

Speckled band detectives

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The detective in the Speckled Band is Sherlock Holmes. His associate is Dr Watson. Sherlock Holmes is a very knowledgeable man and he has very good detective skills. We know this because when he takes the first look at Helen Stoner he realises that she travelled by train as she had a train ticket on her hand. Sherlock Holmes does not take any money from Helen Stoner and he asks her to pay him when it suited her. This tells us that he loves his job and that money is not his main concern.

Sherlock Holmes is also very strong, we know this when Dr Grimsby Roylott bends a steel poker and Sherlock Holmes reshapes it. Sherlock Holmes always tries to find a logical explanation for everything as any other detective would.

He is not worried about his own safety, we know this when Dr Roylott barges in and threatens Sherlock Holmes while Sherlock Holmes intimidates him. Sherlock Holmes is brave, intellectual and quick thinking. Sherlock Holmes wears normal clothes and a long cloak. He also carries a magnifying glass and his smoking pipe.

Lamb To The Slaughter

The detectives in Lamb To The Slaughter are not named. The policemen are Noonan and O'Malley. Noonan and O'Malley are friends with the victim. The detectives and the policemen get paid a salary. The detectives are not very clever. We know this when the detectives rule out Mary as a possible suspect in this crime.

All detectives are suppose to make each person who was close to the victim and the crime a possible suspect but, the detectives in this story ruled Mary Maloney out as she had no motive and also because she had an alibi. The policemen and the detectives do their jobs by looking for the murder weapon. The detectives are a little sensitive, as they feel a little awkward when they pass Mary.

The detectives and the policemen try to find a logical explanation for the crime that has been committed. They also try and put Mary Maloney's story together. They drink Whisky at Mary Maloney's house, which is totally unprofessional. The detectives and the policemen eat a leg of lamb in Mary Maloney's house. The leg of Lamb was the murder weapon, which has now been rid of because it was been eaten.

These detectives and policemen do not meet my expectations of a typical detective.

Speckled Band Villain

The villain in the Speckled Band is Dr Grimsby Roylott. The weapon he uses is a snake that appears to be a speckled band when shaped in a hoop. He trains the snake using a whip and a dog leash. Dr Roylott has two pets that he brings from India. These two pets are, a cheetah and a baboon.

Dr Roylott was a doctor in India. We know that he is a very sadistic man. In his past he has escaped a death sentence in India because he beat his butler to death. Dr Roylott also argued with his neighbours. He had no friends

except the gypsies he allowed to stay on his land. He has a bad temper, which he can't control.

The motive for the murder is that his stepdaughters Julia and Helen have a large sum of money, which can be passed to them in the case of marriage. If she dies the money goes to Dr Roylott. Dr Roylott will do anything to get what he wants even murder.

He does meet my expectations for a villain.

Lamb To The Slaughter Villain

The villain in lamb to the slaughter is Mary Maloney the wife of the victim Patrick Maloney. Mary is not a violent person. She acts so innocent and she is a polite person.

Mary is six months pregnant. When Patrick arrives home, Mary receives some bad news. Patrick says that he is leaving Mary and he also says that he will look after Mary and there child.

Mary acted as though she didn't take notice of anything and they hadn't talked about it. In the end Mary ended up hitting Patrick with a leg of lamb, which she brought up from the cellar freezer.

When the policemen and the detectives arrived they ended up eating the murder weapon. Mary giggled while the two detectives and the two policemen where talking about the case. One of the detectives said:

" The murder weapon is probably right under our noses, we just can't see it yet". The detective said this whilst eating the murder weapon.

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Speckled Band Victim

The main victim in the speckled band is Julia Stoner. Julia Stoner was killed in a locked room. Julia Stoner was suspected of dying from fear and was killed two years ago before getting married. The main suspect on the list was Dr Grimsby Roylott. The motive that Dr Roylott had was, he would get the income money of Julia's. Julia would have received £1250. Julia and Helen would get the money left by their mother in the case of marriage.

The other victim is Helen Stoner, Julia's sister. Helen went to Sherlock Holmes because she was scared. All the things Julia had heard on the night of her death Helen began to hear. Helen was not a victim physically but was a victim mentally. When Helen went to see Sherlock Holmes, she looked restless, agitated and terrified. This shows that she is scared and she thinks that she is going to die. Helen shivers and says:

" It is not cold that makes me shiver, it is fear Mr Holmes. It is terror.

