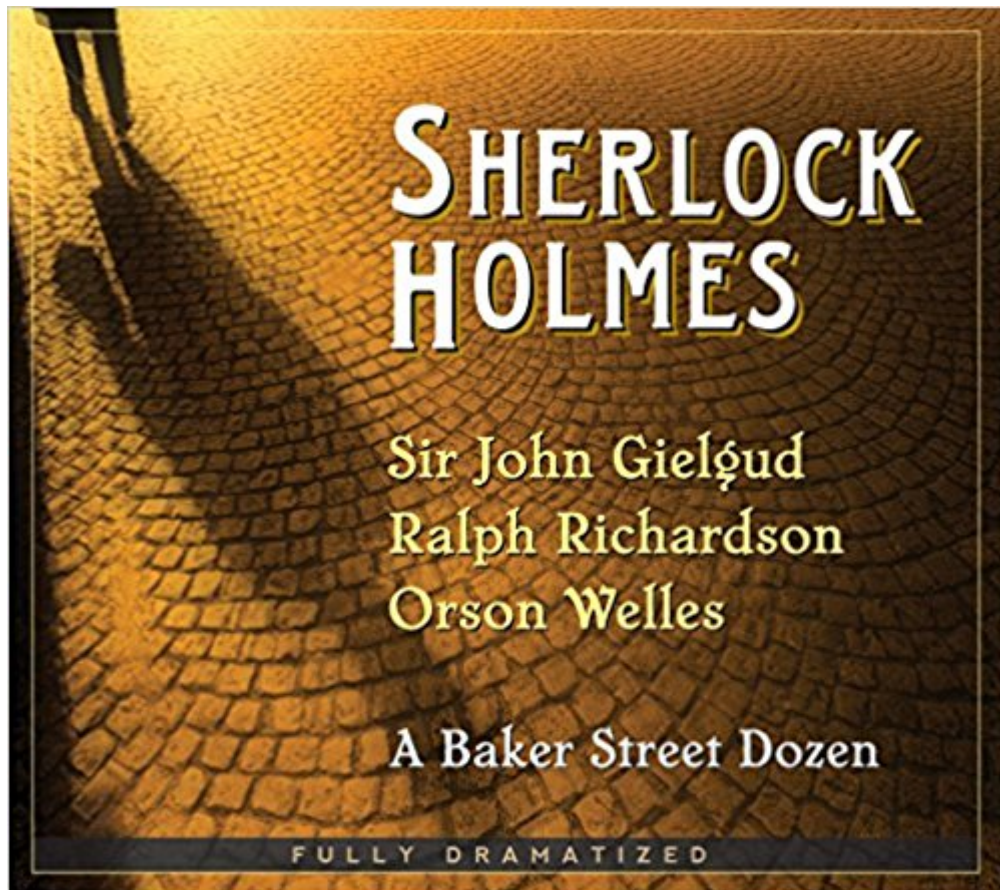




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Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Dozen



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

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Customer Reviews

It will come as no surprise that Gielgud and Richardson, as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, are as perfect a pairing as are the fictional detective team. They are so comfortable together, have a genuine fondness for each other and share an amused tolerance of one another's foibles. A special gift is Orson Welles as the infamous Professor Moriarty. The stories (adapted for radio by John Kier Cross) are nicely varied, from lost love letters and blackmail to truly bizarre murders, all solved with Holmes's sharp observations and ingenious deductionsâ "sometimes off the wall, but always delightful. The 12 radio shows were originally aired by the BBC in 1954 (and were broadcast in the U.S. on NBC in 1955 along with four additional half-hour episodes). (May) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out

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Sir John Gielgud and Sir Ralph Richardson are magnificent actors, whose era was the greatest flourishing of British theater since Shakespeare's time. I only took off one star because four episodes of this magnificent version are omitted, which seems ludicrous. Why not just raise the price a little? The only other complete series costs a fortune, so they could have easily included all episodes for \$50 and still attracted Holme-o-philes. Still, if you are a Holmes fan, you will love this version. Who do you think guest stars as Moriarty? Orson Welles! How could you possibly find a more gifted and legendary cast?

Some excellent radio dramatizations of Doyle's work. My only complaint is that the announcer kept referring to "Dr. James Watson" instead of John Watson. Orson Welles gives a very subdued performance as Professor Moriarty which I found to be a unique interpretation. Sometimes the music got irritating, but overall I enjoyed listening to these in the car during my long commute and Gielgud and Richardson made it an enjoyable way to pass the time.

Efforts of John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson are stellar. Their chemistry is undeniable. One story includes Orson Welles and professor Moriarty. While not exactly along the lines of the most recent Sherlock Holmes movie (with Robert Downey and Jude Law), the story does move from England to the European continent. Orson Welles's vocal presence commands listening - as great an actor he was in Citizen Kane and The Lady from Shanghai, his radio work is out of this world. The last disc includes a great story including Irene Adler.....

Listening material for when one is forced to lay still for a long time. Great.

I have some of the stories narrated by other actors but Sir John Gielgud et al happen to be my favorites Sherlock Holms and Professor Moriarty. Very nice stories when I drive long distance.

Had these been the unabridged Sherlock Holmes stories from the pen of Conan Doyle as I once read and treasured them, I would probably have been happy to award this production 4 stars, or even 5. Given however that I belong to that apparently tiny minority of people for whom the richly atmospheric narratives of Conan Doyle were no small part of the pleasure of these stories, I confess myself somewhat disappointed. Far from being unabridged, these--dramatizations--are not even abridgements in the proper sense of the word. As adaptations for short radio plays- which is all they are- I guess they are not bad. What I expected was Conan Doyle in audiobook form; what I miss is the considerable amount of Conan Doyle each story left out- the bulk in fact of each masterly unhurried narrative, full of observation and description of character and place and incident- with the really full atmosphere you get in the reading. But with most - yes, most- of this pared away for the sake of the 20-25 minute radio format- and with too much indifferent interpolation in its place- too little remains of what I for one would require in any audiobook version of Conan Doyle's stories. It is interesting at least to follow these adaptations with book in hand, and to fill in the story as you go, hitting the pause button as often as needed to let Conan Doyle read you the rest of the tale.

As I have noted elsewhere, I use books on CD as a travel companion on long motor trips. My only disappointment in this series is that I would have liked it to be more chronological in feel. The stories seemed to jump around in Holmes' career and that made it harder to follow. Overall it was a solid addition to my growing library.

I'm so glad I found this. I had the box cassette set as a kid that my Grandma bought me but lost it long ago. This is like having it back again for her & I to listen to together.

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