

A Sherlockian Toast (posted 2021-2-7)

A toast to the Wives in The Twisted Lip
by Richard Krisciunas
before meeting of the Stormy Petrels of BC
on February 2, 2021

I have been happily married for 43 years and my wife has been very supportive of my Sherlockian hobby. She never complains when I ask her to vacate the library so I can attend yet another Zoom meeting. She never complains when another book or journal arrives in the mail. In *Twisted Lip*, we see three other strong wives.

Mary Morstan never complained when the game was afoot and John or James had to help his friend, Sherlock, solve a mystery. In the *Boscombe Valley* case, Holmes sent a telegram to Watson as he had breakfast with Mary asking him to join him for a couple days. Without missing a beat, her *immediate response* was, “*What do you say, dear?*” “*Will you go?*” “I think that the change would do you good.”

In *Twisted Lip*, Dr. Watson reflected, “Folk who were in grief came to my wife like birds to a lighthouse.” “That was always the way.”

Kate Whitney was a strong woman and a loyal wife who never abandoned her husband, after his addiction to opium. How painful it must have been each time after he returned from a drug den, yet she took him back every time.

And then there was **Mrs. Neville St. Clair**, a mother of two children, who observed her husband vanish from a window. Without concern for her own safety, she ran into an opium den. Can you imagine that? So fierce and fearless was she that it took two men to push her, “a little blonde woman,” out into the street. What courage. What love for her husband.

What would we simple men do without our strong wives? I ask you to raise your glasses and toast the wives of *Twisted Lip* and all of our own spouses who support our Sherlockian hobby.

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