Conan Doyle immediately introduces the reader to the “notorious” Lady Sannox in the exposition. She is a woman who was “very well known” amongst fashionable circles. This use of what Victorian readers may have deemed negative language encourages the reader to make a judgement on the character of Lady Sannox; her notoriety and popularity (particularly with men) is outlined clearly from the start ensuring that the reader is not encouraged to empathise with the character. Despite the promiscuity hinted at in the exposition, Lady Sannox was considered to be the “loveliest woman in London” who was “gracious” to most men who wooed her. Conan Doyle is making it clear through this use of language that this character is attractive yet the Victorian reader should remain wary of her.

“However he was not the only one to her” paints the idea that Lady Sannox may not have been faithful to her husband or her lover. With an apparent liking for “new experiences” and being “gracious to most men”, you get the idea that this “lady” may have been considered a tramp if it was not for her marital status.

Lady Sannox is having an affair and committing adultery. Thus, she is deceiving her husband, the character of Lord Sannox. We know this because the text tells us that Douglas Stone “was the handsomest man in London, but not the only one to her.” She had a liking for new experiences and was “gracious to most men who wooed her”. This reflects the character of Lady Sannox as promiscuous, involved in lies and secrets, causing the reader to view her negatively. It shows her as an untrustworthy character who is insensitive to her own husband’s feelings.