
SHERLOCK HOLMES



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A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA**Chapter 1**

One evening in late March, 1888, I was going home after a visit to one of my patients. My journey took me along Baker Street. Before I got married, I shared a flat with Sherlock Holmes on this street. He was a famous detective. He **investigated** difficult **crimes** when the police couldn't solve them. As I was passing by his door, I stopped and looked up at his windows. The light in the sitting room was on. He was probably working on a difficult **case** again. I had a sudden wish to see him.

I rang the bell, and the landlady took me to his flat. I felt happy to be in my old flat again. Holmes was pleased to see me and made me sit down in an armchair by the fireplace. He gave me a cigar and stood before the fireplace, smoking his pipe.

'We haven't seen each other for a long time,' he said. 'You look good. You have put on some weight, I think.'

'Yes, I have. But only three kilos,' I said.

'Really? I think it's a little more than that,' he said with a laugh. 'I am glad you came, Watson. I need your opinion on something.'

Then he walked to the table and picked up a thick sheet of pink-coloured note. He gave it to me and said, 'This came in the last post today. Read it **aloud**.'

I looked at the note. There was no date, no signature and no address on it. It said, *'You will have a secret visitor tonight, at a quarter to eight. A gentleman needs your help with a very important matter. We know you have helped **royal** families in Europe several times. So, we **trust** you with secret matters. Please be in your flat at that hour, and please do not be **offended** if the visitor is wearing a mask.'*

'How **mysterious**!' I said. 'Do you understand what it means?'

'At the moment, I don't know any facts,' Holmes said. 'What do you think about the paper?'

'The paper? Hmm, let me see,' I said. I examined the paper and said, 'This is expensive paper. So, the letter is from a rich person. I think the paper was made in a foreign country.'

'Yes, I looked at it in the light. The paper was made in Bohemia.' Holmes said.

At that moment, we heard the sound of a horse carriage outside. 'My visitor has arrived,' said Holmes and looked out of the window. He whistled and said 'Oh, an expensive carriage with a pair of beautiful horses! There is money in this **case**, Watson!'

'Well, your visitor is here, Holmes. I should leave now,' I said.

'Oh, no! I want you to stay. I may need your help,' said Holmes.

Then there was a knock at the door, and Holmes opened the door. The visitor was a tall, heavily-built gentleman with a thick moustache. He was wearing very expensive, but ugly clothes. His shiny boots were

up to his knees. His coat had gold buttons, and there were fur bands on its sleeves. And he had a silk cloak over his shoulders. There was a black mask over his face.

‘You received the note, I believe,’ he said in a heavy German accent. He was looking at both Holmes and me as he said this. He didn’t know which one of us was the detective. Holmes asked him to sit down and then said, ‘This is my friend, Doctor Watson. He helps me with some cases.’

‘Oh, so I can trust you both,’ the gentleman said. ‘You can call me Count Von Kramm. I am from Bohemia. I need your help with a very **delicate** matter. But you must both agree to keep it a secret.’

Holmes and I said, ‘Yes, I do,’ at the same time. Then the gentleman went on, ‘An important man has sent me here to talk to you. I am wearing a mask because he doesn’t want you to see my face. You can prevent a big scandal in Europe if you help him. Without your help, one of the royal families in Europe will be in big trouble. The matter is about the famous House of Ormstein, Kings of Bohemia.’

‘If your Majesty tells me about the matter, I will gladly help you,’ Holmes said.

The man was surprised. He stood up from his chair and took the mask off. He threw it down and said, ‘Yes, I am the King. I should not lie to you. I am Wilhelm von Ormstein, King of Bohemia. I came from Prague to talk to you myself. I couldn’t ask anyone else to talk to you about my secret problem.’

‘Then, please tell me your story. I’m listening,’ said Holmes calmly.

A Scandal in Bohemia



'You can call me Count Von Kramm. I am from Bohemia,' the gentleman said.

The King began to tell his story. 'Five years ago, during my visit to Warsaw, I met a very beautiful young woman. Her name is Irene Adler.'

'Irene Adler! The famous, beautiful American opera singer!,' Holmes cried out in surprise. 'She lives in London now, I hear. So, your Majesty, I think I understand the problem. You were in love with this young woman, but you left her. You sent her some letters before you left her and now you want to get them back.'

'Exactly!' said the King. 'But how do you know all this?'

'It isn't so hard to guess,' replied Holmes and asked, 'Did you marry her?'

