

The Major-Criminal's Song

Laurie R. King (with apologies to W. S. Gilbert)

I am the very model of the modern major criminal,
I've information sound although it's sometimes slightly fictional
I know the cops of England and I quote cases historical
From Turpin, Dick to Crippin, Doc, in order categorical.

I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters somehow chemical
I understand forensics as an argument polemical
About binomial theorem I can figure an inductive proof:
Professor Moriarty's enemy will never make a goof.

(Professor Moriarty's enemy will never make a goof. x3/ never never make a goof)

I'm very good at DNA, a whiz at dactyloscopy
I know the scientific use of -ology and -otomy
In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
I am the very model of the modern major criminal.

*(In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
S/he is the very model of the modern major criminal.)*

I know piratic history, Hank Morgan and old Edward Teach
I marvel at the feelings of the solo haemophagic leech
I quote, so archly knowingly, the words of D. L. Sayers
And I argue with the fervency of Father Brown's grim prayers

I can tell undoubted Conan Doyles from Carr and Faye and Dibdin, too
Recite Derleth and Meyer, Culin Chabon Gaiman and Norbu
I can even hum a Sherlockism when it's not the Master's
As for King's infernal nonsense, I just wish she would write faster.

(As for King's infernal nonsense, I just wish she would write faster. x3/ faster faster.)

Then I can write a short story in Wimsey's girlfriend's bookish code
And tell you details of an *LA Confidential's* cop's reload
In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
I am the very model of the modern major criminal.

*(In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
S/he is the very model of the modern major criminal.)*

In fact, when I know what is meant by "cipher" and by "molecule"
When I can tell at sight a Yard detective from a bloody fool,
When such affairs as "boarding parties" "raids" and "pressganged" sailing crews
Fill me with more content than what is on the tv evening news.

When I can tell a privateer's rapier from a cutlass
And a Barb'ry Pirate's bottom from a corsair's big broad bupkus
In short, when I've a smattering of law and theft and chemistry
You'll say a major criminal had better stick to piracy.

(You'll say a major criminal had better stick to piracy. x3/ pira- piracy.)

Though my scientific knowledge (still, I'm plucky and adventury)
Has only been brought up to the late middle of the century
In fiction matters—novelistic, short storied and filmical—
I am the very model of the modern major criminal.

*(In fiction matters—novelistic, short storied and filmical—
S/he is the very model of the modern major criminal.)*

