

A toast to The Woman  
by Matthew D. Hall  
before a meeting of Watson's Tin Box  
on 15 April 2024

To Watson, Mary Morstan may have been "the woman"  
But, it turns out there were quite a few "the woman"s over time...  
and across the globe.  
Do we toast each of Watson's "the woman"?  
We don't have that much brandy.

So let us turn to one that does not risk multitudes of toasts.

To the King of Bohemia she was "the well-known adventuress".  
To Sherlock Holmes "she is always the woman".  
That woman was the "late Irene Adler".  
"With a face that a man might die for"

As Sherlock taught us, "When a woman thinks that her house is on fire, her instinct is at once to rush to the thing which she values most. A married woman grabs at her baby; an unmarried one reaches for her jewel-box."

And as Sherlockians we would of course grab for our drinks. Let us do so, and toast "the woman".