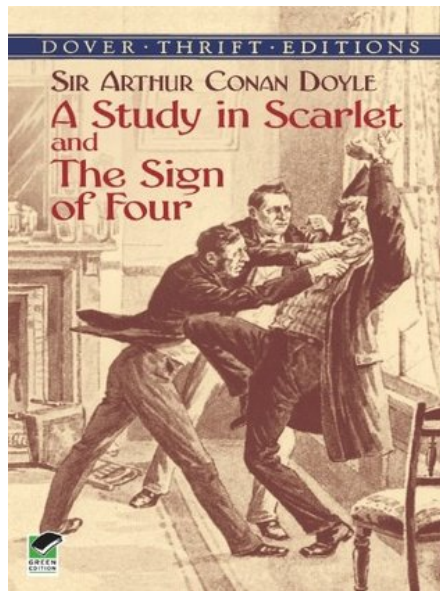




# A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four

*Arthur Conan Doyle*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four

*Arthur Conan Doyle*

**A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four** Arthur Conan Doyle

*A Study in Scarlet* brings Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson together for the first time, creating one of the most illustrious crime-solving partnerships of all times. In *The Sign of Four*, an incredible tale of greed and revenge unfolds as Holmes and Watson accompany a beautiful young woman to the dark heart of London.

## A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four Details

Date : Published March 5th 2012 by Dover Publications (first published 1890)

ISBN :

Author : Arthur Conan Doyle

Format : Kindle Edition 260 pages

Genre : Classics, Mystery, Detective

 [Download A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four Arthur Conan Doyle**

---

## From Reader Review A Study in Scarlet and The Sign of Four for online ebook

### Heather's Mum says

In spite of the indulgence of illogical character development and basic deduction flaws in Doyle's first Sherlock novels, they are, in my opinion, still priceless literature. The novels, irregardless of the inconsistencies, are wonderfully woven with threads of colorful clues in varied intensity of terror, keen observation, "elementary" deduction and incredible chain of reasoning... including elimination.

".. when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?"

Bear in mind that these early work "bumps" were ironed out eventually in the subsequent canonical story lines as the characters & plots were refined. Holmes, although a confessed cocaine & morphine addict, truly became a extraordinary logician. No one could question the devotion & confidence of Dr Watson toward the detective, nor would anyone doubt the cunning evil of Professor Moriarty.

In these first novels, Sir Doyle builds the very foundation for the brilliant sleuth & his loyal companion. Although fictional and from another era, the character has much to impart to "good-readers" of today.

In the "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane", Holmes attributes his success, in part, to and describes himself as "an omnivorous reader with a strangely retentive memory for trifles".

---

### Ozana says

#### A Study in Scarlet

This is first story of ACD's Sherlock Holmes mystery where Holmes and Watson first time meet each other and throughout story we see their relationship growing. Also we meet few characters which are present in almost all Holmes cases because he's independent investigator and his work is in interaction with police, detective Lestrade and we witness his deductive reasoning, he is so proud of that part of his way of thinking that sometimes he's so proccupied with his own greatness especially when he finds solution, clues, guilty parties almost from no clue what so ever but Sir Arthur Conan Doyle describes it so vividly that reader is left satisfied and convinced.

Study in Scarlet was split in two part but second part where Watson describes story in third person is unnecessary because in first part case is well written and presented with great Holmeses deductive reasoning and interaction with his new co-lodger and associate Dr Watson, also great interaction with police. But it's a first ACD's story and any mistake he made he corrected it in stories that follows and he did it brilliantly, as we all know it.

Holmes character is not perfect, far from it, but what he does with informations and than transforms it into reasonable conclueson -vit is like a work of art, art of deduction, as he call it. His cold, calculated analasys of clues puts us readers in position where we constantly wonder how we miss it and with this way of telling the stories we are never bored and we grow to love that man full of flaws but with brilliant mind.

Doyle descibes his great fictional character of all times so humanly despite his annoying habbits and flows. No wonder that even today we enjoy watching and reading all kind of varitions of modern Holmes and

Watson with great joy.

