

'That's our man, Watson! Come along! We'll have a good look at him.'

I saw a man with a large black beard looking out of the taxi window. He had been following and watching our friends. But when he saw us running towards him, he shouted something to the driver, and the taxi drove off quickly down the road. Holmes looked round for another taxi, but could not see one. He began to run after the first taxi, but it was soon out of sight.

'Well, I got the number of the taxi,' said Holmes. 'So I can find the driver. He may be able to tell us something about his passenger. Would you recognize the man if you saw him again?'

'Only his beard,' I said.

'He wanted us to recognize the beard,' said Holmes. 'I think it was a false one.'

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*More Mystery*

Later, we went on to Sir Henry's hotel. He was pleased to see us, but rather angry because another of his shoes had disappeared. This time it was one shoe of an old pair. I could see that Holmes found this both interesting and strange. He thought about it for a few moments, but said nothing except that he did not understand why a second shoe had been stolen.

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*More Mystery*

At lunch, Sir Henry told Holmes that he had decided to go to Baskerville Hall.

'I think you have decided to do the right thing,' said Holmes. 'I know somebody is following you. If someone tries to harm you in London, it will be hard to stop him or catch him afterwards. In the country we have a better chance.'

Holmes went on to tell them about what we had seen that morning. Then he asked Dr Mortimer if anyone with a large black beard lived in or near Baskerville Hall.

'Yes,' said Dr Mortimer, 'Barrymore, Sir Charles' butler, has a black beard.'

'We must check whether Barrymore is in London or at Baskerville Hall,' said Holmes. 'I shall send a telegram to Barrymore at the Hall, which will say: "Is everything ready for Sir Henry?" Then I'll send another telegram to the local post office. This one will say: "Please put telegram to Mr Barrymore into his own hand. If he is away, please return telegram to Sir Henry Baskerville." I'll give your address at this hotel. We shall know before evening whether Barrymore is in Devonshire or not.'

'Barrymore and his wife have a very fine home and nothing to do while the family is not living in the Hall,' said Sir Henry.

'That's true,' said Holmes. 'Did the Barrymores receive anything from Sir Charles' will? And did they know that they would get some money when he died?'

'Yes,' said Dr Mortimer. 'They each received £500, and

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