



The Sign of Four (Penguin Classics)

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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The Sign of Four (Penguin Classics) By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

As a dense yellow fog swirls through the streets of London, a deep melancholy has descended on Sherlock Holmes, who sits in a cocaine-induced haze at 221B Baker Street. His mood is only lifted by a visit from a beautiful but distressed young woman - Mary Morstan, whose father vanished ten years before. Four years later she began to receive an exquisite gift every year: a large, lustrous pearl. Now she has had an intriguing invitation to meet her unknown benefactor and urges Holmes and Watson to accompany her. And in the ensuing investigation - which involves a wronged woman, a stolen hoard of Indian treasure, a wooden-legged ruffian, a helpful dog and a love affair - even the jaded Holmes is moved to exclaim, 'Isn't it gorgeous!'

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Editorial Review

Review

Of all the Holmes stories it is *The Sign of Four* which remains persistently in my memory. --Graham Greene

Sherlock Holmes is the very foundation stone of the edifice that is crime fiction. --Times

[Holmes] is probably the only literary creation since the creations of Dickens which has really passed into the life and language of the people. --G. K. Chesterton

From the Publisher

"Barker adapts character voices adroitly, showing an especially uncanny ear for stuffed-shirt aristocrats."

From the Back Cover

It is in this, the second Holmes novel, that the great detective comes fully to life?not only as a melancholic and an inscrutable master of deduction, but also as an incurable drug addict. "Which is it today?" Watson asks Holmes matter-of-factly on the opening page of the novel, "morphine or cocaine?" "It is cocaine," Holmes famously replies. "A seven-per-cent solution. Would you like to try it?" Mary Morstan comes to Holmes in the hope that he will be able to solve a mystery. Ten years earlier her father, Captain Arthur Morstan, had returned to London on leave from his regiment in India where it is said that he and one Thadeus Sholto, "came into possession of a considerable treasure." By the time his daughter arrived at his hotel, he had vanished without a trace. The Sign of Four remains a small masterpiece of suspense, and the novel has enjoyed a steady readership ever since its first publication in 1890. In recent years, however, it has not been readily available except as a part of larger omnibus Holmes anthologies. This Broadview edition provides a reliable text at a very reasonable price. It contains textual notes but no appendices or introduction.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gary Cornejo:

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