'She was expecting me to marry her, but, I didn't,' replied the King.

'Why do you worry then? If she **threatens** you with those letters or if she uses them for any other purpose, she cannot prove that you wrote them,' Holmes said.

'But the handwriting is mine,' said the King sadly. 'And I wrote them on my personal notepaper. I used my own seal, too.'

'Well, you can say someone stole your notepaper, copied your handwriting and your seal,' Holmes explained.

'Oh, but she also has a photograph, of her and me together.'

'Oh, that is very bad, Your Majesty!' said Holmes.

'I was very young at that time, and I was very **reckless**. I was just a prince.'

'You must get that photograph back,' said Holmes. 'You can buy it from her.'

'I offered her a lot of money for it, but she won't sell it,' the King said.

'What about stealing it? You can send a thief to her house.'

'Oh, I have tried that, too. My men **broke in** her house and tried to steal it. They tried five different times, but they couldn't find it.'

'So, she is hiding it in a very safe place,' said Holmes. 'She probably has a bad plan. What does she want to do with it? Do you know?'

'Yes, she wants to **ruin** me,' answered the King. 'I am going to marry the Scandinavian King's younger daughter, Clotilde Lothman von Saxe-Meningen. We will have our wedding soon. We both belong to the biggest royal families in Europe, you know. But Clotilde will not marry me if she hears about Irene Adler.'

'I know. Royal families have **strict** principles.'

'And Irene Adler threatens to send the picture to Clotilde's family. I am sure she will do that,' explained the King. 'This will be a scandal in Europe. Irene is a very beautiful woman, but she can be very **mean**. She hates me, and she is very angry at me because I left her. She can do anything to **prevent** this marriage.'

'She has not sent the photograph to them yet, has she?' asked Holmes.

'No, she hasn't. I am sure.'

'Why are you so sure?' asked Holmes.

'Because she will send it next Monday. She has told me so herself. Clotilde and I are getting **engaged** on Monday; that is why.'

'That means we have three days. We must be very quick,' said Holmes and asked, 'Will your Majesty stay in London in the next three days?'

'Certainly. You can find me at the Langham Hotel. I am using the name Count Von Kramm.'

'I will send you a note when something happens,' said Holmes and added, 'and now about the money ...'

Before Holmes finished his sentence, the King said, 'The money is not a problem for me. I will pay you as much money as you want. Just make sure that you get the photograph. Then he took out a heavy leather bag from under his cloak and put it on the table.'

'In this bag, you will find three hundred pounds in gold and seven hundred pounds in **banknotes**. You can use it for the expenses in this business,' he told Holmes. 'When you give me the photograph, I will pay you whatever you ask for.'

Holmes wrote a **receipt** on a sheet from his notebook and gave it to the King. Then he said, 'Can I please have Irene Adler's address, your Majesty?'

'Yes, of course. It is Briony Lodge, Serpentine Avenue, St. John's Wood, London,' answered the King, and Holmes wrote it down.

A Scandal in Bohemia

‘Good night, Your Majesty. I hope to give you good news very soon,’ Holmes said as the King was leaving.

When the King left, Holmes turned to me. ‘Good night to you, too, Norton. Please be here at three o’clock tomorrow afternoon.’



ACTIVITIES

A. Fill in the blank(s) under the pictures with the words/phrases in the box.

banknote
engaged

investigating
receipt

royal
breaking in

delicate
crime



1. getting



2. a _____
family



3. _____



4. _____ a



5. a _____
glass object



6. _____ s



7. a _____

B. Mark the correct alternative in each sentence below.

1. Sherlock Holmes' friend Mr Norton was a **detective** / **doctor**.
2. Holmes and Norton lived in the same **flat** / **street** until the previous summer.
3. At first, the secret visitor introduced himself as a **nobleman** / **king**.
4. Irene Adler lived in **New Jersey** / **London**.
5. King Wilhelm von Ormstein planned to marry **an opera singer** / **a princess**.
6. The **King's messenger** / **King himself** came to talk to Sherlock Holmes.
7. Sherlock Holmes **refused** / **agreed** to help King Wilhelm von Ormstein.
8. The King prepaid Holmes **one thousand** / **seven hundred** pounds in total for the expenses.

