

CHAPTER 1

‘This walking stick is interesting, Holmes,’ I said. ‘Dr Mortimer left it last night. It has the **initials** *C.C.H.* on it.’

‘What’s your opinion of the initials, Watson?’ asked Holmes.

‘Maybe *C.C.H.* is a friend or colleague who gave him the stick,’ I **replied**.

‘Good thinking, Watson,’ said Holmes. ‘But Mortimer’s a doctor, so I think the *H* is for Hospital. In my opinion, he worked at Charing Cross Hospital, but now he’s moved to the **countryside**. That’s why the stick is dirty.’

The door opened and Dr Mortimer entered. In his hand, he held a document.

‘Good morning, Dr Mortimer,’ I said. ‘Tell me, do you work at Charing Cross Hospital?’

‘I worked there until five years ago,’ said Dr Mortimer. ‘But now, I live and work in Devon, near Baskerville Hall.’

Holmes smiled. He loved to be right. ‘What are you doing here in London?’ he asked.

initial (noun) the first letter of a name

reply (verb) to answer; to respond

countryside (noun) land that is away from cities and towns



'This walking stick is interesting, Holmes,' I said.

‘I’m meeting Sir Henry Baskerville at the station. He’s a young man from Canada. He’s arriving this morning.’

‘And what’s the document you’re holding?’ asked Holmes.

‘Hugo Baskerville wrote this in 1742,’ said Dr Mortimer. ‘It’s a story he heard from his grandfather about their **ancestor**, also called Hugo.’

‘Go on,’ said Holmes.

‘Hugo Baskerville lived at Baskerville Hall. He was lazy, and he drank **heavily**. He fell in love with a girl from the village, but she **refused** to marry him. Hugo **kidnapped** the girl and locked her in a room in Baskerville Hall. Then he sat in the kitchen drinking with his friends, but the girl **escaped** through the window. When Hugo discovered this, he was so angry that he and his friends jumped on their horses and rode after the girl. Hugo rode fast on his big, black horse and his friends soon lost him. They stopped and spoke to an old man.

‘The man said, “I saw a girl. Some huge dogs were trying to catch her, and I saw a horse with no rider. Then there was an **enormous** black **hound**. It was wild, not of this world. From its open mouth came fire and a terrible noise.”

ancestor (noun) a person who was in your family in the past

heavily (adverb) very much

refuse (verb) to not accept

kidnap (verb) to take someone away by force and illegally

escape (verb) to get away

enormous (adjective) very big

hound (noun) a type of dog



*Then there was an enormous black hound.
It was wild, not of this world.*

‘Hugo Baskerville’s friends were **terrified**, but they **carried on**, and they soon discovered Hugo’s dogs. The dogs were quiet and scared. Then the men found the girl. She was lying on the ground, dead. **Nearby**, they saw Hugo Baskerville. He was dead too, and standing over him was the enormous, **terrifying** hound. As the men watched, the hound tore out Hugo Baskerville’s throat.

‘Since that time, there have been many **violent** deaths on the **moor**. The local people know it’s not safe to cross the moor at night.’

Holmes said, ‘Do you believe this story, Dr Mortimer?’

‘I’m not sure,’ said Mortimer.

‘It can’t be true,’ I said.

‘I also have a newspaper **article**, from 14 May this year,’ said Dr Mortimer. ‘When you read it, you might change your mind.’

terrified (adjective) very scared, so afraid

carry on (phrasal verb) to continue

nearby (adverb) not far away

terrifying (adjective) scary; making you afraid

violent (adjective) using force to hurt someone

moor (noun) a large area of open land that is not good for farming and usually covered with grass and bushes

article (noun) a piece of writing in a magazine or newspaper

Holmes took the article and read it aloud. ‘On 4 May, Sir Charles Baskerville died suddenly during his usual evening walk, and his servant, Barrymore, found him dead at midnight. Dr Mortimer considers that Sir Charles died of a weak heart.’

Holmes looked at Dr Mortimer, ‘Is that true?’ he asked.

‘I can’t be sure,’ admitted Mortimer. ‘Sir Charles was extremely **frightened** of the story of the hound. Maybe his weak heart and the shock of seeing a large dog killed him.’

‘Did his walk always follow the same route?’ asked Holmes.

‘Yes,’ said Dr Mortimer. ‘Barrymore called me when he found the body. I saw **footprints** on the path near the gate to the moor, but the gate was locked.’

‘Is the gate high?’ asked Holmes.

‘No,’ said Dr Mortimer. ‘A man could climb over it.’

‘What about the footprints?’ asked Holmes.

‘They changed halfway down the path. Maybe Sir Charles began running. I **noticed** two cigars on the ground, so it seems he waited by the gate for some time.’

frightened (adjective) scared, afraid, terrified

footprint (noun) a mark left by a foot or shoe

notice (verb) to see

‘And the body?’ asked Holmes.

‘It was still on the ground. His face looked terrified. I saw some other footprints nearby, the footprints of an enormous hound.’

‘Did you inform the police about this?’ asked Holmes.

‘No,’ said Mortimer. ‘They might think I was mad. Also, we don’t want Baskerville Hall to be empty. If people hear about the hound story, no one will want to live there. But Sir Charles believed it, and many people insist they have seen the hound. One man says he heard it on the night Sir Charles died.’

‘An interesting case,’ said Holmes. ‘How can I **assist**?’

‘I’m expecting Sir Henry Baskerville at the station in one hour. Sir Charles had no children, but he had two brothers. The second brother died, and Henry is his son and **heir**. The third brother was a bad man and he died in Central America. Sir Henry has come back as heir to Baskerville Hall. Can you **advise** me what to do for the best?’ asked Mortimer.

assist (verb) to help

heir (noun) a person who receives the money or property after someone in a family dies

advise (verb) to give somebody an opinion about what they should do



'Can you advise me what to do for the best?' asked Mortimer.

Quiz-2

Complete the sentences with these words.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| grateful | secret | prove | upset |
| assisted | cheerful | miserable | advised |
| ancient | confused | approached | enormous |

1. The elephant was It was much bigger than the car.
2. I told her jokes to make her feel less
3. York is a very old city. It has many buildings.
4. He is always smiling and happy. He is a man.
5. I get when I look at the twins. They look the same.
6. The policeman couldn't that this was the thief.
7. The gentleman the woman with her suitcase.
8. 'The doctor me to rest and sleep,' she said.
9. The giraffes ran away as we them at the zoo.
10. She was so to me for helping her with the essay.
11. 'I will tell you a, but you shouldn't let anyone know about it,' he said to me.
12. Ann cried and was very about her exams results. She expected a higher score.