

LIMERICKS

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Adventure X – The Adventure of the Speckled Band

In the dark, if you hear a soft hiss,
Be very afraid, my dear miss.
If you want to get wed,
You'll find yourself dead.
Step-dad Roylott will make sure of this.

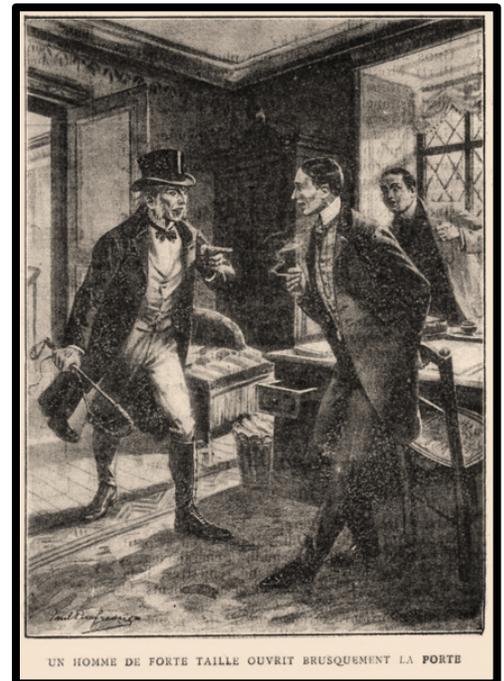
There once was a long, speckled snake,
For which Watson and Holmes stayed awake,
Holmes thrust, very quick,
At the snake with his stick.
It killed Roylott, that improbable snake.

Dr. Roylott gave a viper a bell-pull to tread
To bite his daughters before they could wed
But Holmes was too quick
And hit the snake with his stick
And the spotted band went to doc's head

You would not want this in your hand,
Though it could crawl up a silk strand;
It never would fight,
But, oh it could bite;
It was the maligned speckled band.

Sandy Kozinn

Karen Olson



Bill Dorn

Many odd clues to deduce in full
Bed attached to floor, and fake bell pull
Milk fed to an adder
Used rope as a ladder
Many Sherlockians felt clues were bull

Steve Mason

"The Adventure of the Speckled Band"
By Dr. John Watson as told to Karen Olson

Conan Doyle wrote for The Strand
A tale of a deadly speckled band
Though the maiden it slew
I just still had no clue
When Holmes played his winning hand.

'Twas a case of a doctor in Surrey
Whose step daughter sought help in a hurry
It was in April '83
When Holmes called to see me
So early my mind was still furry

Found a lass in our sitting room
Haggard features spoke of her gloom
Holmes sought advantage to gain
When he mentioned her train
Which she boarded without help from a groom.

"My name's Helen Stoner," she said
"I'm here 'cause my twin sister is dead
We lived with stepfather at Stoke Moran
Tho' a doctor, he's a cold, morose man
Wild beasts of India the grounds do tread

Two years ago, my sister was engaged
Stepfather was erratic but not much enraged
Sleep was disturbed by a whistle until one deep night
She opened her door and cried out with such fright
She swooned in my arms without being assuaged

By light of morning she was cold
It was of the speckled band she told
 And I'd head the low whistle before
 The shutters had been bolted, as was her door
To find the reason of her death, please, sir, be bold.

Holmes told her to return home and she made quick flight
When our door was crashed by a man of great height
 It was stepfather, Roylott, and as part of his temper
 He bent the poker without even a whimper
But Holmes is strong, too, and he made it right

To our investigation this gave zest
And Holmes vowed to give it his best
 So that afternoon to Surrey we'd travel
 To save her life and the mystery to unravel
To satisfy the terrified lady's request

At Stoke Moran we examined the hall
Holmes checked the ventilator high on the wall
 He noted the pull-rope attached to no bell
 So, we'd spend the night next to Roylott's cell
My pistol ready for Holmes beck and call.

We waited quite tense through the dark hour
Until we saw light in the vent and held fast with our power
 Holmes yelled, and to the bell-pull directed his cane
 He said he saw the band and from Roylott, a cry of pain
A scream which wakes the dead and causes milk to sour

We rushed to his door and saw a terrible fare
The doctor quite dead with a dreadful stare
 Around his brow a deadly snake raised its head
 Miss Stoner was safe now, Roylott was dead
And thus, Holmes laid strange facts bare

Holmes said the world's in a wicked thrall
When a clever doctor takes the fall
 He is the first of criminals to serve
 He has knowledge and he has nerve
We agreed it is the worst of all.

And so, the speckled pit viper was caught
Before the final murder Dr. Roylott sought
 The lady was married and got her money
 Holmes got paid and canned his honey
My pistol and my loyalty got naught.

In summary:

 Watson said:
 Doc dead
 Holmes famed
 Viper blamed
 Girl wed

Karen Olson