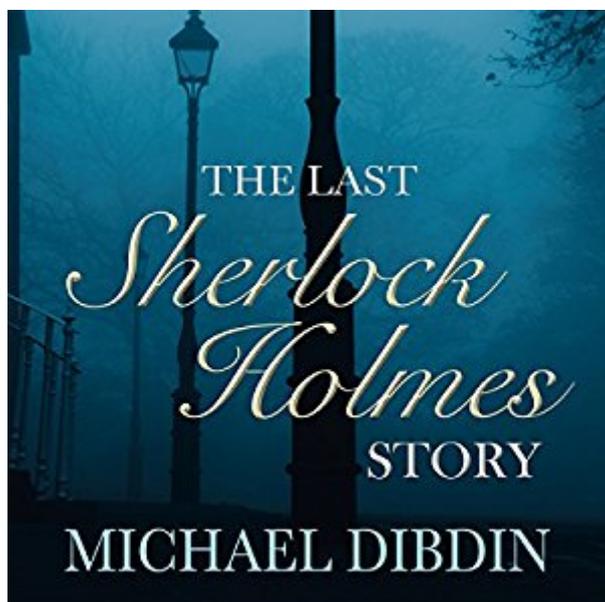


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The Last Sherlock Holmes Story



Synopsis

For fifty years after Dr Watson's death, a packet of papers, written by the doctor himself, lay hidden in a locked box. The papers contained an extraordinary report of the case of Jack the Ripper and the horrible murders in the East End of London in 1888. The detective, of course, was the great Sherlock Holmes - but why was the report kept hidden for so long? This is the story that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle never wrote. It is a strange and frightening tale ... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Brash, audacious, or perhaps blasphemous, are all expressions that the devotees of Arthur Conan Doyle could exclaim upon hearing that the final tale of Sherlock Holmes was to be re-written. There is literary precedent for this; at least two completed novels of Dickens were subjected to sequels by Authors who were not, and theories for solving the mystery of "The Mystery Of Edwin Drood", also by Mr. Dickens are vast in number. The latter exercise is not inappropriate as "Edwin Drood" stops in mid thought, as the Author left it for his dinner, and then a rest he was not to recover from. More recently "Gone With The Wind" was either the subject or the victim of a sequel as well. Why the fuss? The Bible is the most reproduced book in History, and if counted, might also take the crown for being offered in more variations than any other work as well. The revision here is to one story only, albeit the final one, but a challenge nonetheless. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is on record as not taking issue with others placing his creation in circumstances other than those he originally created.

An example of his feelings is at the beginning of this work, but I leave that for the reader. The difference here is that the final story tells of the death of Mr. Holmes and his nemesis Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls. The first diversion that makes this tale unique is the inclusion of the Whitechapel Murders. These acts were not fictional, but rather the results of the still infamous Jack The Ripper. The primary players remain the same, Holmes, Moriarty, and Dr. Watson. Dr. Watson relates the tale as he wrote it, and per this story had it locked away for 50 years after his death, when it then could be opened.

With all due respect to the author, who has performed great feats with other work, I not only HATED with RUE BLOOD what he did to Holmes in this book, I knew what he was going to do within the first five or six pages. Let me explain, my fellow Watsons... See, I was about to embark on a trip to the UK. I spotted this beautifully rendered cover, depicting Whitechapel in the 1880's, which evoked images of Holmes, the Ripper, and the fascinating and troubling times in which Londoners lived. I thought, "Hmm. Holmes versus the Ripper. Sounds great! I've seen it done here and there, but, this one looks neat!" I bought said book. I began reading it on my flight to London. Before the plane took off, I put it down. Why? Well for starters, the author telegraphs EVERYTHING by making three mistakes. He quotes Doyle, or at least offers a quote attributed to ACD when a playwright asked him if he could "marry Holmes" to a woman for the sake of a play he was writing. Doyle's response, and I am paraphrasing what was quoted because I THREW THIS BOOK AWAY, was something akin to, "Marry him, kill him, do whatever you like." In other words, ACD was not averse to doing some wild things to Holmes as long as it told a good Holmes story. But the presence of that quote indicated something to me. I got a gut sense that the author wanted to get "pseudo-creative-post-modernist-gimmicky" on me. The next few pages (describing how a box had been held at a bank for Watson for 75 years after his death, and that he'd asked that it not be opened until those years had passed because the final manuscript in it was so devastating) -- well those told me almost everything I needed to know. Have ya guessed yet? Yeah, doesn't take much, does it?

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