

NAXOS
AudioBooks

CLASSIC
FICTION



Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle

The
Adventures
of
Sherlock
Holmes
IV

Read by
David Timson

NA321312D

A Case of Identity

1	“My dear fellow,” said Sherlock Holmes...’	6:44
2	Miss Mary Sutherland enters...	4:37
3	Miss Sutherland tells her story	10:35
4	Sherlock Holmes considers the matter	7:55
5	I return to Baker Street...	5:31
6	‘Our visitor collapsed into a chair, with a ghastly face...’	8:59

The Adventure of the Crooked Man

7	“One summer night, a few months after my marriage...”	6:07
8	“The facts are only two days old. Briefly they are these:”	11:44
9	“Having gathered these facts, Watson...”	7:22
10	Miss Morrison’s statement...	6:13
11	At the scene of the tragedy	5:55
12	‘My way ran down a dried-up watercourse...’	7:38

The Adventure of the Naval Treaty

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 13 | 'The July which immediately succeeded my marriage was made memorable...' | 4:53 |
| 14 | 'Holmes was seated at his side-table clad in his dressing-gown...' | 5:29 |
| 15 | '"I won't waste your time," said he, raising himself upon the sofa.' | 7:27 |
| 16 | 'The commissionaire, seeing by my pale face that something was to be feared...' | 7:06 |
| 17 | 'Then for the first time the horror of my situation came into its full force...' | 8:55 |
| 18 | 'Mr Joseph Harrison drove us down to the station...' | 5:10 |
| 19 | 'It was twenty past three when we reached our terminus...' | 8:44 |
| 20 | 'I met him accordingly next morning...' | 9:42 |
| 21 | 'It was arranged as he suggested...' | 6:16 |
| 22 | 'It was seven o'clock when I awoke...' | 7:02 |
| 23 | 'The night was fine, but still it was a very weary vigil.' | 8:42 |

The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter		
3	'During my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr Sherlock Holmes...'	6:56
4	'Mycroft Holmes was a much larger and stouter man than Sherlock.'	4:10
5	'A few minutes later we were joined by a short, stout man...'	6:50
6	'As he spoke, he opened a door...'	7:03
7	""I was hurried through the hall and into the vehicle...""	6:05
8	'We had reached our house in Baker Street while we had been talking.'	3:11
9	'Our hope was that, by taking the train...'	5:08
10	'It was a simple story which he had to tell...'	4:17

Total time: 3:32:27

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes IV

**A Case of Identity • The Adventure of the Crooked Man
The Adventure of the Naval Treaty • The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter**

A CASE OF IDENTITY

This case, written in 1891, centres on the personality of Miss Mary Sutherland, a representative of the new type of woman that was beginning to emerge in the decade of the 1890s. A woman with a profession. Even by the end of the nineteenth century there were few areas of work open to young women, but the typewriter, which had been invented in America in 1867, was now opening doors to the world of commerce. Hitherto, young women with their way to make in the world had to rely on such jobs as a governess, with an income of £40 a year. Miss Violet Hunter in **The Copper Beeches** was one such.

Mary Sutherland also had a private income from stocks and shares amounting to a gross income of around £100 a year, which would give her a considerable degree of independence. As Holmes says, 'a single lady can get on very nicely upon an income of about sixty pounds.' Her strength of purpose in determining her own future by

defying her stepfather, Mr Windibank, makes one think that perhaps, in the new century, she would have been 'shoulder to shoulder' with the suffragettes.

Conan Doyle seems to have liked these independent young women who crop up throughout these stories. He was by no means a supporter of the 'new woman', but where he saw a social injustice being committed as in the divorce laws, which were heavily weighted against women, he threw his considerable support behind the efforts to change them.

On the subject of income, it is interesting to examine Holmes' own. He was still establishing himself in these early stories, set in the 1880s, and Conan Doyle makes a particular point of Holmes showing off his considerable acquisitions from recent successfully concluded cases. His 'snuff box of old gold, with a great amethyst in the centre of the lid', and a 'remarkable' ring on his finger, were both gifts from Royal Houses of Europe, who seem to prefer this

method of acknowledging their debt to Holmes rather than give him hard cash. Indeed, the fledgling detective may have been distinctly short of funds at this time, which led to Dr Watson sharing the Baker Street rooms and the connected expenses.

