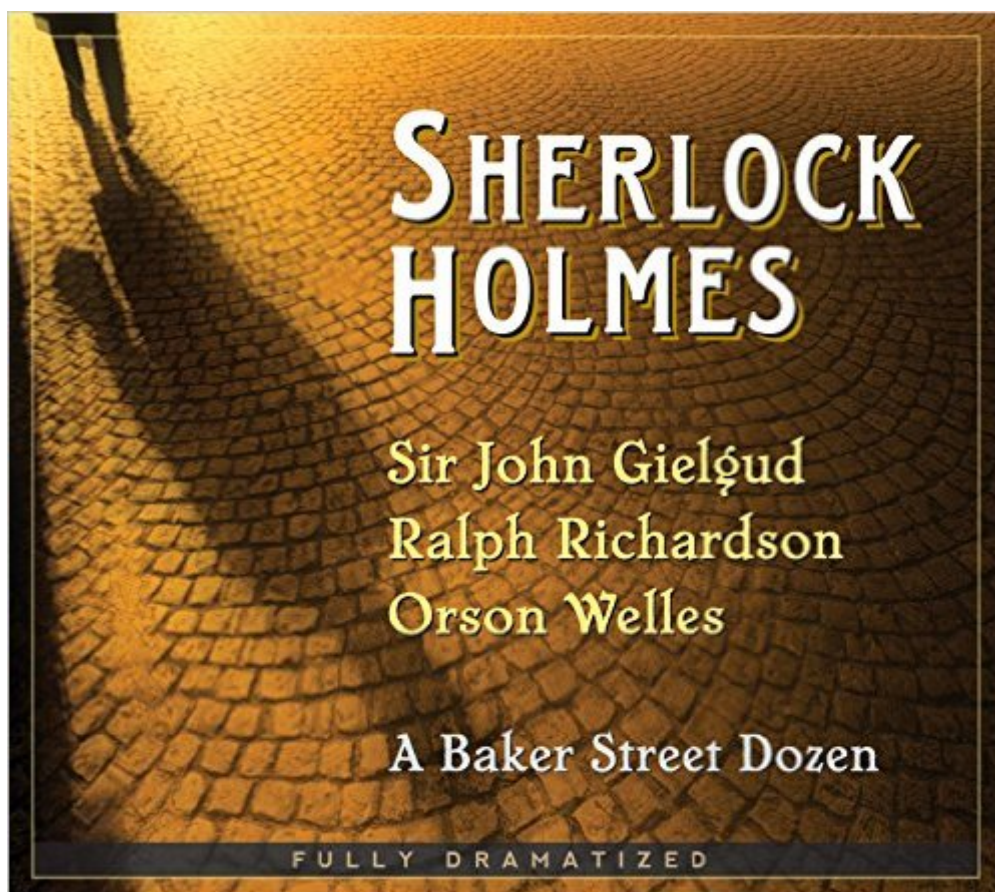


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Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Dozen



Synopsis

It's elementary that any Conan Doyle fan will want this splendid set of Sherlock Holmes mysteries-twelve timeless classics performed as radio theater, linked by violin music interludes. The great Sir John Gielgud stars as the sleuth of Baker Street, with Ralph Richardson as his venerable companion, Dr. Watson, and Orson Welles as the nefarious Professor Moriarty. With three giants of the theater in such colorful roles, it's no mystery why this collection is so popular. Includes: The Blue Carbuncle, A Case of Identity, Charles August Milverton, The Dying Detective, The Final Problem, The Golden Pince-Nez, The Norwood Builder, A Scandal in Bohemia, The Second Stain, The Six Napoleons, The Solitary Cyclist, The Speckled Band. Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm 25. I first heard Gielgud and Richardson's "The Speckled Band" back when I was in 6th grade. I found copies of the Baker Street Dozen stories at my local library, and would constantly check them out, over and over again. Around 8 or 9 years ago, I bought my own copies in a cassette boxed set, which have since worn out. So I was more than thrilled to see this, the Baker Street Dozen stories on CD, and separated into chapters, at that! There are websites that have copies of these stories, but they are in terrible quality, or chopped up. For stories that were first recorded in 1953, they sound like they were recorded yesterday. I have a bunch of old radio broadcasts on CD, ranging from THE SHADOW to MURDER AT MIDNIGHT and THE GREEN HORNET, and their quality ranges from horrible to fair. But THIS, my friends, is British radio at its finest; fully dramatized, with music and

