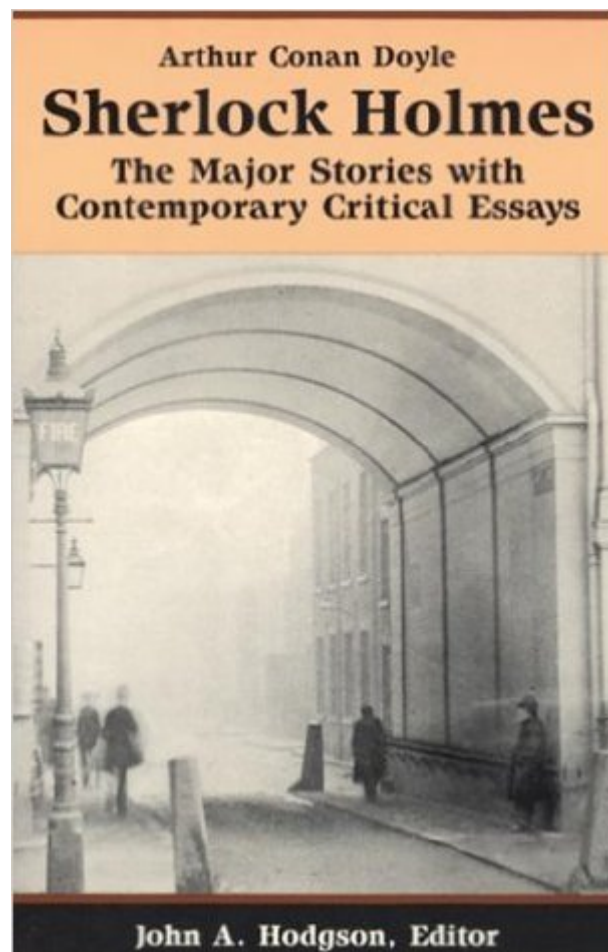


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Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories With Contemporary Critical Essays (Bedford Series In History & Culture (Paperback))



Synopsis

The fifteen Sherlock Holmes stories reprinted in this volume are generally held to be the most significant, innovative and influential tales featuring Arthur Conan Doyle's archetypal detective. Drawn principally from the first three Holmes collections, these selections are each followed by a concise commentary on its relation to Doyle, other Holmes tales, and the genre of detective fiction. The nine accompanying essays, which reflect the recent critical interest in Holmes, examine the stories from a variety of contemporary critical perspectives. The first five essays (by Martin Priestamn, Peter Brooks, Gian Paolo Caprettini, John A. Hodgson , and Alastair Fowler) focus in questions of narrative, deduction, and plot; the next four (by Stephen Knight, Catherine Belsey, Rosemary Hennessey and Rajeswari Mohan, and Audry Jaffe) social, historical, ideological, and gender issues. Each critical essay is preceded by a headnote that discusses the essay's critical approach. An introduction by the editor discusses the relation of Sherlock Holmes to Doyle's own life, reviews the history of the stories' publication and reception, and provides a brief overview of the contemporary critical essays. Additional sources of enrichment and direction for further study are provided by the four appendices: a chronology of Doyle's life; a note on Doyle's favorite Holmes stories; an annotated bibliography of a Holmes collections and critical studies; and a list of film and video versions of the stories in the book.

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Customer Reviews

I must confess at the outset that I was annoyed as soon as I got the book, looked at it, and found that all of the essays are simply reprints of essays that have appeared in other sources. Particularly frustrating was the fact that some of the essays are only parts of chapters, so that the authors' points regarding the Holmes stories are taken out of context of the larger essays from which they were derived. The editor makes a number of promises about how stimulating the material will be and the connections the various authors will make across the essays. I felt, after reading the essays, that the material fell well short of the promises that were made. In short, the book was very disappointing, and I am unable to recommend the book to either the casual or scholarly reader.

Bought for class. Good book. Nice collection.

It was good

If you like many of the stories of Sherlock Holmes and want to see them analyzed by modern critics get this book. The stories are here as well as the analysis .

This rating is not based upon the novel, but rather the fact that when I opened the book, the first 18 pages fell out.

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