



The Hound of the Baskervilles

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)

Read by:	Bob Neufeld	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Genre:	Detective Fiction		

The Hound of the Baskervilles is the third and best known of four full-length novels featuring world famous detective Sherlock Holmes. It tells the story of a murder case involving the family curse of the Baskervilles and the legend of a ferocious, supernatural hound set on the moors on Dartmoor in Devon, England. Holmes and Watson are called to the case by a family friend, Dr. James Mortimer, who senses something amiss in the death by heart attack of the baronet and fears for the safety of his Canadian nephew, the inheritor of the estate. The story that unfolds involves a clandestine love affair, a long lost heir impersonating a local naturalist, an escaped convict, a mysterious cabbie, and the Baker Street Irregulars assisting in collecting useful intelligence in London. As usual, Holmes is miles ahead of everyone in determining that things are not what they seem and deducing the truth from evidence overlooked by everyone else.

The story was serialized in the *Strand Magazine* in 1901 and 1902 before publication in book form. It marked the return of Holmes from his apparent death years before in the *Final Problem*. It ranks 123rd on the BBC's list of 200 best-loved novels in the UK.

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.