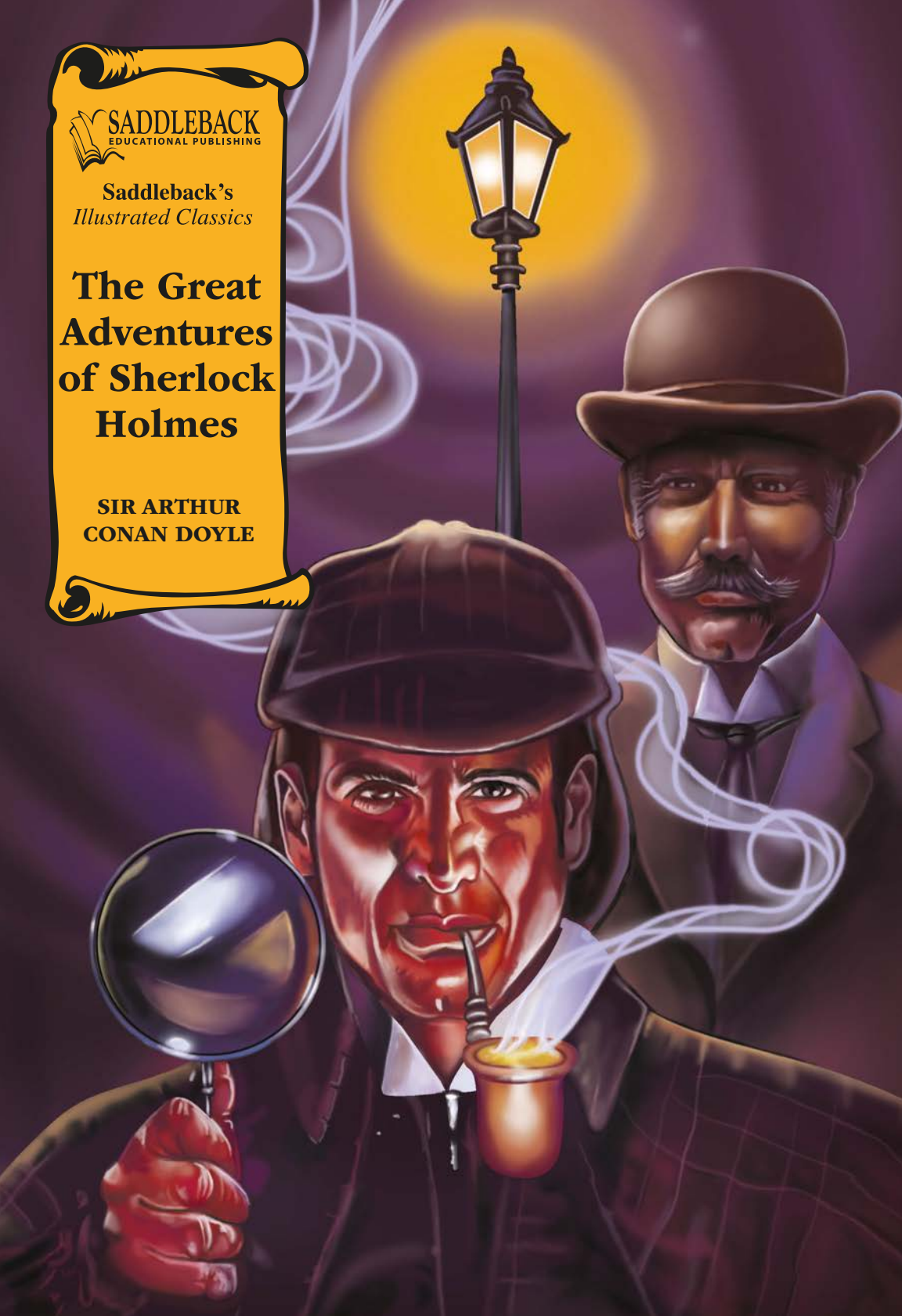




Saddleback's
Illustrated Classics

The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

SIR ARTHUR
CONAN DOYLE



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a British author, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1859. He studied medicine and became a doctor, but he only practiced medicine for a short time.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, the world's best-known detective. The character of the brilliant detective Holmes is partly based on one of Doyle's teachers who was known for his careful use of reason and observation. Holmes, his bungling assistant, Dr. Watson, and his arch-enemy, Professor Moriarty are some of the most popular characters in literary history. Doyle finally got tired of writing about Holmes and wrote a story in which the detective drowned. But the public outcry was so great he had to bring him back to life in another story!

