

#2 The Memoirs of Solar Pons (1951)

#3 The Memoirs of Solar Pons (1975)

The Adventure of the Broken Chessman

A body is found dead in Landon Hall's room. Hall was actually Count Sergie Romanoff, cousin to the czar. He had escaped with the Orloff Diamond. The body was that of Pyotor Propov, Russian assassin. He had found Romanoff and befriended him. During a chess game in his rooms, Romanoff had recognized Propov and killed him, taking a chess piece with him. Pons determined that another broken and repaired chess piece weighed more than the rest: Romanoff had taken the wrong one. An ad in the paper lures in Romanoff. Pons gives him the chess piece containing the Orloff Diamond and lets Romanoff escape.

The Adventure of the Circular Room

Lydia Thornton, formerly in an asylum, lives with her nephew, Wellman Davies, and his wife. He controls her finances and had a house built for all of them. Miss Manahan is her nurse. Thornton hears her dead husband calling to her, and sometimes awakes to find the furnishings in her circular room on the opposite side. They are back to normal when the nurse comes in. Pons and Parker hide in the room and catch Davies and his wife. They use a mechanical pulley in the garden house basement to rotate the room, then back, to convince Thornton she is insane. Davies has misspent her money and wants her locked up again.

The Adventure of the Dog in the Manger

Ahab Jepson was a disagreeable actor of minimal talent; son of a great actor. Sgt. Cobbett comes to Pons for help when Jepson is found hung in the alcove of his mansion. Three famous actors were guests. Each had a motive for killing Jepson. Pons determines that Jepson hung himself, using a hidden mechanism. He was dying of an illness and wanted to ruin the reputations of his guests in a final performance. Pons discovers all.

The Adventure of the Five Royal Coachmen

Rigby Spencer in the Foreign Affairs Office has gone missing on a diplomatic fishing trip. He alone has the naval rearmament ratios. Pons and Parker go to Chilbolton to search. Pons finds five fishing lures dropped in the path Spencer likely disappeared, but placed voluntarily. He finds the ratios in the home-made fishing lures. A pretty female had lured Spencer away, then, with her accomplice, captured him. Pons locates them in a false ceiling in their gypsy cart. The ratios are safe.

The Adventure of the Lost Locomotive

Ernest McVeagh, Director of the Great Northern Railroad, tells Pons that a locomotive is missing; a special booked by James Mason. Pons searches for the missing train and finds it in a side-yard, disguised as an older train scheduled for scrapping. Lord Delapoar, Chairman, had Mason kidnapped to keep him from using his proxies to vote Delapoar out of office. Pons finds Mason, a new meeting is

scheduled, and Mason's bloc takes over Great Northern. Delapoar had committed gross mismanagement.

The Adventure of the Paralytic Mendicant

Flora Jones visits Pons because her employer, Jabez Horton, received threatening letters. A partially paralyzed beggar with a macaw appears. Horton is found dead afterwards. Pons learns that five men had embezzled from Guymon Diamonds in Capetown. They planned to be exposed, but rigged a mine cave-in to appear lost. Hrenville didn't get out in time and was trapped, badly injured. The rest escaped, while Hrenville served 13 years in prison. He got out, demanding a larger share than originally agreed. Rebuffed, he began hunting down and killing them using ammonia capsules which he crushed underfoot, then slit the throat of the unconscious victim. The macaw impersonated the dead man, providing an alibi. Pons catches Hrenville in the act.

The Adventure of the Perfect Husband

Lucy Kearton's perfect husband passed her on the street, with another woman, and ignored her. Pons visits him at work, disguised as a beekeeper, and senses something is wrong. The other woman is found dead the next day. She was Lilli Morrison, Kearton's first wife in Calcutta, who had left him and was believed dead. She tracked him down, traveling with Amos Sakrisan, a brutal man who kills her when he finds out she wants to leave him and stay in England, blackmailing Kearton. Pons informs Jamison, who captures him.

The Adventure of the Proper Comma

PSI David Benjamin brought Pons a rock, with "Help, please" scratched on the bottom. It came from outside an asylum run by a shady doctor. Pons suspected all is not right. He has Parker incarcerate him for a few days. Mrs. Buxton sent the message. Pons arranged a diversion and they escaped. Dr. Gerald Buxton had been poisoning his wife gradually through medication he provided. He had done the same with his first wife, inheriting their money. Caught by Pons, Buxton committed suicide.

The Adventure of Ricoletti of the Club Foot

Pons' brother Bancroft visits him to investigate a break-in at the Foreign Office. Nothing was taken, but the nightwatchman saw an animal at Ricoletti's desk, and was knocked out. Ricoletti had killed Cyrus Cryder in self-defense, testimony supporting that from Andrew Walton. Walton later found Ricoletti and blackmailed him to keep from changing his testimony. Ricoletti's wife had elephantiasis. She snuck into Ricoletti's office and found the blackmail letter to destroy it, surprising the guard. She then killed Walter. Pons lets her go free, informing Bancroft that no work matters were compromised and not telling the police anything.

The Adventure of the Six Silver Spiders

Baron de Beusil is one of six rare book collectors lured out of town on a hoax to purchase a rare collection. He has one of the six spiders forged by Yeovil, containing

a page from the Book of the Dead. Yeovil was arrested, his forgery tools never recovered. Yeovil's nephew, Alistair White, an actor, steals four of the six spiders. Pons determines that there is one character of an address inscribed on each spider. He solves the riddle and finds Yeovil's tools at the Soames Museum. He finds the stolen spiders at White's quarters and convinces him to not follow in his uncle's footsteps.

The Adventure of the Tottenham Werewolf

William Gilton, Miranda Choate and Alexander Grayle were found dead with their throats ripped out. Alexander's brother Octavius comes from Canada to take care of Alexander's financial affairs. Grayle's nephew, Septimus, had long acted like a werewolf during a full moon. Supposedly Septimus, his brother Octavius and sister Regina are all independently wealthy. Pons finds out that Gilton had previously had an affair with Regina. He determines that Regina had stolen money from Septimus for Gilton, who dumped her. She killed Gilton, ripping out his throat with a back scratcher. Miranda Choate had witnessed it and been killed the same way. Alexander was killed for his wealth. Regina was going to kill Octavius, then Septimus, covering up her financial misdeeds.

