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Steven Doyle

Publisher, The Baker Street Journal

David A. Crowder



Sherlock Holmes
FOR
DUMMIES®

by Steven Doyle and David A. Crowder



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Sherlock Holmes

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Dedication

To my parents, who gave their son a Christmas gift that never stopped giving, and to my wife, Pamela, who has always allowed Mr. Holmes to share our home.

— Steven Doyle

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— Steven Doyle

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Introduction

Odds are, if you're sitting down to read this book, you believe that you don't know much about Sherlock Holmes. But you're wrong. You know he's a detective, even the most famous detective of them all. You know he's English. You likely know he has a friend named Watson. You probably even have a vague idea of what he looks like. But if that's the extent of your knowledge, then you're definitely ready to read on!

By any measure, Sherlock Holmes is the greatest character ever created in literature. Holmes's popularity extends around the world. His influence on popular culture is immense (and shows up in the most surprising places). He has inspired a following of enthusiasts and fans that's unprecedented for a fictional character from a work of literature. And the stories that comprise his adventures offer endless and fascinating new discoveries to his readers.

Over the past 100 years, enough articles, essays, periodicals, and books have been produced about the Great Detective to literally fill a library. Because of this, approaching the world of Sherlock Holmes can be daunting. But that's what *Sherlock Holmes For Dummies* is for. Here you'll find a general reference offering insight and entrance into the fascinating and exciting world of Sherlock Holmes.

However, this book isn't an encyclopedia. (There are actual Sherlock Holmes encyclopedias for that.) As in any field of study, some topics covered here are simply informational, while others venture into subjects that have been debated for decades. *Sherlock Holmes For Dummies* definitely has opinions, but it's never dogmatic. Half the fun of reading about the character is the variety of responses readers have to the stories and the evolving character of Holmes himself.

About This Book

When fans start to talk about their favorite detective, newcomers are often amazed at the number of topics that can fall under the umbrella of "Sherlock Holmes." You might presume that, because these are mystery stories, most conversations would revolve around the tales themselves — sort of like what you'd find in a book club, where everyone reads the same volume and discusses it. But there's so much more than that!