## The Sign of the Four

Second story starts with Sherlock's "questionable" habit of abuse of drugs, widely spread in that time in late 19 st. London with Chinese opium rooms and medicinal solutions of morphine and cocaine that Holmes was (ab)using but only because his mind was still and he must keep it alert when he has no case. With that intro we have insight into his psychology and with that flaws and bad habits I experience him as real person with all his complexity.

Study in Scarlet is complex story with heavy past full of human greed and guilt, well described with miniscule details such as missing dad (a childhood ago), strange secret pearls, invitations, oriental back story...so many details and clues but eventually Holmes puts it all missing pieces together into one coherent story with conclusion however hard it may be after so many years had passed.

Sign of Four is so much darker, full of secrets and greed but also full of emotions with Watson's infatuation in a female client. Holmes is of course oblivious to romantic part of Watson's feelings. Doyle isn't a master of romance but it's a mystery and not a romance/detective novel.

These two stories are not Doyle's best short ones but eventually they become so much better. They Short story/case studies introduces us with his great character and his psychological profile of Holmes and Watson's personal history and both ways of life, living together and working.

.

---

## Louise says

*Read a couple of years ago. Listening to the Derek Jacobi audiobooks now. Added thoughts on narration and such over at my blog: [here](#) and [here](#)*

**Overall star rating: 3.5**

***A Study in Scarlet* - 3 stars**

There are some truly brilliant parts of this novel, the growing relationship between Holmes and Watson, the interactions between Holmes and the police, the deductive reasoning that sees Holmes pulling solutions almost from thin air, the mystery itself...Why then only three stars? Well... once the mystery is solved – at around the halfway point - all those good enjoyable things that one reads a Holmes story for disappear and the narrative shifts into a third person account of the murderer's backstory explaining his motives and relationship with his victims.

It's a jarring change and not really a very welcome one. After spending the first half of the book invested in the relationship between Holmes and Watson and being fascinated by the correct conclusions Holmes could leap to based on almost nothing, I didn't particularly care to get invested in this second set of characters. The most explanation of motive I needed was a quick monologue from the murderer summarising the key points – not a multi-chapter epic of lost love. But a multi-chapter story-within-a-story was what I got, and it simply didn't quite work. The third person narrative seemed awkward and ill-fitting with the rest of the book, which

reads as a personal account told through the eyes of Dr Watson. If the Holmes canon is meant to be written by Dr Watson, then this section doesn't quite fit – the information is a bit too detailed for someone who wasn't there, even if they have received a second-hand account, and the tone is completely different from Watson's bluff, amiable style of writing. I kept asking myself where this omnipotent narrator had come from and wondering when we could get back to Holmes and Watson.

It didn't help that none of the characters in this story-within-the-story were very interesting. There was a typical older mentor figure, his adopted daughter Lucy, and a rough handsome young hunter, all felt rather sketched in and none of the other characters were fleshed out even enough to be worth mentioning. The father was fatherly; the daughter was one of those annoying perky orphan kids who say things like 'Oh! but why didn't you tell me we were going to die? We can join mother then' but eventually grows up into the most beautiful woman ever whilst still preserving her childish innocence and 'charm' (I use that term loosely); and the hunter was rough, young and handsome and well...you can totally see where that story is going, right? Insta-love! That's right! Don't you just love that trope? It's all very disappointing and predictable, especially as the reader already knows what has to happen and already knows that Doyle is a much, much, better writer than this who can actually write fully developed characters because we've just cut away from them to read this second-rate part.

I'll be fair on Doyle though. This was his first Sherlock Holmes book and it didn't actually receive any real attention until his short stories were already a hit and he had solidified his style and characters a bit more. When it's good it's very good, and he does learn from this mistake in future books. Dodgy flashbacks and inaccurate portrayals of Mormonism aside, it's worth reading for Sherlock Holmes alone – the mystery is just icing on the cake. He's a wonderfully real character, even as he manages almost inhuman feats of observation and deduction. He has his flaws – a rather superior attitude being the major one and very patchy knowledge on anything that doesn't pertain to his own narrow interests in solving crime for another. He's not 'perfect', he's as occasionally frustrating and annoying as someone with superior skills really is but he is amazingly charismatic. (Watch as these traits change until he becomes a caricature of himself in future stories though).

