

You loved your last book...but what
are you going to read next?

Using our unique guidance tools, Love**reading** will help you find new
books to keep you inspired and entertained.

Opening Extract from...

The Elementary Sherlock Holmes

Written by Matthew E Bunson

Published by Portico

All text is copyright © of the author

This Opening Extract is exclusive to Love**reading**.
Please print off and read at your leisure.

First published in the United Kingdom in 2014 by
Portico
1 Gower Street
London
WC1E 6HD

An imprint of Pavilion Books Company Ltd

Copyright © Pavilion Books Company Ltd 2014

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, displayed, extracted, reproduced, utilised, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise including but not limited to photocopying, recording, or scanning without the prior written permission of the publishers.

ISBN 978-1-90939-699-9

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

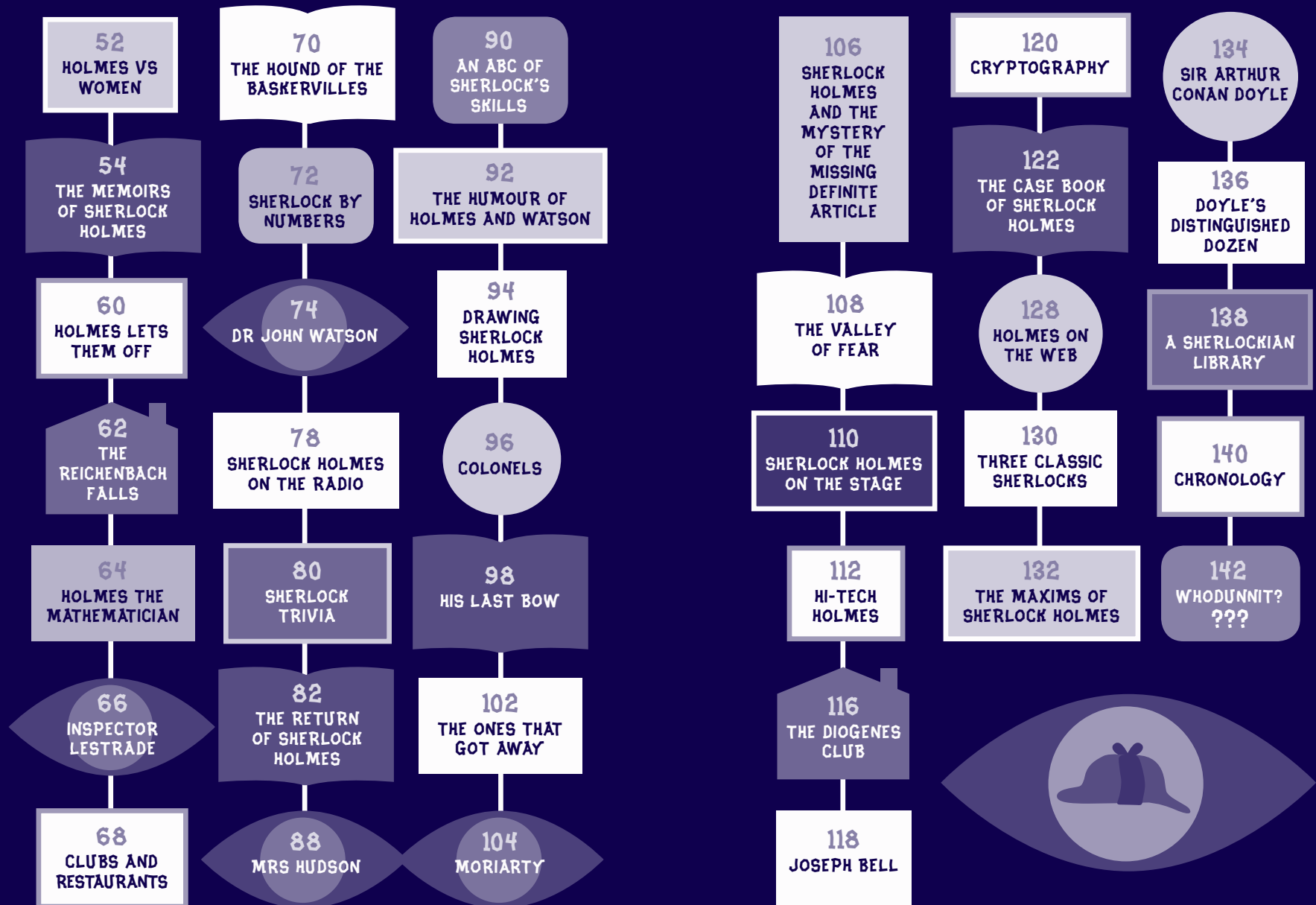
Reproduction by Mission Productions Ltd, Hong Kong
Printed and bound by [TO COME]

