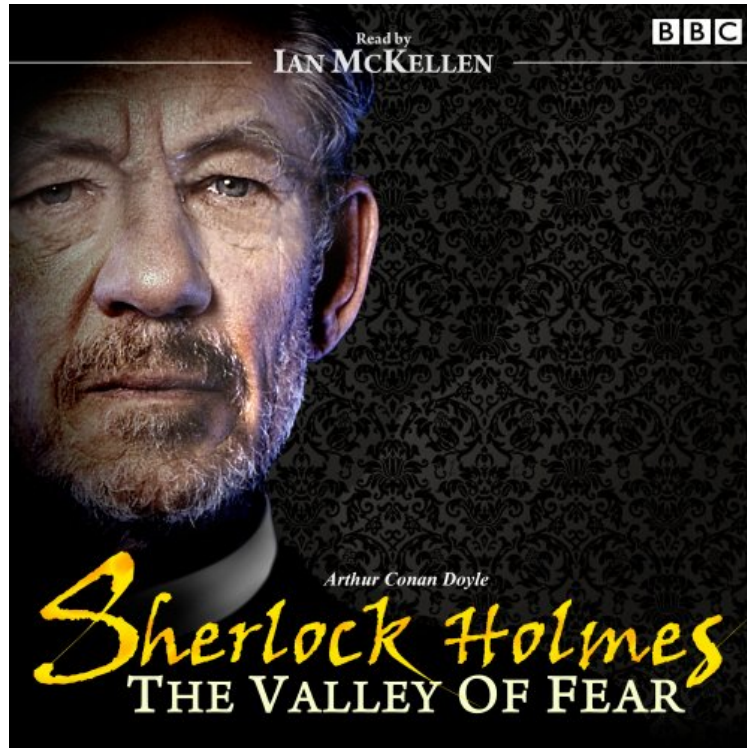


[Read now] Sherlock Holmes: Valley of Fear: Book at Bedtime

## Sherlock Holmes: Valley of Fear: Book at Bedtime

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**Arthur Conan Doyle : Sherlock Holmes: Valley of Fear: Book at Bedtime** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sherlock Holmes: Valley of Fear: Book at Bedtime:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Easily the second best Holmes Novel - Wonderful Read!!! By Albert J. Valentino The Sherlock Holmes canon includes a total of 60 stories from the original author, AC Doyle. Of the 60, only four were full novels including this one. The rest are short stories published in five books, totaling 9 books. The first two stories penned by Doyle were the novels, Study in Scarlet (where Holmes and Watson first meet), and A Sign of the Four (which includes Watson meeting his wife). This is followed by short stories in book 3, the Adventures of SH. Ideally the stories are best read in order, but not critical. Unlike the rest of the canon, the two novels, Hound of the Baskervilles and Valley of Fear, can be read at any time - especially since they each defy the chronology. Hound was written about 8 years after the short story, The Final Solution, when Holmes died in a mortal struggle with the Napoleon of crime, Professor Moriarty, who was also killed. (But, Holmes doesn't die and is brought back, very cleverly and very credibly, 10 years later, in the story, The Empty House, written 2 years after Hound. Anyway, 10 years after all that Doyle wrote, The Valley of Fear - which is one of two stories that include Prof Moriarty - this is not a spoiler to the story and the Prof is only talked about in present tense. I guess my point is, this novel, and Hound of the Baskervilles can be read at any time whereas everything else is slightly better if read in order. Okay, enough of the background on the canon. Valley of Fear is simply a great read with wonderful twists at the end that the reader will not likely see coming. I would put Valley and Hound as the two best novels, with Hound perhaps

slightly better, but better is all about taste and preference. Anyway, this novel is broken down into two main parts, Part 1 is the Murder mystery, who killed...? Part 2 is a backstory, about 20 years earlier and has nothing to do with Sherlock Holmes. The part 2 story provides the motivation for the murder mystery in part 1. This format is the same as found in the first two novels but the backstory here is probably the best of the three - Doyle now has almost 30 years of writing experience. There is a very short part 3, the Epilogue which brings us back to Baker Street for a final update. The Valley of Fear part 1 mystery the reader gets most of the clues the same time as Holmes does and is more or less free to try to figure things out himself but as I mentioned, there are twists and nothing in Valley of Fear is what it seems!!!! One noticeable difference for myself, who has now read 7 of the 9 books, and possibly fellow Sherlockians, is that the deep friendship between Holmes and Watson is just not there. The first page was almost disturbing in that regard. Watson is more of an object than a subject to Holmes, more like the modern adaptations. It's just something that jumped out at me since other than the Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Granada Television Series series, which is extremely faithful to the original stories, Holmes and Watson have a deep personal friendship and respect. Watson is a friend, gentleman, medic, soldier, and chronicler - not the bumbling sidekick of the Basil Rathbone movies. Anyway, the story, both part 1 and 2, are excellent and much better than I expected. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EVIL DESTROYED By Patricia E. Smith How can you ever go wrong with the author who gave us the greatest detective in the world, Sherlock Holmes. I've read this before a short time ago, but I still enjoyed it since I had forgotten some of the details from the original Holmes case that started it all. It's always great to see good triumph over evil; too bad it doesn't always translate to real life situations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Captivating read! By grateful user Suspense!! Sherlock Holmes at its best. I love all Sherlock Holmes stories. The Valley of Fear is somewhat unique because it steps back and tells a whole story within a story. It is so captivating the reader is sure to have a hard time getting up in the morning for lack of sleep...

Ian McKellen was the winner of the BBC Audio Drama Award 2015 for Best Actor in an Audio Drama (for Eugenie Grandet).

About the Author Arthur Conan Doyle trained as a doctor, gaining his degree from Edinburgh University in 1881. He worked as a surgeon on a whaling boat and also as a medical officer on a steamer. Sherlock Holmes made his first appearance in A Study of Scarlet, published in Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1887. In 1893, Conan Doyle killed off Holmes, hoping to concentrate on more serious writing. A public outcry later made him resurrect Holmes. In addition, Conan Doyle wrote a number of other novels, including The Lost World and various nonfictional works. These included a pamphlet justifying Britain's involvement in the Boer War, for which he was knighted and histories of the Boer War and World War I, in which his son, brother and two of his nephews were killed.