputation for locating missing people, investigating fraud, and uncovering information that detectives could not. Unlike the Scotland Yard, Alicia relies on heavy network connections, local contacts, and even some underground criminals whom she has built rapport with. After Alicia received the anonymous letter regarding the theft, she believed that recovering the Crown is key, and finding leads is important, regardless of where they came from. While willing to cooperate with others, Drake is wary of those who seek political influence or personal glory from the crisis.

Kitty Riley, Journalist

Kitty Riley is a journalist who seeks to establish herself within the London Press. Early in her career, she attempted to investigate the activities of Sherlock Holmes, and other notable people. However, her reputation suffered a critical hit after being misled by the criminal enterprise to publish false information. Riley is hoping that the stealing of the Crown will give her an opportunity to reestablish her reputation and gain credibility back. She believes that informing the public is one of the best ways to capture criminals and frequently relies on witnesses and sources to uncover new information. However, Mary is still wary of the information and stories she posts due to her reputation.

Mary Elizabeth Watson, Nurse

Mary Watson is a seasoned nurse who has seen the best and worst sides of London for many decades. Throughout her career, she has witnessed how major events, especially regarding crime, can rapidly spread fear and confusion amongst the public like wildfire. The theft of the Crown not only concerns her as a citizen, but as someone who understands how fast misinformation and fear can spread among the public. Mary believes that the public is an important tool to solving the theft, but is open to many other ideas. Through years of nursing, Mary has connections to hospitals, charitable organizations, and community leaders throughout London. However, Mary is cautious of her actions due to not wanting to raise public fear and escalating the chaos of the situation.

Mike Stamford, Doctor & Professor

Mike Stamford is a doctor and a professor who works at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, located in central London. Stamford has a very special relationship with Dr. John Watson, being classmates and close friends. When the letter was received, Stamford believed it was important to examine the facts of the case in a scientific, verifiable way. As a doctor and professor, Stamford specializes in scientific data, particularly in verifying scientific and medical data. However, if the data is incomplete or its source is unknown, Stamford can run into trouble analyzing and verifying it.

Miss Alessandra Hermann, Art Dealer

Miss Alessandra Hermann is an aristocratic art dealer and solicitor for the world-famous Wallace Collection in Manchester Square. Miss Alessandra Hermann is known for selling many famous artworks, including pieces in The House of Parliament, which has made her very well known and respected within the elite social circle. After the theft of the Crown, Hermann believes it is important to recover the Crown to help protect the stability of London's aristocracy. As someone in the elite social circle, she has access to many aristocratic resources, including political connections, land, wealth, and even some luxury technology. However, she is very wary of every action she takes because of the public eye and is worried about losing status and/or money.

Mrs. Hudson, Landlady of 221B Baker Street

Mrs. Hudson is the landlady who works at 221B Baker Street, the residence of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson. Mrs. Hudson has maintained the household of 221B Baker Street for years and has access to Holmes' correspondence, visitors, and personal records. Once she received the letter, Ms. Hudson began exercising a higher degree of care around the home, as she was deeply concerned about the safety of 221B Baker Street. Ms. Hudson can provide information about some key visitors to the house, as well as anything suspicious around Baker Street. However, her cautious nature often makes her wary of strangers and suspicious circumstances.

Mycroft Holmes, Government Advisor

Mycroft Holmes is the Chief of the British War Office's Intelligence Branch, helping to coordinate and gather information on war and strategizing on how to prevent, neutralize, and mitigate its risks. Not only is he a Chief in the Intelligence Branch, but he is also the elder brother of Sherlock Holmes, and both of them are close, although sibling rivalries have hindered relations. After receiving the letter, Mycroft believes this is a genuine national security threat and should be treated as such. Mycroft is valuable for surviving, providing critical information, and strategizing coordination to catch the Sign of Four. However, Mycroft is mindful of his actions due to possible political instability and the risk of top-secret information being accidentally or intentionally exposed.

Neville St. Clair, Business Owner

Neville St. Clair is a British business owner of a well-respected logistics business at the Port of London. St. Clair helps to coordinate ships entering and exiting the port, as well as routing and cargo logistics for ships in the port. When St. Clair received the letter, St. Clair recognized that the stealing of the Crown is more than just a theft, it is a theft that can hurt the financial stability of London. As a businessman, St. Clair has connections to monetary sources, financial tracking, and business connections across London. However, St. Clair does worry about the financial stability and economic disruptions that the theft of the Crown can cause for the British government and London as a whole.

Sir William Churchill, Philanthropist

Sir William Churchill is a philanthropist for The Salvation Army, helping to lead its London branch. Growing up homeless himself, Churchill realized how important it is to support the people who need it. Once he received the letter, he was worried about the peace and order of London's citizens, as many were afraid and confused. He maintains connections with community leaders, hospitals, shelters, and aid organizations across the city, allowing him to gather information and mobilize resources when needed. However, his desire to protect citizens often makes him cautious of his actions to mitigate the spread of panic.