This book can be ordered direct from the publisher at
www.pavilionbooks.com

Based on *The Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia*.

CONTENTS

8 INTRODUCTION	24 DISGUISES	36 THE WRITINGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES
10 SHERLOCK HOLMES	26 221B BAKER STREET	38 MYCROFT HOLMES
16 DOGS	28 ERRORS AND INCONSISTENCIES	40 SHERLOCK'S BEST QUOTES
18 SHERLOCK HOLMES IN FILM	30 THE SIGN OF FOUR	42 THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES
20 SHERLOCK ICONS	32 BUTLERS	48 A POLICEMAN'S LOT
22 A STUDY IN SCARLET	34 SHERLOCK AND COCAINE	50 BAKER STREET IRREGULARS





INTRODUCTION

If you've watched Benedict Cumberbatch in the excellent BBC series *Sherlock* and found yourself wondering: 'Yes, but how many Baker Street Irregulars *were* there?' then this is the book for you. Or if you occasionally ask yourself, 'I wonder how many times a butler appears in the stories?' then this is the book for you. Or if you'd like to know what Sherlock *really* thought of women, then this is the book for you.

Perhaps you know that your brother-in-law's knowledge of the Great Detective needs brushing up with a potted version of all Conan Doyle's 56 short stories and 4 novels (and a cheat's guide to whodunnit in all of them at the end) – if so, this is the book for him. And if your neighbour confessed to you the other day that she didn't know the significance of Arthur Conan Doyle's father's middle name, then this is definitely the book for her.

And for anyone who wants to find out more about the Victorian world of Sherlock Holmes, Dr Watson, Mycroft, Moriarty, Mrs Hudson and Inspector Lestrade, and the continuing legacy of Doyle's most famous creation in the areas of literature, film, TV and radio, this book will enlighten, amuse and entertain.

As Holmes himself said, 'Education never ends,' so if your knowledge of Sherlock is less than comprehensive, I deduce that *The Elementary Sherlock Holmes* is precisely what you need.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

YOUNG SHERLOCK

Little is known with any high degree of certainty about the early life and family of Sherlock Holmes, the world's first consulting detective. His ancestors were country squires and one of his grandmothers was the sister of the French artist Vernet – 'Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms' ('The Greek Interpreter'). He was born in 1853 or 1854 (he was 60 years old in 'His Last Bow', set in August 1914). He attended university for two years, solving his first case while an undergraduate ('The *Gloria Scott*'). A friend's father is so impressed with his powers of deduction that he plants a seed by suggesting Holmes makes a career of it; Sherlock tells Watson that it 'made me feel that a profession might be made out of what had up to that time been the merest hobby'.

Although many authors have speculated since on what might have happened in his formative years, these are the only facts we learn from the stories about Sherlock's life before he leaves university.

SHERLOCK BEFORE THE FALL(S)

When Watson and Holmes agreed to share lodgings at Baker Street, the Great Detective's career was presumably still in its infancy, hence his need to share the cost with another. By 1889, however, Holmes was able to say (in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*) that he had investigated some 500 cases 'of capital importance', and just two years later he claimed (in 'The Final Problem') to have worked on a thousand cases. By now he was famous throughout Europe and had conducted investigations for several monarchs.

