# Sherlock Holmes

THE CASE OF THE SPECKLED BAND





## Synopsis

- One of the most intriguing locked door mysteries from the Sherlock Holmes series is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band".
- In this story, Holmes investigates the mysterious death of a young woman, Julia Stoner, who died in her locked bedroom. Prior to her death, she reported hearing a low whistle in the middle of the night.
- The only clue was her final words about a "speckled band".
- With its complex plot and ultimate reveal of a \*\*\*\*\* being the deadly "speckled band", this story showcases Arthur Conan Doyle's ingenuity in crafting locked door mysteries.

## How the text does its work

- Vivid imagery and descriptive language
- Red herrings and foreshadowing
- Doyle's characterisation of Holmes and Watson
- Use of tension and suspense

### What is the text seeking to achieve?

- Battle of Good versus Evil
- Exploration of Social Class
- Fear
  - Helen's fear and desperation
  - Atmosphere of Stoke Moran (Dr Roylott's estate)
  - Presence of Gypsies
  - Presence of wild Indian animals

#### Why has this text stood the test of time?

- Long history of locked door mysteries
  - Arthur Conan Doyle
  - Agatha Christie
  - Edgar Allan Poe
  - John Dickson Carr
  - Adrian McKinty (two Sean Duffy novels)
  - Ruth Ware
- Masterful plot and protagonist
- Timeless themes
- The influence on subsequent works
- Adaptations and reimaginations



#### References

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