

STEPPING STONES™

a chapter book

CLASSIC

# MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
adapted by Judith Conaway

## **The Adventure of the Speckled Band**

It was early in April 1883. At this time I was living with Sherlock Holmes. We had rooms at 221B Baker Street.

One morning I woke up early. Holmes was standing by my bed. He was already dressed. I looked up at him in surprise. My clock showed that it was only seven. Holmes got up late, as a rule.

"Very sorry to wake you up, Watson," he said.

"What is it?" I asked. "A fire?"

"No. It is a young lady. She just

came in. She says she must see me. It looks like a case, Watson. I thought you would want to be in on it from the first."

I put on my clothes. In a few minutes I was ready. We went down to the sitting room.

A lady got to her feet. She was dressed in black. We saw that her face was gray. Her eyes looked like those of a hunted animal.

"Good morning," said Holmes. "My name is Sherlock Holmes. And this is Dr. Watson. He is my dear friend. Please tell us everything."

"My name is Helen Stoner," said the lady. "I am living with my stepfather. His name is Dr. Grimesby Roylott. He is the last living Roylott. The Roylotts have been at Stoke Moran for hundreds of years."



Holmes nodded. "I know the name," said he.

Miss Stoner went on. "At one time

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How is a woman killed when she is alone in a locked room? Why does a mysterious club let in only people with red hair? What is the secret of the goose that swallowed a priceless blue gem?

Sherlock Holmes is the greatest detective the world has ever known. He's so clever that he outsmarts crooks even the London police can't catch. But he'll need all of his skill, not to mention the help of his good friend Dr. Watson, to solve these three mind-boggling cases.

