



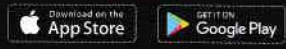
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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A Study in Scarlet

Adaptation and activities by **Gina D.B. Clemen**
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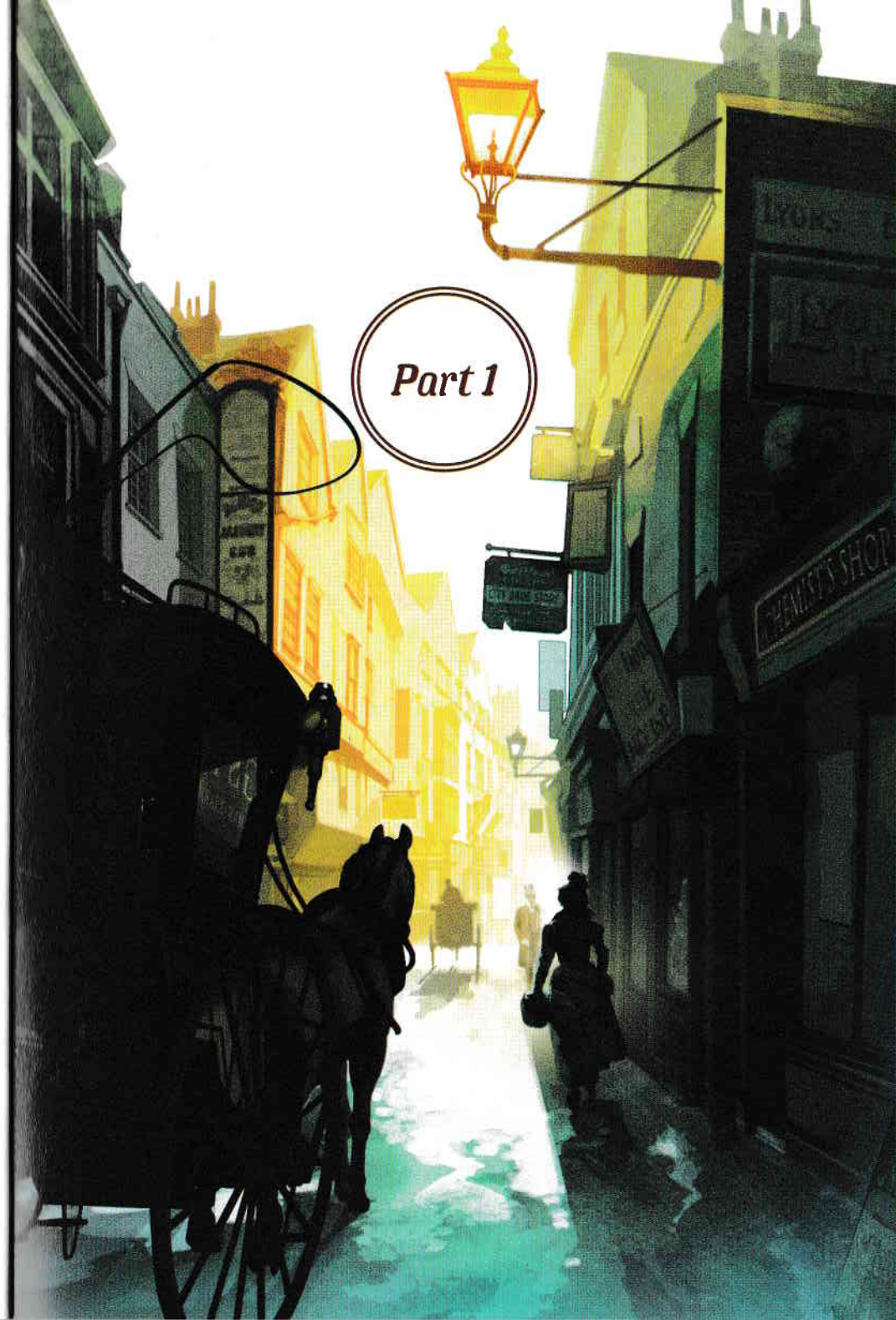
PRELIMINARY

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T: GRADE 5

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Characters

- 1 You're going to read a Sherlock Holmes detective story. Sherlock Holmes is the world's most famous detective. How much do you know about him?

Work in small groups and answer the following questions. Then compare your answers with your classmates.

- 1 Where and when did Sherlock Holmes live?
- 2 Did he work alone or with someone?
- 3 What objects did he use to solve crimes?
- 4 What musical instrument did he play?