Now that many of his methods have been adopted both by the police and fictional detectives, you might think he would have lost some of his unique appeal – but I don't think he has. The style of detective fiction may have shifted to 'show the reader all the clues and see if they can work it out', but Sherlock's cold, calculated analysis of clues the reader (and Watson) weren't even aware of until he mentions them, are still a joy to wonderful to read.

So despite the low rating I really do think this is a worthwhile read. Just remember though; they do get better! (And then worse...)

### ***The Sign of the Four* - 3.5 stars**

A much more satisfying read/listen than *A Study in Scarlet* and one that seems to have learnt from the truly dire mistake of that story. Whilst there is a flashback here to the antagonist's past and the motivations for his actions, it's a lot shorter told as a confession – with all the bias and slant to be expected in first person narration – and fits in almost seamlessly with the style of the rest of the story. Also in its favour is the fact that the backstory is a lot more interesting in its own right. But there's a whole mystery to solve before we get to that part so I'll backtrack towards the beginning.

*The Sign of the Four* opens with the introduction – and actually one of the few mentions – of Sherlock Holmes cocaine habit and exploration into his psychology. It's one of the things I love about Holmes that I don't get with my otherwise beloved Poirot – he's not *just* a thinking-machine but a complex person. He's a man of extremes and, if he was non-fictional and alive today would probably be diagnosed with a serious

form of mood disorder; if there's an interesting crime he'll be in the middle of a rush of activity but as soon as it's solved he can flip, in an instant to lethargy and (then legal) drug abuse. At the start of the story he's been in this lethargic, melancholy state for several months. Holmes is too clinically detached a character for him to be very likable or relatable on a personal level – even as someone who suffers from depression myself – but it does make him a more interesting and human character to read about than the earlier version in *A Study in Scarlet*.

Following a pattern that becomes relatively common in the short stories Watson does his best to get Holmes out of this funk by prompting several small examples of Holmes' deductive genius – that Watson had gone to a specific place earlier in the day, the family history of Watson's pocket watch etc. etc. These mainly serve to either show or remind the reader of Holmes' skill and competence before we get to the real mystery, and it works – though I have to say I do get a bit tired of the 'this type of mud is only found in one place!' solutions as they do seem a bit of a cheat and I don't always agree with Holmes that his explanation is the *only* one, even if it is the most likely. However, it is only with the arrival of Mary Morstan and her strange story of her father, who disappeared several years ago, and the anonymous pearls she started receiving several years later, that Holmes snaps out of his lethargy and starts getting interested.

Here again, you can see Doyle developing a framework used in later stories – the odd but seemingly but non-criminal story, that leads to something much darker and nastier than it first appears once untangled. Not that a mysteriously disappearing dad isn't pretty dang dark, but that it isn't a straight up simple crime such as being called to a murder scene – detective work needs to be done to even discover the crime in the first place. It's a more complex, and arguably more interesting, device than the relatively straight forward plot to *A Study in Scarlet* and has the benefit of a more emotional core in trying to find the truth for a living character than *A Study in Scarlet*'s quest to identify the murderer of a character only introduced as a corpse. Of course Holmes gets the basics in about five minutes flat but it takes a while longer for the full story to be revealed, by which time the character's have themselves a real crime to deal with and we get to the meat of the story.

