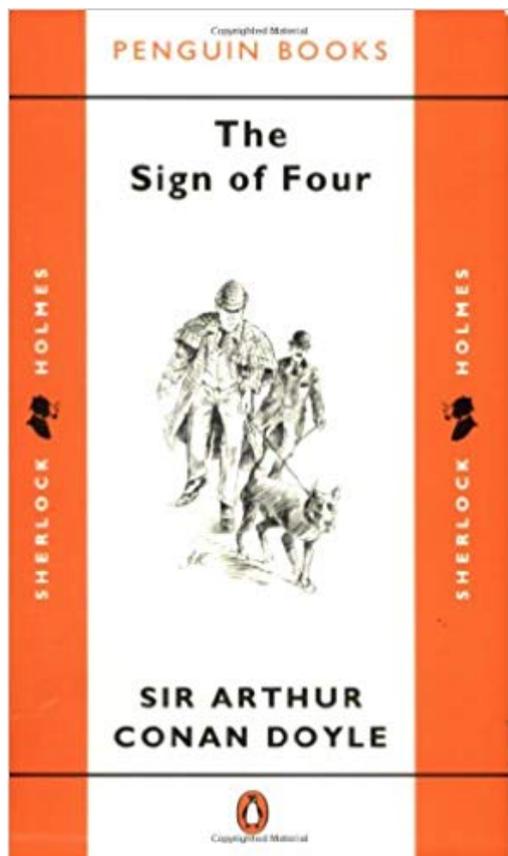


The Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle



ISBN: 0140058559
ISBN13: 978-0140058550
Author: Arthur Conan Doyle
Book title: The Sign of Four
Pages: 144
Publisher: Penguin Books (June 24, 1982)
Language: English
Category: Mystery
Size PDF version: 1728 kb
Size ePUB version: 1106 kb
Size FB2 version: 1548 kb
Other formats: lrf lrf mobi lrf

It is in this, the second Holmes novel, that the great detective comes fully to life - not only as a melancholic and an inscrutable master of deduction, but also as an incurable drug addict. "Which is it today?" Watson asks Holmes matter-of-factly on the opening page of the novel, "morphine or cocaine?" "It is cocaine," Holmes famously replies. "A seven-per-cent solution. Would you like to try it?" Mary Morstan comes to Holmes in the hope that he will be able to solve a mystery. Ten years earlier her father, Captain Arthur Morstan, had returned to London on leave from his regiment in India where it is said that he and one Thadeus Sholto, "came into possession of a considerable treasure." By the time his daughter arrived at his hotel, he had vanished without a trace. The Sign of Four remains a small masterpiece of suspense, and the novel has enjoyed a steady readership ever since its first publication in 1890. In recent years, however, it has not been readily available except as a part of larger omnibus Holmes anthologies.



Reviews of the The Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle

Hiylchis

Remember to look closely at the cover of all these "complete" Sherlock Holmes books. With the

wonders of capitalistically fueled competition, each edition of all 4 novels and 56 short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is beginning to look more and more similar. Not all are created quite as equal as one would think, however. Read on to find out more.

In my quest to find the holy grail of Sherlock Holmes literature, aka; THE definitive collection of original, Conan Doyle penned stories, I actually ended up buying (and reading and rereading) 3 different versions. My assessment of all 3 is as follows:

1 - Sherlock Holmes: The Ultimate Collection -

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00DCD53C2/ref=x_gr_w_bb?ie=UTF8&tag=httpwwwgoodco-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B00DCD53C2&SubscriptionId=1MGPYB6YW3HWK55XCGG2)

* This is a perfectly adequate collection. It DOES include all 4 novels and 56 short stories, but the book is all text, with no real illustrations to speak of. When I first purchased it as an ebook, it did NOT include all the stories, but before I was even finished reading it, a simple Kindle update added all the rest, making it certifiably "complete." So if you see a review of The Ultimate Collection that says it isn't complete, it's probably just an old review. At any rate, the "Film and Television Adaptations" and Beyond the Canon" synopsis sections at the end of the book are also included, but do not appear in the other Sherlock Holmes collections. Kindle formatting isn't so good in this one, however, unfortunately. Individual story/chapters aren't easily accessible from the drop down menu, as they are in other collected SH books. My five star rating is for the writing itself, which is of course, practically peerless.

