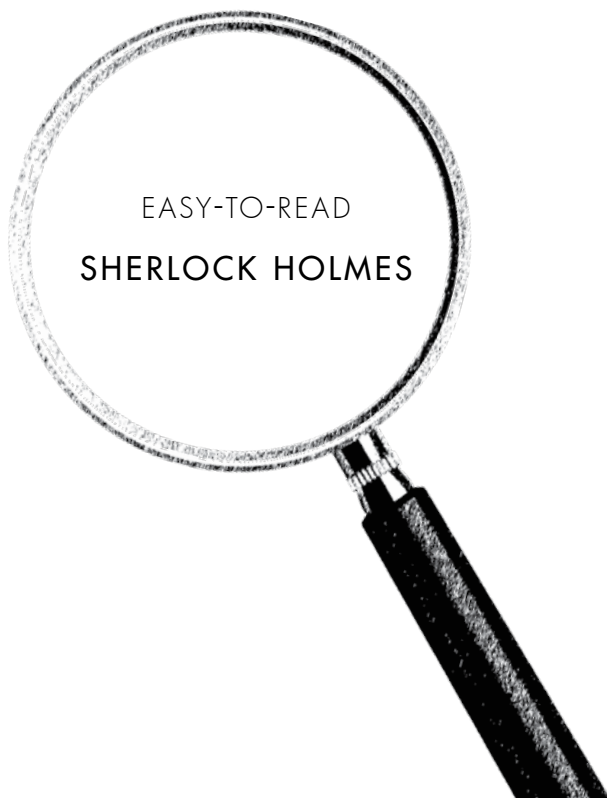


# Sherlock Holmes

## The Man with the Twisted lip

The famous story of Arthur Conan Doyle,  
narrated by Helene Bakker





*Sherlock Holmes was a famous English private detective. He didn't really exist, but the writer Arthur Conan Doyle wrote so well that many people think he did.*

*Sherlock Holmes started work as a detective about 150 years ago in the city of London, along with his friend Doctor Watson. The way Holmes solved attacks and murders has made him famous all over the world. Even today, films are still made about his detective work.*



## CHAPTER 1

# Opium

Opium is a drug you can become addicted to. In Sherlock Holmes's time, opium was sold in opium dens. These were dark cellars where addicts could lie and smoke opium pipes.

Watson, Sherlock Holmes's friend, no longer lived with Holmes. Watson was married and had become a family doctor. His practice was in a different neighbourhood.

A couple of his patients were drug addicts.

One of them was Isa Whitney.

Isa had once been a strong lad.

He was cheerful and ready to help anyone. He was married to a lovely woman.

When he started smoking opium, though, things went wrong. He changed into a poor wretch. Opium – that's all his life revolved around.

It was because of this man Isa Whitney that  
Watson ended up in an opium den.

This is what happened....

## CHAPTER 2

# Isa Whitney

Watson and his wife have just finished dinner when the doorbell rings. Kate, Isa Whitney's wife, is standing on the doorstep.

Watson sees her, and knows immediately what the problem is. She looks so anxious.

'Is there something wrong with Isa?' he says.

Yes, she nods and the tears stream down her cheeks.

'Come on in and have a good cry. You'll soon feel better.'

'Oh, Doctor,' says the woman when she's a bit calmer, 'I'm so afraid. You know Isa well, don't you?'

'Yes, he's been coming here a long time.'

'You know he's an addict, don't you?'

'Yes, I know.'

'Yesterday he left very early, around seven o'clock.'

To go to one of those dreadful opium dens.

I begged him not to go. I tried everything.

But he said he had to go.

I don't understand it, Doctor. He's such a lovely man, but that dreadful opium...'

She starts crying again.

'It's not your fault. Really, there's nothing you can do about it,' Watson comforts her.

His words seem to help a bit.

She calms down.

'Tell me more, Kate.'

She nods and continues hesitantly.

'Isa isn't home yet, Doctor.

He's already been away two days and a night.

Something must have happened. He's never stayed away so long before.'

'Well, two days in an opium den is a long time.'

'And do you know the worst of it, Doctor?'

'No.'

'I daren't go looking for him. I daren't go into one of those dens.'

Suddenly Watson understands why Kate has



come.

‘Would you like me to come with you to look?’  
he asks.

‘Oh, please, if you would, Doctor!’

‘Do you know where he went?’

‘No, only that he’s on the east side of town.’

Watson thinks for a moment. The east side of town... there is an opium den there... the Bar of Gold or something.

But the poor woman can’t go along to such a dark, dangerous cellar!

So he says, ‘Kate, how about this? You just stay here with my wife.

I’ll go in search of Isa alone. I think I know where he’s gone. If he’s still there, we’ll be back here together within two hours.’

So Watson leaves in search of Isa Whitney.