And the meat of the story...well it sounds almost Robert Louis Stevenson/'boys own adventure' in places; wooden legs, stolen treasure, hidden murders, and exotic weapons. It's got action and adventure tropes in spades – there's even a chase sequence! But the mystery itself well... Holmes sums it up best himself when he says that normal everyday crimes that offer no distinctive clues are harder to solve than the big ones with lots of unusual elements are. And here there are so many clues; footprints, exotic weapons, poisoned darts, the motif of a man with a wooden leg. Holmes is hardly drawing his conclusions from small inconsequential elements – the basic story (ignoring specific backstory elements only the villain would know) is practically written over the crime scene for anyone with eyes and ears to draw conclusions from. But, of course, the police and Watson are both baffled,

The backstory, when we get to it, though, is fascinating – perhaps more so to me because it focusses on a period of colonial history that I've studied; the India Mutiny of 1857. Even if you know nothing about it though it's a more wonderful and exciting backdrop than Mormon Utah, and there's a lot more going on than a few blokes all fancying the same girl. There are some, unpleasant, elements of exoticism and Victorian racial theory however – one apparently universally bloodthirsty and violent tribe is described as 'naturally hideous' by an anthropology textbook and 'monstrous' in appearance by the narrator. You've just got to grit your teeth and remember the time period if you find yourself being too annoyed. But there's also an, admittedly not entirely sympathetic, depiction of Sikhs as being worth a white man's loyalty that redeems it slightly (many Sikhs fought alongside the British in putting down the mutiny and they were favoured by the Victorian colonial regime set up afterwards). It's a dark and brutal chapter of colonial/Indian history though that works as a perfect backdrop to the crime and sets a much better and more atmospheric tone for the whole book than is ever achieved in *A Study in Scarlet*.

This book, as a whole, is simply more grown up in every way than its predecessor; the narrative issues have

been ironed out, more humanity has been given to the characters, the tone is much more consistent, and there's an emotional heart to the story. Now I don't actually rate this emotional heart particularly highly or find it remotely necessary for this type of book – it consists of Watson rather fancying the female client and if there's one thing Doyle isn't good at, it's romance – but it succeeds far better than the romantic insta-love storyline in *A Study in Scarlet*. This is a lot to do with the fact that we're privy to Watson's thoughts and understand his bias but mainly because Mary is a fundamentally more interesting, complex, and less annoying character than Lucy ever was. It may not be my favourite thread of the storyline but it doesn't detract at all from my enjoyment of the rest of the book.

It's not a 'perfect' Holmes story – but the elements of the character and storytelling technique are still being introduced and developed. However you can see here, far more than in the first Sherlock Holmes book, why the Holmes stories took off the way they did.

**Random almost unrelated recommendation!** The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman – a victorian-set mystery novel that also features the India Mutiny as a key element of the backstory. Aimed at children/teenagers but an enjoyable read that features both a pretty awesome female protagonist and a female villain who isn't a femme fatale.

---

## Waitalie Nat says

### Uno studio in rosso

Giudizio: 4/5

Sarò sincera. Fino a poche ore fa conoscevo Sherlock Holmes per i soliti e apocrifi elementi distintivi con cui, da diversi anni a questa parte, il cinema e il teatro hanno impreziosito la figura dell'investigatore più celebre di tutti i tempi. Ma sì, la pipa calabash, il deerstalker, il proverbiale 'Elementare, Watson!'. Ho dunque deciso di colmare questa mia pesante lacuna con la lettura di 'Uno studio in rosso', pubblicato nel 1887, con il quale debuttano il dottor Watson, il caro vecchio Holmes, e la sua indimenticabile Scienza della Deduzione.