Though he is famous for the 56 short stories and four novels in which Holmes appeared, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle also wrote plays, historical novels, and romances. He was knighted in 1902 for his activities during the Boer War.

He died in 1930.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes



Helen
Stoner



Dr. Watson



Sherlock Holmes



James McCarthy



Miss Turner

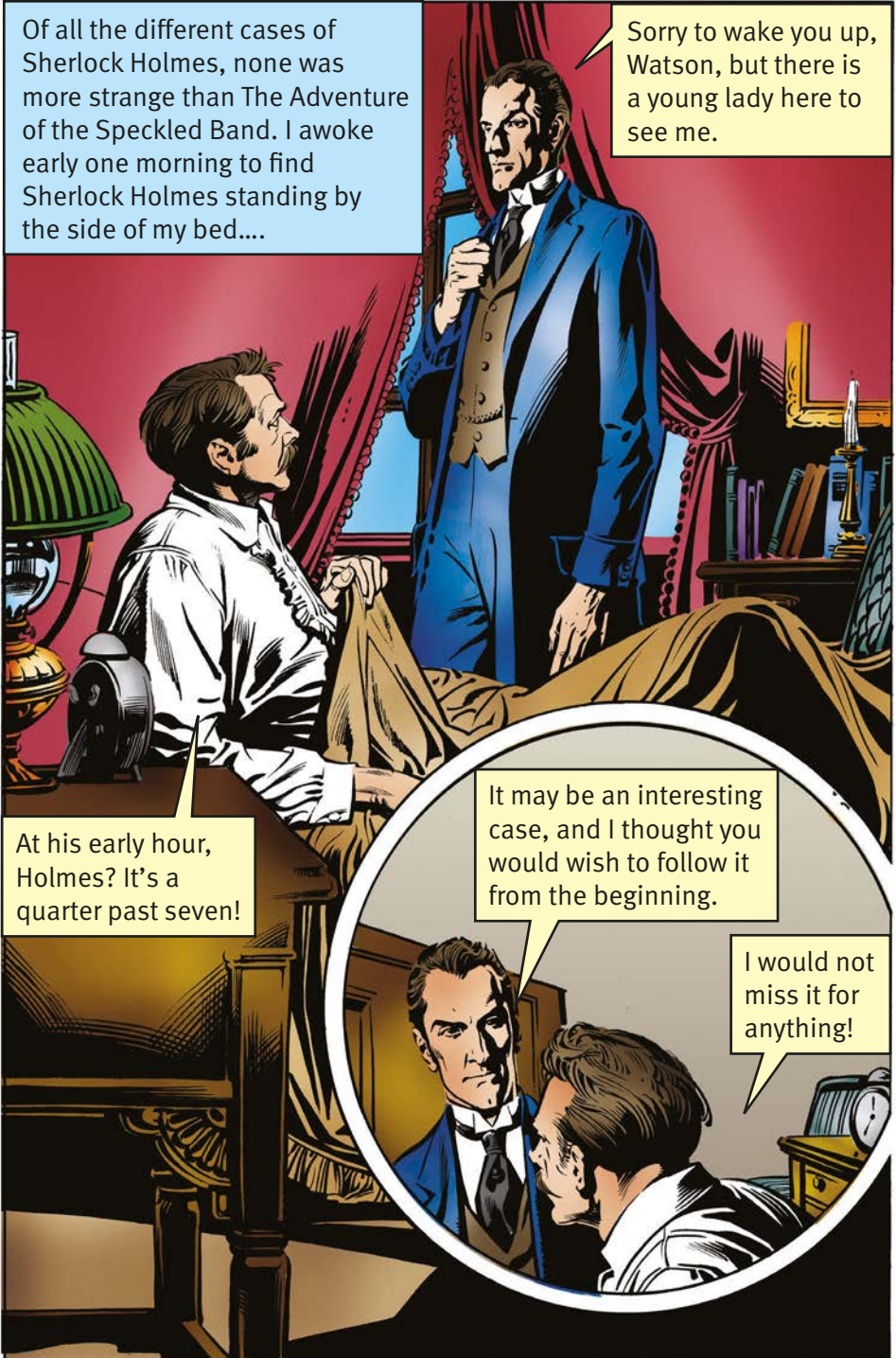
Of all the different cases of Sherlock Holmes, none was more strange than The Adventure of the Speckled Band. I awoke early one morning to find Sherlock Holmes standing by the side of my bed....

