



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle

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Assumed dead after his terrible encounter with that master of crime, Professor Moriarty, at the Reichenbach Falls, Sherlock Holmes returns to astonish the world by telling the story of his miraculous escape and the succeeding years of deception.

Together again, Holmes and Watson embark on yet more intriguing adventures as they face some of their most challenging cases, notably those of "The Dancing Men" and "The Solitary Cyclist."

The Return of Sherlock Holmes Details

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Diane says

Sherlock Holmes is back! The first story in this collection, The Adventure of the Empty House, was one of my favorites because it's how Arthur Conan Doyle brought the great detective back from the dead. Doyle had previously killed the character because he was tired of writing about him, but fans were so upset (and publishers offered him more money!) that the author finally relented and wrote more stories.

My other favorite stories in this collection were The Adventure of the Norwood Builder, The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton, and The Adventure of the Abbey Grange. I especially liked how Sherlock occasionally acts as judge and jury, and his reasons for allowing certain perpetrators to escape because he thinks their actions were justified.

After making my way through six books of Sherlock, I have come to appreciate how important the character of Dr. Watson is. He must always be simple-minded and astonished by Holmes' fantastic deductions. Without that friendly reaction, I don't think these stories would have been as endearing.

Next up: The Valley of Fear. As Sherlock famously said, "The game is afoot!"

Note: I've been listening to all of these Sherlock stories on audio CD read by the marvelous British actor Derek Jacobi. I cannot say enough good things about his narration. I highly recommend them.

Aishu Rehman says

The Return of Sherlock Holmes collects thirteen short stories featuring the famous detective, all supposedly written and published by John Watson, his best friend, roommate, and confidante. (With a disappearing wife.) After the events of "The Adventure of the Final Problem", Holmes returns, in dramatic fashion, and the two set out to solve crimes all over London, from theft to blackmail to international espionage.

While I have plenty more to say about the "I Believe in Sherlock" movement (I may have participated?), I'll just say here that it amazes and humbles me that Holmes' "death" has always affected fans to the point of action. And I was wondering how Doyle would actually bring him back. "The Adventure of the Empty House" does not disappoint. While the stories are ultimately adventure pieces, Holmes and Watson's reunion is actually touching and the two do communicate how much they mean to each other—in fact, Holmes underestimated the affect his disappearance would have on Watson. They fall back into their familiar rhythm over the course of the story; they're even a little handsy with each other as they readjust. I mean, more than usual. And at the end, all returns to status quo. (Holmes buys Watson's practice in a roundabout manner and Mary seems to have vanished into thin air, so now they're just living solely on Holmes' paycheck, I assume. Oh, boys.)

Jaro says

K.D. Absolutely says

I know now why this collection of 13 short stories is called “The Return..” In the last story of “Memoirs” entitled *The Final Problem*, Watson says that Holmes has retired and will no longer publish new stories. Now in real life, between that story which was published in 1893 and 1903, the period called by Sherlock fans as “The Great Hiatus,” Sir Arthur Conan Doyle only wrote his third novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (said to be his greatest novel). So, while writing the first story of the collection, Doyle was in full hope that the interest in his characters, Holmes and Watson, would be revived. I actually rested for few days in between reading the two collections and I would say that on the 6th day, I felt that I was missing Sherlock Holmes so I returned to my daily reading and finished this book in 4 days including two heavy weekend reading days:

The Adventure of the Empty House tells that Holmes has survived the fall from the Reinchenbach Falls with his archenemy Professor Moriarty. However, one of Moriarty’s confederates, Moran, knows about this so Holmes hides for three years and comes back in disguise. Watson, now a widower, recognizes him and so they are both back to resolving crimes in London. Their first assignment is the murder of Ronald Adair in Park Lane and the culprit is no other than his card playmate, who is but Moran. *Very enjoyable after almost a week of not reading Sherlock Holmes. My friend is correct in advising me of not reading this canon without letup. Holmes almost convinced me went abroad to see the Dalai Lama! – 4 STARS*

The Adventure of the Norwood Builder is about Oldacre who wants to start a new life so he fakes his murder and sets up the son of the woman who has ditched him. Holmes does the unorthodox solution: fakes a fire and let the 3 cohorts to shout “Fire!” Oldacre comes out from the hiding. *Also enjoyable but I could not believe that Oldacre did not know that the fire was staged. - 3 STARS*

The Adventure of the Dancing Men is about the death of a couple, American lady called Elsie and the British guy called Cubitt. Prior to their deaths, the images of the 15 Dancing Men mysteriously appear in their house. *Although I loved the idea, I just can’t imagine how the ditched American lover was able to draw them on the wall without being caught. Oh, also what happened to the fingerprints on the guns used? - 2 STARS*

