



# INEFFABLE TWADDLE



*"It is my business to know what other people don't know."*

*—The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*

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Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

## SOBs' Holiday Card Exchange, 3.0!

### Greetings All,

I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday, now that the "food coma" has passed, I have now provided the participants with the names that were submitted to partake in this year's card exchange, as the deadline was November 23.

I have provided it in both Word and PDF formats, which can be easily printed onto label paper (AVERY 5560), or can simply be handwritten.

We are a small yet mighty group, and I feel this is still a great way for us to connect.

So I look forward to mailing and receiving cards, between now and the New Year, and remember they can be of any variety of Sherlock, Holiday, or generic themes, it is to your liking.

Be well, stay safe, and I will be excitedly checking the mail. *Thank you!*

**Committee Chair Jamila Robinson**  
Email: [jamilaowilson1@gmail.com](mailto:jamilaowilson1@gmail.com)



**Get Ready to Get Jolly!**  
**We'll be meeting face-to-face at the Library December 17 to discuss a holiday favorite full of such stocking-stuffers as jewel theft, bad hats, and Christmas geese.**

*At the Queen Anne Branch of the Seattle Public Library • We have the meeting room from 12:30 to 4:00!*

**It will be plenty of fun, socializing, entertainment (with Maffie & Dave Rafferty), and food & drink while we enjoy our annual revisit to "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle!"**

**Please bring your favorite refreshments—savories or sweets and beverages—to share (no alcohol, please!), and Holiday Cookies to exchange!!**

**The Queen Anne Library is located at 400 West Garfield, in Seattle. The doors to the Meeting Room, on the lower level, will open at Noon.**

**Our guest SOB Margie Deck will present "Is The Blue Carbuncle Really Blue?": A Look at the Commentary About The Blue Carbuncle**

### Says Margie:

As the SOBs gather for the annual cookie fest and consideration of **"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle,"** the discussion will focus not so much on rereading Doyle's Christmas favorite but on the comments of the commentators all too happy to question almost every point of the story. To keep the happy spirit of the season, we will not be stepping into the minefield of internet comments. We will instead look at the scholarship of the early Sherlockians utilizing Leslie S. Klinger's annotations from the ever-helpful 1998 Sherlock Holmes ...

## Says Program Chair Sunny

### **"The Adventure of Blue Carbuncle"**

is *the* Sherlock Holmes story of Christmas (and perhaps the first example of what was to become the annual Christmas special!) By the 1890s when Conan Doyle wrote his tale of redemption and forgiveness, he was following in the footsteps of an even more influential writer, Charles Dickens. In 1843 Charles Dickens needed some fast cash (not unlike ACD in his time) so penned A Christmas Carol and self-published it, immediately selling out of the first 6,000 copies, creating at once a smash hit and a beloved classic still enjoyed today. How was it so immediately successful, and why has it come to represent Christmas traditions... *Continued on Page 2*



*Continued on Page 2*

## Says Program Chair Sunny...

...in Holmes' time and in ours? (*Disclaimer: I am a big Dickens fan!*)

It's not an exaggeration to say Dickens was one of the most influential writers of the era. He had an uncanny ability to capture the zeitgeist, in this case a Victorian revival of all things Christmas. By early Victorian times, the medieval (i.e. rural) traditions—based more on the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia and the Germanic winter festival of Yule—had been scrubbed by the puritanical elements of the Church of England, and perhaps just as much by the drudgery of an industrialized lifestyle. Whether it was a harkening back to rural roots, or excitement over young Queen Victoria and her German husband Albert, Christmas was undergoing a reboot in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Dickens captured it with timeless heart and soul in "*A Christmas Carol*."