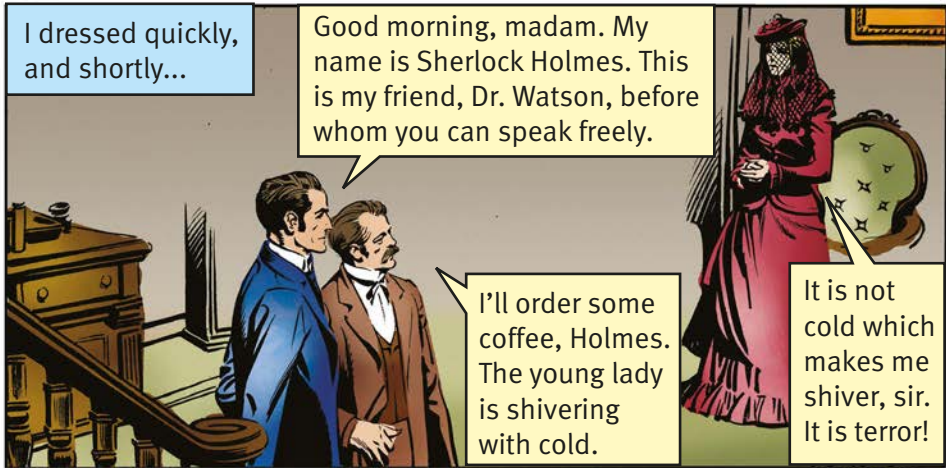
Sorry to wake you up, Watson, but there is a young lady here to see me.

At his early hour, Holmes? It's a quarter past seven!

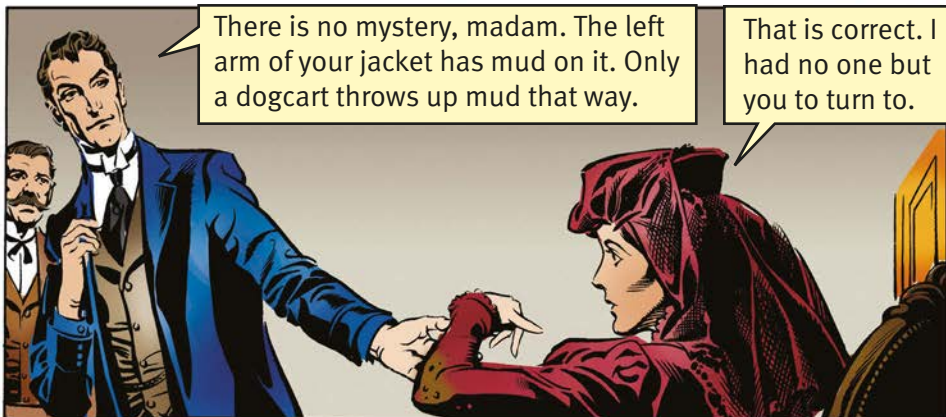
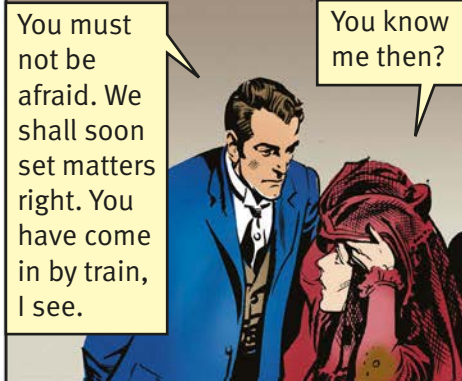
It may be an interesting case, and I thought you would wish to follow it from the beginning.

