



The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Adventure VII – The Adventure of the Five Orange Pips

Publishing History

#7 of the 60 stories

First published in *The Strand Magazine*, November, 1891

Part of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* collection by George Newnes, Ltd., London, 1892

In the US by Harper Bros., New York, 1892

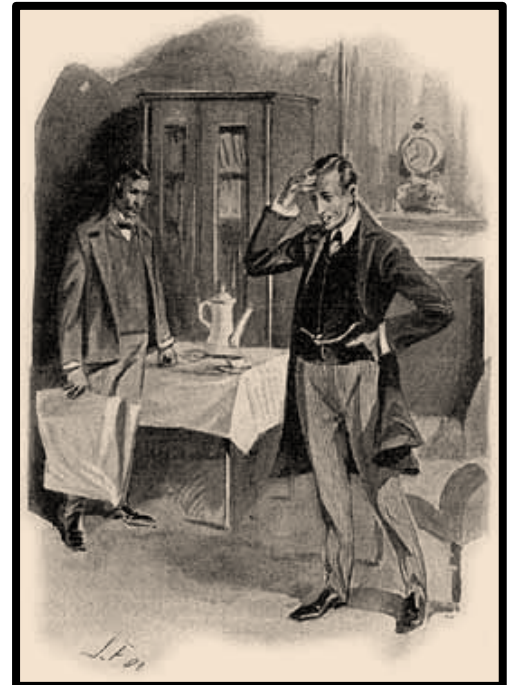
The British Illustrator was Sidney Paget.

Chronology

Baring-Gould places the date of the story at Thursday, September 29 to Friday, September 30, 1887 which makes it the 11th of the 60 stories. This means that Holmes is 33 and Watson 35.

Christopher Morley Says

“A Confederate veteran, for dire reasons, exchanged the charming climate of Florida for the lonely life of an English provincial town. Holmes was consulted too late to avert the tragedy, but this is one of the most successful of all the stories in conveying the sense of impending horror. The effect is enhanced by the September gale that was raging when young Openshaw came to Baker Street to tell of the sinister message: “Put the papers on the sundial.”



Dummies Short Summary

“Not a shining moment for Sherlock as he underestimates the power and the reach of the Ku Klux Klan.”

How Many Words

At 7,378 words FIVE has the 21st most words (#1 is VEIL – 4,499, #56 if NAVL – 12,701)

Classifying This Case

This case is one of 23 classified as a MURDER where the perpetrator Holmes solved the case but one of 5 where the perpetrator escaped justice. The others were GREE, MUSG, RESI, and WIST.

The Best Of Sherlock Holmes

Opinions of FIVE seem to constantly be changing for unknown reasons.

- 1927 – Arthur Conan Doyle made it #7 on his list of 12 favorites
- 1944 – The Baker Street Irregulars voted it as #7 on their top 12 favorites
- 1959 – The Baker Street Irregulars did not it on their top 10
- 1999 – The Sherlock Holmes Society of London voted it 23rd of 56 short stories

What Else Happened That Year (1887)

You should see how long this list was before it was severely cut back.

- Anglo-Italian Agreement; spheres of influence defined in Northeast Africa.
- Independent Labour Party newspaper, The Clarion, published.
- All elementary education to be free.
- Factory Act: no child under 11 to work in factories.
- Small Holdings Act, County Councils are empowered to purchase land for letting as small holdings under 50 acres.
- Germany develops first pension scheme.
- Massacre of Europeans following Arab revolt in Belgian Congo.
- Bank failures in the U.S.A. and Australia.
- Widespread famine in Russia.
- Building of Trans-Siberian Railway commenced.
- Gauguin travels to Tahiti.

- *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Arthur Conan Doyle.
- *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Hardy.
- Beginnings of wireless telegraphy based on work of Clark Maxwell and Hertz.
- Tuffier, of Paris, performs early lung operation for tuberculosis.
- W.L. Hudson, American, invents zipper. First practical design in 1913.

Holmes And Watson – Personal Information

After Watson's marriage and subsequent start in private practice, the very intimate relations which had existed between H&W changed. Holmes still saw Watson from time to time, but these occasions grew more and more seldom, until in 1890 there were only three cases of which Watson kept any record.

Dramatis Personae

- **John Openshaw**, consulted Holmes.
- **Elias Openshaw**, uncle of John
- **Joseph Openshaw**, father of John
- **Major Prendergast**, referred John to Holmes
- **Major Freebody**, friend of Joseph - Joseph was visiting him when he was killed.
- **Captain James Calhoun**, captain of the bark *Lonestar* and leader of the gang of murderers
- **2 Mates** of the *Lonestar*, accomplices of Calhoun

Quotable Sherlock

- "Tut! tut!" cried Sherlock Holmes. "You must act, man, or you are lost. Nothing but energy can save you. This is no time for despair."
- "I am the last court of appeal."
"Problems may be solved in the study which have baffled all those who have sought a solution by the aid of their senses."
- "I have been beaten four times—three times by men, and once by a woman."
- "I say now, as I said then, that a man should keep his little brain-attic stocked with all the furniture that he may be likely to use, and the rest he can put away in the lumber-room of his library, where he can get it if he wants it."
- "I shall be my own police. When I have spun the web they may take the flies, but not before."

- “The observer who has thoroughly understood one link in a series of incidents should be able to accurately state all the other ones, both before and after.”
- “It is not so impossible, however, that a man should possess all knowledge which is likely to be useful to him in his work, and this, I have endeavoured in my case to do.”

Holmes’ Fee

Unlikely any payment was received. The client was murdered by cunning devils who decoyed him off the artery leading to his destination and threw him into the water, leaving no-one to pay Holmes.

Unrecorded Cases

There are several untold tales in this story. Let’s hope that they turned out better than FIVE

- The Adventure of the Paradol Chamber
- The Amateur mendicant society
- The loss of the British bark *Sophie Anderson*
- The adventures of the Grice Pattersons on the island of Uffa
- The Camberwell poisoning case
- The Tankerville Club scandal

Sherlock Holmes On The Big And The Little Screen

Only once has FIVE been on a screen and that was a cartoon.

2000 *The Five Orange Pips, Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century* (Animated TV series)

Fainting In The Canon

In this tale, Elias Openshaw almost faints being under great mental stress after receiving a death threat from the KKK - - sometimes broke into a cold sweat. “At such times,” reported his nephew, “I have seen his face, even on a cold day, glisten with moisture, as though it were new raised from a basin. John Openshaw did not report, however, if the colonel fainted from emotional shock after these episodes of sweating.

Annotated Sherlock

- Only one term / item you probably didn’t know.

“**Lloyd’s registers**” refers to *Lloyd’s Register of Shipping*, no connection with Lloyd’s of London

Weapons

One would think, because of the violent nature of the story, that there would be more weapons.

- **Pool** - Of water, in the garden of Elias Openshaw, where his body was found, presumably having been drowned by agents of the Ku Klux Klan.
- **Weapon** - Which John Openshaw said he was armed with.
- **Thames River** - Near Waterloo Bridge, where John Openshaw was drowned by agents of the Ku Klux Klan.

Frank Mentzel