



The Complete Stories of Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle

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This book contains all the investigations and adventures of the world's most popular detective. Follow the illustrious career of this quintessential British hero from his university days to his final case. His efforts to uncover the truth take him all over the world and into conflict with all manner of devious criminals.

The Complete Stories of Sherlock Holmes Details

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From Reader Review The Complete Stories of Sherlock Holmes for online ebook

Michelle says

Holmes, who loathed every form of society with his whole Bohemian soul, remained in our lodgings in Baker Street, buried among his old books, and alternating from week to week between cocaine and ambition, the drowsiness of the drug and the fierce energy of his own keen nature. Holmes was still, as ever, deeply attracted by the study of crime, and occupied his immense faculties and extraordinary powers of observation in following out those clues and clearing up those mysteries which had been abandoned as hopeless by the official police.

--“A Scandal in Bohemia”

Watson's not wasting any time here. So we learn, in two sentences, that Holmes is: not fond of other people, ridiculously smart, kind of a drug addict, working unofficially to fight crime and, as if I couldn't say it enough -- ridiculously smart!

Arthur Conan Doyle emphasizes Holmes' magnificent brain in many ways: he uses Watson's admiration to reinforce the reader's own; he gives Holmes lots of foils, including incompetent cops and the criminals he's hunting; and perhaps the best trick of all, Holmes frequently gets to show off his smarts by wowing his clients with how much he can guess about them just by looking at their outward appearances.

So it's obvious that Sherlock Holmes is beyond intelligent, but I find this other side of him more interesting:

That any civilized human being in this nineteenth century should not be aware that the earth travelled round the sun appeared to be to me such an extraordinary fact that I could hardly realize it.

“You appear to be astonished,” he said, smiling at my expression of surprise. “Now that I do know it I shall do my best to forget it.”

-- “A Study in Scarlet”

Holmes is, in a nutshell, single-minded in his detection. In that respect, it makes sense that all emotions, particularly love, are abhorrent to his cold, precise, but admirably balanced mind. He's basically an instrument for finding out criminal stuff. I actually appreciated this, since Doyle didn't risk all the soap opera-ish entanglements that make long-running serials hard to follow without a map. He conceived each of his stories as both united by Holmes' character, and yet still potentially interesting to people who had never read any other of his stories.

As a private detective, Holmes totally uses his powers for good. Everyone in Victorian London, from the lowliest governess to the highest nobleman, eventually comes to see him when they need help. It's reassuring to read about a guy who just goes around making sure that life is fair for the little guy. Sure, he may be in his business of private detective work mostly for the intellectual work rather than the moral judgment -- but for me, reading each of his stories is like reading “Chicken Soup for the Nerdy Soul”! He's so sure, and so good at getting things right, that reading his stories leaves you with a comfortable glow.

John Watson, the narrator, is definitely a main character in these stories. He is telling his own story, sure, but

only in so far as that story relates to Mr. Sherlock Holmes. The thing is though, he is awesome in his own right. He was an army doctor in Afghanistan, he's the one who always carries the gun in his and Holmes's most dangerous encounters, and what's more -- he is actually able to sustain a job and engage in healthy human relationships with more than one person. By also making Watson a strong character, with both medical and literary proficiency, Doyle makes Watson's admiration of Holmes' intelligence even more meaningful. He fills in gaps that Holmes lack: he provides medical assistance that Holmes can't handle and he's the one who adds human interest to Holmes' stories. Above all, he makes cold, calculating Holmes...human. Sure, he keeps mentioning that Holmes despises feelings and what-not but at the same time, the clear bromance that ties the two guys together -- their mutual friendship and respect --really speaks well of both of them as sympathetic, cool human beings. Watson also manages to bring out the passionate side of Holmes' supremely intellectual work.

Watson provides a frame for each story: an introductory series of paragraphs sketching some dialogue with Holmes, or setting the scene of the investigation. His narration doesn't wander off into passages of thick description very often, which makes their impact all the more powerful when he does.

