

The Empire Club

The Empire Club is situated in a grand townhouse just off St. James' Square; membership is popular among young aristocratic sons of lower birth-order, many of whom have travelled to or profit from holdings abroad. Select invitations have been granted to those of less esteemed breeding who have managed to make their mark—and a small fortune—overseas. It boasts card games til the early hours of the morning, cooks from the four corners of the world, and plentiful bedrooms for those far from home or avoiding their family. Tall tales and business deals alike are shared over brandy and cigars.

- I **Paint the Scene:** Beyond the wood panelled walls and leather armchairs, what signs of masculinity and power are on display here?
- II A boisterous game of cards is played by some of the young bucks. Amidst the bluff and bluster, how do we see the differences between those with great wealth and noble blood, and those with only one or the other?
- III Two older gentlemen, Sir Mortimer Holland and Colonel Bulstrode, grumble about the lax morals and deficient work ethic of the younger generation. What complaints do they make, and how do we see the envy for their youth?
- IV Francis Akerman has recently returned from the sub-continent. As he retires to the bedroom he has taken at the club, how do we see him drop his stern facade and express his vulnerability?



The Bitter End

There is a brothel in Whitechapel, informally called “The Bitter End,” which, even by the standards of such disreputable places, is wholly wretched. A young nun, Sister Mary Edward Price, has taken it upon herself to help the “enders,” stopping by once a week to provide them with counseling and light medical services. Let's meet the residents of The Bitter End...

- I Georgina, who is dying of consumption. How do we know Georgina is the most popular girl at the brothel?
- II Nanette, sweet-natured and petite. How do we know Nanette is doing this because she has no other choice?
- III Candace, whose three children live with her in the brothel. In what ways has Candace tried to create a normal life for them here?
- IV Mabel, who has gotten a bit long in the tooth. What does Mabel try to do to keep up with the younger girls?



Moonlit Mudlarking

The Port of London is one of the busiest in the world, and with so much cargo being loaded and unloaded, the odd crate ends up overboard. The ebb and flow of the Thames deposits this lost cargo up and down the riverbank. Under the light of the full moon the desperate or optimistic pick through the sucking mud of low tide, stinking of shit and rotting fish, in the hope of finding treasure.

- I **Paint the Scene:** What debris from industry, trade, or homelife is found washed up on the mudbanks of the Thames? What does it tell us about the city?
- II Two youths come to blows over a case of whisky with a couple of bottles still intact. As they push and shove in the slimy mud, how do we know this fight is about more than just the find?
- III An older woman picks through the mud. Lost in her own world, she does not seem to focus on items of monetary value. What do we see her collect?
- IV Several bedraggled children poke a bloated corpse with sticks. Those who do not double over retching rifle through the waterlogged effects—what last traces of this person's life or death do they run off with?



The Prison Hulk at Woolwich

Moored near the industrial town of Woolwich are a number of hollowed-out old warships that serve as temporary prisons for convicts set to be transferred to Australia and other penal colonies. One of these “prison hulks” is the *HMS Bellorophon*, now called the *HMS Captivity*. A too-young cook is walking above and below deck, passing out the evening's portion of hard biscuits and pea soup.

- I **Paint the Scene:** How do we know the *Captivity* is a nightmare of filth and desperation?
- II Narrate a scene in which we see the convicts at leisure. How do they entertain themselves? How do they maintain their connection to God and society, if at all?
- III Narrate a scene in which we see a convict being punished by a ship's officer. What did the convict do? How is the punishment being carried out?
- IV Narrate a scene in which we see a convict finding comfort and companionship within the bulkheads of the *Captivity*.