Holmes told his friend in 'The Final Problem', 'Your memoirs will draw to an end, Watson, upon the day that I crown my career by the capture or extinction of the most dangerous and capable criminal in Europe.' The demise of Moriarty gave Sherlock the opportunity to relinquish his role as the Great Detective by allowing Watson, and hence the rest of the world, to believe he had joined the Napoleon of Crime at the bottom of the Reichenbach Falls.



THE GREAT HIATUS

This is the name given to the three-year period between Sherlock's supposed death in Switzerland and his triumphant return in 'The Empty House'. During this time he tells Watson he has been in Tibet, Mecca, Khartoum and Montpellier under the alias 'Sigerson', until the murder of Ronald Adair drew him back to London. He only told Mycroft he was alive, and that only because he needed money from him.

LATER CAREER

Between his return in 1894 and his retirement around ten years later, Holmes solved hundreds of cases, including one ('The Bruce-Partington Plans') that earned him a private audience at Windsor with Queen Victoria, from which he returned with a handsome emerald tiepin. In June 1902 he declined a knighthood, and it seems he retired the following year. Certainly in December 1904 Watson announced to readers of *Strand Magazine* (in 'The Second Stain') that Holmes had 'definitely retired from London and betaken himself to study and bee-farming on the Sussex Downs'.

RETIREMENT

Holmes spent his retirement on a small farm five miles from Eastbourne, dividing his time between 'philosophy and agriculture' – a suitably Sherlockian combination. Despite turning down all employment including some princely offers during his twilight years, such was the crisis facing his country in the years before the start of the First World War that Holmes acquiesced to the request of the prime minister and returned to service. His task – to penetrate the spy ring of the German intelligence master Von Bork ('His Last Bow'). Although Watson continued to chronicle mysteries Sherlock had solved before his retirement, 'His Last Bow' was the Great Detective's final case.

DEATH

Nowhere in the stories is mention made of the final passing of Sherlock Holmes. There appeared in the December 1948 issue of *Strand* an obituary for Holmes written by E.V. Knox; coming a mere two years before the demise of the magazine itself, the obituary was more a product of postwar pessimism than a legitimate termination of interest in the detective.

His passing, whenever it occurred, could not have been better marked than by Dr Watson, who wrote in 1891 after Reichenbach that Holmes was 'the best and the wisest man' he ever knew.



SHERLOCK IN HIS OWN WORDS

*I am the last and highest
court of appeal in detection.*
THE SIGN OF FOUR

*I am a brain, Watson.
The rest of me is a
mere appendix.*
'THE MAZARIN STONE'

*I am the most incurably lazy devil
that ever stood in shoe leather.*
A STUDY IN SCARLET

*It is fortunate for this community
that I am not a criminal.*
'THE BRUCE-PARTINGTON PLANS'

*I am not the law,
but I represent
justice so far as my
feeble powers go.*
'THE THREE GABLES'

SHERLOCK IN DR WATSON'S WORDS

*The most
perfect reasoning and
observing machine that
the world has seen...*
'A SCANDAL
IN BOHEMIA'

*I have not heard him laugh often,
and it has always boded ill to somebody.*
THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

*The best and the wisest man
whom I have ever known.*
'THE FINAL PROBLEM'

*You really are
an automaton – a
calculating-machine
... There is something
positively inhuman
in you at times.*
THE SIGN OF FOUR

