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The Extraordinary Adventures of Arsène Lupin, Gentleman-Burglar

Maurice Leblanc (1864 - 1941) Translated by George Morehead

Read by:	Cate Barratt	Language:	English
Length:	6 hours	Style:	Solo
Genre(s):	Crime & Detective Fiction		

Product Formats and Options

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The Extraordinary Adventures of Arsène Lupin, Gentleman-Burglar is the first of twenty volumes of stories and novels featuring the famous French gentleman burglar Arsène Lupin. The charming and affable character chooses life on the wrong side of the law but nevertheless manages to be a force for the good. He was the creation of French writer Maurice Leblanc and would go on to achieve a popularity as strong and long-lasting as his British counterpart Sherlock Holmes. Published between 1905 and 1907 in Je Sais Tout magazine, the stories in this volume are loosely related and narrated by an admirer and trusted friend. The first story introduced the character to the French public to great success and encouraged Leblanc to write more. The last story in this collection features a meeting between Lupin and Sherlock Holmes and prefigures a more substantial connection in the next book. Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle turned to the courts to object to the use of the name of his character, prompting a change to "Herlock Sholmes". A solution worthy of Lupin himself.

Maurice Marie Émile Leblanc (11 November 1864 – 6 November 1941) was a French novelist and writer of short stories, known primarily as the creator of the fictional gentleman thief and detective Arsène Lupin, often described as a French counterpart to Sherlock Holmes. The first Lupin story was commissioned by the magazine Je Sais Tout and was quite a success. It is likely that Leblanc had read Les 21 jours d'un neurasthénique by Octave Mirbeau, which features a gentleman thief, as well as his comedy Scruples, whose main character is also a gentleman thief. By 1907 he was turning out novels as well as stories that were so successful and lucrative that he dedicated his career to the Lupin series. Like his counterpart Arthur Conan Doyle, who often expressed embarrassment at the success of Sherlock Holmes, Leblanc had other, more "respectable" literary ambitions and somewhat resented the success of Lupin. His attempts to develop other characters inevitably resulted in their appearance in the Lupin stories. He continued to write Lupin stories into the 1930s. He wrote two notable science fiction novels, *Les Trois Yeux* (1919) and *Le Formidable Evènment* (1920). He was awarded the Legion d'Honneur for his literary contributions. Lupin is the inspiration for the main character in the popular Netflix series *Lupin* that debuted in January 2021.

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