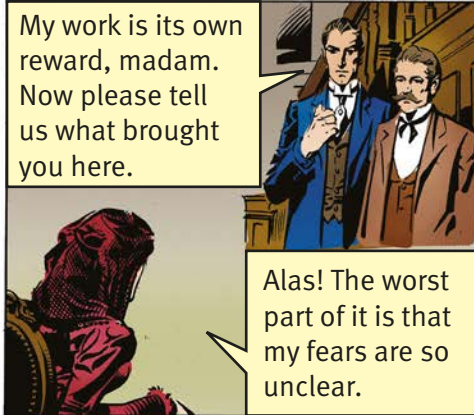
I would not miss it for anything!





When she raised her veil, we could see she was indeed very much afraid.





The family was at one time among the richest in England. But now nothing is left but a few acres, the 200-year-old house, and many bills to be paid.

The last squire lived the life of a highborn poor man. His only son, my stepfather, managed to become a doctor, and then went to India, where he started a large practice.



But in a fit of anger, he beat his native butler to death. He served a long term in prison. When he returned to England years later he was a bitter man.

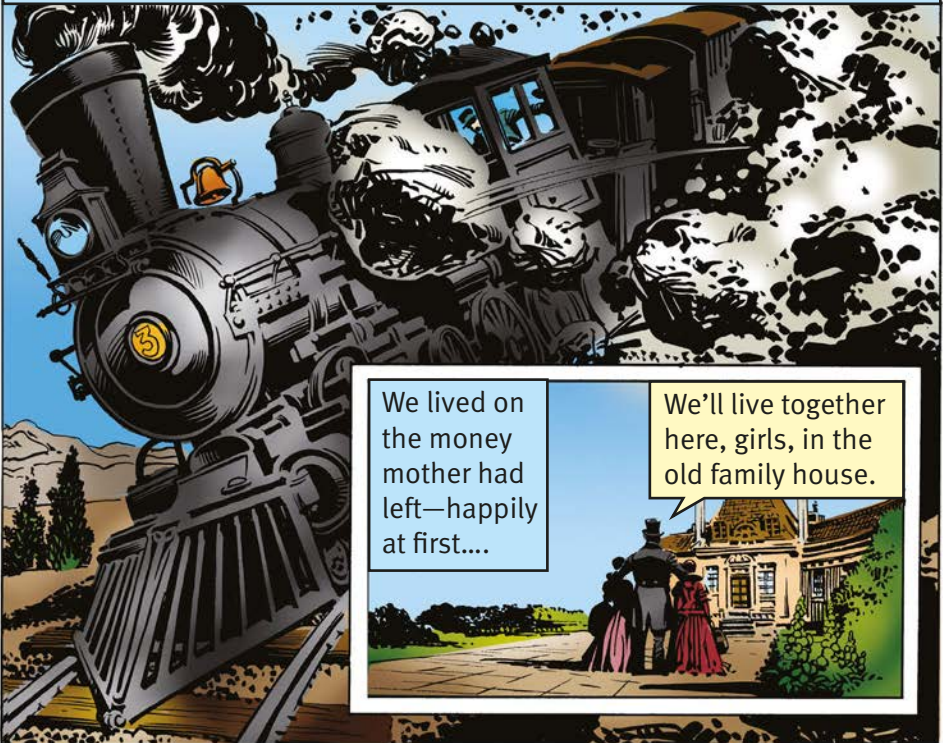


When Dr. Roylott was in India, he married my mother. She was the young widow of Major-General Stoner. My sister Julia and I were twins....



