



The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton

A2 Version

Part 1: A Very Bad Man

Holmes and Watson come home to find a visiting card on the table. The name is Charles Augustus Milverton. Holmes says he is the worst man in London.

Milverton is a blackmailer. He collects private letters and secrets about rich people. Then he asks them to pay him a lot of money. If they do not pay, he tells their secrets. Holmes must help a young woman called Lady Eva Blackwell. She is going to marry an earl — a man of high social rank. Milverton has her old love letters. He wants seven thousand pounds or he will send the letters to her future husband.

Part 2: The Meeting

Milverton visits Baker Street. He is a fat, smiling man. He seems friendly, but he is cold and cruel inside. Holmes tries to get the letters back, but Milverton refuses. When Holmes tries to stop him leaving, Milverton opens his coat. He has a gun. He says goodbye politely and walks out.

Holmes sits quietly for a long time. Then he says something surprising. He is going to break into Milverton's house and steal the letters. Watson does not want Holmes to go alone. They plan the operation together.

Part 3: The Burglary

For several weeks, Holmes has been in disguise. He pretended to be a plumber and became friendly with Milverton's housemaid. In this way he learned the layout of the house.

That night, the two men wear dark clothes and black masks. They enter through the greenhouse and reach Milverton's study. Holmes opens the safe with special tools. But then they hear footsteps. They hide behind the curtains. Milverton sits down and starts reading.

Then a woman enters. She says she has letters to sell. But when she lifts her veil, it is clear she is not here to sell anything. Milverton ruined her life. He sent letters to her husband and her husband died of grief.

Part 4: Revenge and Escape

The woman shoots Milverton several times. He falls and dies. She looks at him, then leaves through the garden door.

Holmes quickly throws all the letters from the safe into the fire. He burns every document. Then he and Watson escape through the garden. They jump over a wall and run across Hampstead Heath — the large open park nearby — until they are safe.

Part 5: No Help for the Police

The next morning, Inspector Lestrade asks Holmes to help solve the murder. Holmes refuses. He says Milverton was a dangerous man and that some crimes deserve private justice. He will not catch the woman who killed him.

Later, Holmes and Watson walk past a shop window showing photographs of famous ladies. Holmes points at one. Watson reads the name and understands. The woman who killed Milverton was a great and noble lady. Her secret is safe.