

A toast to *The Woman*  
by Greg Ruby  
before a meeting of Watson's Tin Box  
at Houlihan's, in Columbia, Maryland, on August 25, 2014

Hopefully, tonight I will not become a babbler  
As I stand here making my first toast to Irene Adler.  
I apologize in advance for this sonnet  
About the daintiest thing under a bonnet.  
It will become apparent in no time  
That this toast will struggle to keep up the rhyme.

At the opera in Warsaw she was admired  
After performing at La Scala she retired.  
Her relationship with the future King of Bohemia  
Would have made headlines in today's news media.  
While trying to become married  
Things for the future Mrs. Norton were somewhat harried.  
Confused at first by Holmes dressed as a Pastor,  
In the end she got the best of the Master.  
Later some would consider her a hero  
For being the mother of a Wolfe named Nero.

If only she had been named Shirley  
This Adventuress from New Jersey.  
I thought Irene was her name  
Having not played the Game.  
She was called Eh-Ray-Nah on the Granada series  
I learned in response to my queries.  
Many of you prefer to call her I-renie  
When I Watched BBC's Sherlock - she was not wearing a bikini.  
Others think this whole thing is cockamamie  
While on *Elementary* she is also called Jamie.

So I ask that you please raise your glass  
As I finish the toast to this lass.  
No matter how you say it  
She is always The Woman.