



# Sherlock Holmes: The Rediscovered Railway Mysteries and Other Stories

*John Taylor , Benedict Cumberbatch (Narrator)*

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**Sherlock Holmes: The Rediscovered Railway Mysteries and Other Stories** John Taylor , Benedict Cumberbatch (Narrator)

Inspired by Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock Holmes stories, John Taylor has written four more mysteries featuring the world's greatest detective. Read by acclaimed actor Benedict Cumberbatch, these new adventures share all the suspense of the original tales. In a drawer in his bureau, Dr. Watson keeps a locked cedar wood chest—a "box of secrets." It contains an archive of notes referring to some of Holmes' cases that, for one reason or another, never saw the light of day. Now, for the first time, Watson has decided to reveal the truth to the world. In these four thrilling stories, Holmes experiments with the science of ballistics, locates some missing gold bullion, investigates the theft of a large amount of money, and solves the baffling mystery of the Stovey murder. The stories are: "An Inscrutable Masquerade," "The Conundrum of Coach 13," "The Trinity Vicarage Larceny," and "The 10.59 Assassin."

2 CDs. 2 hrs.

## Sherlock Holmes: The Rediscovered Railway Mysteries and Other Stories Details

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Author : John Taylor , Benedict Cumberbatch (Narrator)

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## From Reader Review Sherlock Holmes: The Rediscovered Railway Mysteries and Other Stories for online ebook

### Cathleen says

Frankly, not that impressive. The stories are mediocre at best, and a few of the clues and deductions are much too close to ones in Doyle's original stories.

audiobook note: Yes, Cumberbatch offers strong and expressive readings, but the producers have relied too much on the good will with which his ardent fans will color their critiques. Since Holmes stories are always presented from the POV of Watson, it would have made more sense to cast Martin Freeman as the narrator, and I found myself bothered by the disconnect.

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### Amina says

Well, that wasn't really some Sherlock Holmes mysteries, in fact, I didn't feel the genius in it, I wasn't expecting it to be just like Sir Conan Doyle's S.H, but at least, just a little bit.  
The narrator's voice was really pleasant and did limit the damages :D

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### maria helena says

Book: 3 stars

Narrator: 5 stars

Review to come

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### Mackenzie says

I don't usually 'read' audio books and I wouldn't even start listening to this one if it weren't for the fact that Benedict Cumberbatch was reading it. The highlight of the entire work is, for me, Mr. Cumberbatch's excellent reading. I'm not even going to deny that I'm a fan of his sexy baritone, but what convinced me to stick through this whole audio book experience and not give up on it the way I did the other audio books was *HOW* Cumberbatch read it.

Proving what an excellent actor/reader he is, he gave nuances to the characters in the story. I could distinguish between his Holmes (who somehow reminds me of the personality of Robert Downey Jr's Holmes from Guy Ritchie's movies) and his Watson (who sounds entirely his own). Thanks to him, the other characters, clients and villains alike, sound like they had personalities.

The stories themselves are quite Conan Doyle-esque. They are what I call "official fanfiction". Sir Arthur is probably the "most adapted" male British author from his era (or from the entire history of English literature) and thankfully for him, many of the people adapting his works into various forms never really do a poor job. Likewise with this collection of stories by John Taylor, they are in Sir Arthur's style and there are only very

minor differences from the canon.

In other words, this audio book is perfect for when you're looking for more Holmesian entertainment outside the canon with a voice that could caress your ears.

*\* A more complete review of this audio book can be found on **Bookerie**.*

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## **Rain says**

Who said I only listened to this audiobook because of a certain Benedict Cumberbatch? Well, if you did, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. This is my first audiobook and the fact that I'm going to listen to Ben's voice for two hours earned this book a special place in my heart (and ears). I didn't want this book to end. HIS VOICE IS SO EXQUISITE I COULD LISTEN TO IT FOREVER. Anyway I should stop fangirling now.

Aside from being a Cumberperson, I am also a huge Sherlock Holmes fan. The stories were good but they were just a little too predictable. I was also craving for more thrill like I felt in the original Holmes stories but I scarcely felt anything (except two hours of euphoria because of Ben's golden voice). Despite these points, I liked the book still. It was nostalgic to hear more Holmes stories and my heart inflated to hear them from B's mouth.

This was a great first audiobook for me. I'm off now hunting for more Benedict-narrated audiobooks. By the way, what is your favorite audiobook? Have you read other audiobooks read by B? Let me know ?