The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist Violet is seeing a man on a bicycle following her. It seems to have something to do with the uncle who contacts Carruthers and Woodley to ensure the well-being of Violet and her mother. *Quite ordinary. I thought it would have been more interesting if the love story is highlighted more. But then this is Sherlock Holmes and not Nicholas Sparks. - 2 STARS*

The Adventure of the Priory School Lord Saltire is missing from Priory School. Apparently, he leaves the school and is chased by Heidegger, the school’s master. The boy is reported to be unhappy at home and it is assumed to be the reason. Holmes and Watson deduced by first looking at the cow’s tracks and noticing that one of the bicycles has a patch. *I liked this one because it has a second set of characters that come out during the deduction part that I did not expect coming. - 3 STARS*

The Adventure of Black Peter A whaler father is found dead, murdered in his store. His family is happy because he, abusive to them, is finally out of their lives. Investigator Hopkins asks for help from Holmes and Watson. Holmes sees the initial on the cover of the diary in the crime scene and it leads him to the culprit.

Seems ordinary to me. - 2 STARS

The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton The character of Charles Augustus Milverton is based on the life of Charles Augustus Howell (1840-1890) who persuaded the poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti to dig the up the poems he buried with his wife Elizabeth Siddal. He was said to have used those letters to bribe well-known personalities. Sir Conan Doyle used this true-to-life situation as a backdrop of this story. Here, Holmes is hired by a debutante Lady Eva Blackwell to retrieve compromising letters from a blackmailer, Milverton. Holmes disguises as a plumber, applies in the Blackwell mansion and get engaged with one of the maids. *Conan Doyle has limitless imagination and can make Holmes do everything especially all these almost unbelievable disguises. - 4 STARS*

The Adventure of the Six Napoleons The busts of Napoleon are being shattered night after night by an unknown person. Through the power of Holmes' deduction he found out why. *Direct storytelling. I thought it had something to do with British hating Napoleon, a French military commander and conquerer. Until the revelation. - 3 STARS*

The Adventure of the Three Students Three students are suspected to have "prototype" of the exams that would qualify them for a big scholarship. The incident happens when the professor is out from his office. Holmes is consulted to do a mini-mini-minimo. *I liked this because it is simple and brought back memories of classmates who were caught cheating during exams in school. Not that I did not think of committing similar acts! - 4 STARS*

The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez The Golden Pince-Nez is a pair of eyeglasses that gets lost during an accident killing of Willoughby Smith, secretary to Professor Coram. Check the back of the bookcase. *This story is short and quite uncomplicated compared to the other stories but I enjoyed it! - 3 STARS*

The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter Very sad discovery where Staunton is. I thought that this story is sport-related until the ending. *Quite surprisingly, I am liking the Holmes stories with light straightforward resolutions. - 3 STARS*

The Adventure of the Abbey Grange An abusive husband, Sir Eustace Brackenstall is murdered while his wife for 18 months, Lady Brackenstall is tied on a post. The lady and her maid say that the culprit is a group of 3 burglars. The answer is obvious. *I knew it! I was able to predict this one! - 2 STARS*

The Adventure of the Second Stain A missing document from the dispatch box of the Secretary of State, Lord Bellinger. He believes that no one knows the importance of that document even his wife, Lady Bellinger. Then one of the spies hired by Holmes is killed. *Tight plot. I did not see the ending coming but I again anticipated the marital problem. - 3 STARS*

Now my reading of the short stories about Sherlock Holmes is becoming interesting. There is a formula: crime ? initial investigation ? seems lame/untrue ? investigate ? first clues ? deduction ? new characters/setting/real events ? conclusion. So, while reading, I can tell where I am. Then if I can predict what happens in the last two stages, it makes me happy. The only thing that I should improve on is how to do deductions! I have not been able to think the way Holmes does! He is just too smart!

Joe says

This year I read a lot of Sherlock Holmes "inspired" work, spin-offs, pastiche's, etc. I figured it was high time to return to the source and man, was it totally worth it.

I just love the language of these stories. It is quite literally music to my ears.

This collection is 13 short Sherlock stories.

"The Adventure of the Empty House" - Sherlock Holmes' glorious return! Doyle tried to kill Holmes off, the public freaked out, so this was basically a re-con explaining how he wasn't REALLY dead. I like how Holmes tells Watson went all "Deathwish" on all the assassins Moriarty sent after him.

"The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" - An old miser is killed. A young man stands accused. Secret passageways, burnt animal carcasses and brilliant deductions await.