The focus of each story is on solving a central problem, and that means there's suspense, and there's resolution. So, it's probably not a shock to many of you that detective stories usually end with, you know, the solution to a mystery. That's part of the pleasure of reading them in the first place! Something that's kind of interesting about Doyle's endings though, is that the solution is not always accompanied by legal punishment. Like, a satisfying conclusion to a "Bones" episode would be an arrest, right? Or "Law and Order" and its spinoffs are all about convicting the criminals they track down. Holmes though, is a private detective above all, and because he is not part of an official police force, he gets some choice in how things are handled once he's solved a case. He's more interested in fairness than in observing bureaucratic technicalities. As our parents have told us time and time again, "life isn't fair." But, by the end of a good Holmes story, you feel like it can be. The good are rewarded, the bad punished and each man gets what he deserves.

If these are somehow not enough to convince you that Sherlock Holmes is worth caring about, let me add that the bromance is top notch in these stories!

"Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it. "

--The Hound of the Baskervilles

Sherlock and John restored my faith in (platonic) love. I hope I will be as excited to spend time with my friends fifteen years down the line as these two seem to be during their later adventures. The guys may not be romantic partners in the least, but they are life partners --and I must admit, reading about their adventures left me a little choked up!

Manny says

For the Celebrity Death Match Review Tournament, *Le Petit Prince* (14) versus *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (19)

It was some time during the summer of 19__ that I received an urgent telegram from Holmes. Arriving at 221B, Baker Street, I was struck by how little he had changed. He was older, to be sure; but his eye was as

keen as ever, and his enthusiasm not one whit abated by the passage of the years.

"I trust you have brought your passport, Watson?" he said, in lieu of greeting. "We depart for Algeria this evening. The cab will be here momentarily."

"But Holmes!" I protested, as he hurried me down the stairs. "What -"

"We can discuss that once we are on the train," replied Holmes firmly. And, true to his word, he said no more until we were comfortably ensconced in the First Class carriage of the Dover Express.

"Now, Watson," said Holmes, after he had carefully packed and lit his pipe, "I wonder if you have heard of a young Frenchman called Saint-E_____. An author and aviator."

The rest of this review is available elsewhere (the location cannot be given for Goodreads policy reasons)

Diana says

I was so sad when I finished this book. Nothing new to read ever again about Sherlock Holmes ... hmmm
sigh

Rowan Wiese says

Time does not change great literature This was completely entertaining and no matter how old you are it's still great to read over the ones you enjoyed the first time. Several I had not remembered reading. I bought this book at special price from here:
<https://www.amazon.com/Complete-Sherl...>

The Books Blender says

Caro Arthur Conan Doyle,

So il che rapporto con la tua più famosa creatura non sempre è stato idilliaco. So che sei arrivato perfino a **commettere un omicidio** pur di sbarazzarti della tua onnipresente e impertinente creatura. Ma... sono contenta che ti sia ricreduto e che **Sherlock Holmes**, alla fine, sia sopravvissuto anche al suo peggior nemico: il suo stesso creatore.

Ora, **ci sono mille altre cose che vorrei aggiungere**. Ad esempio, potrei dire di come abbia cominciato con "*Uno studio in rosso*" che avevo ancora una decina d'anni e come, nel corso del tempo, quei racconti e quei libri mi abbiano portato ad appassionarmi sempre più alla letteratura gialla. Potrei dire di come, a Londra, mi

sono fermata in contemplazione davanti alla statua di Sherlock Holmes nella famosa **Baker Street**, pensando al povero Watson, narratore, sempre in secondo piano, di gran parte delle storie di Holmes.

Con un certo distacco, datomi anche dalle tante letture accumulate sulle mie spalle, potrei dire che non tutti i racconti sono usciti "con il buco" e che qualche storia è più appassionante e intricata di altre. E potrei dire di come, leggendo queste storie, sia arrivata a comprendere così in profondità i meccanismi della narrazione, da arrivare alla soluzione del caso insieme a Holmes (che soddisfazione!).

Potrei dire che **queste vicende rapiscono e incantano** generazioni e generazioni di lettori da oltre un secolo (un sogno che ogni scrittore spera di raggiungere un giorno)! Potrei dire di come, nonostante in alcuni casi si trattasse di una rilettura, non abbia avvertito noia o insoddisfazione nel leggere storie già conosciute.

Ma dirò solo una parola: **grazie**.

K.D. Absolutely says

So, I'm now done with reading this whole 2-volume 1,796-page Sherlock Holmes canon. I spent 10 months reading all the 4 novels and 56 short stories contained herein.