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## **Sandra (LadyGrey Reads) says**

I'm in a *Sherlock Holmes* mood at the moment, partially due to the book I'm reading about the character's evolution and partially due to the NYE special. So when this popped up as a suggestion on my audiobook app I had to listen to it.

It's a very short book - much like Conan Doyle's tales about this great detective - but the four stories included in this audiobook were not all as good as the original. Entertaining, yes, but most of the time the deductions were easy for the listener to make themselves. Benedict Cumberbatch reading the stories was, however, a big plus and a major cause for me rating this book at four stars.

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## **Gunne says**

I'm not a fan of audio books, because I truly love reading at my own pace, and you can't do that when someone is reading to you. I'm a control freak like that, and I love being able to turn pages back and forth, particularly when I've missed something or am in awe or something. This is the first audio book I've ever listened to, and only because it contains the voice of one very [insert every possible variant of 'remarkable' or 'amazing' available to the English language] Benedict Cumberbatch. Yes, I've been Sherlocked, Cumberbatched, what have you. But the voice - I'm a mere mortal and like everyone else, am unable to resist the one with a voice like a jaguar hiding in a cello.

That said, I have no freaking idea why he sounds so ancient in this. It's like a super power - him adding years to his voice. And I giggle every time he changes it to fit characters.

Sorry for such a fangirl review in which I mentioned nothing about the content but the delivery (this is my first audio book, after all!), but Sherlock reading Sherlock? Sold.

*(If you have no idea what the hell I am going on about, Cumberbatch plays Sherlock in the BBC Sherlock series. And it is brilliant.)*

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## **Sr3yas says**

### **2.5 Stars**

After my past encounters with some disappointing pieces of Sherlock Holmes pastiches, I started running away from them like I avoid calls of notorious telemarketers. But as always, there are times when I let myself get stupidly wooed by irresistible offers, and this was one of them. I mean, who can resist Benedict Cumberlord?

**Here was the offer:** My generation's embodiment of Sherlock Holmes (*sorry, Robert Downy .Jr*) reading Sherlock Holmes stories! This must be what readers who grew up watching Basil Rathbone's version felt when literary world produced Sherlock Holmes audiobook read by him!

Alas, my excitement was beaten down by the set of average Holmes pastiches written by John Taylor. It's a shame actually, like getting a great cast together and messing up the script.

Four stories are presented in this audiobook, and we find ourself among murderers, victims, robbers and of course, trains.

But none of the stories stand out or leave a mark on the reader, and that is indeed a tragedy. There are no memorable characters, and there are no unbreakable riddles. And without them, we are left with Benedict Cumberbatch's smooth voice and thankfully, that makes everything bearable.

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## **Jenn says**

I listened to the audiobook. I admit it: I was only interested in it because it's narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch (mmm...Benedict Cumberbatch). I think everyone who's listened to this listened to it precisely because it was read by Benedict Cumberbatch (mmm...Benedict Cumberbatch). People can't be listening to it for the stories. The stories are not up to snuff. Sherlock is not as brilliant as Doyle's original, the dialog is trite, and the mysteries themselves are not all that, well, mysterious. The redeeming quality of being narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch (mmm...Benedict Cumberbatch) is also somewhat diminished in that most of the time, he's not using his real voice or accent. However, he is a phenomenal actor and that shows through in

his narration. So do like the rest of us have done, and listen to it solely for Benedict Cumberbatch (mmm...Benedict Cumberbatch).

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### **madamescozycorner says**

Four Sherlock Holmes stories narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch? YES PLEASE!

This little audiobook is perfect if you have to do little chores and don't want the time to be spent just with those boring tasks! Benedict Cumberbatch has an amazing narrating voice to listen to and I fairly enjoyed it. (Plus, imagining him and Martin Freeman as Sherlock and Watson while listening is a big PLUS! ;-P

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### **Shayantani Das says**

I am not going to pretend that I read err.. listened to this audio book for any reason other than, well him

*sigh* **But**, this book did surprise me as it was fairly decent. Of course it was nothing like the original, yet the mysteries sometimes managed to draw my attention away from Cumberbatch's voice. Now that is an achievement because he is such a brilliant actor. I am not that keen about audio books but with him as the narrator...*\*sigh\**..you get the point.

