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books

Arthur Conan Doyle  
Charles Dickens  
Clarence Rook  
Gilbert Keith Chesterton

# Classic Detective Stories

Retold by Joshua Anderson  
Activities by Frederick Garland  
Illustrated by Gianluca Garofalo



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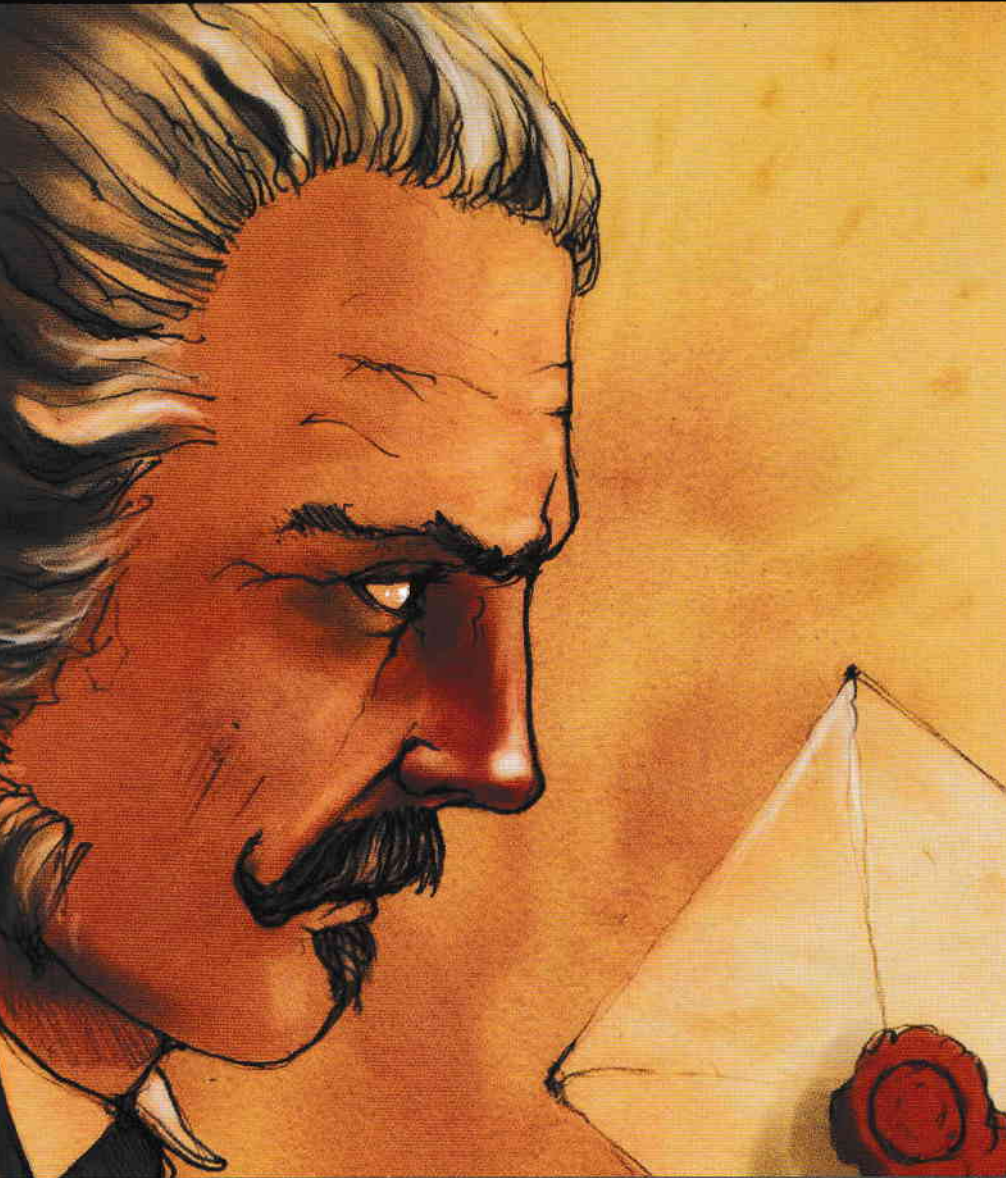


These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.

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# The Five Orange Pips



## Introduction

This story begins, like many Sherlock Holmes adventures, with the great detective and his friend, Dr Watson, sitting in the Baker Street flat. A mysterious visitor, who has an extraordinary story to tell, arrives. Sherlock Holmes often fights against criminal organisations, as in *The Sign of Four* and *The Red-Headed League*. Here is another example of the great detective in such a fight, although in this case the organisation is an American one. The story is also a little unusual because Holmes is defeated – not by the enemy, but by the weather!

