

## = The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes =

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is a collection of twelve short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle , featuring his fictional detective Sherlock Holmes . It was first published on 14 October 1892 , though the individual stories had been serialised in The Strand Magazine between June 1891 and July 1892 . The stories are not in chronological order , and the only characters common to all twelve are Holmes and Dr. Watson . The stories are related in first @-@ person narrative from Watson 's point of view .

In general the stories in The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes identify , and try to correct , social injustices . Holmes is portrayed as offering a new , fairer sense of justice . The stories were well received , and boosted the subscriptions figures of The Strand Magazine , prompting Doyle to be able to demand more money for his next set of stories . The first story , " A Scandal in Bohemia " , includes the character of Irene Adler , who , despite being featured only within this one story by Doyle , is a prominent character in modern Sherlock Holmes adaptations , generally as a love interest for Holmes . Doyle included four of the twelve stories from this collection in his twelve favourite Sherlock Holmes stories , picking " The Adventure of the Speckled Band " as his overall favourite .

## = = Context = =

Arthur Conan Doyle began writing while studying medicine at university in the late 1870s , and had his first short story , " The Mystery of Sasassa Valley " , published in September 1879 . Eight years later , A Study in Scarlet , Doyle 's first Sherlock Holmes story , was published by Ward Lock & Co . The novel was well received , but Doyle was paid little for it , and despite a sequel novel , The Sign of the Four , also being published by Ward Lock , he shifted his focus to short stories . In early 1891 , the first editor of The Strand Magazine , Herbert Greenhough Smith , received two submissions from Doyle for the newly established magazine . He later described his reaction ; " I at once realised that here was the greatest short story writer since Edgar Allan Poe . " The first of these , " A Scandal in Bohemia " was published near the back of The Strand Magazine in July 1891 . The stories proved popular , helping to boost the circulation of the magazine , and Doyle received 30 guineas for each short story in the initial run of twelve . These first twelve stories were published monthly from July 1891 until June 1892 , and then were collected together and published as a book , The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes on 14 October 1892 by George Newnes , the publisher of The Strand Magazine . The initial print run of the book was for 10 @,@ 000 copies in the United Kingdom , and a further 4 @,@ 500 copies in the United States , which were published by Harper Brothers the following day .

## = = Stories = =

## = = = Summary = = =

All of the stories within The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes are told in a first @-@ person narrative from the point of view of Dr. Watson , as is the case for all but four of the Sherlock Holmes stories . The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography entry for Doyle suggests that the short stories contained in The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes tend to point out social injustices , such as " a king 's betrayal of an opera singer , a stepfather 's deception of his ward as a fictitious lover , an aristocratic crook 's exploitation of a failing pawnbroker , a beggar 's extensive estate in Kent . " It suggests that , in contrast , Holmes is portrayed as offering a fresh and fair approach in an unjust world of " official incompetence and aristocratic privilege " . The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes contains many of Doyle 's favourite Sherlock Holmes stories . In 1927 , he submitted a list of what he believed were his twelve best Sherlock Holmes stories to The Strand Magazine . Among those he listed were " The Adventure of the Speckled Band " ( as his favourite ) , " The Red @-@ Headed League " ( second ) , " A Scandal in Bohemia " ( fifth ) and " The Five Orange Pips " ( seventh ) .

The book was banned in the Soviet Union in 1929 because of its alleged " occultism " , but the book gained popularity in a black market of similarly banned books , and the restriction was lifted in 1940 .

= = = Publication sequence = = =

= = Critical reception = =

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes were well received upon their serialisation in The Strand Magazine . Following the publication of " A Scandal in Bohemia " in July 1891 , the Hull Daily Mail described the story as being " worthy of the inventive genius " of Doyle . Just over a year later , when Doyle took a break from publishing the short stories upon the completion of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes , a piece in the Belfast News Letter reviewed a story by another author in The Strand Magazine saying that it " might have been read with a moderate amount of interest a year ago " , but that " the unique power " of Doyle 's writing was evident in the gulf in quality between the stories . The Leeds Mercury particularly praised the characterisation of Holmes , " with all his little foibles " , while in contrast the Cheltenham Looker @-@ On described Holmes as " rather a bore sometimes " , noting that descriptions of his foibles " grows wearisome " . The correspondent for Hampshire Telegraph lamented the fact that Doyle 's more thoughtful writing , such as Micah Clarke , was not so popular as the Holmes stories , concluding that an author " who wishes to make literature pay must write what his readers want " .

= = Adaptations = =

Sherlock Holmes has been adapted numerous times for both films and plays , and the character has been played by over 70 different actors in more than 200 films . A number of film and television series have borne the title " The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes " , but some of these are either original stories , combinations of a number of Doyle 's stories , or in one case , an adaptation of The Sign of the Four . Irene Adler , who is in the first short story , " A Scandal in Bohemia " , is prominent in many modern adaptations , despite only appearing in one story . Often in modern adaptations , she is portrayed as a love interest for Holmes , as in Robert Doherty 's Elementary and the BBC 's Sherlock , even though in the story itself , the narration claims : " It was not that he felt any emotion akin to love for Irene Adler . " Many of the stories from the collection were included as episodes in the Granada Television series , Sherlock Holmes which ran from 1984 until 1994 .