Dickens was a journalist and a prolific writer, producing essays, dramas, and short stories throughout his career, but it's for his novels he is primarily known. His work as a parliamentary reporter led him to take a journalist's interest in the events and conditions of the city around him. His depictions of Victorian London are so evocative that the mid-nineteenth-century city is referred to as "Dickens's London." Weaving complex plots peopled with vivid characters, Dickens explored Victorian London like no other writer before him or after him. His technique to showcase dark and troubling issues with a comic touch engaged his readers' sympathies and made his stories memorable—to this day. He felt strongly that social conditions needed attention and improvement, and it is to this end many of his novels are directed. In fact one can identify the institution or issue each novel tackled: *Oliver Twist* dealt with the recently passed New Poor Law Amendment Act, *Hard Times* the education system, *Little Dorritt* attacked debtor's prisons and bureaucratic red tape, while *Bleak House* was a biting critique of the Chancery Courts and misplaced philanthropy. In *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens presents his case against child poverty. He contrasts Scrooge's paradigm of self-interest with the repercussions of ignoring the poor, especially children in poverty. Using the allegorical figures of Want and Ignorance, as well as Tiny Tim, he aroused his readers' sympathies and presented his message for charity without alienating his middle-class readers.

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## December 17 Meeting...

Continued from Page 1

...*Reference Library*. The reference library is a treasure trove of information, from the enlightening (the story was published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1892 with the rather spoiler-heavy title of "The Christmas Goose that Swallowed the Diamond") to the possibly infuriating ("...many wives, English and others, don't know anything at all about their husband's hats...they may, indeed, even be slatterns, so that dusty hats on their husbands would be the last thing in the world they would notice...").

Some of the notes are quite funny. During the discussion, we will look at what led Mr. Klinger to write, "Of course, the Literary Agent [Arthur Conan Doyle] notoriously referred to Dr. Watson as Holmes's 'rather stupid friend,' and his comments are perhaps to be disregarded."

Perhaps the most perplexing note of all comes from Phillip Kasson's "The True Blue: A Case of Identification" where he states, "A Carbuncle is a garnet, cut *en cabochon* (with a domed top)...Garnets come in many colours: white, yellow, green, red, orange, brown, purple, and black, but no blue garnet has ever been found."

Harumph...blasphemy if you ask me. Well, you didn't, but I will ask you what you think about it when we meet in December. Hope to see you for cookies, comments, and possible consternation.

## "I had called upon my friend Sherlock Holmes..."

A Quiz by: SOB Charlie Cook

1. When did Watson call upon Holmes at 221B Baker Street?
2. Holmes told Watson he received what from commissionaire Peterson?
3. For whom was a discarded Christmas goose intended?
4. Who is the owner of the Blue Carbuncle?
5. What reward was offered for the return of the gem?



Continued on Page 3

## "I had called upon my friend..."

Continued from Page 2

6. Who was arrested for the theft of the gem and what was his profession?
7. Where was the gem found originally?
8. Where did the owner of the hat purchase his goose?
9. From where did the proprietor obtain his geese?
10. What did Holmes tell John Robinson his (Holmes') business was?
11. What was John Robinson's real name?
12. What special feature did the goose with the Blue Carbuncle have?



Answers to this Quiz may be found on Page 7

## SOB Kris Hambrick's Sherlock on Screen:

### The Case of The Christmas Pudding



Ah, how time flies! This marks my third "Blue Carbuncle" column, and for the second time, I've found a way not to write about it again! Because as we so often forget, there are other Holmes cases full of Christmas cheer. (*Not including Granada's version of The Cardboard Box, which I might argue is an improvement on the original.*)

No, this year we're going to talk about my man Ronald Howard. Not *that* Ronald Howard, the other one. Who also *isn't* Leslie Howard, but is instead his equally-striking son. I've mentioned my love for this series before, and I know it is not popular. It is, however, readily available, in short episodes, and unexpectedly delightful once you get into a 1950s television mindset.



"The Case of the Christmas Pudding" offers a lovely example of both the compact storytelling necessitated by the half-hour timeslot and the chemistry between Howard and H. Marion Crawford, who as I've said before, may be the perfect blend of smart and capable Watson with a Nigel Bruce-like British bluster. The story involves a serial murderer Holmes has put away, who has vowed vengeance. Uncertain how he'll get out of his jail cell, Holmes and Watson nevertheless fret over each other's safety and take turns putting themselves in harm's way until the mystery is solved and the criminal is apprehended. And as a bonus, there's the wax bust from "The Empty House" and the mystery is related to gift wrapping!