C. Choose the correct word to replace the underlined part(s) in each sentence. Put the letters of the words next to the sentences.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| a. principles | b. trusted | c. strict | d. reckless |
| e. ruin | f. mysterious | g. offended | |

1. Holmes received a note. It was hard to understand and very strange. ____
2. The note said Mr Holmes must not be upset by the visitor's mask. ____
3. The King believed in Holmes. ____
4. The King thought Miss Adler was planning to destroy his life. ____
5. When the King was a young man, he was not careful about his actions.

6. Royal families have firm rules about behaviour. ____, ____

Sherlock Holmes

D. Look at the word search and find the missing words in the sentences below.

1. Sherlock Holmes lived on _____ Street in London.
2. Holmes' secret visitor was the King of _____.
3. Miss Adler's first name was _____.
4. Miss Adler's house was on _____ Avenue.
5. The King was staying at _____ Hotel in London.
6. The King's future wife's first name was _____.

S	X	H	W	F	O	I	E	V	N	N	E	Q	H	T
W	E	F	T	H	A	X	N	M	C	U	U	G	U	Y
I	S	R	D	X	P	T	E	Y	L	Z	Y	D	Q	O
N	Q	U	P	K	M	B	R	T	O	R	U	X	U	S
N	A	X	B	E	O	I	I	B	T	F	E	Z	N	B
B	G	N	Z	H	N	S	G	Y	I	R	B	K	J	L
Q	T	O	E	C	J	T	U	C	L	U	R	Y	A	S
B	N	M	Q	A	D	W	I	I	D	W	B	Z	R	B
I	I	L	S	F	U	Z	J	N	E	I	F	S	R	J
A	R	A	V	X	I	J	A	Q	E	J	Z	G	Z	K
V	D	M	A	Y	B	Z	Q	X	Y	K	O	Q	M	Q
H	K	P	P	E	B	E	P	M	A	H	G	N	A	L
D	O	W	D	U	U	Q	S	W	N	R	W	Q	T	U
S	V	A	P	O	S	L	L	S	I	P	H	S	F	S
V	P	D	I	C	T	E	Z	A	P	C	F	M	U	W

GLOSSARY

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

Chapter 1

aloud (adv) if you say or read something aloud, you say or read it so that other people can hear you; out loud

banknote (n) a piece of paper money

break in (phr. v) to enter a building illegally

case (n) a question or a problem

crime (n) an illegal act

criminal (n)

delicate (adj) needing careful treatment to avoid problems

delicately (adv)

engaged (adj) agreed to marry

investigate (v) to try to find out the truth about a crime or accident

investigation (n)

mean (adj) cruel; not kind

mysterious (adj) difficult to explain or understand; strange

mystery (n)

offend (v) to make someone angry or upset by saying something unkind

offence (n)

prevent (v) to stop something from happening

prevention (n); preventable (adj)

receipt (n) a piece of paper which shows that money or goods have been received

reckless (adj) not caring about the possible dangerous or bad results of your actions

recklessly (adv)

royal (adj) belonging to a king or queen

royalty (n)

strict (adj) expecting people to obey rules or do as you say

strictly (adv)

threaten (v) to tell someone that you will hurt them if they do not do what you want

threat (n); threatening (adj)

trust (v) to believe that someone is honest and will not do anything bad

trust (n)

Chapter 2

baggy (adj) big and loose clothing

butler (n) a man who opens the door, serves the meal, etc in a big house

clergyman (n) a man who is a member of the clergy

coachman (n) someone who drives a carriage pulled by horses

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was a Scottish writer who is best known for his *Sherlock Holmes* stories.

Doyle's talent for storytelling developed when he was a child with the influence of his mother. His mother had a passion for books, and she was a good storyteller. During his primary school education at a boarding school in England, Doyle realised that he also had a talent for storytelling. He would make up stories to amuse his friends in the dormitory.

Doyle studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and he set up a medical practice in the city of Portsmouth, England. During that time, he began writing short stories. His first noteworthy short story *A Study in Scarlet* was published in 1887. His fictional characters Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson first appeared in this short story, and they soon became very popular. In the following years, Doyle wrote over fifty short stories that feature Holmes and Watson. Although Doyle decided to get rid of his character Sherlock Holmes in his story *The Final Problem* (1893), he featured Holmes again in his novel *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1901) because of the protest of his readers.

Apart from his Sherlock Holmes stories, Doyle also wrote seven historical novels, including *Sir Nigel* (1906) and *The White Company* (1891).

Sources

<https://www.arthurconandoyle.com/biography.html>

<https://www.biographyonline.net/writers/arthur-conan-doyle.html>