

The Sign of Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**1**

- 1 Doctor Watson had been shot in the shoulder in Afghanistan. When he got better he could not work in the army any more. He retired from the army and he returned to England.
- 2 He was a private detective. He solved his client's problems.
- 3 He did not have any interesting problems to solve.
- 4 A young lady. Her name was Miss Mary Morstan.

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- 1 He told her that her father was not at the hotel. He had gone out the night before and he had not returned.
- 2 He was in the army. He worked at the prison on one of the Andaman Islands. He was one of the officers in charge of the prisoners.
- 3 He was a friend of Miss Morstan's father. He had worked at the prison too.
- 4 (a) A lovely pearl. (b) Six. The first one and five more, one each year.
- 5 (a) The Lyceum Theatre. (b) Two friends. (c) 'Your Unknown Friend'.
- 6 He decided that he and Watson would go with Miss Morstan to the Lyceum Theatre.

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- 1 Because Major Sholto had died a few days before Miss Morstan saw the advertisement in the newspaper.
- 2 (a) It was in her father's luggage. (b) The plan of a large building. There was a mark to show a certain place in the building. (c) There were four names, and the words 'The Sign of Four'.
- 3 A small dark man.
- 4 They went in a cab to a house in a dark quiet street.

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- 1 Because he had upset Miss Morstan.
- 2 A man with a wooden leg.
- 3 He received a letter from India. The letter upset him very much and he became ill.
- 4 (a) The Great Agra Treasure. (b) Captain Morstan had asked for his share of the treasure, but Major Sholto did not want to give him any of it. (c) Captain Morstan had a weak heart. He became so angry with Major Sholto that he died.
- 5 He told them that Captain Morstan had a daughter called Mary. He asked them to listen carefully. Then he began to tell them where he had hidden the treasure. But he died before he could tell them.
- 6 'The Sign of Four'.

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- 1 Because Thaddeus and his brother, Bartholomew, had found the treasure.
- 2 It was in Pondicherry Lodge, Major Sholto's house.
- 3 Because he was in love with Miss Morstan. Now she was going to be very rich. He did not have much money himself, so he could not ask her to marry him.
- 4 To Pondicherry Lodge.
- 5 In a secret room under the roof at Pondicherry Lodge.
- 6 (a) The sound of a woman crying. (b) A tall old woman. (c) She said that something terrible had happened to his brother.

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- 1 A face with a horrible smile. The face did not move.
- 2 A poisoned thorn had killed him. It was sticking in his skin near his ear.
- 3 The Great Agra Treasure had gone.

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- 1 He saw some marks on the window-sill and on the floor. Some were footprints but some were in the shape of small circles. The circles were the marks of a wooden leg.
- 2 He said that someone else had got into the room first. Then he had thrown a rope out of the window to the wooden-legged man. The wooden-legged man had climbed up the rope.
- 3 They were the prints of bare feet. And they were very small.
- 4 He was a very small man – a pygmy from some foreign land. He was very strong and could climb great heights easily.

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- 1 They wanted revenge on the Sholto family. And they wanted the treasure.
- 2 Because he knew a dog which loved the smell of creosote. Holmes could use the dog to follow the murderers.
- 3 He thought his own ideas were better.
- 4 Thaddeus Sholto.

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- 1 To take Miss Morstan home. And to go to Mr Sherman's house and bring a dog called Toby to Pondicherry Lodge.
- 2 He loved to follow strong smells, especially the smell of creosote.
- 3 He climbed up a drain-pipe.
- 4 The trail of someone who had creosote on his feet.

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- 1 Because the murderers had got into a boat there.
- 2 He had gone on the river in the steam launch *Aurora*.
- 3 A wooden-legged man.
- 4 Because she did not trust the wooden-legged man.

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- 1 Because he did not want the criminals to know that anyone was looking for them.
- 2 A report about the murder of Bartholomew Sholto and the arrest of Thaddeus Sholto.
- 3 Because nobody was afraid of children. They could go anywhere, see everything and hear everything.

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- 1 He was thinking about Miss Morstan. He wanted to ask her to marry him.
- 2 He was not rude any more. He was very quiet and polite.
- 3 In a boatyard near the river.
- 4 They were planning to go to America. The *Aurora* would take them to a ship that was waiting for them out at sea.

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- 1 It was black with two red stripes.
- 2 Because he was going to try to kill them with his poisoned thorns.
- 3 He fell backwards into the water with a terrible cry.
- 4 He had jumped out of the steam launch but his wooden leg had stuck in the mud.
- 5 The Agra Treasure.
- 6 The poisoned dart the pygmy had shot at them had passed through the air between them.

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- 1 He was the wooden-legged man.
- 2 He did not want her to become a rich woman.
- 3 Because there was nothing in it. Miss Morstan was not rich. Now Watson could tell her his feelings. He could ask her to marry him.

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- 1 Jonathan Small had thrown it all to the bottom of the river.
- 2 Jonathan Small, Mahomet Sing, Abdullah Khan and Dost Akbar. They met in India. The three Indians had fought for the British.
- 3 Small and the three Indians were sent to the prison in the Andaman Islands. Two British soldiers were killed in a fight. The Four had not killed them, but they were arrested for their murder. Morstan and Sholto were in charge of the prisoners, and the four told them about the treasure.
- 4 To Doctor Watson and Miss Morstan.