

Contents

	page
Introduction	v
The Speckled Band	1
The Five Orange Pips	22
The Crown of Diamonds	
Part 1 The Banker's Problem	38
Part 2 The Detective's Solution	51
Activities	61

In 'The Speckled Band', Holmes's visitor is a very frightened young woman. Two years earlier, and only two weeks before her marriage, the young woman's twin sons died suddenly and mysteriously. Her last words were, 'It was the band! The speckled band!' Now Holmes's visitor also plans to marry, and strangely similar events are happening in her home. Will Sherlock Holmes be able to solve the puzzle in time to save her life?

In the second story, 'The Orange Pips', the seeds of the fruit, are sent to John Openshaw's uncle. Then, the old man is dead. Then pips are sent to other members of the family. Who are they from? What do they mean? And will the deaths continue?

Holmes's visitor to Baker Street in the third story is a very successful banker. Diamonds have been stolen from him, and to his horror he believes that he knows the thief. But is he right? The banker hopes that Holmes can dispel his worst fears.

Arthur Conan Doyle's readers first met Sherlock Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet*, which appeared as a book in 1888. In the late nineteenth century, for the first time, most of the population of