

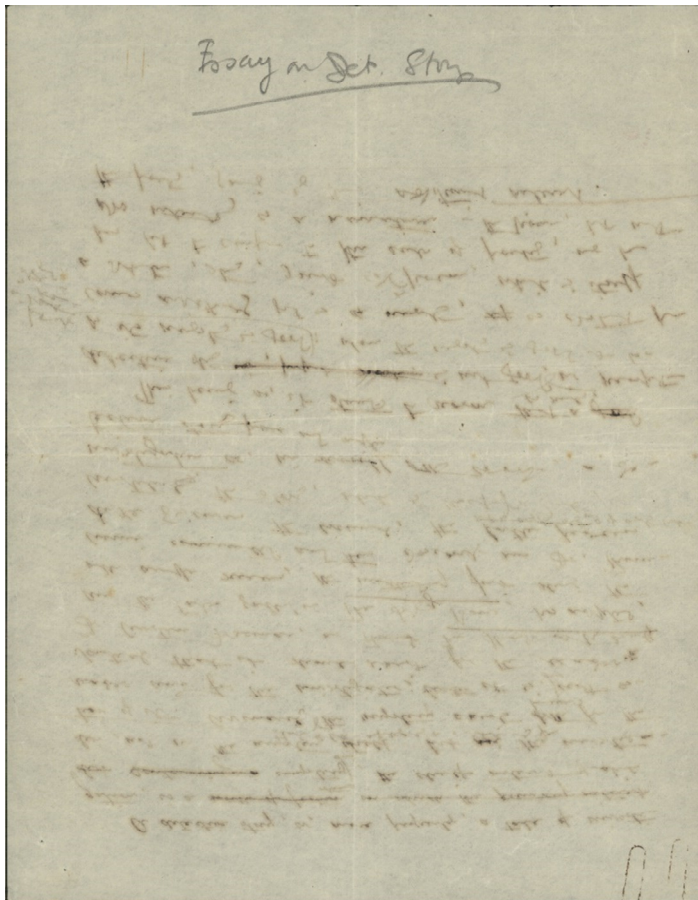
160-28

A detective story, or, more properly, a tale of investigation, is a ~~work of fiction~~ ^{work of fiction} in which the ~~primary interest~~ ^{primary interest} lies containing mystery, the chief interest of which lies, not in the mystery itself, but in the investigation of it. ~~As usual, the mystery exists both for the reader and for the investigator; but it is, in fact, essential that it should exist for the reader.~~ Dr. Austin Freeman, in ~~The S~~ ^{The} ~~Shadow of the Wolf~~ ^{Shadow of the Wolf} and the Tales gathered in ~~The Singing Bone~~ ^{The Singing Bone}, has adopted, with ample success, the method of first showing the crime committed and then describing how Dr. Thorndyke discovers the criminal; the latter process constitutes the story, which is therefore ~~not a mystery story~~ ^{not of mystery but a tale of investigation}, or, in ~~another~~ ^{other} words, a detective story pure and simple.

This being so, it stands to reason that a ~~good~~ ^{good} detective story is, ~~properly such~~ ^{properly such}, is not good, as such, in prospective as its mystery is good but only in prospect - as the investigation is good /but only in just as the investigation is good\; when the mystery is good it becomes additionally good as a mystery, ~~as~~ ^{as} as distinct from a detective story, just as a poem, which in itself has but to conform to the rules of poetry, may be also interesting as a narrative - the poem, but not the poetry, going by this additional interest.

A detective story, or, more properly, a tale of investigation, is a ~~work of fiction~~ ^{work of fiction} in which the ~~primary interest~~ ^{primary interest} lies containing mystery story, the chief interest of which lies, not in the mystery itself, but in the investigation of it. Ordinarily a tale is both - mystery story and a deduction - for the mystery exists both for the reader and for the investigator; ~~but~~ it is, however, not essential that it should exist for the reader. Dr. Austin Freeman, in ~~The S~~ ^{The} ~~Shadow of the Wolf~~ ^{Shadow of the Wolf} and the Tales gathered in ~~The Singing Bone~~ ^{The Singing Bone}, has adopted, with ample success, the method of first showing the crime committed and then describing how Dr. Thorndyke discovers the criminal; the latter process constitutes the story, which is therefore ~~not a mystery story~~ ^{not of mystery but a tale of investigation}, or, in ~~another~~ ^{other} words, a detective story pure and simple.

This being so, it stands to reason that a ~~good~~ ^{good} detective story is, ~~properly such~~ ^{properly such}, is not good, as such, in prospective as its mystery is good but only in prospect - as the investigation is good /but only in just as the investigation is good\; when the mystery is good it becomes additionally good as a mystery, ~~as~~ ^{as} as distinct from a detective story, just as a poem, which in itself has but to conform to the rules of poetry, may be also interesting as a narrative - the poem, but not the poetry, going by this additional interest.



Essay on Detective Story

DIREITOS ASSOCIADOS

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