



Silver Blaze
and Other Stories

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



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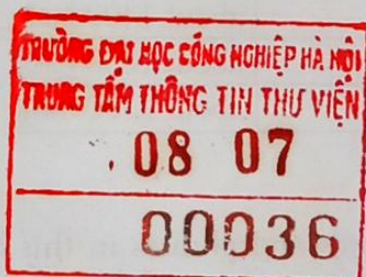
MACMILLAN READERS

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Silver Blaze
and Other Stories

Retold by Anne Collins



 MACMILLAN

Founding Editor: John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

Level control

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

The number of words at each level:

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

Vocabulary

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...³. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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A Note About These Stories

These stories were written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930).

The stories are about Sherlock Holmes and his friend, Dr Watson.

Sherlock Holmes is not a policeman. He is a private detective. People pay him to find things that are lost or stolen. Holmes likes to solve mysteries and catch criminals.

The stories were written about a time before telephones were in use. If someone wanted to send an important message quickly, they sent a telegram. Also, the money used in Britain was different. Today, in Britain, we use pounds and pence. In the 1890s, people used pounds, shillings and pence and there was also a large gold coin worth five pounds.

THE BLUE CARBUNCLE

1

A Hat and a Goose

It was two days after Christmas. I decided to visit my friend Sherlock Holmes, the famous private detective.

When I entered the sitting-room, Holmes was lying on the sofa. He was smoking his pipe. Beside the sofa was a chair. A hat was hanging from the back of the chair. The hat looked old and dirty.

Holmes was staring at the hat.

'Are you busy this morning, Holmes?' I asked.

'No, Watson,' said Holmes. 'I'm glad you've come. Look at this hat. It's very interesting.'

'Why is it interesting?' I asked. 'Who does the hat belong to?'

'I don't know,' replied Holmes. 'But Peterson, the porter who looks after this apartment, found it. He also found a goose with the hat.'

'A hat and a goose!' I cried. 'How strange. How did Peterson find these things?'

'The night before Christmas,' Holmes said, 'Peterson went to a party. After the party, he walked home along Tottenham Court Road. A tall man was walking in front of him. This man was carrying a large, white goose over his shoulder.'

'Suddenly,' Holmes continued, 'a group of rough young men appeared. They tried to attack the tall man. Perhaps they wanted to steal the goose. The tall man raised his walking-stick.'

Published by Macmillan Heinemann ELT
Between Towns Road, Oxford OX4 3PP
Macmillan Heinemann ELT is an imprint of
Macmillan Publishers Limited
Companies and representatives throughout the world
Heinemann is a registered trademark of Harcourt Education, used under licence.

ISBN 1-405072-79-2
EAN 978-1-405072-79-3

This retold version by Anne Collins for Macmillan Readers
First published 1987
Text © Anne Collins 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2005
Design and illustration © Macmillan Publishers Limited 1998, 2002, 2005

This edition first published 2005

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Illustrated by Kay Dixey
Original cover template design by Jackie Hill
Cover photography by Top Foto

Printed in Thailand

2009 2008 2007 2006 2005
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2