I won't give away any more, and it's not for everyone. But it's definitely better than its low budget and early-TV reputation give it credit for, and worth it to me for the warmth the two main actors bring to Holmes and Watson. **Happy Holidays!**

## Says Program Chair Sunny...

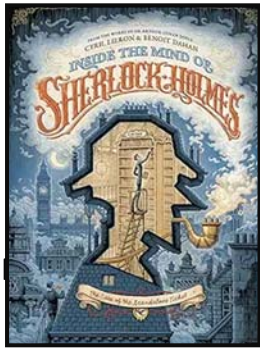
Conclusion from Page 2

So what made this one little novella so huge, and so defined an era and a tradition? Like all things Victorian, there were tensions running below the surface of all that festive cheer. Victorians, who honored the sacred, also took materialistic trappings to a truly stupendous level, and Christmas was no exception. Christmas as becoming Big Business (*which is a topic for next year's BLUE*). Victorians were at the same time enamored with and chastened by the holiday (as perhaps we are we today), and *A Christmas Carol* provides the perfect context to explore that ambivalence. Dickens deftly weaves the humanitarian holiday of social gatherings and festive generosity of spirit, with the transformation of one man's soul through grace and redemption. Scholars still argue today whether *A Christmas Carol* is a secular story or a Christian allegory, which would probably please Dickens, and just goes to show its continued relevance. A long litany of legacies aside, such as "bah humbug" and "Scrooge." I think it is this narrative that makes *A Christmas Carol* the timeless classic it is.



*"I will honour Christmas  
in my heart and try to keep  
it all the year."*





## 2023 Sherlockian Book Gift Guide

By: SOB Webmaster Shannon  
(my other job is as a Librarian)

*Looking for a book for a Sherlockian in your life, or maybe just a treat for yourself? Add these books to your gift list or To Be Read pile.*

***Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Scandalous Ticket*** by Cyril Lieron and Benoit Dahan.

With clever and intricate cross-sections, maps, and diagrams of Sherlock's mind palace, you can follow along while he catalogs clues to solve a case that begins with Watson's shabby appearance and missing memories.

### For loyal Doylians:

***Doyle's World Lost and Found*** by Daniel Friedman, MD and Eugene Friedman, MD

Father-son doctors and authors of *The Strange Case of Dr. Doyle* (2019) are back with a new biography of ACD that unlocks many primary sources and notes on his influences and mentors.

### For young Sherlockians:

***The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall*** by Ali Standish.

The first book in a new middle grade series that reimagines ACD's youth in Edinburgh, attending the prestigious school Baskerville Hall. Arthur juggles adventure, academics, and intrigue as he investigates a secret society while making new friends and familiar enemies.

### For history buffs:

***The League of Lady Poisoners*** by Lisa Perrin

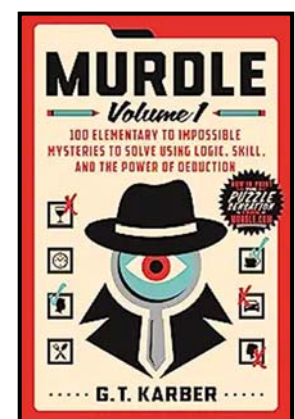
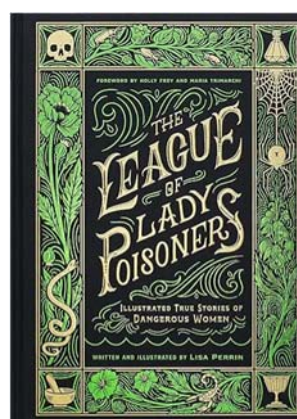
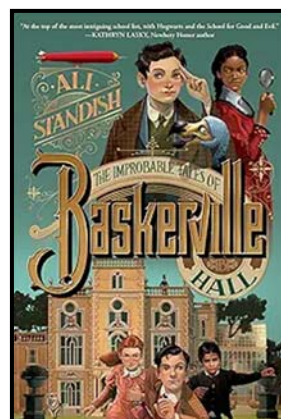
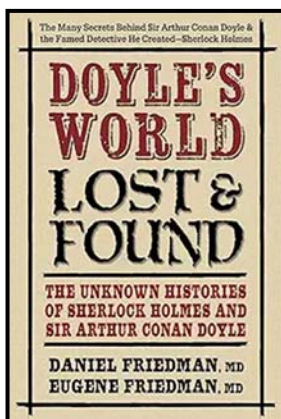
This gorgeously illustrated volume brings together true tales from around the world of ladies whose relationships were truly toxic.