Scorrendo alcune delle recensioni con cui lettori di ogni paese hanno assicurato a Sir Doyle una diffusa varietà di giudizi, ho osservato come gli esperti di crime fiction non abbiano particolarmente gradito la divisione del romanzo in due sezioni. In “Ristampa dalle memorie del dottor John H. Watson”, incontriamo questo famigerato Holmes, un individuo eccentrico, sarcastico e scientifico che ha una conoscenza della letteratura, dell'astronomia e della filosofia pari a zero, nonché un'invidiabile esperienza nel campo della chimica, dell'anatomia e, udite udite, della letteratura scandalistica. Un individuo che non cesserebbe di vivere serenamente la sua routine quotidiana se la Terra iniziasse a girare intorno alla luna, ma che giammai rinuncerebbe al piacere di applicare il rigore della deduzione e della scienza alla risoluzione di casi apparentemente insolubili. Ed è così che precipitiamo nel perenne grigiore di Londra, affondiamo con le nostre scarpe di coppale nel terreno argilloso di Lauriston Garden, avanziamo incerti verso l'ingresso di una dimora disabitata; prudentemente scortati dall'agente di turno, scivoliamo nell'oscurità della famigerata stanza e, con il cuore in gola, ci chiniamo sul cadavere dalle fattezze scimmiesche di Enoch Drebber. Le sue labbra emanano un lieve sentore acidulo, una luce incerta e fioca si introduce silenziosamente nella camera, una scritta rossastra balugina sulla parete, gocce e sprazzi di sangue tutt'intorno al corpo esanime. Uno dopo l'altro, emergono dal buio della stanza gli elementi che andranno a costituire la matassa del nostro caso, un lungo e intricato dedalo di segnali ed indizi che, ben presto, si ricomporranno in un quadro perfetto,

restituendo alla mente del geniale Holmes la chiave per la risoluzione dell'enigma. Tuttavia, Sir Arthur, ci consentirà di apprendere l'identità dell'assassino solo nella seconda sezione del racconto, "La Terra dei Santi". Con un balzo indietro nel tempo e un repentino cambiamento di scenario, ci insinuiamo nelle terre selvagge delle Montagne Rocciose, dove l'intransigenza dei Mormoni e tre vivaci spiriti ribelli la faranno da padroni.

Come detto all'inizio, molti hanno rivelato di non aver apprezzato questa suddivisione che io, al contrario, ho trovato innovativa e molto ben impostata. Una digressione che, deviando leggermente dal sentiero della crime fiction, ci regala il brivido dell'avventura, un pizzico di sano romanticismo e, perché no, squarci della vita e dei principi dei Mormoni.

Al di là della trama in sé per sé, della risoluzione del caso e dell'infallibile scienza dell'amico Sherlock, l'autore intende comunque mettere il lettore di fronte ad una serie di interrogativi che oggi, come allora, non hanno ancora trovato risposta: cos'è la giustizia e, in modo particolare, esiste davvero? Può l'uomo trasformarsi in un involucro di compassione di fronte al compimento di un delitto fomentato dal senso di vendetta, dal desiderio di trasformare l'omicidio in un atto di giustizia? Possiamo essere giudici, giuria e carnefici nei confronti di chi, anzitempo, ha esercitato su di noi il medesimo diritto? Possiamo rasentare i confini della ferocia in nome dell'equità? Oppure, dobbiamo semplicemente procedere alla cieca, affidarci alla guida del caso e attenerci alle sue mute imposizioni?

*"Se morirò domani, come è molto probabile, morirò sapendo che la mia opera in questo mondo è compiuta, e bene."*

## Il segno dei quattro

Giudizio: 3/5

Avevo particolarmente apprezzato la struttura narrativa di 'Uno studio in rosso', con quella sua affascinante immersione tra le alture dello Utah, mentre al termine della lettura del secondo episodio che ha visto protagonista il nostro detective per antonomasia, sono stata sopraffatta da uno sgradevole senso di delusione, certamente da addebitare all'intreccio della storia (secondo me) poco riuscito. Prima di leggere 'Il segno dei quattro' mi ero imbattuta in dozzine di recensioni assolutamente positive, in cui, chi stimolato da una reale estasi per le vicende narrate da Conan Doyle, chi spinto ad elogiare Sherlock per pura convenzionalità, tutti avevano assicurato un indubbio e sacrosanto successo dell'opera.

Eppure, questa volta, qualcosa tra me e Sir Arthur non ha funzionato.

Certo rimane indiscutibile il fascino su di me esercitato da Sherlock Holmes, questo straordinario omuncolo cocainomane piovuto nella mia stanza in un plumbeo pomeriggio di Gennaio: un insolito individuo che teme l'inattività, che sfodera il suo carisma nelle situazioni più opportune, che reputa il crimine una semplice banalità, e l'amore un'emozione che contrasta la fredda logica da lui posta al di sopra di tutto.