Criminals

Abe Slaney, American Gangster

Abe Slaney is an American gang leader and smuggler who is well-connected to the international criminal network. Once Slaney received the letter, Slaney realized that, with the theft of the Crown, international crime networks could be strained and come under attack from government officials, and that it was important to protect the integrity of the networks. Slaney offers insight into underground networks and into moving resources underground internationally. However, Slaney is wary of working with government officials due to the risk of arrest and broken promises.

Charles Augustus Milverton, Blackmailer

Charles Augustus Milverton is a notorious blackmailer in London, blackmailing countless victims for financial gain throughout his criminal spree. When Milverton received the letter, he recognized that this situation could be a leverage point in his criminal network, allowing him to blackmail members of the Sign of Four. Milverton is excellent at taking information from people and using it to gain leverage and blackmail. However, Milverton is very cautious about who is blackmailed, as he is worried about retaliation if his own secrets are leaked to the government and criminal networks.

Colonel Sebastian Moran, Criminal Marksman

Colonel Sebastian Moran is a former army officer who is now the right-hand man to the most notorious criminal in London, Professor James Moriarty. When Moran received the letter, he recognized it would cause massive issues with security in the criminal network, which could be disastrous if not prevented. Moran is well-versed in command operations and strategy, given his ex-military background. However, since Moran is considered the "second most dangerous man in London", Moran is always concerned about being captured, having his secrets and plans spilled, or having someone sabotage his relationship with Professor Moriarty.

Eduardo Lucas, Spy

Edurardo Lucas is a well-known political ally of the London government who works as a spy for an unknown foreign country. As a spy, Lucas has successfully stolen government documents from London and sent them back to his home country. When Lucas received the letter, he recognized that it was important to gather information about the thieves before taking action. As a spy, he is well-versed in espionage and collecting information under the radar. However, Lucas is wary of the information he collects, as the people he collects it from could reveal his identity, or authorities could set him up.

Jack Stapleton, Manipulator

Jack Stapleton is a master criminal with a unique talent for manipulation and deception, especially in the crimes he commits. After the theft of the crown, Stapleton is wary of the letter, believing it could be a manipulative or deceptive tactic. Stapleton specializes in manipulation and deception, whether towards the Sign of Four or towards members of his own criminal enterprise. However, Stapleton worries about plans being exposed or the truth revealed, which could ruin his reputation, erode trust, or even his entire enterprise.

Professor James Moriarty, Criminal Leader

Professor James Moriarty is known as the criminal leader of London, leading the majority of the underground criminal network. After the theft of the crown, Moriarty is wary of his influence and believes it is important to protect his control of the criminal networks. Moriarty provides strategic coordination between the criminal networks and access to many resources, but is always worried about control and coup d'état attempts of his criminal enterprise.

Wiggins, Surveyer

Wiggins is the leader of the Irregulars of London, a group that focuses on gaining information and spreading misinformation among the public. When he received the letter, Wiggins believed that it was important to monitor the streets more (and as discreetly as possible) to capture the criminals. Wiggins is excellent in providing underground surveillance. However, Wiggins is worried about police capture and being exposed.

Detectives

Detective Inspector Lestrade

Perhaps one of the most renowned detectives employed by Scotland Yard, Inspector Lestrade has made a name for himself in many ways. His grit and determination have earned him praise from anyone and everyone he works with; his strict adherence to the proper rules and procedures of investigation has not. Despite their disagreements in proper methodology, Lestrade and Holmes have become common partners when a mystery arises.

Dr. John Watson

Dr. Watson himself would admit to you that his understanding of criminology dwarfs in comparison to his trusted companion, Sherlock Holmes. Even still, John Watson, once an army medic, then a medical practitioner, and most recently a crime-solving guru, provides an invaluable perspective that never goes unnoticed. His unending compassion and slightly more appropriate social etiquette than his detective counterpart have garnered a great deal of respect from clients and criminals alike.

Inspector Alec MacDonald

Inspector MacDonald is a man of very few words, but that trait only enhances his methodical approach to his investigations. A younger detective at Scotland Yard, he jumps at the opportunity to test his prowess and further his career. While he has yet to build a reputation amongst criminals, his focused ambition will surely propel him to the heights of Scotland Yard soon.

Inspector Bradstreet

Within Scotland Yard, this inspector has earned himself the nickname "Busy Bradstreet" for his decisive investigations, fierce interrogations, and lightning-fast paperwork. When his assumptions are correct, this strategy earns him high praise and newspaper headlines. When they're wrong, he receives some clever insults from Sherlock and one very disgruntled citizen. If all goes well, Bradstreet could strike fear into the hearts of these dastardly crown thieves– or he could fall flat on his face.