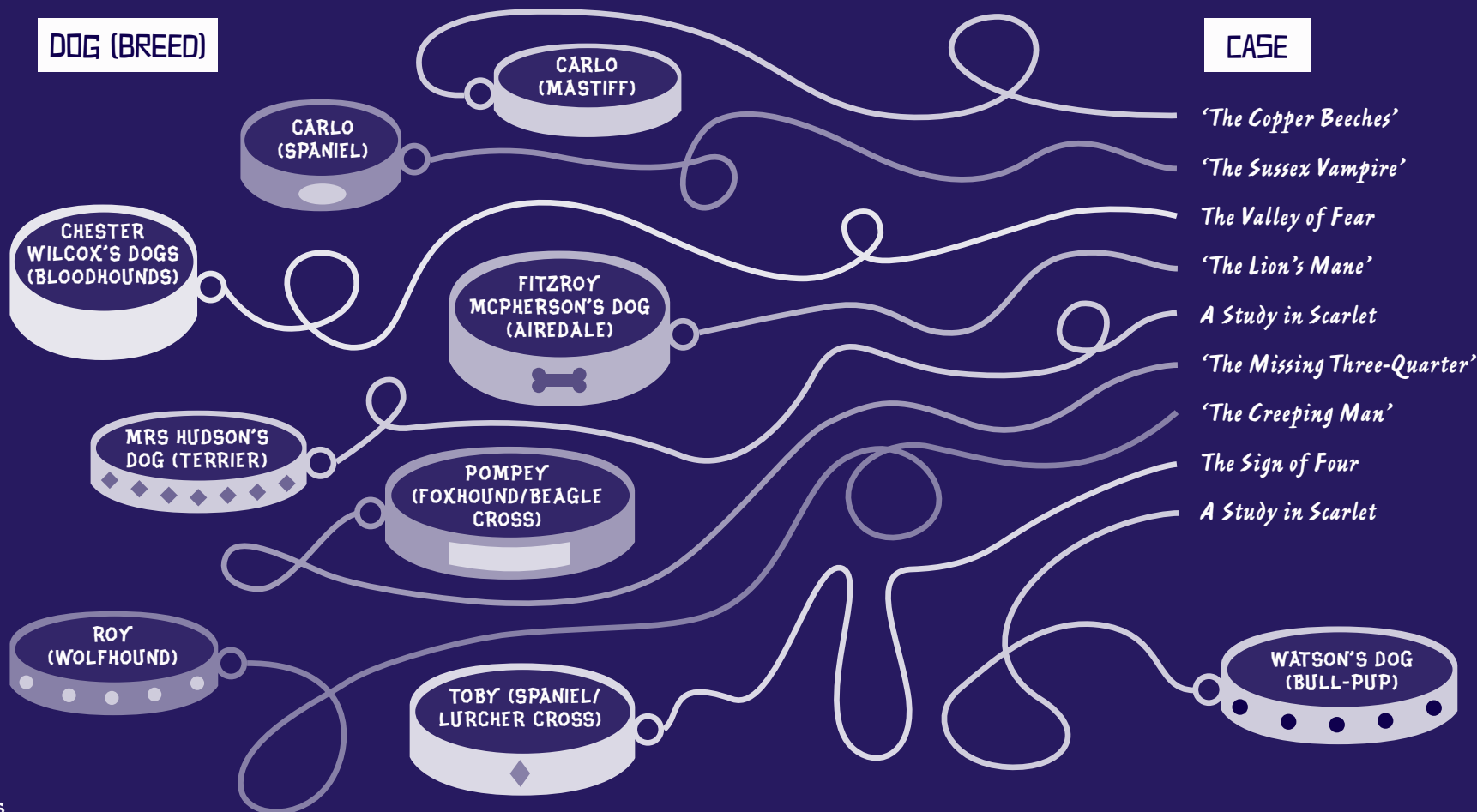
FAMOUS PORTRAYALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

The list of well-known actors who have played Holmes is a long one and includes such famous and unlikely names as Buster Keaton, John Barrymore, Raymond Massey, Christopher Lee, Stewart Granger, John Cleese, Leonard Nimoy, Larry Hagman, Roger Moore, Peter Cook, Christopher Plummer, Tom Baker, Ian Richardson, Charlton Heston and Edward Woodward, as well as the following.