Nel corso della lettura ho tentato di oltrepassare con lo sguardo il mero confine delle pagine, della carta stampata, di intercettare quella silenziosa figura che si nasconde dietro la malcelata vanità di Holmes, di afferrare i lembi del suo pastrano, di scoprire se i racconti da lui partoriti siano privi di messaggi sottesi, quindi frutto del puro gusto del narrare, o se abbiano invece qualcosa da sussurrare al lettore, qualcosa di confidenziale.

Il mio esame e le mie insane riflessioni mi hanno portato alla conclusione che sì, Arthur Conan Doyle vuole metterci in guardia dall'opportunismo, dalla scaltrezza di chi ci circonda e dall'assenza di una reale applicazione dei principi di giustizia, affidando al dottor Watson la stesura delle imprese del signor Holmes che, altrimenti, resterebbero taciute o, perlopiù, attribuite a funzionari di polizia untuosi, perdigiorno e arrivisti.

Sir Conan Doyle, inoltre, rimanda la mia memoria alle immagini di un certo Minosse, posto da Dante all'entrata del secondo cerchio dell'Inferno, terribile nel suo ruolo di giudice dei peccati; allo stesso modo, infatti, lo scrittore cui la bella Edimburgo diede i natali, condanna aspramente e senza ritegno quel Jonathan Small che, vinto dalla cupidigia, operò i più truci misfatti, mentre ci invita (seppur silenziosamente) a non

biasimare un certo Jefferson Hope, che fece di un pluriomicidio un rispettabile atto di giustizia.

Dunque, felice di aver incontrato questo famigerato Sherlock Holmes e di aver scoperto che l'idea di ornarlo con una calabash e un deerstalker giammai sfiorò la mente di Conan Doyle, metto un punto a questa interminabile recensione, sperando che vi abbia anche semplicemente incuriositi o, perché no, convinti, ad acquistare queste pietre miliari del genere poliziesco.

---

### Marie says

Wanted to try reading some Sherlock and did enjoy this. I find the characters interesting and will probably read more of this series.

---

### Chris says

And things were going so well until the Mormons showed up...

I was inspired to give the original Conan Doyle stories a try after watching the latest season of the BBC's spectacular Sherlock series...and figured, what better place to start than the beginning? And for the first half of A Study In Scarlet, I have to admit I was completely engrossed. The mystery itself wasn't too interesting (and it turns out, impossible to solve for the reader since it ends up being some random guy Holmes reveals at the end of Part 1), but the characterization of Sherlock, Watson, and their relationship, even in this early state, makes it clear why it's been such a rich source of inspiration for literature, film, and TV over the years.

But then...after the murderer is revealed, the story jumps into an extended flashback sequence in Utah where you follow Brigham Young around, which I assume ties into the story somehow, but I couldn't get through it and just quit (turns out my tolerance for powering through a book is lowered even more when it's one I got for free via public domain). I'm guessing that there must be some later stories from the canon that are better examples of how great the series can be...more than willing to hear suggestions of what to read next, but for now, taking a break.

---

### Reckoner says

Τρ?βηξε πολ? αυτ? το βιβλ?ο μιας και το δι?βαζα οταν η αν?γκη για αστυνομικ? γιν?ταν αφ?ρητα πιεστικ?. Ακ?μα δεν ?χω διαβ?σει την σπουδ? στο κ?κκινο αλλα γενικ?τερα οι ιστορ?ες ?ταν pretty basic, και το β?ρος ριχν?ταν στην εξιχν?αση της υπ?θεσης απο το δαμ?νιο μυαλ? του Σ?ρλοκ παρα στην υπ?θεση αυτ? καθ αυτ?. Παρ'ολα αυτ? η αν?γνωση ?ταν π?ντοτε απολαυστικ? και με παρ?σερνε, απ?δειξη του αναμφισβ?τητου ταλ?ντου του Σερ Ντ?υλ. ?λλωστε π?ντα η εξελεκτικ? πορε?α της σκ?ψης του Σ?ρλοκ ε?ναι απο μ?νη της μια ανταμοιβ? για τον αναγν?στη.