Lamb to the slaughter Victim

The victim in the lamb to the slaughter is Patrick Maloney the husband of the villain.

Patrick is a senior policeman who always arrives home at 4: 50 pm every day. Patrick would always arrive home and have a drink while sitting on his chair. His favourite drink is whisky. At this time Mary would be sewing. Patrick was a kind of bully. His wife would do everything he told her to do. Mary would act like a slave towards Patrick.

Patrick's two best mates at the station are O'Malley and Noonan. A frozen leg of lamb, which was struck at him on the head by Mary, killed Patrick.

Plot And Setting

In the Speckled band the murder took place in the house of stoke Moran. A snake, which had been trained by Dr Roylott, had killed Julia in a couple of minutes. Dr Roylott plan was to kill Julia and Helen Stoner and take their inheritance money without getting caught.

It was a 50-50% chance that the snake would bite Julia but if it was sent every night it would eventually kill. The snake would go down the ventilator between Julia's and Dr Roylott room. The snake would climb down a fake bell rope.

In the lamb to the slaughter the murder took place in Mary Maloney's house. The murder was not premeditated, it just happened. To cover up the murder Mary Maloney went out to the grocers to get her an alibi.

Mary had killed Patrick using a frozen leg of Lamb, which she brought up, from the cellar. Mary hit Patrick on the head causing his skull to crack.

Comparison Detectives

In the Speckled Band, Sherlock Holmes is a very knowledgeable man, however in the Lamb To The Slaughter the detectives are not that smart. All detectives are supposed to make everyone a possible suspect; Sherlock Holmes does this where as the policemen and the detectives rule the killer, Mary Maloney out as a possible suspect in the murder of her husband.

The detectives and policemen get paid a salary whereas Sherlock Holmes says you can pay me when it suits you. Sherlock Holmes is very well acknowledged whereas the policemen and detectives are not that well acknowledged.

The policemen and the detectives drink whiskey at Mary's house, which is totally unprofessional whereas Sherlock Holmes takes his job very seriously. Equally Sherlock Holmes the detectives and the policemen try and find a logical explanation for what has happened.

Overall Sherlock Holmes is better at his job than the detectives and the policemen.

Comparison Villain

The villain in the Speckled Band is Dr Grimsby Roylott. The villain in the lamb to the slaughter is Mary Maloney. Dr Roylott premeditated the death of Julia Stoner and attempted to kill Helen Stoner whereas Mary Maloney did not plan anything she just acted on impulse.

Equally both villains' have murdered someone. Dr Roylott did not get away with it but Mary Maloney got away with it. Dr Roylott is very aggressive and strong whereas Mary Maloney is weak and polite.

Mary Maloney got ruled out as a possible suspect to the murder. Dr Roylott was a suspect from the beginning because he had a motive. Mary was happily married and had friends and had good neighbours whereas Dr Roylott quarrelled with his neighbours and shut himself out from the world within his house. Dr Roylott only had gypsies as his friends.

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Comparison Victim

The two victims in the speckled band are Julia and Helen Stoner. The victim in the lamb to the slaughter is Patrick Maloney. Julia Stoner and Patrick Maloney were physically a victim as both of them were murdered. Helen Stoner is a victim mentally. Julia was killed by a speckled band, which turned out to be the deadliest snake in India whereas Patrick Maloney was killed by a frozen leg of lamb.

Helen could have been murdered the same way that Julia got murdered. Everything that Julia heard the night of her death Helen began to hear. This made Helen agitated and it terrified her. This made her a victim mentally.

Patrick was a senior policeman whereas Julia is a citizen. Both victims were vulnerable and could not have prevented their murders from taking place. Julia was murdered at night whereas Patrick was murdered in broad daylight.

It is clear that there can be different kinds of victims. Helen was a victim mentally. Patrick was a victim (physically) so was Julia.

Comparison Murderer

The murder was planned out in the speckled band whereas nothing was planned out in the Lamb to the slaughter. Both murders took place inside a house. Julia was killed at night whereas Patrick was killed in broad daylight. Dr Roylott's plan was to let the snake through the ventilator, allow it to climb down the bell rope and kill the victim. Whistling brought the snake back. The snake was kept in the safe.