

To the Bag



Violin, Antonio Stradivari, Cremona, 1683.

EVEN A BEGINNER CAN MAKE MUSIC ON ONE

To the *Bag*:

I just received the wonderful *Philanthropical Cricket in Edinburgh* (and now really don't have much to look forward to receiving as the gift season approaches). Thank you! I read all the Sherlock Holmes stories during an intercession break in college, after my favorite professor, having made an obscure reference to a Sherlock Holmes story (not like a "dog that didn't bark" reference) expressed disappointment that everyone in his class didn't know the canon. I didn't want to disappoint again, and am glad he didn't make a reference to a line from the *Field Bazaar*, because I don't remember the *Field Bazaar*. Say, maybe he did make a reference after that, and it just went right by me.

In any event, the map (for lack of a better word) is terrific. The trees of Cremona line reminds me of the old story about the store signs on a street in Cremona: Amati's said "Best Violins in the World"; Stradivari's said, "Best Violins in Italy"; Guarnari's said, "Best Violins on this Street."

To the Bag

That story was told to me by a violinist, and when I asked whether the Stradivariuses were the best, he looked at me like I'd just fallen off the turnip truck and replied, Strads are beautiful and easy to play, even a beginner can make music on one; Guarnaris are hard and take time to learn, but when you learn to play one, she can sing like nothing else can.

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*The house of Stradivari.
Horace Petherick, Antonio Stradivari 4 (1900).*
