

**DEVLIN
THE BARBER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649135882

Devlin the barber by B. L. Farjeon

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

B. L. FARJEON

**DEVLIN
THE BARBER**

DEVLIN THE BARBER.

BY

B. L. FARJEON,

AUTHOR OF "THE NINE OF HEARTS," "GREAT PORTER SQUARE,"
ETC. ETC.

FOURTH EDITION.

LONDON:
WARD AND DOWNEY,
12 YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

[*All rights reserved.*]

1888.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.—In which reference is made to a strange, unfathomable being, through whose instrumentality an awful mystery was solved	1
CHAP. I. In which an account is given of the good fortune which befell Mr. Melladew	2
II. I am the recipient of terrible news	9
III. A shoal of visitors—followed by another mystery	14
IV. Mr. Richard Portland makes a singular proposition to me	22
V. I pay a visit to Mrs. Lemon	28
VI. I am haunted by three evil-looking objects in Mrs. Lemon's room	32
VII. Devlin's first introduction into the mystery	39
VIII. I make the acquaintance of George Carton's guardian, Mr. Kenneth Dewsett	43
IX. Fanny Lemon relates under what circumstances she resolved to let her second floor front	50
X. Devlin the Barber takes Fanny's first floor front	55
XI. Devlin performs some wonderful tricks, fascinates Mr. Lemon, and strikes terror to the soul of Fanny Lemon	59
XII. Fanny Lemon relates how her husband, after becoming better acquainted with Devlin the Barber, seemed to be haunted by shadows and spirits	65
XIII. In which Fanny narrates how her husband had a fit, and what the doctor thought of it	74
XIV. Devlin appears suddenly, and holds a conversation with Fanny about the murder	79

CONTENTS.

CHAP.	iii PAGE
XV. Fanny describes how she made up her mind what to do with Lemon	84
XVI. Mr. Lemon wakes up	87
XVII. Lemon's vision in the "Twisted Cow"	93
XVIII. Fanny's story being concluded, I pay a visit to Mr. Lemon, and resolve to interview Devlin the Barber	98
XIX. Face to face with Devlin, I demand an explanation of him	101
XX. Devlin astonishes me	106
XXI. Devlin and I make a compact	116
XXII. I send Devlin's desk to my wife, and smoke a fragrant cigar	124
XXIII. I pass a morning in Devlin's place of business	132
XXIV. Mr. Kenneth Dowsett gives me the slip	140
XXV. We follow in pursuit	147
XXVI. Another strange and unexpected discovery	159
XXVII. We track Mr. Kenneth Dowsett to Boulogne	165
XXVIII. The trance and the revelation	173
XXIX. The rescue	178
XXX. Devlin's last scheme	183

NEVER

SOLD IN ENGLAND BEFORE AT THE PRICE.

BARBER AND COMPANY'S

RICH SIRUPY

ONFA "THIS SEASON'S GROWTH."
CONGO,
1s. 6d. PER POUND.

A TEA Abounding in Strength and High Quality.

COMPARE it with that sold by others at Two Shillings,
or 6 lbs. for 12s. 3d.

*2½ lbs. Sample sent Free for 4s. 3d.; 4½ lbs., 7s. 6d.; 6½ lbs.,
10s. 9d.; 10½ lbs., 17s. 3d., per Parcels Post, to any Post Town in
the United Kingdom and Channel Islands.*

FINE PURE CEYLON TEA, 2s. PER POUND.

BARBER AND COMPANY,

274 REGENT CIRCUS, OXFORD STREET, W.;

61 Bishopsgate Street, City; 11 Boro' High Street, S.E.;
102 Westbourne Grove, W.; 42 Great Titchfield Street, W.; King's
Cross, N.

MANCHESTER—93 Market Street.

BIRMINGHAM—Quadrant, New Street.

BRIGHTON—147 North Street. BRISTOL—38 Corn Street.

PRESTON—104 Fishergate. LIVERPOOL—1 Church Street; and
Minster Buildings; and London Road.

HASTINGS—Robertson Street, and Havelock Road.

*Postal Orders from 1s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. may now be obtained for
One Penny at all Post Offices.*

BANKERS: Bank of England, London and County, London and
Westminster, and National Provincial Bank of England.