DOGS

A number of memorable dogs appear in the stories, serving as both weapons of justice and of crime. The most notable canine in all of Watson's writings was the Hound of the Baskervilles, supposedly a hound from hell that cursed the Baskerville family of Dartmoor, but actually was described by Watson as a cross between a wolfhound and a mastiff, coated in phosphorus. Other dogs in the stories included:



SHERLOCK HOLMES IN FILM

Sherlock Holmes has probably been portrayed on the big screen more than any other fictional character. The cinema juggernaut started to roll with the short silent film *Sherlock Holmes Baffled* dating from around 1900, and by 2014 the Great Detective (as well as some rather odd versions of him/her) had clocked up getting on for 170 appearances, according to the Internet Movie Database. Here are some of the best remembered.

The Hound of the Baskervilles (1939)

Still perhaps many people's favourite Holmes film of all, this moody, fog-filled feature was Basil Rathbone's debut in the role that defined him. No one predicted the huge impact the character would have – 20th Century Fox gave Richard Greene, playing Sir Henry Baskerville, top billing, and the movie poster featured not Holmes, but the hound!

The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959)

This well-received Hammer film was the first Holmes film released in colour and starred Peter Cushing. True to form, the horror company weren't afraid to tinker with details to make the story even more juicy than the original, tossing in the odd ritual sacrifice and tarantula to spice things up.

The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970)

A box-office flop, this is notable mainly for Christopher Lee's appearance as Mycroft Holmes, making him the first (and so far only) person to portray both brothers on screen, having first played Sherlock in a 1962 German film.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother (1975)

Douglas Wilmer plays Sherlock but is predictably upstaged by Gene Wilder as his hitherto-unknown younger brother Sigerson Holmes in a musical-comedy spoof that failed to hit the same high notes as Wilder's appearances in *Young Frankenstein* and *Blazing Saddles*. The name Sigerson is taken from an alias used by Holmes in 'The Empty House'.

The Seven-Per-Cent Solution (1976)

Based on the Nicholas Meyer novel of the same name, this was a stylish attempt to explore the relationship of Holmes (Nicol Williamson) with cocaine, and introduces the Great Detective to Sigmund Freud.

Murder by Decree (1979)

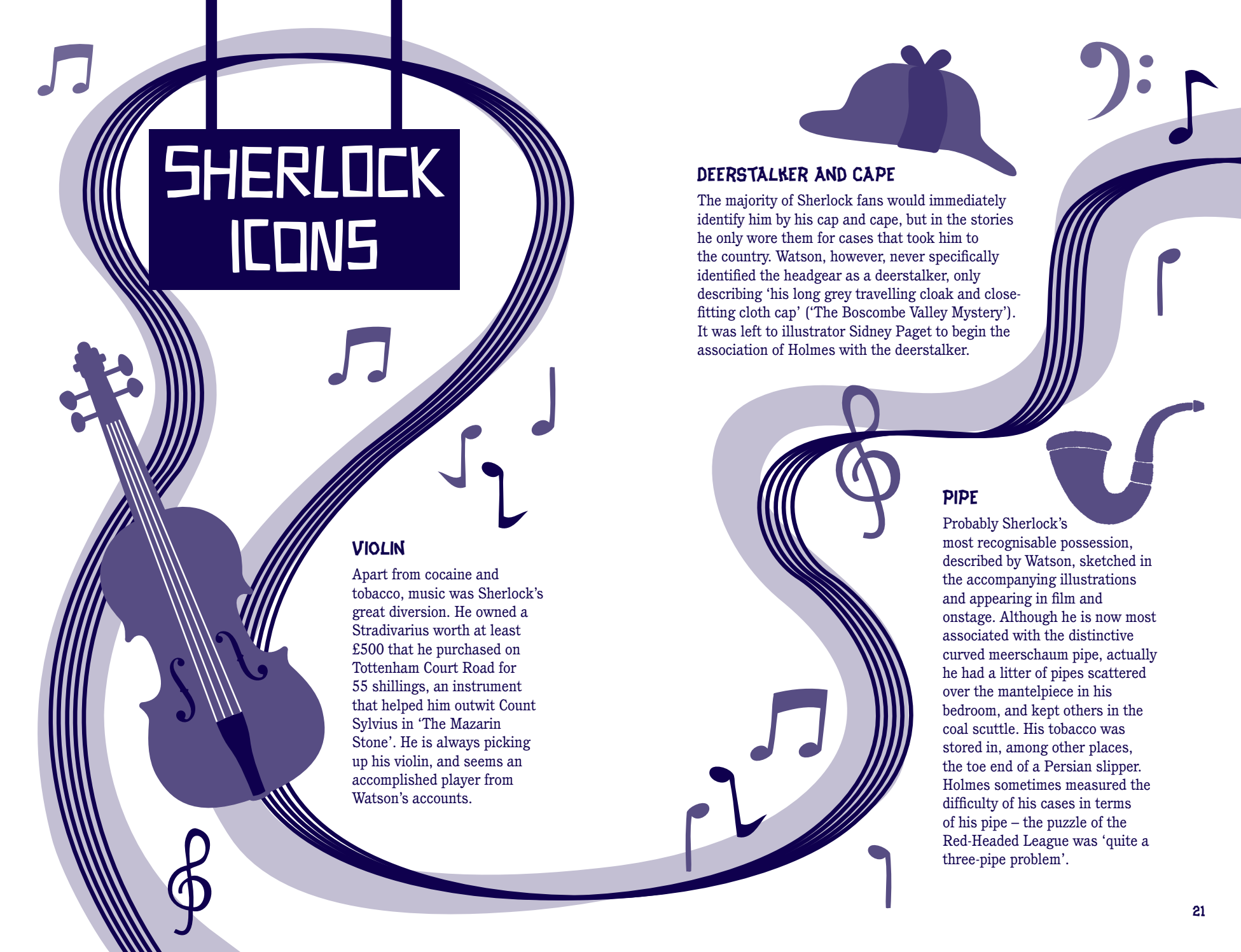
Sherlock Holmes (Christopher Plummer) tackles Jack the Ripper, Freemasonry and corruption at the heart of government in one of the finest of all Holmes films.

