



The Adventure of the Six Napoleons

A2 Version

Part 1: Broken Statues

Inspector Lestrade visits Baker Street with a strange case. Someone is breaking plaster statues of the French Emperor Napoleon. Three statues have been destroyed across London. Lestrade thinks the person is simply mad and hates Napoleon.

Holmes is not so sure. He notices that all three statues came from the same factory — a company called Gelder and Co. in east London. He thinks there must be a specific reason why these particular statues were chosen.

Part 2: A Dead Man

The next day, the case becomes much more serious. A man is found dead outside a house in Kensington. He has been killed with a knife. Another Napoleon bust has been stolen from the same house. The dead man is identified as a dangerous Italian criminal named Pietro Venucci.

Holmes traces the history of all six busts. They were made at Gelder and Co. and sold to two shops. He finds the names of all six buyers. He also discovers that an Italian

worker named Beppo once worked at the factory. Beppo had been arrested for stabbing a man, and spent a year in prison. His photograph is found in the dead man's pocket.

Part 3: The Secret Inside

Holmes invites Lestrade to Baker Street that evening. Earlier, Holmes wrote to the owner of the last remaining bust and offered to buy it. The man, Mr. Sandeford, brings the bust and accepts the money.

When Sandeford leaves, Holmes puts the bust on a cloth and breaks it with his riding crop — a short heavy stick used for horse riding. Inside the broken plaster, he finds a black pearl. It is one of the most famous and valuable jewels in the world — the black pearl of the Borgias — which disappeared months ago.

Holmes explains everything. Beppo stole the pearl or was hiding it for someone. When the police came to arrest him at the factory, he had no time to escape. He pushed the pearl into a soft, wet plaster bust and smoothed it over. After he left prison, all six busts had been sold. He did not know which one had the pearl inside. He had to break every single one to find it.

Beppo killed Venucci because Venucci was following him and trying to take the pearl. The last bust was in the town of Reading, outside London. Holmes bought it first.

Part 4: Congratulations

Lestrade is amazed. He shakes Holmes's hand and says that every police officer in London would congratulate him. Holmes is very pleased. It is a rare moment when he shows real emotion.