Inspector Stanley Hopkins

There are a few detectives in Scotland Yard who excel at group investigations, like Stanley Hopkins. Whether it's with Holmes and Watson, other members of the force, and even insufferable royals, Hopkins emerges as a steady, brilliant mind that keeps the investigation on its course. He's also an eager learner, whose feel for criminology has grown exponentially through his early years in the force. Unfortunately for him, his collaboration doesn't often result in much credit for his deductions, which, if they happened enough, would start to bother anyone.

Inspector Tobias Gregson

Detective-ing is dangerous work, but Gregson eats danger for breakfast. His courage and mettle have been tested time and time again by bloodthirsty criminals, and he's made quite a few enemies on the streets of London. While Inspector Gregson has a tendency to punch first and ask later, he's well respected by his peers for taking the most dangerous of missions. Asking him to play nice with the criminals on this crew may be a bit of a challenge, though…

Sherlock Holmes

From an early age, Sherlock learned to do it alone. Despite the best efforts of his brother Mycroft, his friend John, and Scotland Yard, when a mystery arises, Sherlock defaults to individual analysis and dangerous, up-close investigations. Sherlock has many connections to wealthy monarchs, criminal overlords, and distinguished citizens, and his brilliant deductions amaze anyone he's ever met. However, this is one mystery that cannot be solved alone, despite his best attempts.

Monarchs

Irene Adler, Opera Singer

Unfortunately for Irene Adler, the Sign of Four sees straight through her public persona as the beautiful opera singer. They, instead, see her for her brilliant mind, one that rivals even the greatest detectives, and for her deepest, darkest scandal. The secret romance between her and von Ormstein, King of Bohemia, was never meant to reach the prying public eye, but the Sign of Four doesn't quite agree. Adler's cunning brilliance and impressive facade could serve her well in this investigation, but she is saddled with more risk than almost any other member of this secret committee.

Kaiser Wilhelm II, German Emperor

When he proposed the idea of the Crown to the European monarchy, Kaiser Wilhelm had hoped it might smooth the waters between Germany and its neighbors, and provide a cover for the power-hungry moves he was planning next. A strong leader and natural diplomat, Kaiser Wilhelm will fit right in with the cunning minds of detectives and criminals gathered to solve this mystery. But he must act fast, for his relations with the other monarchs in the room are on very thin ice with the Crown's disappearance.

King Edward VII, King of England

To be quite frank, King Edward still isn't quite sure why this Crown is so important; he has dozens in his personal collection that dwarf the jewels on this artifact. Despite King Edward being more of a figurehead than the public has been led to believe, he is beloved by his citizens, who view him as a friend. However, even he recognizes that word of his outrageous spending would upset the English public, so for now, he'll work with these… poorly dressed strangers.

The Duke of Holdernesse

They say money can't buy happiness, but up until now, The Duke of Holdernesse has proved that old adage wrong. Unfortunately for the Duke, no amount of money could bury the reality of his estranged son, James Wilder's, recent criminal involvement with the Sign of Four just weeks before the Crown was stolen. The Duke more than possesses any amount of money the committee could need, but he's hesitant to work with this group. Detectives and criminals have a habit of prying a little too far…

The King of Scandinavia

A family man at his core, the King of Scandinavia embraced everyone he met as one of his own. As his children married into different powerful noble and royal families all around the world, the King became the single most well-connected man on the continent. Unfortunately for him, not all of those marriages were his children's choice. The Sign of Four had been in contact with his daughter Clotilde, and the Scandinavian public would not be pleased to know of her helplessness in her marriage to von Ormstein, King of Bohemia.

Queen Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom

Ruling a country is difficult work as it is, but ruling a country while pretending you're not ruling a country is a feat only accomplishable by Queen Victoria. The English monarchy is technically ruled by her dim-witted husband, King Edward VII, though Victoria would be surprised if he even knew he was King. Victoria, a brilliantly charming woman who commanded every room she stepped into, felt her talents were being wasted as the King's doting wife, so the pair had struck a happy balance, one where Victoria pulled all the strings. The plan was foolproof, as long as the public didn't learn of her secret affair with von Ormstein, another married monarch.

Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismond von Ormstein, King of Bohemia

It is almost a shame Wilhelm ended up as the King of Bohemia; in any other job, wooing as many women as he has would earn him the treatment of– well, of a king. This smooth-talking, effortlessly charming monarch has earned the respect of the other monarchs of Europe and his citizens with ease. However, his extramarital affairs with Irene Adler and Queen Victoria have placed him in a precarious spot with the disappearance of the Crown. Wilhelm will be a valuable addition to this investigation– if he can stop flirting with Kitty Riley.

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