Without a Clue (1988)

In this entertaining comedy a bumbling Sherlock (Michael Caine) is hired by the brilliant Dr Watson (Ben Kingsley) to act as a front man, allowing the doctor to solve crimes surreptitiously. When Watson becomes jealous of Holmes's fame and tries to kill him off, he encounters the same problems as Conan Doyle.

Sherlock Holmes (2009)

Guy Ritchie's action-packed feature predictably favoured duels and dust-ups over deduction, but the pairing of Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law as Holmes and Watson was a big hit at the box office. The 2011 sequel *Game of Shadows* also played well, and a third Downey & Law Holmes movie is planned.



SHERLOCK ICONS

VIOLIN

Apart from cocaine and tobacco, music was Sherlock's great diversion. He owned a Stradivarius worth at least £500 that he purchased on Tottenham Court Road for 55 shillings, an instrument that helped him outwit Count Sylvius in 'The Mazarin Stone'. He is always picking up his violin, and seems an accomplished player from Watson's accounts.

DEERSTALKER AND CAPE

The majority of Sherlock fans would immediately identify him by his cap and cape, but in the stories he only wore them for cases that took him to the country. Watson, however, never specifically identified the headgear as a deerstalker, only describing 'his long grey travelling cloak and close-fitting cloth cap' ('The Boscombe Valley Mystery'). It was left to illustrator Sidney Paget to begin the association of Holmes with the deerstalker.

PIPE

Probably Sherlock's most recognisable possession, described by Watson, sketched in the accompanying illustrations and appearing in film and onstage. Although he is now most associated with the distinctive curved meerschaum pipe, actually he had a litter of pipes scattered over the mantelpiece in his bedroom, and kept others in the coal scuttle. His tobacco was stored in, among other places, the toe end of a Persian slipper. Holmes sometimes measured the difficulty of his cases in terms of his pipe – the puzzle of the Red-Headed League was 'quite a three-pipe problem'.



FIRST PUBLISHED

.....

*Mrs Beeton's Christmas
Annual*, 1887; published
as a novel 1888

MAJOR PLAYERS

.....

