

# NICHOLAS MEYER'S THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION

THE ASTOUNDING JOINT ADVENTURE OF  
SHERLOCK HOLMES AND SIGMUND FREUD

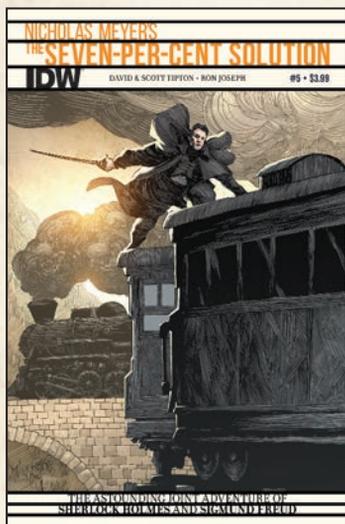
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IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCEED  
AT FULL SPEED, DR. FREUD  
AND I WERE OBLIGED TO  
CHANGE AN INTERMINABLE  
SERIES OF POINTS...



...WHILST HOLMES  
ENSURED NEITHER THE  
ENGINEER NOR BERGER,  
THE STATIONMASTER,  
ATTEMPTED TO  
INTERFERE.



THE POINTS REQUIRED  
THE STRENGTH OF TWO.  
WITHOUT DR. FREUD'S HELP,  
OUR SITUATION WOULD HAVE  
PROVED INTOLERABLE.

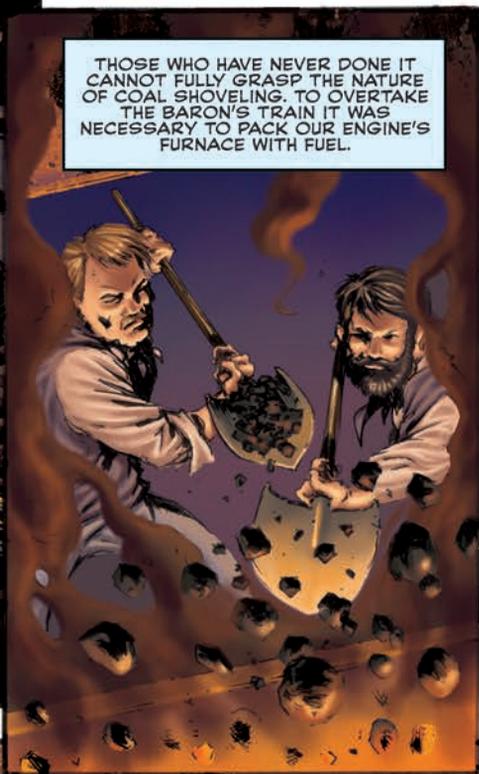


HOLMES EXPLAINED THE  
SITUATION TO THE ENGINEER  
AND THE STATIONMASTER, AND  
THEIR ATTITUDE UNDERWENT A  
MARKED CHANGE.

THEY OFFERED  
TO COOPERATE.



THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER DONE IT  
CANNOT FULLY GRASP THE NATURE  
OF COAL SHOVELING. TO OVERTAKE  
THE BARON'S TRAIN IT WAS  
NECESSARY TO PACK OUR ENGINE'S  
FURNACE WITH FUEL.



I WAS FIRST TO GIVE OUT.  
MY WARTIME LEG WOUND  
HAD GROWN INCREASINGLY  
PAINFUL, JUMPING ON AND  
OFF THE TRAIN...



HOLMES TOOK OVER. I  
FELT THE NIGHT WIND NOW  
THOUGH DETERMINED TO  
SAY NOTHING ABOUT IT.



HOLMES NOTICED,  
HOWEVER.





IT WAS A SIGHT I SHALL NOT SOON FORGET—THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE AND THE FATHER OF PSYCHOANALYSIS, IN THEIR SHIRT-SLEEVES, PILING COAL INTO THE FIREBOX AS THOUGH IT WAS THE WORK FOR WHICH THEY HAD BEEN BORN.



DOCTOR. YOU MUST REST. STATIONMASTER! WE WOULD BE OBLIGED IF YOU WOULD TAKE THE DOCTOR'S PLACE.

NO! I AM YET FIT.



IF YOU DO NOT REST NOW, YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO RELIEVE ANYONE LATER.

...YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.



CIGAR?



SLOW DOWN! SHE'LL BURST IF YOU DON'T!



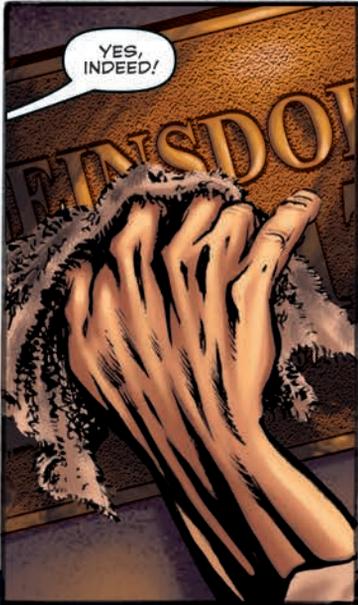
SHE WILL NOT!

PAY NO ATTENTION, HERR HOLMES. I WAS DRIVING THESE ENGINES WHEN HE WAS IN SHORT TROUSERS!



THIS ENGINE WAS BUILT BY VON LEINSDORF, AND WHO EVER HEARD OF A "VON LEINSDORF" BURSTING?

ONE MOMENT. ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS ENGINE WAS MANUFACTURED BY BARON VON LEINSDORF'S COMPANY?



YES, INDEED!



HAH!

WHAT IS IT?



IRONY, MY FRIEND. COME, KEEP WORKING!



AND SO WE THUNDERED THROUGH THE NIGHT, WHIZZING THROUGH TOWNS AT A SPEED I DARED NOT GUESS.



WE MUST DECIDE. DO YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH LINZ? THE SOUTHERN ROUTE IS SHORTER, BUT THE TRACK MAY NOT BE AS GOOD.



I CLEARED THE TRACKS FOR THE BARON AND I KNOW THE ROUTE HE HAS CHOSEN!

WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?

GO SOUTH.

VERY WELL.



DR. FREUD AND I, RESTED FROM OUR LABORS, NOW RESUMED THEM.



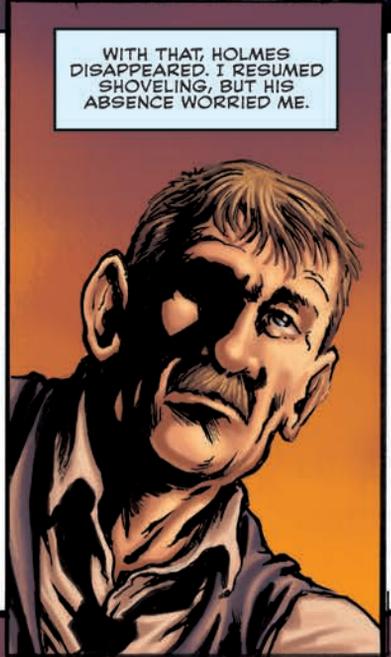
OUR COAL SUPPLY IS GIVING OUT!



HOW MUCH FUEL IS LEFT?



IF WE MAKE IT TO STEYR WE'LL BE LUCKY.



WITH THAT, HOLMES DISAPPEARED. I RESUMED SHOVELING, BUT HIS ABSENCE WORRIED ME.



BURN THESE. I'LL BE BACK WITH MORE.