

THE ILLUSTRATED
Sherlock
Holmes
TREASURY

Including:

**The Complete
Adventures and
Memoirs of
Sherlock Holmes**

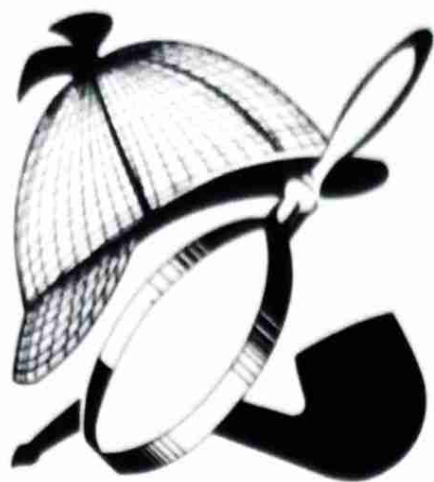
**The Return of
Sherlock Holmes**

**The Hound of the
Baskervilles**

UNABRIDGED

by Arthur Conan Doyle





The Illustrated SHERLOCK HOLMES TREASURY

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THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES
AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

by Arthur Conan Doyle

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WITH ALL THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS
BY SIDNEY PAGET

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THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES
AND MEMOIRS OF
SHERLOCK HOLMES

15-3.

BOOK ONE

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INTRODUCTION

The deerstalker cap and cape-backed overcoat. The pipe. The grace of gaslit Victoriana. The clop clop of carriage and cobblestone. The fog rolling in from England's imperial seas. Baker Street.

Here is Sherlock Holmes in his original, classic setting: the pages of *The Strand Magazine*, the stage from which he made his debut in 1891, and from which Arthur Conan Doyle chose to lay him to rest—albeit temporarily—in 1893.

These are the most beloved of the Sherlock Holmes stories, the ones written in the first flush of Arthur Conan Doyle's genius. There are twenty-four stories here, and between "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Final Problem" there lie such masterpieces as "The Red-Headed League," "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "The Five Orange Pips," "The Adventure of the Silver Blaze," and "The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual."

The idea of writing a series of short stories around one central character was a new one in England. With the success of the first *Strand* story, "A Scandal in Bohemia," Doyle was encouraged to write a series of six, for which he agreed to be paid an average of \$175 each. In a matter of days he had written the first series. Sherlock Holmes burst into tremendous popularity, and Doyle raised his price to \$250 a story. He finished the next six in rapid time and wrote to his mother "I think of slaying Holmes in the last and winding him up for good. He takes my mind from better things."

The Strand continued to hound Conan Doyle for more about Holmes. The offer of

much greater amounts of money disturbed the spiritual side of Conan Doyle as much as did his overexposure to Holmes. Doyle had found the perfect cliff from which to propel the detective, and did so in "The Final Problem." The resulting public outcry shocked him. Doyle was looked upon as an assassin; people wept; men wore mourning bands to their offices, and Doyle was called a brute by at least one outraged reader. It took eight years for Doyle to weaken in his resolve not to revive Sherlock Holmes. Finally, in an interview in *Harper's Weekly* in 1901, Conan Doyle allowed as how Dr. Watson's account of Holmes' death just *may* have been the result of hallucination. Holmes came back. As one reader put it, the fall may not have left him dead, but he seemed never to be quite the same. These early stories were never to be equalled.

The stories themselves have been translated into forty-one languages, including Basuto and shorthand. Ellery Queen contended that "more has been written about Sherlock Holmes than any other character in fiction."

Given a choice of three heroes of the printed word, the rare reader is one who would not place Sherlock Holmes among them. What other literary invention can boast a full-length biography, an immediately identifiable silhouette, or a name that, as a household word, reaches so far beyond class or nation as to be startlingly universal?

Sherlock Holmes is, said Sherlockian scholar Edgar W. Smith, "the personification of something in us that we have lost, or never