

## **#1 Regarding Sherlock Holmes..The Adventure of Solar Pons (1945)**

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### The Adventure of the Black Narcissus

Jackson Deming is found dead in his office. James Rudderford lost all in a swindle by Deming and went to kill him but was too late. A black narcissus was found next to Deming's head and an engraved knife in his back. Pons shows by footprints that Rudderford is innocent and a woman answers his ad for the knife. Her sister's husband was ruined in a mine swindle (named the Black Narcissus) by Deming, he killed himself and she attacked him, getting put in an asylum. She escaped, killed Deming and left the narcissus by his head. Police go after her at her sister's.

### The Adventure of the Frightened Baronet

Alexander Rowan is owner of a cursed jewel, the Eye of Siva. He has seen images of Siva at night in the house, received a warning card that went blank and heard threatening voices. His dog disappeared. Family thinks he's going insane. Geoffrey Saring is his daughter's fiancé, whom he doesn't approve of. Saring uses a glow-in-the-dark Siva doll and pulley mechanism. Then he dressed up as Siva. Pons pretends to be Rowan and catches him in the act. Saring wanted Rowan thought unstable so his opposition to Saring's marriage would seem unfounded.

### The Adventure of the Late Mister Faversham

Professor Faversham withdraws a large amount of his university's money, walks into his boarded up house for an umbrella and vanishes. Witnessed by friend, Professor Von Ruda, visiting from Germany. Faversham had been playing both roles in an attempt to embezzle, and being held by the police as a witness, is exposed by Pons, who deduced a false inscription in Faversham's copy of Von Ruda's philosophy book.

### The Adventure of the Limping Man

Peter Melham secretly kills his paralytic brother, Andrew, to guarantee Melham's daughter, Maureen, inherits the family fortune. Bayne, his assistant, helps. Melham "disappears" on a train trip and takes his brother's identity. Bayne demands Melham marry his daughter to Bayne's son or he'll tell her of the fraud. Melham, stressed, limps down the hall at night and is mistaken for a ghost. He finally kills Bayne, then himself, to protect Maureen, who never knows and marries her boyfriend.

### The Adventure of the Lost Holiday

The Strong-Cressington Plans, with details on rearmament of England and France are stolen from Lord Penryn's house. Penryn's niece, blackmailed by Kroll, switched them in his study. Pons recovers them and has her deliver lesser documents to Kroll, who is arrested for treason. Germany protects Kroll, who leaves for Berlin.

### The Adventure of the Man With the Broken Face

Haytt Norton was a hero, survivor of a shipwreck, saving a chest of diamonds. A man with a smashed face appears at his window, frightening Norton and his daughter, Sylvia. She hires Pons after Norton disappears. Pons determines the

stranger threw Norton into the sea. Pons lures him into the house with a picture of the sunken ship. Herbert Farway had been betrayed and left for dead by Norton and returned to exact his revenge. He attacks Pons and dies from a Parker gunshot.

#### The Adventure of the Norcross Riddle

Benjamin Manton married the widowed Anna McFallon and bought Norcross Towers. McFallon had disappeared in the bogs with a servant. Anna rented the ruins to a doctor, insane patient and bodyguard, then starts asking for money from Manton. He finds her at a window at night, she faints and part of a note survives falling in the fire. McFallon had disappeared to escape arrest for financial fraud. Rogues forced him to return and blackmail his wife for money. He killed himself to end it. Pons tells Manton story, but substitutes an impersonator for McFallon and lets Anna know he died. Rogues fled, but Pons tipped off Jamison.

#### The Adventure of the Purloined Periapt

Sidney Harris received a locket from his religious uncle, Teale Murchison, along with the man's house, in his will. Harris took a bath and it was missing from his dresser. When Pons investigated later in the day, it was back. The Biblical verses on the back pointed to Murchison's library, where several bibles had been hollowed out and filled with gold coins. All belong to Harris. Harris' brother, Charles, had taken and replaced the locket. Featured Praed Street Irregulars, led by Alfred.

#### The Adventure of the Retired Novelist

Novelist Thomas Wilgreave was being lured out of his house. He'd bought the house from Mrs. Paul Greenbie's estate. He'd sold some of the furniture to T. Woodley & Sons. Greenbie's brother had stolen the Peacock's Eye gem and hidden it in a chair at her house before capture. Guy Pilkington had assisted and was arrested. He got out and searched for the Eye. Pons found it at Woodley's, took it for the rightful owner and left a receipt note for Pilkington, who had been misleading Wilgreave.

#### The Adventure of the Seven Passengers

Professor Kroll's man, John Hirsch, uses gas to knock out seven couriers on a train from a conference to steal coded military documents. Pons catches Hirsch selling them to Stefan Braun, German agent. Pons realizes the Germans arranged matters to get rid of Braun, who was known to British police.

#### The Adventure of the Sotheby Salesman

Peter Woodal found shot in an empty house owned by William Hendricks, next-door neighbor. A fragment of paper was found on body. Hendricks' wife, who was abused, was having an affair with the other next-door neighbor, Jonathan Green. Hendricks learned of their meeting and waited in the bushes with a rifle. Woodal, poor and homeless, snuck into the house to sleep and was mistakenly shot. Pons reveals Hendricks as the killer and Inspector Hudson agrees to cover up the affair and abuse.

### The Adventure of the Three Red Dwarfs

Brighton and Lane, writers, live together. Lane is found stabbed twice in the house. Brighton had been out back gardening. A fellow journalist had been criticized in an anonymous article likely written by Lane and supposedly threatened him. Turns out Brighton wrote it about Lane, who had a temper. He attacked Brighton with a nearby knife. Brighton defended himself with a dwarf figurine from the mantle. Brighton accidentally stabbed Lane during the struggle. Lane fell and bloodied the dwarf, lying near him. Brighton painted all three red, which intrigued Pons. He removed the paint and found blood.