sound effects that fit right into the story, characters that come to life, and stories that will keep you listening over and over again. It seems everyone in America can't look past the Sherlock Holmes ideal with Basil Rathbone and his rendition of the great detective... nobody really bothers to look or listen to other actors' versions of the character. Sir John Gielgud is, in my opinion, the greatest portrayer of Holmes. EVER. To wrap this up... if you're a Sherlock Holmes fan, GET THIS. Trust me, you won't be disappointed. The acting is superb, the quality is astounding for something that's over 50 years old, and the replay value is higher than high, because these stories are timeless. The game is afoot, and you should come along...

This 6-CD set contains fully dramatized radio adaptations of twelve stories from the so-called Sherlock Holmes canon -- four novels and fifty-six stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. First aired by the BBC in 1954, these radio plays feature Sir Henry Richardson as Dr. Watson and the incomparable Sir John Gielgud as Sherlock Holmes, with a sinister reading of Dr. Moriarty by Orson Welles. There are so many good things about Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Dozen. First, the casting, which was so important in the days of radio drama. Gielgud's Holmes is neither too laconic nor too supercilious, the two main temptations in playing this role. Richardson plays Dr. Watson with humor and intelligence -- and no toadying, even when Holmes is asking him to fetch his violin, a whisky and soda, the tobacco from the Persian slipper... The production itself is superb, from the scripts adapted by John Kier Cross to the original musical embellishment to the clarion-voiced announcer introducing each episode. This is not an alternative to reading the stories but an audio theater experience -- and a very successful one. Finally, the stories themselves are, as always, intriguing. Blackmailers, stalkers, murderers, purloiners, all fall to the power of deduction. From the comfortable menage a deux at 221A Baker Street, Holmes prevails again and again. I never made a systematic reading of "the canon" but now I'd like to do that, after listening to this thoroughly enjoyable set. If you are a Holmes fan or have fond memories of radio dramas, this one's for you. Linda Bulger, 2008

Three kinds of customers will appreciate this well-remastered collection: (1) Sherlockians, who love all things Doyle; (2) lovers of classic radio drama; (3) aficionados of two of England's finest actors of the modern stage, Sir John Gielgud (playing Holmes) and Sir Ralph Richardson (Watson). Since both actors also possessed two of the twentieth century's most mellifluous stage voices, these dramatizations are a feast for the ear. If you're at least two of these three customers in one, this reasonably priced set may be an irresistible buy. Get it now, before it goes out of print.

These great recordings were made for the BBC in 1954 and were first aired in the UK that year and in the US in early 1955. The casting is perfect John Gielgud as Holmes and Ralph Richardson as Watson could not be beaten for a radio broadcast, and this probably still holds true to this day 53 years later. Although I think Jeremy Brett would push Gielgud close even without the visual aspect. The addition of Orson Welles as Prof Moriarty in the story The Final problem is the icing on the cake. That penetrating voice is chilling and truly Holmes/Gielgud meets his match in Welles/Moriarty. Any Sherlock Holmes fan should get these historic recordings - you really don't know what you are missing.

I first listened to this audio book set a while ago. I definitely knew who Sherlock Holmes was but had never read any of the stories or watched an entire movie about him. I always figured that the stories would be boring and hard to follow. These audio books showed me that I was wrong. As I listened to these I fell deeply in love with the Sherlock Holmes concept and then proceeded to read all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes novels and stories and I also read "The Lost World" and "White Company" by him. For me, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle became the author for whom everything he laid his pen to turned to gold. I've seen different presentations in different medias of Sherlock Holmes since I listened to these audio books and this audio show did the best at capturing the spirit of the original novels. John Gielgud does the voice of Sherlock Holmes, Ralph Richardson does the voice of Watson and Orson Welles has a brief appearance as the villain Moriarty. One of the great things about a radio show is that you don't have to cast actors who look like the character, so looks have no influence on who is cast. John Gielgud doesn't look like Sherlock Holmes, but this doesn't matter since it is only his voice that appears in the program. These audio books are pleasant and calming to listen to and when I turn them on, I feel like I'm in the late 1800s. I highly recommend them and hope others will enjoy them as much as I have.

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