



A Study In Scarlet

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)

Read by:	David Clarke	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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A Study in Scarlet is the first of four full-length novels by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring the brilliant Sherlock Holmes. Published in 1887, it sets the stage with the characters and themes that recur throughout all the Holmes stories and novels.

Part I opens with the reminiscences of Dr. Watson of the initial meeting with the eccentric Holmes and their decision to share lodgings at 221B Baker Street. Dazzled by Holmes' extraordinary intelligence and puzzled by his motley cast of visitors at all hours, he learns that Holmes is a "consulting detective". Holmes' description of his work gives Watson's narrative its title: "There's the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life, and our duty is to unravel

it, and isolate it, and expose every inch of it." Scotland Yard requests Holmes' help in a baffling murder case and Watson is invited along as Inspectors Gregson and Lestrade chase down obvious but erroneous leads while Sherlock, with the help the "Baker Street Irregulars", manages to apprehend the murderer. *Part II* flashes back to the past in Salt Lake Valley in Utah and describes the convoluted misdeeds of the murder victims and the revenge sought by the murderer. The papers give Scotland Yard all the credit, as Holmes had feared they would, which prompts Watson to publish the adventure and set the record straight.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a Scottish writer and physician best known for his novels and stories featuring consulting detective Sherlock Holmes. He was born in Edinburgh to a family of Irish Catholic descent that struggled with poverty and alcoholism. Arthur was supported by wealthy uncles and educated at Jesuit schools before attending the University of Edinburgh Medical School, where he began writing and submitting both fiction and non-fiction to periodicals. The character of Sherlock Holmes is partly modeled on university instructor Joseph Bell. He served as a ship's doctor on two voyages before establishing private practices in Plymouth and then Portsmouth. The first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study In Scarlet*, appeared in 1886 and was followed by *The Sign of Four* in 1890, establishing his literary career. Seeking to pursue more serious work, he famously attempted to end the Holmes series in 1893 with his death in "The Final Problem", but was summoned back by public acclaim. Doyle was an active sportsman, fathered five children in two marriages, and was known for his work in attempting to correct injustices and for his lively interest in spiritualism.