### Before you read

#### 1 Vocabulary

Label the pictures with the words below. Use a dictionary if you need help.

keyhole pips flap lid luggage draughts



A



B



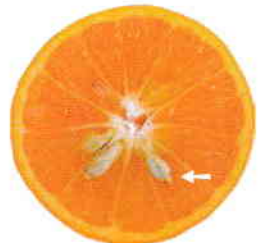
C



D



E



F

## PART ONE

When I look at all my notes about Sherlock Holmes's cases between 1882 and 1890, there are so many strange cases that it is not easy to decide which ones to write about. Some, also, were never completely solved and if they were stories would not have satisfactory endings. There is one, however, which was so strange and unusual that I am going to write about it now.



track 02

It all began in September. The weather was terrible, I remember. It rained and it was very windy all day. The weather grew worse in the evening. Sherlock Holmes and I sat by the fire in his flat in Baker Street. We did not say much. Holmes was working with some papers and I was reading a story. Suddenly I heard the bell.

'Who is that?' I said. 'Are you expecting a friend, Holmes?'

'No,' he said. 'You're my only friend, Watson. I don't like people visiting me at home.'

'Then it must be a client,' I suggested.

'If it is a client,' Holmes replied, 'it is a serious case. No one would walk through this storm if the case were not serious.'



The landlady<sup>1</sup> opened the front door of the house. A few moments later there was a knock on the door of Holmes's flat.

'Come in!' cried Holmes.

A young man came into the room. He looked about twenty-two years old and he was well dressed. He was pale and looked very worried.

'I'm sorry,' he said. 'I hope I'm not disturbing.'

'Give me your coat and umbrella,' Holmes said. 'I will hang them up to dry. I see you have come to London from the south-west,' he added.

'Yes,' the young man said. He looked surprised. 'I've just come from Horsham. But how did you know that?'

'I can see from the particular type of dirt on your shoes,' Holmes told him.

'I've come for advice,' said the young man.

'Advice is easy to give,' Holmes replied.

'I need help as well as advice,' the young man added.

'Help is not always easy to give,' Holmes said seriously.

'I've heard a lot about you, Mr Holmes,' the young man said. 'Major Prendergast told me how you helped him in the Tankerville Club Scandal.'

'Ah, yes,' Holmes remembered with a smile. 'The Major was accused of cheating<sup>2</sup> at cards.'

'He said you could solve any mystery!' the young man cried.

'That was an exaggeration,' Holmes said quietly.

'The Major said you are always successful!'

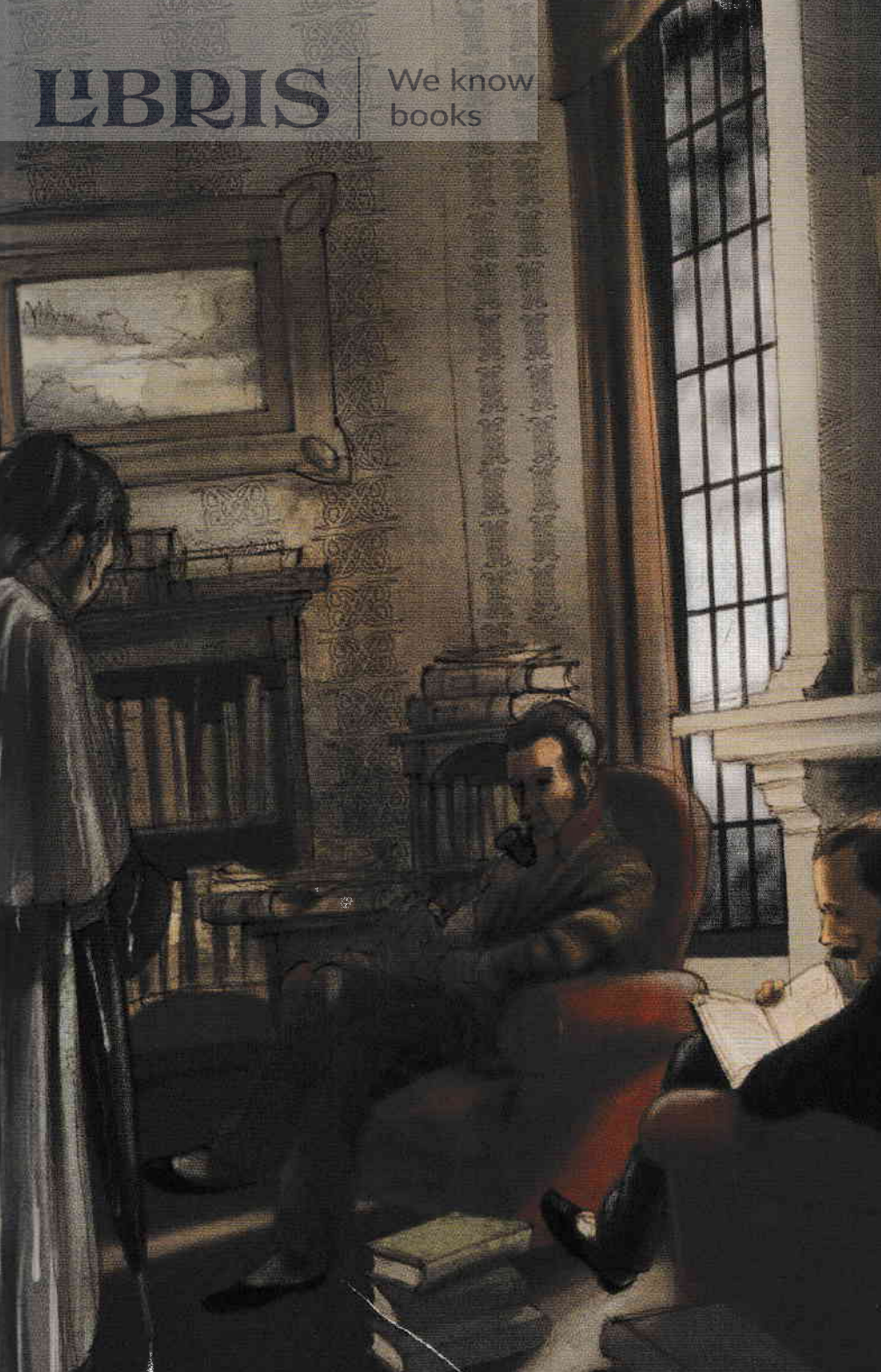
'That's not true,' Holmes replied. 'I have lost four times — three times against men and once against a woman.'

