



The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Summary

It's just after Christmas in London, and Dr. Watson arrives at 221B Baker Street to find Sherlock Holmes examining a... hat. Yes—a worn-out, dusty old hat. Along with the hat, Peterson, a commissioner (like a security guard), had found a goose on the street. When his wife cooked it, something strange popped out of its throat—not stuffing... but a blue carbuncle!

What's a carbuncle? In this case, it's a rare, valuable gem that had recently been stolen from a fancy hotel—it belonged to a countess! The police had arrested a man, but Holmes wasn't so sure they had the right person.

Using his amazing powers of deduction, Holmes tracks the goose's journey—from Breckenridge, a market seller at Covent Garden, back to Mrs. Oakshott, who raised the birds. That leads him to James Ryder, a hotel employee who actually stole the gem and panicked. He hid it inside the goose meant for Christmas dinner—but the wrong goose got away!

Holmes decides not to turn Ryder in. He believes Ryder has learned his lesson and will never commit a crime again. The mystery is solved—and the blue carbuncle is returned to its owner.

Check Your Understanding:

What surprising object did Peterson's wife find inside the goose, and why was it important?

How did Sherlock Holmes figure out who the real thief was?

Why did Holmes choose not to turn James Ryder in to the police?



The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

Answer Key

It's just after Christmas in London, and Dr. Watson arrives at 221B Baker Street to find Sherlock Holmes examining a... hat. Yes—a worn-out, dusty old hat. Along with the hat, Peterson, a commissioner (like a security guard), had found a goose on the street. When his wife cooked it, something strange popped out of its throat—not stuffing... but a blue carbuncle!

What's a carbuncle? In this case, it's a rare, valuable gem that had recently been stolen from a fancy hotel—it belonged to a countess! The police had arrested a man, but Holmes wasn't so sure they had the right person.

Using his amazing powers of deduction, Holmes tracks the goose's journey—from Breckenridge, a market seller at Covent Garden, back to Mrs. Oakshott, who raised the birds. That leads him to James Ryder, a hotel employee who actually stole the gem and panicked. He hid it inside the goose meant for Christmas dinner—but the wrong goose got away!

Holmes decides not to turn Ryder in. He believes Ryder has learned his lesson and will never commit a crime again. The mystery is solved—and the blue carbuncle is returned to its owner.

Check Your Understanding:

What surprising object did Peterson's wife find inside the goose, and why was it important?

***A blue carbuncle —
a rare and valuable gem that had been stolen from a hotel.***

How did Sherlock Holmes figure out who the real thief was?

He traced the goose back through the seller (Breckenridge) to the breeder (Mrs. Oakshott), which led him to Ryder, who had hidden the gem in the goose.

Why did Holmes choose not to turn James Ryder in to the police?

Holmes believed Ryder was scared and remorseful and wouldn't commit another crime, so he let him go.