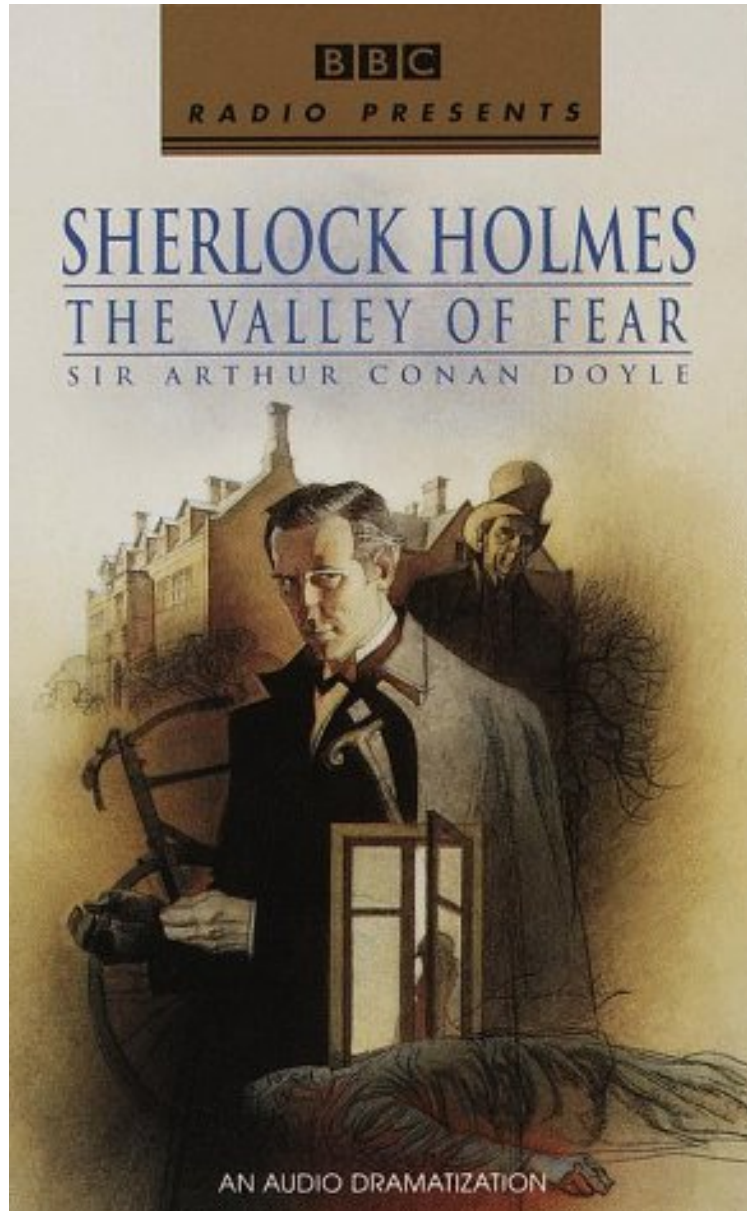


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Valley of Fear: BBC (BBC Radio Presents)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle : Valley of Fear: BBC (BBC Radio Presents) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Valley of Fear: BBC (BBC Radio Presents):

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Easily the second best Holmes Novel - Wonderful Read!!! By Albert J. Valentino The Sherlock Holmes canon includes a total of 60 stories from the original author, AC Doyle. Of

the 60, only four were full novels including this one. The rest are short stories published in five books, totaling 9 books. The first two stories penned by Doyle were the novels, *Study in Scarlet* (where Holmes and Watson first meet), and *A Sign of the Four* (which includes Watson meeting his wife). This is followed by short stories in book 3, the *Adventures of SH*. Ideally the stories are best read in order, but not critical. Unlike the rest of the canon, the two novels, *Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Valley of Fear*, can be read at any time - especially since they each defy the chronology. *Hound* was written about 8 years after the short story, *The Final Solution*, when Holmes died in a mortal struggle with the Napoleon of crime, Professor Moriarty, who was also killed. (But, Holmes doesn't die and is brought back, very cleverly and very credibly, 10 years later, in the story, *The Empty House*, written 2 years after *Hound*. Anyway, 10 years after all that Doyle wrote, *The Valley of Fear* - which is one of two stories that include Prof Moriarty - this is not a spoiler to the story and the Prof is only talked about in present tense. I guess my point is, this novel, and *Hound of the Baskervilles* can be read at any time whereas everything else is slightly better if read in order. Okay, enough of the background on the canon. *Valley of Fear* is simply a great read with wonderful twists at the end that the reader will not likely see coming. I would put *Valley* and *Hound* as the two best novels, with *Hound* perhaps slightly better, but better is all about taste and preference. Anyway, this novel is broken down into two main parts, Part 1 is the Murder mystery, who killed...? Part 2 is a backstory, about 20 years earlier and has nothing to do with Sherlock Holmes. The part 2 story provides the motivation for the murder mystery in part 1. This format is the same as found in the first two novels but the backstory here is probably the best of the three - Doyle now has almost 30 years of writing experience. There is a very short part 3, the Epilogue which brings us back to Baker Street for a final update. *The Valley of Fear* part 1 mystery the reader gets most of the clues the same time as Holmes does and is more or less free to try to figure things out himself but as I mentioned, there are twists and nothing in *Valley of Fear* is what it seems!!!! One noticeable difference for myself, who has now read 7 of the 9 books, and possibly fellow Sherlockians, is that the deep friendship between Holmes and Watson is just not there. The first page was almost disturbing in that regard. Watson is more of an object than a subject to Holmes, more like the modern adaptations. It's just something that jumped out at me since other than the *Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Granada Television Series* series, which is extremely faithful to the original stories, Holmes and Watson have a deep personal friendship and respect. Watson is a friend, gentlemen, medic, soldier, and chronicler - not the bumbling sidekick of the Basil Rathbone movies. Anyway, the story, both part 1 and 2, are excellent and much better than I expected. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EVIL DESTROYED By Patricia E. Smith How can you ever go wrong with the author who gave us the greatest detective in the world, Sherlock Holmes. I've read this before a short time ago, but I still enjoyed it since I had forgotten some of the details from the original Holmes case that started it all. It's always great to see good triumph over evil; too bad it doesn't always translate to real life situations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Captivating read! By grateful user Suspense!! Sherlock Holmes at its best. I love all Sherlock Holmes stories. *The Valley of Fear* is somewhat unique because it steps back and tells a whole story within a story. It is so captivating the reader is sure to have a hard time getting up in the morning for lack of sleep...

A coded warning of imminent danger sends Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to the fortress-like country house of the reclusive Jack Douglas. When they arrive too late to prevent a tragic death, the great detective and his chronicler must follow a series of bewildering clues and find a murderer who has vanished into thin air.

From School Library Journal Grade 7 Up-A coded warning of imminent danger sends Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to the country house of the reclusive Jack Douglas. When they arrive too late to prevent a tragic death, they must follow bewildering clues and find a murderer. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. 'Holmes is a mesmerising creation and Conan Doyle a master storyteller' *The Times* 'The immense talent, passion and literary brilliance that Conan Doyle brought to his work gives him a unique place in English letters' --Stephen Fry From the Publisher 6 1-hour cassettes