It should be noted though, that these expenses seem to have included a 'boy in buttons' to usher clients in! However, one should remember Holmes' own philosophy from **The Speckled Band**, that, 'as to reward, my profession is its reward.' A particularly interesting case was always pursued, even if there was little chance of a fee. It is doubtful, in view of the outcome of **A Case of Identity**, that Holmes would have expected a payment from Miss Mary Sutherland.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE CROOKED MAN

The Indian Mutiny of 1857 forms the colourful background to this case. It was the revolt of Sepoy troops against their British masters, who with the utmost insensitivity disregarded the religious beliefs of the Hindu religion. Cartridges at this time were sealed with pork grease; to load them, it was necessary to bite off the seal. This direct contact with pork was anathema to the Hindu soldiers, whose protestations

were ignored. The ensuing conflict unleashed decades of pent-up resentment and the end results were bloody and savage. The mutiny was finally quelled by the British in 1858.

With the skill of a born storyteller Conan Doyle mixes truth with fiction, thus, whilst the besieged town of Bhurtee is fictional, it was relieved by a genuine hero of the Mutiny, James George Smith Neill (1810-1857), a British soldier and Indian administrator who was one of the leaders of the relief column that journeyed towards Lucknow, relieving besieged towns on its way. He met his death in the lifting of the siege there. This clever mingling of fact and fiction by Conan Doyle gives edge and immediacy to the stories, such as when he places invented London street names next to genuine ones, a device he was fond of using.

Although the popular image of Sherlock Holmes is a brilliant mind solving crimes single-handedly, it is evident that he relied on a network of helpers that could be called upon when needed. Watson seems always to be available at a moment's notice, and able to change his plans and follow wherever Holmes leads. At the start of this story, for instance, though late at night

when Holmes turns up, without so much as a hesitation Watson agrees to go with Holmes on the morrow to Aldershot. His newly-married wife, and his neighbour Dr Jackson seem ever to be accommodating. Holmes made frequent use of a group of beggar-boys (only too common in the streets of London in the 1880s), whom he organised into an efficient band known as the Baker Street Irregulars. They were to 'go everywhere, see everything, overhear everyone'. It is certain that their relative anonymity as street urchins produced results, and young Simpson in this story, assigned to keep a watch on Henry Wood in Aldershot, would have been well rewarded for his keenness, for Holmes paid the boys a shilling a day, with the bonus of a guinea for any boy bringing in the information first.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NAVAL TREATY

Secret political negotiations at the highest levels of government are at the core of this case. The Naval Treaty of the title deals with the sensitive issue of Great Britain's attitude towards the Triple Alliance. This league between Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy, formed for mutual benefit in 1883, seriously threatened the balance of power in Europe. The position Britain adopted

towards the Alliance was crucial. Thus when the papers are stolen and a 'leak' seems inevitable, Holmes is put on his mettle to prevent a serious international complication. Once again Conan Doyle cleverly mingles historical fact with fiction.

Throughout these stories the official police force often seem less than enamoured with Holmes' interventions in their investigations. Here, it is the detective Forbes who is 'decidedly frigid' towards Holmes. Holmes, for his part, does not seem to have a very high opinion of Scotland Yard. The Detective Department of the Metropolitan Police only came into being in 1842 and by 1868 only had a force of 15! So it was a relatively new branch of policing in Holmes' day, and developed slowly, too slowly for Sherlock Holmes. He was ever pursuing the very latest developments in criminology. A student of chemistry, like his creator Conan Doyle, Holmes used science to prove his theories, as in this story, 'if this paper remains blue all is well. If it turns red it means a man's life.' His readiness to use new methods of detection accounts for his frustration with the plodding ways of Scotland Yard.

However, techniques were changing fast towards the end of the century, and the

Bertillon system discussed in this story by Holmes and Watson, which was a method of cataloguing criminals by measuring their bones, introduced in 1879, was completely superseded by the development of fingerprinting adopted by Scotland Yard in 1901.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE GREEK INTERPRETER

In this case we get a glimpse, and a glimpse only, of Holmes' family and their ancestry. Conan Doyle was wise to keep these facts few and scattered throughout the stories, it adds to the air of mystery so essential to Holmes' character. Here, though, we meet his brother Mycroft for the first time, a brilliant man as de-energised, as Holmes is hyperactive. Mycroft's home from home is the Diogenes Club.