2 - The Complete Sherlock Holmes: Volumes 1-4 (The Heirloom Collection) -

http://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B007PT1PEY?redirect=true&ref_cm_cr_ryp_prd_ttl_sol_0

* The Heirloom Collection isn't the absolute best compendium of SH stories, but it is extremely good. Most importantly, it does contain all 4 novels and 56 short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, though not always in the exact same order as other editions -- making it a little confusing, when comparing different editions, to determine if all the stories are actually included (and they really are). Design wise, the graphic presentation (font choices, layout, etc) of this "heirloom edition" is superb -- making it clearly better in that regard than perhaps any of the "complete" Sherlock Holmes books currently available. The color illustrations aren't bad either, but there really aren't all that many for such a large book, filled with so many classic tales. Good Kindle formatting overall, but not as good as it could have been.

3 - The Complete Sherlock Holmes (Illustrated) (Top Five Classics Book 17) -

http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=x_gr_w_bb?keywords=9781938938160&index=books&linkCode=qs&tag=httpwwwgoodco-20

* This is the one actually being reviewed here. And it's the absolute best of the three, in my opinion. This Top Five Classics edition includes all 4 novels and 56 short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. Kindle formatting is superb, and best of all, most (if not all) of the classic illustrations that accompanied the original, first run publication of each story are included. Some short stories even have up to three separate illustrations! Pretty much all of the plates are reproduced in pencil/pen & ink drawn black and white, but the quality of the artwork is vastly superior to what appears in most other SH collections.

So for my money, the Top Five Classics edition (#3) is hands down the very best one currently available. Wish I'd known that before I purchased all three, but none of these collections were much more than \$3 to \$6 each, and the Sherlock Holmes: The Ultimate Collection was only 99 cents! So if you don't care about illustrations, design quality, or good Kindle formatting, then you can certainly save a few bucks by choosing that particular version of the book (see #1 above). On a final note, The

Adventure of the Cardboard Box IS included in the Top Five Classics book, but appears in The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes novel, as opposed to other editions that include it in the collected short story novel, His Last Bow. It's a little confusing at first, with so many "adventures" to keep track of, but rest assured, the Cardboard Box and all the rest really ARE there. So the game's afoot, no matter which edition you choose, but personally, if I had to do it all over again, I'd probably just buy the Top Five Classics edition.

Hugifyn

The picture does no justice. I really like this product and have uploaded 2 pictures to show what it really looks like. It has that new book smell, thin pages, and it feels nice.

Best West

The one-star rating is for this Kindle edition, not for the stories themselves. I love the Sherlock Holmes canon, and wanted a copy on my Kindle. After purchasing this one, I actually returned it to get my \$0.99 back because it doesn't have a table of contents. It's a collection of 4 novels and 56 short stories, and there is no way to search through for a specific story. Just start at the beginning and scroll forever. It can't be that difficult to code in a table of contents.

Styph

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the Sherlock Holmes mysteries by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. I am an avid reader of the Special Agent Pendergast novels by Lincoln and Child and these stories appear to me to be the precursor for the Pendergast novels. The character of Holmes is much the same as that of Pendergast albeit somewhat less aloof. They are very well written and I am not bothered by the somewhat antiquated English prose that are employed in these stories. In fact, I find that I am expanding my reading vocabulary because of it. The length of these mysteries are just long enough to read in one sitting and I've read one each night before retiring. The characters are unique and well-developed and add much color to these tales. The stories include just enough detail to support the plot logically but do not bog the reader down with unnecessary description. Because of my reading of these tales, I have sought out other gothic-type mysteries that I hope will continue in the genre of Sherlock Holmes, i.e. "The Father Brown Mysteries", "Wuthering Heights", etc.

Flas

This, The Complete Sherlock Holmes: Volumes 1-4 (The Heirloom Collection), isn't the absolute best Sherlock Holmes collection, but it is extremely good. Most importantly, it does contain all 4 novels and 56 short stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, though not always in the exact same order as other editions -- making it a little confusing, when comparing different editions, to determine if all the stories are actually included (and they are). Design wise, the graphic presentation (font choices, layout, etc) of this "heirloom edition" is superb -- making it clearly better in that regard than perhaps any of the "complete" Sherlock Holmes books currently available. The color illustrations aren't bad either, but there really aren't all that many for such a large book, filled with so many classic tales.

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* See above. Again, probably not the best Sherlock Holmes collection, but graphics wise, it is certainly the most handsome. It contains all 4 novels and 56 short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle. Decent color illustrations, but fewer and further between than other editions. Good Kindle formatting.

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http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=x_gr_w_bb?keywords=9781938938160&index=books&linkCode=qs&tag=httpwwwgoodco-20

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