I really liked the experience and I am proud of this accomplishment. My first time to read *a canon*. Before reading this, I thought that the word *canon* only applied to biblical works. Well, that was the first thing I learned upon adding this book in my currently-reading folder.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in a classy classic manner and even if his settings were not familiar to me as a Filipino, I appreciated his stories because of the universal messages in them: love of a husband to a wife, a son to a father, a father to his child, etc; the evil in greed especially when it comes to riches and money; that men can be truly friends without homosexuality getting in-between; that we have to respect the people we work with; always be wary of the people around you; and that, *if used in moderation*, cocaine and morphine can actually make you sharper. I cringed while typing the last one.

So, what are my takeaways from Sherlock Holmes? There are three:

1. **Logical reasoning.** He is a keen observer. In almost every company I joined with, there is a safety program and one of the things they teach in the training is to stop and closely look up, down, left, right, front, back for every thing that we see that can cause an accident. I think that if all of us in the company will have that power of keen observation, all factories will have zero unsafe incidents. Not only that, because Holmes has that keen observation, he uses those things that he sees to link them to his hypotheses and when he applies his knowledge in forensics (having a background on medicine), to the things he observes, it results to his **power of deduction**.

2. **Ability to disguise.** I am still to see any Sherlock Holmes television episodes or movies but this one makes the story unbelievable for a middle age man like me but interesting enough to engage me while reading. Sherlock Holmes can be anybody: a pheasant, a woman, an old man, a soldier, a dead person, etc. Not only that, some of his characters put disguises too. This fantasy element in the story is entertaining in my mind but it is the least in terms of the practical application of what I learned from Sherlock Holmes. For one, I could not freaking imagine myself dressed like a woman.

3. **Forensic skills.** From the first few pages of the *A Study in Scarlet* when the very young Sherlock Holmes told Dr. Watson how to detect blood from the scene, I was mesmerized. Oh, I thought I knew it from my medical technology readings way back 3 decades ago. However, I am not practicing that profession so at times I already forget what I learned before. Sir Conan Doyle really puts his passion into each novel and short story because he incorporated what he learned from medical books but even history, travel and other sciences such as anthropology, handwriting analysis, weaponry, zoology and botany (I still remember the giant jellyfish). He must have been a very well-read gentlemen.

My favorite novel of course is *The Hound of the Baskervilles* followed by *The Sign of Four*. My top 10 favorite stories are below. Interestingly, while typing this, I checked a website and all, except #1, of my choices are not among the Top 12 Sherlockians' choices haha.

1. The Final Problem (Memoirs) - 5 stars
2. His Last Bow (Last Bow) - 5 stars
3. The Adventure of the Retired Colourman (Case Book) - 5 stars
4. The Five Orange Pips (Adventures) - 4 stars
5. The Copper Beeches (Adventures) - 4 stars
6. The Naval Treaty (Memoirs) - 4 stars
7. The Adventure of the Empty House (Return) - 4 stars
8. The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton (Return) - 4 stars
9. The Adventure of the Three Students (Return) - 4 stars
10. The Adventure of the Devil's Foot (Last Bow) - 4 stars

Maybe I am just strange but I always enjoy stories that either "speak" to me or at least "surprise" me.

Anyway, I will definitely miss Sherlock Holmes. But I have to move on to Samuel Beckett.

Martha says

I don't know if anyone else does this, but in times of stress or when I have exceptional trouble falling asleep, I find myself re-reading a favorite book. One of these used to be my complete Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series but alas, it *is* in fact possible to read those books too many times. Lately this book has been the Complete Sherlock Holmes.

What amazes me the most about these stories is that, despite having read through the entire collection a number of times, I seem to find something new each time I read it. Knowing the solution to the mysteries, doesn't seem to diminish the excitement at getting to Holmes' big reveal each time. The characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson become character studies, making you long for the little tidbits that provide more insight into their inner workings.

This time around I took the time to look up some of the odder Victorian words and thereby expanded my vocabulary with words like shaw (a small wood or thicket), Chandler (a retailer of provisions) and extravasate (to force out from the proper vessels, as blood, so as to diffuse through the surrounding tissues).