"The Adventure of the Dancing Men" - One of my favorite Holmes stories. Mysterious pictures of stick figure dancing men begin to appear on someone's property. Their wife has a mysterious past? Is it connected? What do the figures mean? As a child, this story was my first exposure to code breaking that still holds up.

"The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist" - A young music teacher is constantly shadowed by a bicyclist. An odd adventure that begins innocently and ends quite serious.

"The Adventure of the Priory School" - A Duke's son is kidnapped. Who done it? This story involved a lot of tracks and tracking.

"The Adventure of Black Peter" - A salty old sea captain is murdered by being harpooned! This is officially the best murder I've ever read about! Holmes deduces who the murderer is and catches him by basically using old timey Craigslist.

"The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton" - An awesome Holmes story! Holmes tries to get a blackmailer to listen to reason to no avail. What follows is like no other Holmes story I've ever read. There's a little faux-romance, a little breaking and entering, and, of course, a little murder.

"The Adventure of the Six Napoleons" - Someone is going around London smashing busts of Napoleon! Is this the work of a Francophobe Fanatic? A pretty obvious mystery that is still quite entertaining.

"The Adventure of the Three Students" - Three students. One Test. Somebody cheated. Holmes, go get'em!

"The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez" - A case of vision impaired murder. The who of the who done it doesn't know who they did. Does that make any sense?

"The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter" - What begins as the light story of a missing footballer gets very heavy and dark in the end. I really like how Holmes tracks the bad guy here.

"The Adventure of the Abbey Grange" - Untrustworthy heiress', true love, and spousal abuse abound in this delightful mystery.

"The Adventure of the Second Stain" - If a missing letter falls into the wrong hands it will mean certain war! A nation's security and a ladies honor hangs in the balance. Is Holmes up to the task? (Spoiler alert: Of course he is.)

Great book and free (thanks copyright law!) to boot. If you haven't read Holmes in a while, definitely worth checking out.

Pink says

More Holmes. He's back and doing his usual of belittling everyone around and solving cases using the barest evidence while Watson is still gushing over every female he comes into contact with. If this was my first experience of Sherlock I might rate it higher, but it didn't live up to previous short story collections for me. Plus I'm starting to get irritated by the class/race/sex stereotypes of the day, I know I shouldn't judge on these things as that's just how life was, but reading so many of the same themes one after another starts to irritate a bit. Obviously I still think this is good stuff, it's Holmes!

Steven Walle says

This is a great collection of thirteen Sherlock Holmes detective stories. These occur after Sherlock supposedly dies in the last collection. The author was under a lot of pressure to revive Sherlock Holmes and masterfully does in this volume.

Enjoy and Be Blessed.

Diamond

Jim says

He's back!!!

How could I give anything but 5 stars? I can only imagine how people in the early years of the 20th century, how much joy they had in their hearts when the beloved character came back from the dead to solve another mystery. You know what he is still alive. Characters like Sherlock Holmes never die.

Tarissa says

Sherlock Holmes is back in London after his assumed death back at Reichenbach Falls. It's not long though, and someone is trying to put him six feet under once and for all (*The Adventure of the Empty House*)...

Now, I was extremely impressed with the story *'The Adventure of the Norwood Builder'*, in which forensic fingerprinting is put to the test. Pretty intriguing, and this is where Conan Doyle is really strutting his scientific mind.

'The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton' is another that stands out to me... because Sherlock Holmes gets engaged! Oh, what a funny idea! This relationship only comes about due to Holmes' need to milk out

information, and of course (to relieve your mind), there is no marriage. Whew! Crisis averted.

And one other story worth mentioning is *'The Adventure of the Second Stain'*. I liked it because Holmes shows grace and kindness. Usually he comes off as seemingly callous. He has so logical a mind, it's sometimes hard for him to let soft emotions come through. But he pulls it off in this story.

So, those are some of my favorite moments of **The Return of Sherlock Holmes**. Most of the stories, it seems, I could breeze through in about 15 minutes or so. Each provided a pleasant mystery to puzzle out.

In the last story, I was very amused that Watson states that Holmes has forbidden him to keep publishing any of the stories – *and yet, we know this promise is not forever kept*.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Return of Sherlock Holmes (Sherlock Holmes, #6), Arthur Conan Doyle
collection of 13 Sherlock Holmes stories

Baylee says

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Ci hai provato, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, ma non te l'abbiamo fatta passare liscia: Sherlock Holmes ci piaceva troppo perché tu potessi lasciarlo morto in fondo alle cascate di Reichenbach. Così una volta tanto, le lamentele dei lettori sono servite a qualcosa e il nostro investigatore preferito è tornato a deliziarci con il suo metodo scientifico, la sua sospetta asessualità e il suo suo meraviglioso rapporto con il dottor Watson.

