

Sherlock Holmes
The Speckled Band



ReadZone Books Limited

© 2015 ReadZone Books Limited

This edition is an easy-to-read adaptation of *The Speckled Band* by Arthur Conan Doyle, which was first published by Strand Magazine in 1892.

Originally published in the Netherlands as *De gespikkelde band*

© 2014 Uitgeverij Eenvoudig Communiceren, Amsterdam

Copyright © Helene Bakker 2014

Translation: Anna Asbury

Design: Nicolet Oost Lievense

Cover design: Jurian Wiese

Images: Shutterstock

Printed in Malta by Melita Press

Every attempt has been made by the publisher to secure appropriate permissions for material reproduced in this book. If there has been any oversight we will be happy to rectify the situation in future editions or reprints. Written submissions should be made to the publisher.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data (CIP) is available for this title.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of ReadZone Books Limited.

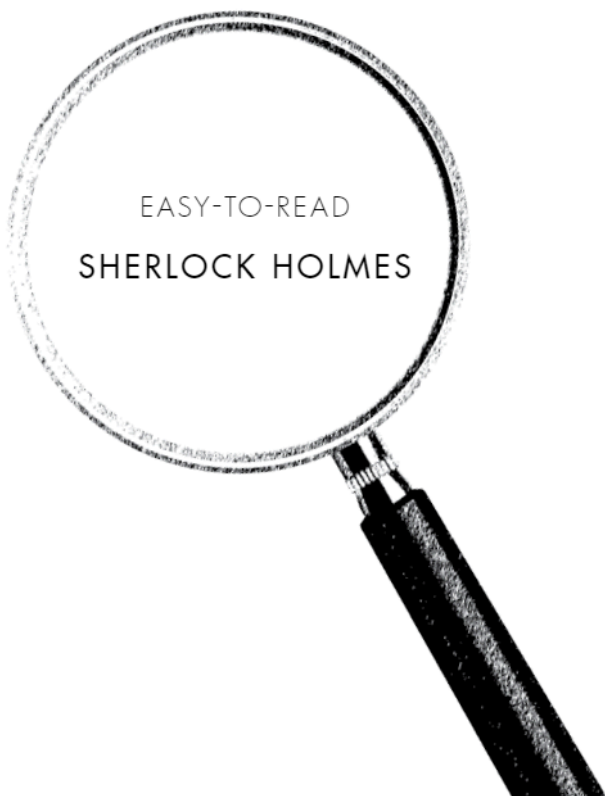
ISBN 978 1 78322 535 4

Visit our website: www.readzonebooks.com

Sherlock Holmes

The Speckled Band

The famous story by Arthur Conan Doyle,
retold by Helene Bakker



Sherlock Holmes was a famous English private detective. He didn't really exist, but the writer Arthur Conan Doyle wrote so well that many people think he did.

Sherlock Holmes started work as a detective about 150 years ago in the city of London, along with his friend Doctor Watson. The way Holmes solved attacks and murders has made him famous all over the world. Even today, films are still made about his detective work.

CHAPTER 1

An early start

It's half past six in the morning.

Sherlock Holmes wakes up with a start when the doorbell rings. He sits up in bed as it rings again.

'All right, all right, I'm coming,' he grumbles.

He throws on his dressing gown and hurries to the front door.

A woman is standing at the door.

She's dressed all in black.

Even her face is covered by a black veil. She clearly doesn't want to be recognised, thinks Sherlock.

'Good morning, madam,' he says. 'You woke me up. What is it?'

'I... I... I...', stammers the woman.

Then she starts to tremble.

Sherlock can see that something is seriously wrong.