### For professional puzzlers:

***Murdle, Volume 1*** by G. T. Karber

You might have heard of the daily game Wordle but are you playing Murdle? Don your deerstalker and solve 100 humorous short story murders by matching suspects, weapons, locations and motives in logic puzzle grids. Puzzles start at elementary level so you can build up your deduction skills gradually before reaching "impossible" later levels.



Turn the Page for more gift ideas on Page 5

## 2023 Sherlockian Gifts Suggestions

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[Sherlock Holmes Gift - 60+ Gift Ideas for 2023 \(etsy.com\)](#): ...including watches, “221B” signs, 221B DIY bookends, Christmas ornaments, Holmes illustrated playing cards, pipes, deerstalker hats, socks, magnifying glasses, cast bronze figurines, 2024 *Sherlock* desk calendars, T-shirts, totes, jewelry, key chains, imprinted mugs, pet wear, nesting dolls, candles, embossed Chrome Tobacco Tins, Lego toy figures, pens, scarves, artwork...and more than we can list here! The variety is astounding!!!

[sherlock holmes Men's Pajamas sherlock holmes Pajamas | CafePress](#): ...apparel including T-shirts and pajamas for you and for your pets too, and Christmas ornaments.

[Literary gifts for booklovers. Handbags that look real books. – Well Read Company](#): ...for book handbags, book coin purses, purses, wallets, and tote bags.

[15 Best Sherlock Holmes Gifts That Fans Will Love 2023 - Bona Fide Bookworm](#): ...for Sherlockian puzzles, jewelry, tote bags, book marks, Purrlock Holmes Enamel Pin, Sherlock Holmes Cat Hat (for your kitty!), a Wax Seal Kit, apparel and more!

And, for many, a Christmas tradition: [Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2024 - Strand Magazine](#): ...described this way—“*Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2024 has a treat in store for fans of the art of illustrator Sidney Paget who brought Holmes to life in hundreds of illustrations for the original Strand Magazine. We also have several Sherlock Holmes themes, The Return of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock Holmes on Celluloid, “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder,” Holidays in Baker Street, and Sherlock Holmes in the Meiringen Falls and much more!*”





**Beaten's Christmas Annual  
2024**

**Calling all Writers, Puzzlers,  
Poets, Illustrators, Cooks,  
Reviewers and Jokesters!  
Serious or silly, it's all good!**

*Would you like to see your essay,  
story, review, pastiche, illustration,  
cartoon or research published?*

**From the Editor**

To contribute to The SOB's' *Beaten's Christmas Annual*—our magazine-style publication for Members by Members—there's much wider latitude than for our monthly newsletter (which is limited to 350 words).

**Submissions to OUR 2024 ISSUE OF BEATEN'S  
are due by December 31, 2023.**

Please send any queries and submissions to  
Editor Terri at:  
[terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com](mailto:terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com)

*Surely you've got something to say about Holmes, Dr. Watson, Doyle, the Canon or Victorian-era England...about our Club, books, movies, TV shows or audio materials!*

**Please share it with us!**

## Audiobooks of “The Blue Carbuncle”: Tips from SOB Ann Milam



*What would Christmas be without a study of  
“The Blue Carbuncle?”*

*Usher in the holidays with this good yarn!*

I did a quick survey of audiobooks available on Amazon. A popular story—there are 21 recordings, including two in Spanish.

My favorite readers are Alan Cumming, David Timson, and Edward Hardwick (who best knows his role as Watson!) The "Original Radio Broadcast" is fun, as three different actors read the different characters and we hear the laughter of their studio audience.

The other recordings on the list vary in quality but personally, I found hearing female voices reading the words of Holmes and Watson rather off-putting. For more, go to:

[Amazon.com : audiobooks The Blue Carbuncle.](#)

**Happy listening! And best wishes for a safe  
and happy holiday season to you all!**



## Introducing Our Newest Member,

### MITCHELL SANTINE GOULD

Mitch joined our scion in November 2023 and has assumed the alter-ego of “Bluff, Sailor-like Fellow,” a statement from the ACD short story, “J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement.”

