

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes



## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
February, 1892

## The Adventure of the Speckled Band



## "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

01

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 01 - Cover Card
- 02 - Cover Card
- 03 - Summary
- 04 - Filmography / Radiography
- 05 - Filmography / Radiography
- 06 - Sherlock Holmes
- 07 - John Watson
- 08 - Helen Stoner



## Canonical Characters



Josef Friedrich,  
1906

## The Adventure of the Speckled Band



## "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

02

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

- 09 – Dr. Grimesby Roylott
- 10 – Julia Stoner
- 11 – Mrs. Stoner
- 12 – Percy Armitage
- 13 – Honoria Westphail
- 14 – Mrs. Farintosh
- 15 – The Speckled Band
- 16 – Data! Data!



# Canonical Characters

*Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.*

## III.—THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

**I**N glancing over my notes of the seventy odd cases in which I have during the last eight years studied the methods of my friend Sherlock Holmes, I find many tragic, some comic, a large number merely strange, but none commonplace; for, working as he did rather for the love of his art than for the acquirement of wealth, he refused to associate himself with any investigation which did not tend towards the unusual, and even the fantastic. Of all these varied cases, however, I cannot recall any which presented more singular features than that which was associated with the well-known Surrey family of the Royletts of Stoke Moran. The events in question occurred in the early days of my association with Holmes, when we were sharing rooms as bachelors, in Baker-street. It is possible that I might have placed them upon record before, but a promise of secrecy was made at the time, from which I have only been freed during the last month by the untimely death of the lady to whom the pledge was given. It is perhaps as well that the facts should now come to light, for I have reasons to know that there are widespread rumours as to the death of Dr. Grimesby Roylett which tend to make the matter even more terrible than the truth.

It was early in April in the year '83 that I woke one morning to find Sherlock Holmes standing, fully dressed, by the side of my bed. He was a late riser as a rule, and the clock on the mantelpiece showed that it was only a quarter past seven. I looked up at him in some surprise, and with a little resentment, for I was accustomed to his peculiar habits.

"Try to knock you up, Watson," he said. "It's the common lot this morning. Mrs. Hudson has been knocked out by a fire, and I on you."

"A fire?"

"Yes, a fire. It seems that a young

lady has arrived in a considerable excitement, who insists upon seeing me. She is waiting now in the sitting-room. Now, when young ladies wander about Metropolis at this hour of the morning, and knock sleepy people up out of their beds, I presume that it is something very pressing which they have to communicate. Should it prove to be an interesting case, you would, I am sure, wish to follow it from the outset. I thought at any rate that I should call you, and give you the chance."

"My dear fellow, I would not miss it for anything."

I had no keener pleasure than in following Holmes in his professional investigations, and in admiring the rapid deductions, as swift as intuitions, and yet always founded on a logical basis, with which he unravelled the problems which were submitted to him. I rapidly threw on my clothes, and was ready in a few minutes to accompany my friend down to the sitting-room. A lady dressed in black and heavily veiled, who had been sitting in the window, rose as we entered.

"Good morning, madam," said Holmes, cheerily. "My name is Sherlock Holmes. This is my intimate friend and associate Dr. Watson, before whom you can speak as freely as before myself. Ha, I am glad to see that Mrs. Hudson has had the good sense to light the fire. Pray draw up to the fire, and I shall order you a cup of hot coffee, for I observe that you are shivering."

"It is not cold which makes me shiver," said the woman in a low voice, drawing her seat as requested.

"What then?"

"It is fear, Mr. Holmes."

She raised her veil as she spoke, and I could see that she was indeed in a state of agitation, her face pale and grey, with restless, feverish gleams in those of some hunted animal, and her figure was thin and



## "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

03

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Helen Stoner, a terrified young lady arrives and pleads for Sherlock Holmes's assistance.

Just before her sister Julia's planned marriage, she died under mysterious circumstances, uttering three short words with her last breaths: "The Speckled Band."

Now, Helen is close to her nuptials, and her step-father Doctor Roylett, an unsociable and violent man who lives off the sister's income from an inheritance, has forced Helen to move into Julia's bedroom at Stoke Moran under false pretenses.

Strangely, Helen has heard a low whistle during the night, just as Julia had heard the same thing for several nights before her death.



# Canonical Characters



Paul Dufresne,  
1906

## The Adventure of the Speckled Band



### “The Adventure of the Speckled Band” (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

#### Filmography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
1912	FR/UK	Georges Tréville	Mr. Moyse
1923	UK	Eille Norwood	Hubert Willis
1931	UK	Raymond Massey	Athole Stewart
1949	US	Alan Napier	Melville Cooper
1964	UK	Douglas Wilmer	Nigel Stock
1967	DE	Erich Schellow	Paul Edwin Roth
1979	RU	Vasily Livanov	Vitaly Solomin
1984	UK	Jeremy Brett	David Burke

#### Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
October 20, 1930	NBC	William Gillette	Leigh Lovell
September 17, 1931	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
February 01, 1933	Blue (NBC)	Richard Gordon	Leigh Lovell
February 01, 1936	Mutual/ NBC	Louis Hector	Harry West
October 16, 1939	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
March 02, 1941	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
October 01, 1943	Blue (NBC)	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce
November 12, 1945	Mutual	Basil Rathbone	Nigel Bruce



Canonical Characters



The Adventure of the Speckled Band



“The Adventure of the Speckled Band”  
(*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

