

Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon: the Screenplay of the film

By Arthur Conan Doyle



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The Classic Movie starring Basil Rathnone and Nigel Bruce based on 'The Dancing Men' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle At the height of World War 2, Swiss inventor, Professor Tobel, has created a new device to make the dropping of bombs far more accurate. The side in possessing that invention would have a huge advantage in the conflict. Sherlock Holmes is tasked first with spiriting Tobel out of Switzerland from under the noses of the Gestapo, and then with protecting both the Professor and his invention when they reach London. However, waiting in London, with schemes of his own, is Holmes' greatest enemy, the dreaded Professor Moriarty... The screenplay of the classic 1942 movie which starred Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Doctor Watson, and the story for which was based upon Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's short story, 'The Dancing Men'.



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930) was born in Edinburgh. After nine years in Jesuit schools, he went to Edinburgh University, receiving a degree in medicine in 1881. He became an eye specialist in Southsea with a distressing lack of success. Hoping to augment his income, he wrote his first novel, *A Study in Scarlet*. His detective, Sherlock Holmes, was modeled in part after Dr. Joseph Bell of the Edinburgh Infirmary, a man with spectacular powers of observation, analysis, and inference. Conan Doyle may have been influenced also by his admiration for the neat plots of Gaboriau and for Poe's detective, M. Dupin. After several rejections, the story was sold to a British publisher for £25, and thus was born the world's best-known and most-loved fictional detective. Fifty-nine more Sherlock Holmes adventures followed. Once, wearying of Holmes, his creator killed him off, but was forced by popular demand to resurrect him. Sir Arthur—he had been knighted for his defense of the British cause in The Great Boer War—became an ardent Spiritualist after the death of his son Kingsley, who had been wounded at the Somme in World War I. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died in Sussex.

Anne Perry is the author of more than forty novels, including two Victorian mystery series featuring William Monk and Thomas and Charlotte Pitt. She lives in Scotland.

Regina Barreca, Professor of English and Feminist Theory at the University of Connecticut, is the editor of the influential journal *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory*.

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Daniel Johnson:

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