Mother left her money—a considerable sum to Dr. Roylott while we lived with him, but with the understanding that a certain yearly amount should be given to each of us if we got married.

Shortly after our return to England, eight years ago, my mother died in a railway accident. Dr. Roylott then gave up his medical practice.



We lived on the money mother had left—happily at first....

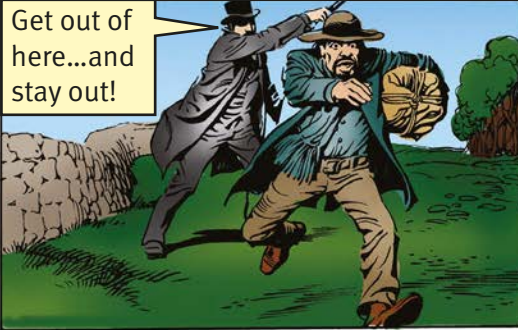
We'll live together here, girls, in the old family house.





But a terrible change came over our stepfather. He began to quarrel with anyone who crossed his path.

Get out of here...and stay out!



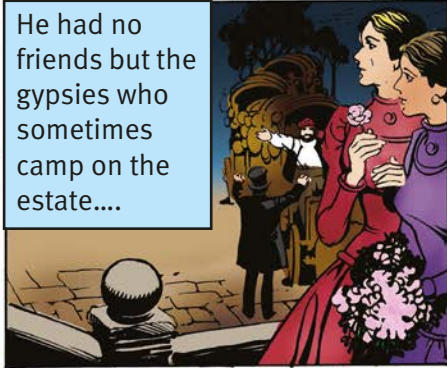
Last week he hit the town blacksmith.

Out of my way!



What?

He had no friends but the gypsies who sometimes camp on the estate....



He would go away with them sometimes for weeks at a time.