05

Radiography

<u>Date</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>Watson</u>
May 10, 1945		Cedric Hardwicke	Finlay Currie
June 23, 1947	ABC	Tom Conway	Nigel Bruce
December 19, 1948	Mutual	John Stanley	Ian Martin
1948		Howard Marion Crawford	Finlay Currie
March 20, 1955	NBC	John Gielgud	Ralph Richardson
1959		Maurice Teynac	Pierre Destailles
July 17, 1962	BBC	Carleton Hobbs	Norman Shelley
1970		Robert Hardy	Nigel Stock
June 28, 1977	CBS	Kevin McCarthy	Court Benson
1979		Geoffrey Whitehead	Donald Pickering
January 09, 1991	BBC	Clive Merrison	Michael Williams
April 09, 1992	BBC	Edward Petherbridge	David Pearl
2004		Jim Crozier	David Hawkes



## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

06

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

"Holmes solved the murder of Julia Stoner at the hands of Dr. Grimesby Roylott, who confronted Holmes saying, "I know you, you scoundrel! I have heard of you before. You are Holmes, the meddler. Holmes, the busybody! Holmes, the Scotland Yard Jack-in-office!"

*"It is a little cold for the time of the year... but I have heard that the crocuses promise well."*

(Alan Napier, 1949, *Your Show Time*, "The Adventure of the Speckled Band")



## Canonical Characters



Dr. John Watson



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

07

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

"Accompanied Holmes to Stoke Moran to determine the manner of death of the Stoner sister.

"Of all these varied cases, however, I cannot recall any which presented more singular features than that which was associated with the well-known Surrey family of the Roylotts of Stoke Moran."

*"It seems to me to be a most dark and sinister business."*

(Melville Cooper, 1949, *Your Show Time*, "The Adventure of the Speckled Band")



## Canonical Characters



Helen Stoner



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

08

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

"Daughter of Major-General and Mrs. Stoner. She moved to Stoke Moran with her twin sister, Julia, after her mother remarried Dr. Grimesby Roylott. Engaged to Percy Armitage. Hired Sherlock Holmes to solve her sister's death.

*"It is not cold that makes me shiver. It is fear, Mr. Holmes. It is terror."*

(Evelyn Ankers, 1949, *Your Show Time*, "The Adventure of the Speckled Band")



## Canonical Characters



Dr. Grimesby Roylott



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

09

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

"The last survivor of one of the oldest Saxon families in England." Left Calcutta where he beat his butler to death and was sentenced to prison. Married Mrs. Stoner and returned to his family's estate, Stoke Moran, with his step-daughters, Julia and Helen Stoner. Murdered his step-daughter Julia before dying from a snake bite.

*"Don't you dare to meddle with my affairs. I know that Miss Stoner has been here. I am a dangerous man to fall foul of!"*

He seized the poker, and bent it into a curve with his huge brown hands.

*(Lyn Harding, 1921, The Speckled Band: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes)*



## Canonical Characters



Julia Stoner



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

10

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Daughter of Major-General Stoner and Mrs. Stoner. Murdered by her step-father Dr. Grimesby Roylott after moving to Stoke Moran with her twin sister, Helen, after her mother re-married. Was engaged to a half-pay major prior to her death.

*"O, my God! Helen! It was the band! The speckled band!"*

(Denise Armon, 1984, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, "The Speckled Band")



## Canonical Characters



Mrs. Stoner



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

11

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Widow of Major-General  
Stoner of the Bengal  
Artillery.

Her maiden name was  
Westphail. She had two  
daughters, Julia and Helen  
and re-married Grimesby  
Roylott and moved to  
Stoke Moran before dying  
in a railway accident.



## Canonical Characters



Percy Armitage



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

12

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Was engaged to marry  
Helen Stoner who he  
knew for several years.

He was the second son of  
Mr. Armitage of Crane  
Water, near Reading.  
Probably married Helen  
after the death of Dr.  
Grimesby Roylett.

*(Donald Douglas, 1964, Sherlock Holmes, "The Speckled Band")*



## Canonical Characters



Honoria Westphail



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

13

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Aunt of Helen and Julia Stoner.  
Lives near Harrow. Sister of  
Mrs. Stoner and Mrs. Roylott.  
The sisters, Helen and Julia,  
were occasionally allowed to  
pay short visits at this lady's  
house.

Julia visited Miss Westphail two  
years earlier, and met a  
member of the Marines, to  
whom she became engaged.



## Canonical Characters



Mrs. Farintosh



## "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

14

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

Referred Helen Stoner to Holmes, who had previously helped her with a case involving an opal tiara.

Helen Stoner stated, "I have heard of you, Mr. Holmes; I have heard of you from Mrs. Farintosh, whom you helped in the hour of her sore need."

Holmes stated, "I think it was before your time, Watson."



## Canonical Characters



The Swamp Adder of Stoke Moran



### "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

15

*(The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes)*

According to Holmes, "The deadliest snake in India." The snake was yellow with brownish speckles and caused the deaths of Dr. Grimesby Roylott and Julia Stoner. Trained to climb up and down a rope at the sound of a whistle.

"Some of the blows of my cane came home, and roused its snakish temper, so that it flew upon the first person it saw. In this way I am no doubt indirectly responsible for Dr. Grimesby Roylott's death, and I cannot say that it is likely to weigh very heavily upon my conscience."



## Canonical Characters



## The Adventure of the Speckled Band



## "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*)

16

### First Publication:

U.K. -- *The Strand Magazine*,  
February, 1892

U.S. - *The Pittsburgh Press*  
February 11, 1892

U.K. -- *The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes*,  
October 14, 1892 George Newnes Ltd.

U.S. - *The Adventures of Sherlock  
Holmes*,  
October 15, 1892, Harper & Brothers  
Publishers

### Chronological Date:

April, 1883  
(Watson)

Friday, April 06, 1883  
(Baring-Gould)

### Ranking:

# 1 of 56 short stories  
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

### Christ Abbreviation:

SPEC

© Legion of Zoom 2022