



## The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter

### A2 Version

#### Part 1: The Missing Player

Holmes receives a strange telegram from Cambridge. A man called Cyril Overton says that a rugby player named Godfrey Staunton has disappeared. Tomorrow Cambridge plays Oxford in the most important university rugby match of the year, and Staunton is their best player.

In rugby football, the three-quarter backs play in the open field behind the forwards. Staunton is the right wing three-quarter — a key position in attack.

The previous evening, a rough man brought a note to the hotel where the team was staying. Staunton read it and went very pale. Then he went downstairs, spoke quietly to the man, and the two of them walked away quickly together. Nobody has seen Staunton since.

#### Part 2: The Doctor

Holmes discovers that Staunton sent a telegram at six o'clock the previous day. The telegram was sent to Dr. Leslie Armstrong in Cambridge. Holmes and Watson travel to Cambridge to see him.

Dr. Armstrong is a big, serious, respected man. He is not pleased to see Holmes. He refuses to say anything about Staunton and asks them to leave.

Holmes notices that every day the doctor drives a long way by carriage, always alone. Holmes tries to follow on a bicycle, but the doctor sees him and disappears. Holmes needs a better plan.

### Part 3: The Dog

Early the next morning, Holmes goes to the doctor's stable. He uses a syringe to put aniseed — a strong-smelling liquid — on the back wheel of the carriage. Then he borrows a tracking dog called Pompey from a local hunt. Hunting dogs love the smell of aniseed and will follow it very far.

When the doctor sets off, Pompey leads Holmes and Watson across the flat Cambridgeshire countryside — which is very low and marshy in many places — and all the way to a small remote cottage.

### Part 4: The Truth

Holmes and Watson go inside the cottage before the doctor arrives. Upstairs they find a young woman lying dead on the bed. Kneeling beside her, weeping, is Godfrey Staunton.

When Armstrong arrives he is angry. But Holmes speaks calmly to him, and the doctor explains everything.

One year ago, Staunton secretly married a young woman in London. She was kind, beautiful, and intelligent. But Staunton was going to inherit a large fortune from his uncle, Lord Mount-James, a very rich but very cold and selfish man. If the uncle found out about the marriage, he would take away the inheritance. So the couple kept it completely secret.

The young wife became very ill with tuberculosis — a serious illness of the lungs. Armstrong was her doctor. That afternoon he sent an urgent telegram to Staunton. The rough man at the hotel was Armstrong's messenger. Staunton rushed back to be with his wife in her final hours. She died that night.

There is no crime. It is simply a private and very sad story. Holmes says nothing to anyone. He shakes Armstrong's hand and leaves quietly.