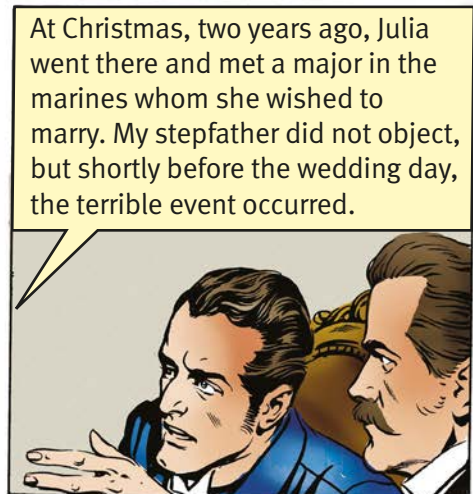
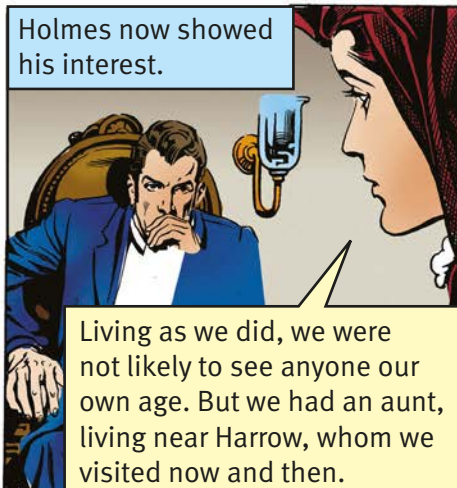
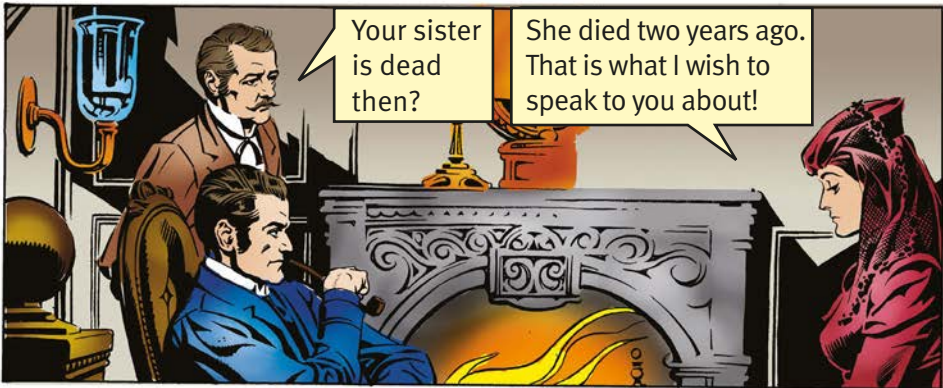
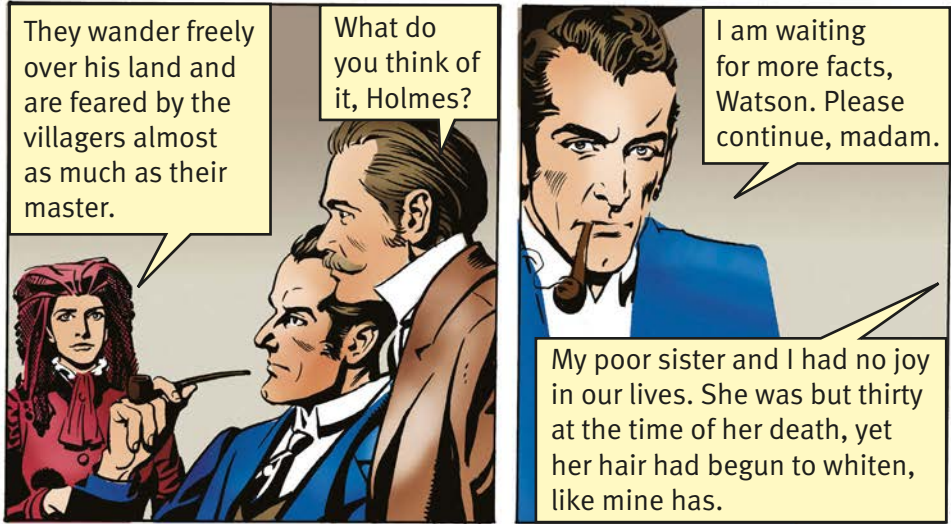


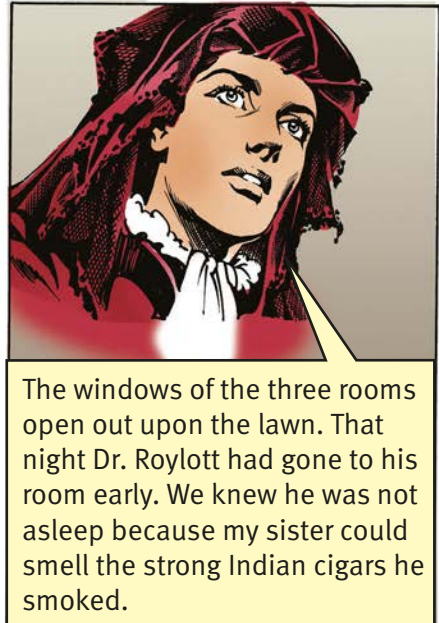
He has an interest also in Indian animals which are sent over to him....

Indian animals?
What kind?

He has a cheetah and a baboon.







My sister had come into my room, where we sat talking about her wedding. Then, as she rose to leave...



* a large house belonging to someone who owns a lot of land

The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Read two of the most intriguing mystery stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" the sharp-eyed Holmes, along with his friend Dr. Watson, is able to save the life of a young woman fated by an evil stepfather to meet a horrifying death. "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" is even more difficult to solve, but Sherlock Holmes comes to the rescue again and saves an innocent young man from a fate he does not deserve.



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