---

### Carla Dente says

Estudio en escarlata: 3 estrellas

El Signo de los 4: 3,75/4 estrellas

Lee mi opinión sin spoilers de las dos historias acá: <http://mimundoestaentuspaginas.blogspot...>

---

### Jo says

I don't normally go for classics but I love the show Sherlock and really felt like I should read this. I wasn't disappointed. After reading Dracula I had kind of sworn off classics but this one was much more interesting and just modern enough for me to get on with the writing and the old speak. The stories are short and not as complex as the show makes them but I love Sherlock Holmes, the book character and the TV character. He is so strange but clever and I enjoyed reading this. I'm not in a rush to read the others but I am glad that I picked this one up.

---

### Natalie says

HORRIBLY ignorant, to an almost amusing extent. If it wasn't so absurd, I'd probably have been offended. :) Most people only read the first half of the book... you have to read the second half to see why this is my opinion.

---

### Elena Giolda says

Εξαιρετική. Η γραφή του Doyle ήταν καθηλωτική. Δεν έχω ιδέα πόσο θα το λατρεύω. Ξεχάρισα τις περισσότερες απ' τις ιστορίες απ' τις περιπτώσεις του Σερλοκ Χολμς, και φυσικά την σπουδή στο κέκκινο.

---

### Emma says

A Study in Scarlet is wonderful right up until the point where there's an entirely separate story wedged into the middle of it. I understand the relevance of having the perspective of the criminals, but I think ACD got a little carried away. I've never read this before, however, so to see the first ever meeting of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson was enjoyable, and seeing how they grow to each other.

A Sign of the Four, on the other hand, is definitely my preferred of the two. Maybe I pay too much attention to and grow easily annoyed by plot holes, but there were clear mistakes in continuing from the previous book to this, not to mention the odd error throughout this story. But, as we only moved away from Holmes and Watson at the very end to discover the missing details of Sherlock's deductions, it was enjoyable, easy to get wrapped up in, and less complicated to follow.

I have to admit, though, that I think picturing Holmes and Watson as Sherlock and John from 'Sherlock' helped get me through both of these stories, and picking out the bits that the modern day show updates and fits in was interesting to me. Over all, I thoroughly enjoyed both novels, despite the odd moments of struggling to get through parts, and I'll definitely be reading both again in future.

---

### Tam May says

This is classic Sherlock Holmes, of course, and interesting in that it's the first and second of the Holmes stories so we get an introduction of the characters involved. One thing I've found so far in reading Conan Doyle's books as opposed to seeing various film and TV versions of his stories - Holmes is a much less likable character and much more complex in the books than on screen. In contrast, Watson, to me, is much more likable in the book than on screen, given his credit for astute observer and not the buffoon that many of the screen versions make him out to be. Of course, plausibility is scarce in these stories as they were in many of the classic traditional mysteries but half the fun of reading these stories is to be willing to believe the implausible for the sake of unraveling the mystery and making it "come out right".

---

### Cœur De Pirate says

Μερικ?ς απ? τις περιπ?τειες του κυρ?ου Χολμς και η γνωριμ?α του με τον γιατρ? Γου?τσον σε μια πολ? ωρα?α ?κδοση. Διασκεδαστικ?ς και ενδιαφ?ρουσες ?λες οι ιστορ?ες, προσωπικ? ξεχ?ρισα τη "Σπουδ? στο κ?κκινο", καθηλωτικ?.

---

### Charlotte Jones says

I was listening to the complete collection on audiobook but for some reason my phone won't play it anymore so I'm adding what I completed individually!

I liked these two novels but I do feel that I was too familiar with the premises, thanks to the BBC show, so this did take away the element of mystery for me.

---