

The Detective Story.

Coincidence is always disastrous, but it is ~~peculiar~~ peculiarly irritating when, as indeed sometimes happens, it is unnecessary. The classic case ^{/lapse\} in this respect is in Poe's Murders in the Rue Morgue, where a unique assortment of foreigners happens to be passing the house where the crime is committed. ~~but~~ And mere Frenchmen, each supposing a different language to be muttered, ~~would do, and one foreigner at most,~~ would have amply and naturally served the author's purpose. One foreigner, perhaps, would not have been scandalous, {...}

Putting all the facts before the reader means really putting them all before the reader, even if the order and the significance are veiled in the narrator's version. What is inadmissible is Dr. Freeman's position of one of his Thorndyke short stories, where ~~Dr.~~ Jervis puts the facts and enumerates the ~~possibilities but overlooks~~ clinical possibilities but overlooks one of the diseases which fit the case - the one which, of course, does really fit and solve it. A physician may certainly overlook a clinical hypothesis, but not in the position of a detective story, unless the story is meant to be read solely by physicians, who ~~can see the lapse.~~ are competent to see the lapse.

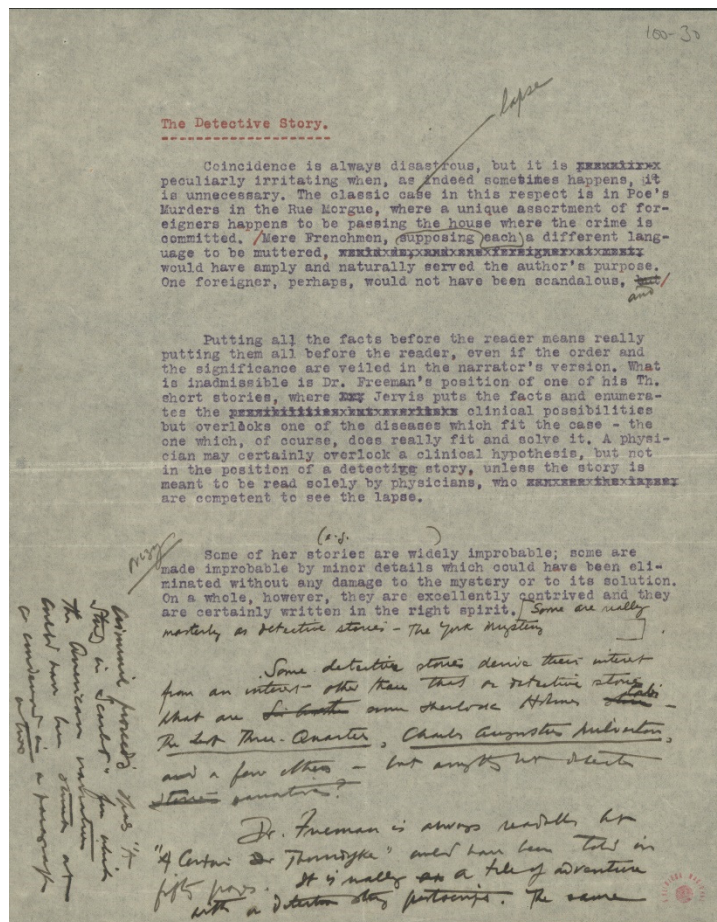
Orczy

(e.g. {...})

Some of her stories are widely improbable; some are made improbable by minor details which could have been eliminated without any damage to the mystery or to its solution. On a whole, however, they are excellently contrived and they are certainly written in the right spirit. [Some are really masterly as detective stories - The York Mystery {...}]

Some detective stories derive their interest from an interest other than that as detective stories. What are ~~Sir Arthur~~ some Sherlock Holmes ~~stories~~ tales - *The Lost Three-Quarters*, *Charles Augustus Milverton*, and a few others - but anything but detective ~~stories~~ narratives?

Dr. Freeman is always readable but "A Certain Dr. Thorndyke" could have been told in fifty pages. It is really ~~an~~ a tale of adventure with a detective story postscript. The same criminal proceeding spans "A Study in Scarlet" from which the American narrative could have been struck out or condensed in a paragraph or two.



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