We met Mitch face-to-face (*so to speak*) at our November Zoom Meeting. He lives in the Oregon coastal town of Lincoln City where he runs an Air BNB.

Says Mitch, “*Biographically speaking, I became a sort of a sleuth in my own right in 1990, when I first became fascinated with Walt Whitman, and in particular, named and cracked the central enigma in Whitman scholarship: “Walt Whitman's Quaker Paradox.” By the time I found the strange solution, I had already formulated a radical new understanding of the poet as ‘the spokesbard for the sailors, lovers, and Quakers who made New York City the nation's greatest seaport.’... “I then embarked upon the Walt Whitman, S. L. Q. trilogy, in which Holmes and Watson cannot crack their American cases without developing radical insights into the sailors, lovers, and Quakers standing behind Walt Whitman.*”

And, he’s already submitted something to our 2024 Beaten’s!!! **Welcome aboard, Mitch!!**

## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know...

⇒ **SOB Charlie Cook shared this:** Here is an interesting bit of trivia about Vincent Starrett—After reading the Judge Dee mystery, The Chinese Nail Murders by Robert van Gulik, I indulged in his post-scripts learning that he discovered the merits of Chinese detective novels from **VINCENT STARRETT'S ESSAY “SOME CHINESE DETECTIVE STORIES”** appearing in his *Bookman's Holiday, The Private Satisfactions of an Incurable Collector*, published by Random House in 1942.

⇒ **From SOB Columnist Kris Hambrick:** Here's the YouTube link to the video for my play, **HELLO EARTH PRODUCTIONS' “DOCTOR IN THE DARK: BLINK.”** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjibYPIkVWE&list=PLggCe4\\_B1wbWxyp7\\_Oo0E1W84dTwY0rtc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjibYPIkVWE&list=PLggCe4_B1wbWxyp7_Oo0E1W84dTwY0rtc). Thanks for being interested! It's only an hour long, too, as a bonus. **Here's the synopsis:** “Blink” is a stage adaptation (written by Steven Moffet) of a beloved episode of “Doctor Who” in which a young person has to decode a message sent through time, loses a friend, gains another, and comes face-to-face with a doctor who explains wibbly wobbly timey wimey stuff and the terrifying creatures who feed off of it.” **Ed. Note:** *We are always proud to share our members' extra-curricular creative endeavors with our readers; Kris was the producer & director of this play, and SOB Lauren Messenger played one of the “Weeping Angels.”*

⇒ **This bit of news came from both SOBs Jim Nagle and Geoff Jeffery:** “Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle Shows Set at BBC, PBS”—**BBC ARTS HAS UNVEILED TWO NEW SHOWS** exploring the rich legacy of author Arthur Conan Doyle and his most famous creation, Sherlock Holmes. Read about it in *Variety* at:

⇒ **News from “Star Trek” fan SOB Nancy Holder, BSI:**



**“DETECTIVE DATA IS OFFICIALLY RETURNING FOR A NEW CASE IN STAR TREK CANON—As IDW's Star Trek title gears up for its second year, one of Data's most iconic personas will soon return—does this mean Moriarty will too?”** Reported by **Shaun Corley:** “Detective Data will officially be returning to *Star Trek* lore,

as the flagship comic book kicks off its second year. Last fall, IDW launched a new *Star Trek* title, the opening salvo in a line-wide revitalization that netted the franchise's first Eisner nominations, as well as building to its first ever comics' crossover. Now, as the book's first year comes to an end, readers are looking to what comes next—and it involves the return of one of Data's most iconic personas.” For more, go to:

[https://screenrant.com/star-trek-year-two-data-sherlock-holmes-moriarty/?fbclid=IwAR2MkGS6Ta7WfG6hrGLxfbX5njZvqt\\_w4OS2oTXS2CwuMbsV5\\_oe3yde2VI](https://screenrant.com/star-trek-year-two-data-sherlock-holmes-moriarty/?fbclid=IwAR2MkGS6Ta7WfG6hrGLxfbX5njZvqt_w4OS2oTXS2CwuMbsV5_oe3yde2VI).