Proprio in questa raccolta di racconti il loro rapporto si fa più profondo e definito: vediamo Sherlock disperarsi con lui al pensiero che per una volta sia Lestrade ad aver ragione (sacrilegio!) e manifestare il suo bisogno per la sua compagnia durante le indagini (anche se continua a risolvere ogni mistero per lo più autonomamente, grazie al suo metodo), oppure cercare di allontanarlo per proteggerlo da situazioni potenzialmente pericolose.

D'altro canto, Watson gli ricorda di andarci piano con le sue debolezze. La prima, quella più evidente a qualunque dottore, è la sua dipendenza dalla cocaina nei periodi di magra criminale: Watson si fa vanto di averlo fatto smettere. La seconda è il suo assoluto disinteresse per le relazioni interpersonali: ogni tanto, Watson deve ricordare a Holmes che le persone potrebbero rimanere ferite da certi comportamenti... Infine, il buon dottore si preoccupa moltissimo dei rischi che Holmes è disposto a correre per risolvere un caso e cerca di riportarlo a più miti consigli (senza riuscirci... logica schiacciante, ricordate? Quindi non gli resta che accompagnarlo e condividere... Il miglior amico di sempre).

Inoltre, Watson ci ricorda sempre il nostro stato di meraviglia di fronte alle straordinarie capacità deduttive e logiche di Holmes: di fronte a lui siamo tutti ciechi come pipistrelli...

Norah Una Sumner says

Really enjoyed reading this!

This is a really interesting, mysterious, fun collection of 13 Sherlock Holmes stories. "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" is my favourite one, it's really spellbinding and funny. Dr. Watson is awesome as always. The only thing that I didn't like is the fact that the bad guys always look like the bad guys—their eyes are narrow and evil, their chins are weak. No one is destined to be something based on how he looks—no one is actually born to be a murderer, a thief etc. I liked everything else, though.

Favourite quotes:

"You would not call me a marrying man, Watson?"

"No, indeed!"

"You'll be interested to hear that I'm engaged."

"My dear fellow! I congrat—"

"To Milverton's housemaid."

"My dear Holmes!"

"I wanted information, Watson."

Kenchiin says

Quality varies among the different short stories, but overall... a pleasure to read.

Jayson says

(A) 85% | Extraordinary

Notes: All in all, a volume without a real stand-out story, but the most consistently good of the short story collections so far.

Krystal says

Not the greatest of the Sherlock Holmes compilations, but it's still got some great stories in here. Even though it was years ago that I read it, there are still stories that stand out in my memory. I suppose reading about Holmes in his later years lost a little of its charm, but I also feel that perhaps Doyle didn't have quite the vigor in writing these ones. Still great though, and your reading of Holmes is not complete if you've skipped this book.

Bethany says

The brilliancy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will never cease to amaze me! He must have literally been a genius to come up with so many clever cases and solutions for all the Sherlock Holmes books!

Katie Lumsden says

A very enjoyable collection, as I always find with Sherlock Holmes short stories.

Teresa says

After Doyle said he would no longer write about his famous consulting detective, one might reasonably expect the quality of his stories to go down after he returned to them (due to popular demand), but I didn't find that the case (pun unintended). Yes, some of the elements are a bit overfamiliar by now, but fans expected those, and without them Holmes and Watson are not themselves.

The murders seem more violent (give the people what they want?), but the humorous dialogue ("*...so you can put that in your pipe and smoke it, Mr. Busybody Holmes!*") and "*What did you do, Hopkins, after you made certain that you had made certain of nothing?*"; and the nice descriptive writing (*...ten miles of man's handiwork on every side of us, to feel the iron grip of Nature...to the huge elemental forces all London was no more than the molehills that dot the fields.*) are still present, along with something new—graphics (drawings mostly) provided to the readers so they can see what Sherlock sees.

At the end of this collection, Watson says Sherlock no longer wants his stories to be published now that he has retired to the country. He wants no more publicity and to be left in peace. Poor Doyle.

Darinda says

Sherlock Holmes is resurrected! He's back, and solving mysteries, in this collection of thirteen short stories. An enjoyable collection, and a must-read for fans of Sherlock Holmes.

The stories:

1. The Adventure of the Empty House
2. The Adventure of the Norwood Builder
3. The Adventure of the Dancing Men
4. The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist
5. The Adventure of the Priory School
6. The Adventure of Black Peter
7. The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton
8. The Adventure of the Six Napoleons
9. The Adventure of the Three Students
10. The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez
11. The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter

12. The Adventure of the Abbey Grange
 13. The Adventure of the Second Stain
-

Hari Hara says

Fantastic collection. Surely 5 out of 5