1. **landlady** : the lady who owns the house.

2. **cheating** : playing dishonestly.

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‘But you’ve had hundreds of cases,’ the young man continued. ‘Four defeats are nothing against hundreds of successes! I’m sure you’ll be successful with my case.’

‘It’s true that I’m usually successful, but please tell us all about it,’ my friend suggested.

‘It’s a strange case,’ the young man began. ‘The things that have happened in my family are very mysterious.’

‘Tell us everything,’ Holmes repeated.

‘My name is John Openshaw,’ the young man said. ‘This story isn’t really about me. To understand it, you will have to know something about the history of my family. My grandfather had two sons – my father Joseph and my Uncle Elias. My father had a bicycle factory in Coventry. He was very successful and he became a rich man.

‘My Uncle Elias went to America when he was a young man. He, too, became a successful man. He owned a plantation<sup>1</sup> in Florida. He fought for the South in the American Civil War. He became a Colonel in the Confederate<sup>2</sup> army. He did not want black people in America to have the vote. When the South was defeated, my Uncle Elias returned to his plantation in Florida for three or four years. Then he came back to England.

‘He bought a house in Horsham. He was a strange man. He was not very friendly and he lived by himself. His neighbours sometimes saw him in his garden, but he usually stayed in the house. He drank a lot of brandy<sup>3</sup> and he never had any visitors. He did not want to see his brother.

1. **plantation** : large piece of land where cotton, tea and sugar are grown.
2. **Confederate** : the Confederates were the Southern States in the American Civil War (1861-65). They fought to defend slavery and were defeated.
3. **brandy** : strong alcoholic drink.

**1 Comprehension check**

Answer the following questions.

- 1 On what side did the young man's uncle fight during the American Civil War?
- 2 What did Mr Openshaw see in his uncle's attic?
- 3 Where did the letter that Uncle Elias received come from?
- 4 What was in the envelope?
- 5 What did the letter mean to Uncle Elias?
- 6 What was written on the inside of the flap?
- 7 What did Uncle Elias burn in the fire?
- 8 What was written on the inside of the lid of the box?
- 9 Who did Uncle Elias leave all his possessions to in his will?
- 10 Where was Uncle Elias's body found?
- 11 What did the police say about Uncle Elias's death?

**2 The case of the missing prepositions**

For each question, choose the correct word (A, B, C or D) for each space.

- 0 I have all of my uncle's letters ..from.. 1870 to 1876.  
 A from                      B to                      C among                      D between
- 1 Holmes did not have any friends except Watson because he liked living ..... himself.  
 A with                      B about                      C —                      D by
- 2 Just then somebody knocked ..... the door.  
 A by                      B about                      C in                      D on
- 3 Mr Openshaw entered ..... Holmes's drawing-room.  
 A in                      B —                      C into                      D about
- 4 Mr Openshaw's father told him ..... the bicycle factory.  
 A about                      B from                      C by                      D to
- 5 I first met Mr Holmes ..... October.  
 A in                      B at                      C on                      D by
- 6 Mr Openshaw went ..... his uncle's study.  
 A in                      B —                      C into                      D about