

#### **#5 Casebook of Solar Pons (1965)**

#### **#4 Casebook of Solar Pons (1975)**

##### The Adventure of the Amateur Philologist

Jamison visited Abraham Aubrey. He had just opened his mail and had a heart attack. It was gibberish code actually with rarely used English words. His country house in Stowe was near site of cat burglaries Archie Prior was arrested for. Lady Cavenin's jewels were never found. Pons disguises himself as Aubrey and visits his shop. Then he goes to Stow and finds the missing jewels, location determined from the letter. Pons waits in Aubrey's shop and catches Goldie Evers breaking in. Prior had Evers smuggle out the message and was to retrieve the jewels from Aubrey.

##### The Adventure of the Ascot Scandal

Lady Gresham's diamond brooch was stolen at her races box by Evelyn Parkinson, who had a card from her husband. He created a diversion, was thrown out, and the brooch was found missing. Lord Gresham doesn't want to call the police. He has gambling debts and had switched a fake for the real brooch, but she then wore the fake, which would be exposed. Gresham hired actor Harold Pollard to steal it back and he would continue with his efforts to raise money. Pons follows the path and recovers the brooch.

##### The Adventure of the China Cottage

Randolph Curwen is found dead, unmarked, in his home. The secret papers he was reading for the Foreign Office seemed intact, and some ashes were in the fireplace. Pons determines Curwen was poisoned by an incense pastille he burned in a china cottage. His niece, whose finances he controlled, used one as well. Pons finds a poisoned one in her supply. Her nephew, Lindall, wanted to get rid of both of them so he could inherit a fortune.

##### The Adventure of the Crouching Dog

Larry Jowett, adventurer at King Tut's tomb discovery, found savaged by a hound at Dartmoor home. His wife, two brothers and her brother lived there. Anthony Heyle, legal counsel, financial advisor and friend, said Jowett feared a crouching dog, symbol of Tut's tomb. Pons discovers dog tracks were faked. Heylett had been mispending Jowett's money and was going to marry Jowett's wife to cover it up.

##### The Adventure of the Fatal Glance

Constable Lambert asks Pons for assistance while he's vacationing in Askrigg. Squire Thornhill was found dead, killed by binoculars with a needle trap into the eyes. Thornhill was disliked by all, including his daughter, Emily. The package was intended for Emily. She had flirted with then rebuffed head trainer, Keith Hallis. He wanted her dead, but Thornhill had opened the package himself then used the binoculars.

### The Adventure of the Haunted Library

Mrs. Ashcroft had seen the face of a bearded man for an instant in her darkened library. Her maid had also seen it shortly before. Capt. Jason Brensham died two years ago and willed everything to his nephew, Howard. He died seven weeks ago and Mrs. Ashcroft bought the house, furnished. Pons discovers that the Brenshams had lured Ian North to the house and killed him. They passed him off as Jason Brensham and collected a large insurance. Jason hid himself in a subway tunnel connected to the library by a secret passage when visitors came to the house. Henry died of a heart attack and Henry hid in the tunnel where Pons flushed him out.

### The Adventure of the Innkeeper's Clerk

Saul Krayle, clerk at the Seaman's Berth Inn, is found strangled in his room, which has been quickly searched. Krayle kept a low profile and had more money than he earned. Pons finds newspaper clippings that indicate Krayle had been involved in robberies and art thefts in the past. Pons finds a jewel cache hidden in Krayle's bedposts. He sets a trap and captures Krayle's former partner, James Fenn, who had been staying at the inn, disguised as a woman.

### The Adventure of the Intarsia Box

Flora Morland brings an Intarsia box containing a mummified hand, given to her uncle, Col. Burton Morland, with a threatening note. They find Morland dead in his bed, a kris through his chest and his hand cut off. Burton found a wife while in Malaya. She had an affair with Bendarloh Ali and Burton poisoned her, framing Ali, whose hand was cut off in punishment. Burton was sent home to England. Flora did not know this; her cousin, Nicholas, did. His wife was of Ali's family. Ahmad is her cousin and works in her antiques shop. She has him craft multiple Intarsia boxes, instructs him to get Ali's hand from the family, and then kill Burton. Ahmad acted for vengeance; Mrs. Nicholas Morland to gain her husband's inheritance when Col. Morland died. Holmes uses the hand and a second Intarsia box to trap Ahmad, but fears Mrs. Morland will go free.

### The Adventure of the Missing Huntsman

A stranger is found dead in a horse's stall at Pomfroy Chase and huntsman Captain Dion Price has disappeared. Pons goes to investigate and thinks the stranger murdered. A second stranger is found dead on the fox hunt, head kicked in by the horse, with money and weapon. Pons finds Price disguised as the visiting father of a whip, Ryan. Price was an IRA officer who crossed them to save the Lady Cleve, wife of a British minister in Ireland. The IRA had sent two men to kill him, but he and his men (the four whips) killed them first. Pons lets them slip away.

### The Adventure of the Spurious Tamerlane

Joshua Bryant runs a bookstall; someone has placed a rare 5,000 pound book in his cart. Pons takes it and determines it is a forgery. Lord Heltsham owns a copy in London. Pons substitutes the fake for the real and informs Lady Heltsham, who immediately leaves. Pons discovers she has pawned valuable items and gambled. Bancroft intercepts her mails; she is being blackmailed by Victor Affandi. Pons

burgles his rooms, takes his blackmail materials and frees Lady Heltsham from his influence.

#### The Adventure of the Sussex Archers

Henry Pope was killed 20 years ago by an arrow. The Sussex Archers were disbanded. Six living members received a threatening letter, and one was then killed with an arrow. Joshua Colvin's son, Hewitt, visits Pons. Pope's brother, Trevor, has returned to the area. Joshua Colvin believes Pope was murdered, not an accident. Pons discovers that Trevor had killed his brother. Colvin's youngest son, Alisdair, is heavily in debt and was behind the new killings, wanting to blame them on Trevor.

#### The Adventure of the Whispering Knights

Constable Ruskin finds Pons in Chipping Norton and asks for help. Fletcher Dewson was found impaled by a pitchfork, in a mummers' costume, at ancient stones called Whispering Knights. Pons finds diamond dust and realizes the warlock-killing method used, combined with Druidic stones and mummery, is a disguise. Ted Brown, newspaper reporter from London, had been asking around. Pons determines that not all of Dewson's investments were useless: one contained diamonds in Rhodesia, where his nephew, Arthur Kennan has been. Brown is really Keenan, back to kill Dewson and get his inheritance.