Source: *Irene's Cabinet*, Volume 14, 2016

A Toast to the Woman

— Denny Dobry

A mysterious figure – his face covered, intending his identity not be discovered,
Came to Baker Street in London to see Mr. Sherlock Holmes:
The visitor's demeanor was revealing, his disguise was not concealing,
With his mask removed revealing, revealing the King, flesh and bone.
"Pray take a seat," murmured Holmes, appealing to the King, flesh and bone.
The King pleads: "Help me, Mr. Sherlock Holmes."

The King was guilty of an indiscretion, leaving his coming nuptial in question –
"Oh dear! That is very bad!" said Mr. Sherlock Holmes;
As a drunken-looking groom he went lurking, while all the time smirking,
How he will trick her into leading, leaking the location of the King's woe s.
Said Holmes, "I will trick her into leaking the location of the King's woes.
How clever of you, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Sherlock Holmes thought he clever, thinking Irene would never –
Catch on and see through his literal smoke screen;
As the smoke rose to the ceiling, and, Irene's head started reeling,
She found herself yielding to a ruse she had not foreseen.
At least until now, a ruse she had not foreseen–
"Well-played, Mr. Holmes," thought Irene.

Now one could have written a sonnet, to the daintiest thing under a bonnet;
Even Shakespeare would have held it among his favorite poems;
But Irene Adler was calculating, her confidence unwavering,
And she had been anticipating, anticipating the next move of Mr,. Holmes.
The Lady was already anticipating the next move of Mr. Holmes.
Have you met your match, Mr. Sherlock Holmes?

Holmes thought he had done his best, but Briony Lodge was an empty nest;
The photo and the Lady were no longer at home;
Holmes had miscalculated, his victory unsubstantiated,
For Irene had now evaded, evaded the King where 'ere she would roam.
Mrs. Irene Norton had evaded the King where 'ere she would roam.
Quoth Irene, "Good Night, Mr. Sherlock Holmes!"

Raise your glasses: To Irene Norton nee Adler, THE Woman

(Apologies to Edgar Allan Poe)