No Charge for Carriage of Parcels above 10 lbs.

DEVLIN THE BARBER

INTRODUCTION.

IN WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE TO A STRANGE, UNFATHOMABLE BEING THROUGH WHOSE INSTRUMENTALITY AN AWFUL MYSTERY WAS SOLVED.

THE manner in which I became intimately associated with a fearful mystery with which not only all London but all England was ringing, and the strange, inexplicable Being whom the course of events brought to my knowledge, are so startling and wonderful, that I have grown to believe that by no effort of the imagination, however wild and bewildering the labyrinths into which it may lead a man, can the actual realism of our everyday life be outrivalled. What I am about to narrate is absolutely true—somewhat of an unnecessary statement, for the reason that human fancy could never have invented it. To a person unfamiliar with the wondrous life of a great city like London the story may appear impossible, but there are thousands of men and women who will immediately recognise in it features with which they became acquainted through the columns of the newspapers. I venture to say that the leading incident by which one morning—it was but yesterday—the great city was thrilled and horrified can never be entirely effaced from their memories. Dark crimes and

deeds of heroism, in which the incidents are pathetic or pitiful, draw even strangers into sympathetic relation with each other. These events come home to us, as it were. What happened to one whose face we have never seen, whose hand we have never grasped, may happen to us who move in the same familiar grooves of humanity. Our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows, our duties and temptations, are the same, because we are human; and it is this common tie of kinship that will cause the story of Devlin the Barber to be received with more than ordinary interest. Now, for the first time is revealed, in these pages, the strange manner in which the fearful mystery in which it was enshrouded was unravelled. The facts are as I shall relate them, and whatever the impression they may create, a shuddering curiosity must inevitably be aroused as to the nature and movements of the inscrutable Being through whose instrumentality I was made the agent in revealing what would otherwise have remained for ever hidden from human knowledge. By a few incredulous persons—I refer to those to whom nothing spiritual is demonstrable—the existence of this Being may be doubted; but none the less does he live and move among us this very day, pursuing his mission with a purpose and to an end which it is not in the power of mortal insight to fathom. It is not unlikely that some of my readers may have come unconsciously in contact with him within the last few hours.

CHAPTER I.

IN WHICH AN ACCOUNT IS GIVEN OF THE GOOD FORTUNE
WHICH BEFELL MR. MELLADEW.

I AM a struggling man—the phrase will be well understood, for the class to which I belong is a large one—and I reside in a neighbourhood which is neither very poor nor

very fashionable. I have, of course, my friends and acquaintances, and among the most intimate of the former is a family of the name of Melladew.

Mr. Melladew is a reader in a printing-office in which a weekly newspaper is printed. Mrs. Melladew, with the assistance of one small servant, manages the home. They had two daughters, twins, eighteen years of age, named respectively Mary and Elizabeth. These girls were very beautiful, and were so much alike that they were frequently mistaken for one another. Mrs. Melladew has told me that when they were very young she was compelled to make some distinguishing mark in their dress to avoid confusion in her recognition of them, such as differently coloured socks or pieces of ribbon. The home of the Melladews was a happy one, and the sisters loved each other sincerely. They were both in outdoor employment, in the establishments of a general linendraper and a fashionable dressmaker. Mary was in the employment of the linendraper—Limbird's, in Regent Street. It is a firm of wide repute, and employs a great number of hands, some of whom sleep in the house. This was the case with Mary Melladew, who went to her work on Monday morning and did not return home until Saturday night. Elizabeth, or Lizzie as she was always called, was employed by Madame Michel, in Baker Street. She went to her work at half-past eight every morning and returned home at half-past seven every night.

The printing-office in which Mr. Melladew is engaged employs two readers, a night reader and a day reader. Mr. Melladew is the day reader, his hours being from nine in the morning till seven in the evening. But on Saturdays he has a much longer spell; he is due in the office at eight in the morning, and he remains until two or three hours past midnight—a stretch of eighteen or nineteen hours. By that time all the work for the Sunday edition of the weekly newspaper is done, and the outside pages are being worked off on the steam presses.

Now, upon the Saturday morning on which, so far as I