Club-land proliferated during the 19th century. There were clubs for all complexions of society, male society of

course, from the grand political establishments such as the Carlton or the Reform, through to the military, gambling, artistic, Bohemian or just plain eccentric organisations. The Diogenes belongs to this last variety with its rules demanding unsociability. Other contenders for oddness were the Travellers Club, where it was essential that members had made a continental journey to some resort at least 500 miles in a straight line from London, and the Eclectic, which had a short life because so many candidates were refused entry!

It is worth noting that one of the hotels in Northumberland Avenue, where Mr Melas the interpreter found employment as a guide, is now the location of the famous 'Sherlock Holmes' pub, containing a meticulous recreation of the sleuth's study at 221B Baker Street.

Notes by David Timson

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Arthur Conan Doyle was born in 1859, in Edinburgh, a city soaked in history, which gave him a strong sense of the past which he never lost. He was educated at Stonyhurst School, where he excelled at sport, a lifelong interest, and developed a passion for reading. The ideals he read about in his history books influenced him all his life. He trained to be a doctor at Edinburgh University, and before qualifying signed on as ship's surgeon aboard a whaler. The hardened crew's tough stories of life at sea were to have a strong influence on his own burgeoning skill as a writer. Doyle began in medical practice at Southsea, in 1882, where he met his wife Louise Hawkins. Later they moved to London.

His lack of success as a doctor was balanced by his growing reputation as an author. His future was assured after the creation of the scientific detective Sherlock Holmes, though Doyle was always of the opinion that his historical novels were his true life's work. These included **The White Company** (1891) and **The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard** (1896). He also ventured into science fiction, having a great success with **The Lost World** (1912).

His interest in history encouraged his patriotism, and at the time of the Boer War (1900) he published a pamphlet explaining the causes and true course of the war. It made him 'the most famous man in England'. His first wife died in 1906, and he married Jean Leckie with whom he had had a platonic relationship for some time. In his later years, Doyle developed a deep interest in Spiritualism, and espoused many minority causes. He travelled the world furthering the cause of Spiritualism, and died peacefully, convinced his spirit was eternal, in 1930.

His simple philosophy of life was caught perfectly in the epitaph on his tombstone 'Steel true, blade straight'. But Conan Doyle will always be remembered as the creator of the greatest fictional detective in the world, in those works his spirit is truly immortal.

The music on this CD is taken from the NAXOS Catalogue

A Case of Identity

DVOŘÁK String Quintet No 9

8.553373

Vlach Quartet Prague

The Adventure of the Crooked Man

GRIEG String Quartet in G Minor

8.550879

Oslo String Quartet

The Adventure of the Naval Treaty

DVOŘÁK String Quartet No 14

8.553374

Vlach Quartet Prague

The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter

DVOŘÁK String Quartet No 10

8.553374

Vlach Quartet Prague

INDIAN RAGAS

8.554559

Irshad Khan, sitar

Music programmed by David Timson

Cover illustration by Hemesh Alles

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes IV

A Case of Identity • The Adventure of the Crooked Man
The Adventure of the Naval Treaty • The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter

Read by **David Timson**

Four more stories from the master detective. The mystery of the missing suitor is solved and Sherlock Holmes raises his whip... an Indian past stands in the shadows of a Colonel's death... serious affairs of state and international diplomacy are threatened by a theft... and surely evil intent lies behind threats in a hidden house. The cool observations and swift action of Mr Sherlock Homes resolves all.



David Timson has performed in modern and classic plays across the country and abroad, including *Wild Honey* for Alan Ayckbourn, *Hamlet*, *The Man of Mode* and *The Seagull*. He has been seen on television in *Nelson's Column* and *Swallows and Amazons*, and in the film *The Russia House*. A familiar and versatile audio and radio voice, he reads *The Middle Way* and performs in *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Naxos AudioBooks. This is his fourth volume of Sherlock Holmes stories for Naxos AudioBooks.

"The selection gives Mr Timson plenty of scope to exercise his talent for characterisation and narration. His Mycroft Holmes is a particular treat."

THE DISTRICT MESSENGER, THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

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