

## **Sherlock Holmes and the case of Gozer the Gozerian.**

Another of the nineteen most unusual cases I've seen Holmes solve involved the arrival of apocalypse at the centre of the city of London, in the form of Gozer the Gozerian, a character from a film called Ghostbusters, who seemed to be real and turned the entire city into a giant ghost-fest, under attack from a gigantic confection-based monster.

When the damage had cleared, Holmes immediately suspected foul play. He was as ready to believe in the seeming appearance of Gozer as he would have believed the boasts of a hawker pushing his or her wares in the retail zone. In other words, Holmes saw right through the scheme.

"We must visit all of the houses exactly seventeen minutes on foot from Madam Tussaud's by a sixteen year old boy weighing one hundred and fifty two pounds and measuring five feet and ten inches."

When we had done so, Holmes had the culprit by the ear.

"Why did you do it, boy?" he quizzed the boy.

"Please Mr Holmes, don't grass me up. It was my mate Trevor. He made me do it. He wanted to impress this bird. He told her he would use simple digital technology to make it appear that Gozer had destroyed London and most people would believe it."

"It was realistic," I pointed out. "It did in fact destroy much of London."

"Quiet Watson," said Holmes. "Let the boy explain himself."

"But it was merely the collapse of a just-in-time economic model which occurred. The deaths were limited considerably and damage to infrastructure was only really damage to a self-destructive and thus noxious infrastructure."

"Quite right, boy. Here's a shilling. Go away. Don't do it again."

"You're in my house," said the boy.

"Good point, boy. We will go. I was never here. Neither was Watson. Were you Watson?"

"Clearly not, Holmes."

"But you will put me in your story write-up, won't you Doctor Watson?" the boy asked, as all boys do. Naturally I obliged.

"Watson," said Holmes, as we surveyed the twilight sky above London, "it is amusing to note that almost everyone in society but for a couple of children or so actually believes Gozer the Gozerian is real and that the end of the world has come."

"Should we really not disillusion them, Holmes?" I asked, genuinely puzzled.

“Watson, they won’t believe us, they’ll believe the sensationalism they want to believe. It would be idiotic to attempt to tell them the truth. But of course it’s best the young ones are kept, to whatever extent possible, in the dark about that. Otherwise they’ll be at it again very swiftly.”

“Why did you give him a shilling? This is 2023. Surely he’ll think you’re mad.”

“It’s better that way,” Holmes assured me. There was a lull of interesting crimes and puzzles to solve for a while after that as the world ‘cleaned up’ after the Gozer disaster - which in fact simply involved all the ‘capitalists’ going out and hawking twice as hard and saying ‘do it for the Gozer relief effort’ and ‘keep shopping to stop Gozer’.



**Matt Berry, as  
Sherlock Holmes**



**Richard Ayoade,  
as Doctor Watson**



**Macaulay Culkin,  
as Trevor's friend**



**Darren Burrows,  
as Trevor**