There are other details that seem impossible to not notice: the fact that, despite Holmes and Watson being clearly heterosexual, their relationship is nevertheless odd, that Holmes was a high-functioning autistic (Asperger's, my guess), and that Watson was a terrible doctor, seeing as how he treated every patient with

brandy regardless of their ailment.

But it is indeed these quirks that make the characters seem more real, and make the tales and deductions that much more enjoyable.

Hasham Rasool says

Most people in the world know who is Sherlock Holmes as the matter of fact, he is one of the most popular fictional characters.

'The Complete stories of Sherlock Holmes with original illustrations the 'strand' magazine'.

4 novels:

'A Study in Scarlet'

'The Sign of the Four'

'The Hound of the Baskervilles'

'The Valley of Fear'

5 books of 56 short stories:

'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes':

'A Scandal in Bohemia'

'The Red-Headed League'

'A Case of Identity'

'The Boscombe Valley Mystery'

'The Five Orange Pips'

'The Man with the Twisted Lip'

'The Blue Carbunde'

'The Speckled Band'

'The Engineer's Thumb'

'The Noble Bachelor'

'The Beryl Coronet'

'The Copper Beeches'

'The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes':

'Silver Blaze'

'The Yellow Face'

'The Stockbroker's Clerk'

'The Gloria Scott'

'The Reigate Squires'

'The Crooked Man'

'The Resident Patient'

'The Greek Interpreter'

'The Naval Treaty'

'The Final Problem'

'The Return of Sherlock Holmes':

'The Empty House'

'The Norwood Builder'

'The Dancing Men'

'The Solitary Cyclist'

'The Priory School'

'Black Peter'

'Charles Augustus Milverton'

'The Six Napoleons'

'The Three Students'

'The Golden Pince-Nez'

'The Missing Three-Quarter'

'The Abbey Grange'

'The Second Stain'

'His Last Bow':

'Wisteria Lodge'

'The Cardboard Box'

'The Red Circle'

'The Bruce-Partington Plans'

'The Dying Detective'

'The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax'

'The Devil's Foot'

'His Last Bow'

'The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes':

'The Mazarin Stone'

'The Problem of Thor Bridge'

'The Creeping Man'

'The Sussex Vampire'

'The Three Garridebs'

'The Illustrious Client'

'The Three Gables'

'The Blanched Soldier'

'The Lion Mane'

'The Retired Colourman'

'The Veiled Lodger'

'Shoscombe Old Place'

31st August-1st September 2015

'A Study in Scarlet'

I love this story. There are lots of twists. Alhamdulillah!

11 October-18 October 2015

'The Sign of the Four'

It is a very good story. Alhamdulillah!

22 October-25 October 2015

'The Hound of the Baskervilles'

It is a stupendous story! Alhamdulillah! I thought 'The Hound of Baskervilles' is spooky story.

12 November-22 November 2015

'The Valley of Fear'

It is a brilliant story Alhamdulillah!

5th December 2015-4 March 2016

'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'

I have taken a long break from reading this story. Alhamdulillah, I love it! These twelve short stories are awesome!

7th March 2016-9th March 2016

'The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes'

Alhamdulillah! These stories were stupendous stories I love it!

13th March 2016-17th March 2016

'The Return of Sherlock Holmes'

These stories are awesome! Alhamdulillah!

8th April 2016-9th April 2016

'His Last Bow'

These stories are fantastic stories! Alhamdulillah!

9th April 2016-10 April

'The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes'

These stories are very good. Alhamdulillah!

in the conclusion, It has taken me to finish read this book between seven and eight months. All of the novels and short stories of The Complete of Sherlock Holmes are stupendous Alhamdulillah! I am really enjoyed reading this book.

[illegible]

Meave says

My copy of this book is a wreck, I have read it so often. My dad gave it to me, I can't remember if it was a birthday or Christmas gift, but regardless it's one of the best books I've ever been given. You just have to read a couple of pages and you fall right into Holmes and Watson's world; it's wonderful.

adam bradford says

A few of the things I learned:

Once you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth

Never theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgment.

Also, I now sometimes try to analyze people based on their shoes and pants when sitting on the subway. I have yet to ask anyone if I was accurate about my predictions.

Rizwan says

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

'When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.'