

You ain't nothing

by mazaher

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A 221-not-actually-B, after rewatching The Hounds of Baskerville in synch with athens7 yesterday evening.

I'm curious, and the Sgt. Pepper's touches in Sherlock's Mind Palace sent me off on the track of his mental landmarks. I almost missed this one because I am no special fan of Elvis, but when I found what I found... I was left breathless. Rather like John (see end note).

**This* explains a lot of things about Sherlock. Or so it seems to me.*

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The old blues is upbeat, Elvis' baritone bouncing on the syllables with carefree surefootedness. John, queuing up at Tesco's, starts tapping toes to the rhythm.

When the word "hound" catches his ear, he begins to listen.

You ain't nuthin' but a hound dog, crying all the time.

Sherlock had been almost crying when he'd told how he'd been frightened by whatever he'd seen on the moor. John had never seen Sherlock crying real tears before.

A chill runs down John's spine.

*When they said you was high classed,
Well, that was just a lie.*

Is this what Sherlock's inner voice repeats? Is this why he so desperately tries to keep himself distracted with work, nicotine, or worse, so as not to have to listen?

You ain't never caught a rabbit

Is this why he needs to always win, always catch his glow-in-the-dark rabbit, even at the cost of deadly danger to himself and others?

And you ain't no friend of mine.

"I don't have *friends*," Sherlock had scoffed when John had suggested he was one of them. How it had stung at the moment.

But what if Sherlock's contempt is not of friendship, or John, but of himself, the pathetic weepy hound who can't catch rabbits?

What does it mean then, when Sherlock calls out at him: "I have just one"?

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endnote:

At 1:11:14 in THoB, the face of Elvis appears in Sherlock's Mind Palace, together with the quote "You ain't nothing."

I Googled Elvis + "You ain't nothing".

I found this vid with lyrics on YouTube, posted by SSBMan123 on 3 Mar 2008:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXiulKIgGpg>

I'm almost sure Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffatt had this particular vid in mind, because the very first dog shown at 0:10~0:16 is the same, or very similar, to the one used for the image of the ridgeback at 1:11:11.