

# A Hornets' Nest of Morality

by Theodore Dalrymple (February 2016)

I was in bed the other night reading Chekhov, my wife asleep beside me, when a specimen of *Haematopota pluvialis* flew into the interior of my bedside lampshade and started to clatter about in it before settling down on the lamp-stand. I looked at this creature both fascinated and horrified: for *Haematopota pluvialis* is the common horsefly, the female of the species being a bloodsucker, usually of horses and cows but sometimes of men. [more>>>](#)