Holmes, Watson,
Lestrade, Gregson,
Enoch Drebbler, Jefferson
Hope, Joseph Ferrier,
Lucy Ferrier

MYSTERY

.....

The first Sherlock Holmes story to be published, *A Study in Scarlet* was notable for detailing the first meeting between Holmes and Watson at St Bartholomew's. Divided into two parts, in the first Sherlock investigates the murders first of Enoch Drebbler and then Joseph Stangerson. The former is both mysterious and gruesome, providing Holmes with ample opportunity to demonstrate his powers as a detective. In what will become a recurring theme of Sherlock's career, the Scotland Yard detectives arrest the wrong man. Holmes' solution of the crime leads to Part Two, a third-person account of the adventures and tragedy endured by John Ferrier, his adopted daughter Lucy and their friend Jefferson Hope; the Mormon community of Utah serves as a backdrop to the narrative. The final two chapters allow Holmes to explain the solution and wrap up the last details of the case. He calls it 'our study in scarlet', so-called because of 'the scarlet thread of murder running through the colourless skein of life'.

When Watson urges Holmes to publish an account of the tale, adding, 'If you won't, I will,' Sherlock passes him the newspaper report giving all the credit to Lestrade and Gregson. Watson insists: 'I have all the facts in my journal, and the public shall know them.'

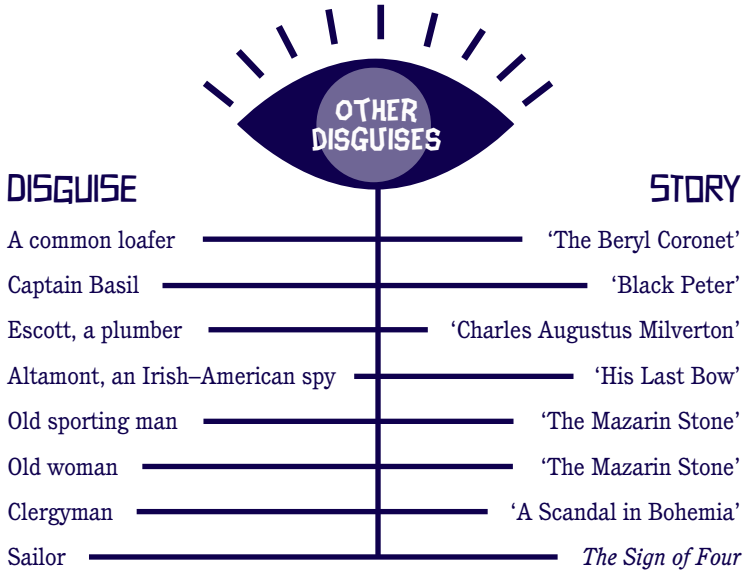
DISGUISES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

‘The stage lost a fine actor . . . when he became a specialist in crime.’

(‘A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA’)

Sherlock Holmes was, famously, a master of disguise, and had at least five safe houses in London where he could change his appearance to suit his circumstances. His new character often fooled Watson himself (no difficult feat if Sherlock’s assessment of his companion’s powers of observation are any guide), and included the following.

DISGUISE	STORY
Elderly deformed man Watson bumps into	‘The Empty House’
Italian priest Watson meets on a train	‘The Final Problem’
French <i>ouvrier</i> who rescues Watson from an assault	‘The Disappearance of Lady Carfax’
Drunken-looking groom	‘A Scandal in Bohemia’
Asthmatic old mariner who sits in Holmes’s study next to Watson for a while	The Sign of Four
Opium smoker who approaches Watson in a drugs den	‘The Man with the Twisted Lip’



THE EAGLE-EYED WATSON’S REACTION
‘it struck me that the fellow must be some poor bibliophile’
‘Good heavens,’ I cried; ‘How you startled me!’
‘I turned to thank my preserver’
‘I had to look three times before I was indeed certain it was he’
‘Holmes! . . . You here! But where is the old man?’
‘It took all my self-control to prevent me from breaking out into a cry of astonishment’