



The Return of Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)

Read by:	Librivox readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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Genre:	Detective Fiction		

The Return of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is the second collection of short stories featuring the famous detective Sherlock Holmes. The stories followed the publication of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1902, which had created intense pressure for Doyle to revive the escapades of his famous sleuth. The thirteen stories first appeared in the *Strand Magazine* in 1903-1904 and marked Holmes' extraordinary return from the dead (or the presumption of his death), which is addressed in "The Adventure of the Empty House". The stories also address the issue of Holmes' whereabouts during the years 1891-1894, dubbed "The Great Hiatus" by his ardent followers. The collection closes with a statement by Watson in the *The Adventure of the Second Stain* that Holmes has retired and has forbidden him to publish any further accounts.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (May 22, 1859 - July 7, 1930) 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.