⇒ **PFL David began our October 15, 2023 Meeting with these Toasts:**

- To Murray without whom! (*Of course!!*)
- To the members of The SOB team that took first place in the worldwide “2023 John H. Watson Society's Annual Treasure Hunt Quiz.” They scored 192 points. The individual SOB members were: **Cameron Brandon, Margie Deck, Nancy Holder, Naching Kassa, and David Merrell.**
- To Associate Editor **Lauren Messenger** for stepping in to edit and publish our October Twaddle (**Ed. Note:** Then subsequently our November Twaddle too!)
- The Winner of the “Dinner with the Canon” contest, sponsored by **SOB Lauran Stevens, SOB Margaret Nelson.**

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## Things to See, Buy, Do & Know...

Continued from Page 6

- To **Paul Williams**, longtime SOB member. It was he who found Seahurst Park in Burien (WA) as the location for our Dr. John H. Watson Picnic. He took it upon himself to personally pay the charge to secure the site. We just found out that he passed away in March of this year.
- ⇒ From **Jean Upton of the London Society's District Messenger**:
- **Joe Page of the Shaka Sherlockians** says: "We had a great meeting on 12th August with over four dozen attendees from around the world. Monica Schmidt, BSI provided a marvelous presentation and we are pleased to advise that the video is now posted on our website. All 12 of our meetings for the past three years are available and listed in chronological order by date. Our next quarterly meeting will be November 11, 2023." <https://www.shaka.sherlockian.com/meetingscalendar.html>
- The four surviving pages of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" were sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York on 20<sup>th</sup> July for \$95,250. You can see Randall Stock's report on the manuscript and the sale at his Best of Sherlock website: [www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/crooked-man-2023.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/crooked-man-2023.htm). **Ed Note:** You'll also find loads of informative links to a wide variety of Sherlockiana at the Home Page of Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" website! You'll want to add it to your "Favorites" list!
- ⇒ From **Peter Blau's Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press**:
- **Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell** is the title of the next novel from Nicholas Meyer, Otto Penzler reports. It's based on the famous Zimmermann telegram, intercepted by British intelligence in 1917, which proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the U.S. The book's due from the Mysterious Press in August 2024.
- The **Sherlock Holmes Statue** is back in Picardy Place in Edinburgh. It had been removed from its traffic-island site during redevelopment. For more info & photos: <https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2023/09/sherlock-holmes-is-back-in-picardy-place/>
- **International Autograph Auctions Europe** offers an interesting letter Conan Doyle wrote (probably in 1926), saying (in part) that, "I was conscious at one time that Holmes was strained & for some years I only wrote one story a year. I can truly say I have never written to order or allowed the money side of it to influence me at all," and added that, "I have not felt him strained in this last series of six. Five of these are done. and I will not do the sixth if I have any reason to think there is a real declension. I have my ear on the ground." It is estimated to fetch €6,000 to €10,000.



### Answers To Cook's Quiz on Page 2:

1. On the second morning after Christmas.
2. A very seedy and disreputable hard-felt hat.
3. Mrs. Henry Baker.
4. The Countess of Morcar.
5. £1000.
6. John Horner, a plumber.
7. In the banks of the Amoy River in southern China.
8. The Alpha Inn Public House.
9. Breckinridge's in Covent Garden.
10. To know what other people don't know.
11. James Ryder.
12. A barred tail.



## PFL David Has Surfed the Web for You!

Conclusion from Page 8

- **Top 20 Genius Scenes in "Sherlock":**  
Remember when we had "Sherlock" to look forward to?? Try this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJ8eQZLcfXA> for 20 great clips. "He's a high-functioning socio-path—do your research!"  
♦ **Their praise is very high:** "For this list, WatchMojo UK counts down the top 20 best and most genius moments in the super slick, super sleuth BBC crime series, 'Sherlock.' Featuring Benedict Cumberbatch as *the* main man, ably assisted by Martin Freeman as Watson, there are some truly iconic moments in this list! Did your favourite scene make the cut?"
- **Just want to see "The Best of Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch?"**  
Try this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwFgS-ITGLI>
- **Or try this link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91lyvq0VPio> to watch the "Sherlock" cast being themselves!
- **Or, this link—**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFWhWJyHPEc>**—for "The Sherlock cast narrated an episode, and it is \*something\*"**. You'll hear the voices of Benedict, Martin, and Mark Gatiss.