Listening

- 2 Listen to Chapter One and choose the correct answer—a, b or c.

track 02

- 1 Doctor Watson
 - a was sent to Afghanistan.
 - b worked in a hospital in London.
 - c taught medicine at the University of London.
- 2 Sherlock Holmes often did experiments
 - a on animals.
 - b with plants.
 - c with chemicals.
- 3 The article in the magazine was written by
 - a Doctor Watson.
 - b Sherlock Holmes.
 - c Stamford.
- 4 The letter in the big envelope
 - a was about a murder.
 - b came from Afghanistan.
 - c came from a London hospital.



CHAPTER 1

221B Baker Street



From the diary of JOHN H. WATSON, M.D.

I became a Doctor of Medicine at the University of London in 1878. I then joined the army as a medical doctor. I was sent to Afghanistan¹ where I was shot in the shoulder. I went to hospital and started to get better, but then I became very ill with a fever. After many months I was strong enough to travel back to England.

My health was weak, and I had no friends or family in England. The government gave me some money and I lived in a hotel in London for a while. However, the hotel was so expensive that I needed a cheaper place to stay. That is how I met Sherlock Holmes.

One day I met an old friend called Stamford and we had lunch together. I told him about my adventures and money problems.

1. **Afghanistan** : a country in southern Asia.



track 02

'I might be able to help you, Watson,' said Stamford. 'I know a man who needs someone to share some nice rooms that he's found. They're too expensive for him on his own.'

'I'd like to meet him,' I said.

Stamford looked at me strangely and said, 'You don't know Sherlock Holmes. He's a good man, but he has some strange ideas...'

'I'd still like to meet him,' I said.

After lunch we went to meet Sherlock Holmes at the laboratory where he worked.

'Doctor John Watson, Mr. Sherlock Holmes,' said Stamford, introducing us.

'How are you?' he said, shaking my hand. 'You've been in Afghanistan, haven't you?'

'How did you know that?' I asked, surprised.

'Never mind,' he said, laughing to himself.

'My friend needs a place to live,' said Stamford, 'and I know that you need someone to share your rooms.'

Mr. Holmes seemed pleased and said, 'I've seen some rooms in Baker Street. However, I usually keep chemicals about and I sometimes do experiments. And I also play the violin, because I like music. Would that be a problem for you?'

'No, it wouldn't,' I replied.

'What about you?' asked Holmes. 'We need to know the worst things about each other before we can live together.'

'I don't like noise, I get up at strange times and I'm lazy.'

'Oh, that's alright!' he laughed. 'Come to see the rooms tomorrow. I'll meet you here at noon.'

After leaving the laboratory I asked Stamford, 'How did Holmes know about Afghanistan?'



Stamford smiled and said, 'A lot of people want to know *how* he finds things out!'

The next day, I saw the rooms at 221B Baker Street: two comfortable bedrooms and a large sitting room. We moved in immediately. As the weeks passed, I became very interested in Sherlock Holmes. He was quite tall and thin, and he studied all kinds of subjects. He was certainly a clever man. But I still didn't know what his work was.

When people came to visit Holmes, he wanted to use the sitting room as a place of business, so I went to my bedroom.

During breakfast one morning, I was reading an article in a weekly magazine. The article said that by looking carefully at a person, you could learn a lot from everyday details. When you look carefully at a person's clothes, you can find out the work he or she does.

I didn't agree with the article and exclaimed, 'What rubbish!'

Sherlock Holmes looked at me and said, 'What is it?'

'This article,' I replied. 'It's well written but it's not practical. How can the writer on a train in the Underground guess the jobs of all the travellers?'

'I wrote the article,' said Holmes, calmly.

'You!'

'Yes, I'm very good at observation and deduction. It's my job!'

'What? I don't understand.'

'Well, I think I'm special. I'm a consulting detective,' said Holmes. 'When government detectives and private detectives here in London are confused, they come to me for help. They tell me the details of the crime. With my knowledge and skills, I can usually help them solve it.'

'How can you understand a problem without leaving your room?'

'Sometimes I go and see the scene of the crime with my own eyes. For example, how did I know that you came from Afghanistan?'

'Somebody probably told you.'

'Of course not!' Holmes replied, with a clever look in his eyes. 'I observed you carefully. I knew you were an army doctor. Afghanistan is a hot place and your face was brown from the sun. It wasn't your natural colour because your arms were white. You looked tired. This meant that you weren't well. Your left arm was injured because you held it in an unnatural way. Where else could an army doctor have been injured? Obviously in Afghanistan!'

'It seems simple when you explain it,' I said, smiling.

After a few minutes someone knocked at the door. When I opened it, a man with a big envelope said, 'For Mr. Sherlock Holmes.'

Holmes opened the big envelope and read the letter inside. 'Here, Watson, look at this.'

After reading the letter, I exclaimed, 'This is terrible! There's been a murder!'