This article **begun** on Page 8

**Happy Holidays to all you SOBs!!**

## PFL David Has Surfed the Web for You!

- **20 of the Best Classic Murder Mystery Books of All Time:** Believe it or not, this list actually has a Sherlock Holmes title. Which one you ask? **A Study in Scarlet!** They give this description of the book: In *A Study in Scarlet*, (at #6) Arthur Conan Doyle introduces Sherlock Holmes and John Watson—and changes detective fiction forever. The first crime they solve is when an American tourist to London is killed in an empty house. For more: [20 of the Best Classic Murder Mystery Books of All Time \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/news/20-of-the-best-classic-murder-mystery-books-of-all-time/ar-AA1kznhv?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=18dab1e627db40f18239f0cdf1d56195&ei=64)

- **10 Smartest TV Villains Who Were Always One Step Ahead Of Everyone:**

Anyone who manages to stay ahead of Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) must be incredibly smart, and *Sherlock's* Jim Moriarty (Andrew Scott) manages to do it for quite a while. His character is so intelligent that it's been theorized Moriarty is more than one person. His brilliant schemes put him on top of a worldwide criminal organization and make him Sherlock Holmes' most dangerous foe.

**As two of TV's smartest characters ever, Moriarty and Holmes become completely obsessed with each other**, and though Moriarty is eventually defeated for good, he spends most of his time out in front of the iconic detective. For more:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/tv/news/10-smartest-tv-villains-who-were-always-one-step-ahead-of-everyone/ar-AA1kznhv?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=18dab1e627db40f18239f0cdf1d56195&ei=64>



- **The Doctor Is In—15 Best Fictional Doctors in Movies and TV Shows:**

Yes, there is a Sherlockian Doctor listed. Whose picture did they use to illustrate Watson? **Jude Law at #7** from the Robert Downey, Jr. series of films. They give this commentary: The partner of the famed detective Sherlock Holmes has many incarnations: Nigel Bruce in the 1940s film, Martin Freeman in *Sherlock*, Jude Law in Guy Ritchie's movies, and Lucy Liu in the series *Elementary*. And every version of the character shares crucial things in common. ***Dr. Watson is always portrayed as incredibly smart, brilliant at deduction like Holmes, and an extremely loyal companion.***

◆ Watson's medical experience as a doctor proves imperative with cases at hand or injuries that befall the characters. He's also the doctor whose name is in the cultural lexicon more than any other. ***Those unfamiliar with the books or films still know the phrase, "Elementary, my dear Watson."*** **Adds PFL David:** *I'm not sure I consider Nigel Bruce to be "brilliant" in his portrayals! And a question for all who look further into this web-list: What other doctor is shown in this list who also played Sherlock Holmes?* **Answer: Benedict Cumberbatch shown as Dr. Strange.** For more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/other/the-doctor-is-in-15-best-fictional-doctors-in-movies-and-tv-shows/ss-AA1gMmlw?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=03fab7af7cd848f5a3852048398f00dc&ei=93#image=8>

- **12 Best Killer Dog Movies, Ranked:** Killer dog movies have a long history, with early examples like "Killer-Dog" focusing on innocence and justice, while later films emphasize the terror of beloved pets turning into out-of-control killers. ◆ The subgenre of killer dog movies is diverse, featuring rabid dogs, genetically engineered killers, and demonic influences, and some even use the dogs to explore social commentary. ◆ Killer dog movies elicit fear by showing men, women, and children fighting to survive against terrifying and ruthless movie dogs, creating a thrilling and suspenseful experience. ***In this reverse order list at #12 on this list is "The Hound Of The Baskervilles (1939): A Sherlock Holmes Mystery With Basil Rathbone."*** Their commentary on this film: "While the 1959 Hammer Horror movie remake is a great **killer dog movie**, the original *Hound of the Baskervilles* remains one of the best Sherlock Holmes adaptations. With a trailblazing story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the film follows Sherlock Holmes (Basil Rathbone) and Dr. Watson (Nigel Bruce) as they investigate what people believe is a horrifying hellhound. The first of the Basil Rathbone Sherlock Holmes movies, the eerie fog-drenched atmosphere, top-notch performances, and ***genuinely thrilling mystery make this the definitive killer dog movie.*** The movie was a success, spawning 13 more Sherlock Holmes movies over the next seven years." For more: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/entertainment/news/12-best-killer-dog-movies-ranked/ar-AA1knhG1?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=08b3363d6a7a4a258dca2bbf86cede7e4&ei=64> **Kudos to ACD, and Rathbone & Bruce!**



⇐ This Article concludes back on Page 7!





The Sound  
of the  
Baskervilles

By appointment  
of Her Majesty,  
Queen Victoria

## Ineffable Twaddle

The monthly publication of The Sound of the Baskervilles  
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980  
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA

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*The Sound of the Baskervilles*  
...is a scion society of the Baker Street  
Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound  
Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and  
has met monthly since March 31, 1980.

\$25 per year brings Members the monthly  
newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of  
Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the  
incalculable benefits of association with a  
group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each  
month. Location of the meetings may vary.  
Regularly scheduled additional events  
throughout the year include: "The Masters'  
Celebration" honoring the meeting of  
Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual  
Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes'  
loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr.  
John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and  
"The Will Crakes Memorial  
Jollification" (December). Other activities—  
book crawls, teas, plays and gaming  
events—are as announced.

To join, or to renew your membership,  
send your check for dues—\$25 for  
individuals, \$35 for families (U.S. funds  
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The Sound of the Baskervilles—to:  
SOB Treasurer • P.O. Box 7633 •  
Tacoma, WA 98417

## Our Always-Free Raffles Now Extend to Our "Out-of-Towners"!!

*Your SOB Board Members were thrilled to inaugurate another member benefit  
at our November 19, 2023 Zoom Meeting!*

As Vice President Kashena Konecki announced that day, we started our "Raffles on Zoom" effort, where we bring one of the best parts of our in-person meetings to our virtual meetings! This was an idea based on feed-back we solicited from you earlier this year, in our efforts to innovate and continue to provide value to you—our members.

**Some background:** In the olden days of our 43-year-old scion, members donated their already-read books and ephemera to the Club—to pass on to other members; most things ended up as prizes for quizzes and other contests. Cash donations were solicited when we had any special projects, like our anniversary logo mugs.

In 2006, SOB Margaret Nelson suggested opening things up to a raffle, wherein everyone got free tickets and a chance to win one or more of a dozen or so items offered at every meeting, gathering and event—much like a silent auction. So we stopped all fund-raising—through auctions mostly—at our events and added our "always fun, always free raffles" to all our social activities.

Our new "Raffles on Zoom" offer anyone who follows us on Zoom and who attends one of our bi-monthly Zoom Meetings—often populated by many of our out-of-town members—the chance to win free prizes...with free "raffle tickets" and free delivery of winners' items via U.S. Postal Service by free, Club-paid postage!!

We had 5 members participate in our first attempt last month. PFL David sent an email to all SOB's the week before the scheduled Zoom Meeting with a list of items being offered and offering the same number of (virtual) raffle tickets to everyone. Those choosing to participate sent to Treasurer Melinda their name and address and how they wanted their raffle tickets distributed; e.g. 3 for raffle item #1, 4 for item #5 and 3 for item #10, or any similar combination. At the close for the raffle, Melinda provided Haugens with a spreadsheet of all the respondents' choices. PFL David & Terri then laid out the items on Saturday before the meeting, distributing each person's requested number of "tickets" with each item. Playing "Vanna White," Terri then pulled the winning tickets on each item and compiled the list of winners—which were announced at the Zoom Meeting on Sunday and were shipped to winners on November 24!!

It was pretty simple and was an easy process on this end. One participant won 4 items, another won 3 items, and the other three folks received 1 item each!! We hope you'll all like this new member benefit and will look forward to participating!!!

*Our next "Raffle on Zoom" will start the week before the next Zoom Meeting on January 21, 2024!!*