Sherlock fans, check it out!

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### **TL says**

*'An Inscrutable Masquerade'* - 3 stars

*'The Conundrum of Coach 13'* - 2.5 stars

*'The Trinity Vicarage Larceny'* - 2 stars

*'The 10.59 Assassin'* - 3 stars

Narration: 5 Stars.. Benedict Cumberbatch is pretty good as a narrator for this. He voices everyone wonderfully and I didn't have trouble falling into the stories. I was wondering if I'd be distracted by his voice but that wasn't the case. Like Alan Cumming narrating *Specimen Days* , it was just an added bonus:).

*\*points to ratings\** As for the stories themselves, two were pretty good but the others were just "okay." Not bad, just "meh." Nothing special *\*shrugs\**

My favorite was the last one, especially the ending. :)

Would recommend the audiobook, a quick read at just over 2 hours.. something good for a rainy day perhaps:)

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## A Meneses says

More like 2.5: The mysteries were Ok, sometimes a little boring. But Cumberbatch narration was, as expected, fabulous. I really hope someone pays him to read the original Sherlock.

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## Pam McBride says

John Taylor is enormously fortunate to have Benedict Cumberbatch read these stories, as are we. The stories themselves range from pretty good---especially the first--to pretty lame (the third), but Cumberbatch's narration is masterful. Taylor has done a very good job of capturing the personalities of the original Dr. Watson and Holmes (perhaps occasionally imbuing Holmes with a little more warmth and social ease than Conan Doyle did) and Cumberbatch renders their voices and personalities flawlessly. Every character is distinct and believable, and Cumberbatch's voice as Holmes is an indulgence in and of itself. I went in fully warned that the stories wouldn't blow me away, and while that's true I think they were more competent and believable as part of a lost canon than many other similar attempts. I bought the audio book because I wanted to listen to something enjoyable, and I got it.

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## Lynne says

I was so excited to find that Benedict Cumberbatch had done the reading for an audio-book version of Sherlock Holmes. However, I was a little sad to realize that it is not one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels, but instead a new author who was attempting to write as the characters. I went and found a copy of this and started listening. I was cautiously optimistic. Honestly, how bad could it be, I thought!

There are four separate mysteries that are supposedly rediscovered by Dr. John Watson in one of his old trunks, and being inspired he has decided to share them with us now. The four stories are titled; An Inscrutable Masquerade, The Trinity Vicarage, The Conundrum of Coach 13 Larceny, and The 10:59 Assassin. All the stories appear to be set before Watson gets married and moves out of 221 B Baker Street.

The Inscrutable Masquerade is a case where Sherlock is trying to help the police gather enough evidence to convict a man they know committed murder. The police have had to release the convict, and now Sherlock is running top secret experiments to gain the evidence they need. In order to protect him, Holmes asks Watson to stay inside 221 B Baker Street, and not open the door or go out, but surly there can be no bad consequences of Watson letting an old friend in?

The Trinity Vicarage is a more straight forward mystery. A bishop, who has meet Holmes before, arrives in London to request help with a very strange robbery. The local vicar had been keeping some cash, after finding and selling an old relic, in the crypt of the church. A strange figure in a hat has broken in and taken the money, and in the process left whitewash footprints across a field as the vicar chased him off. It is now up to Holmes to figure out who stole the money and how they disappeared.

The Conundrum of Coach 13 Larceny starts with a flustered American business man arriving to employ Holmes (who has been grumpy from a lack of cases). The American had been paid to provide 5 million in

gold bullion to the British government. With very careful planning he had it loaded on a train, the boxes could only go in through the door (not out a window), the doors locked from the outside, and a guard was on duty. But, when the train arrives in London, there is no gold, and only a guard that fell asleep. Can Holmes solve the case and find the 5 million?

In The 10:59 Assassin the story of Holmes being asked to help a pub owner who helped put a man in prison. The pub owner's son has been accused of murdering the son of the man the pub owner helped convict. At the time of the murder the pub owner's son was on a train to buy a suit for his wedding, but that doesn't keep the local police from locking him up. Can Holmes prove the soon to be groom is innocent, or is the pub owner's faith in his son misplaced.

I have very mixed feelings about the audiobook. I found that when looking at the original Doyle stories of Holmes there was no comparison. These mysteries were too easy. The first two I solved easily and the last two, I pretty much had the answer, and defiantly had the person who committed the crime. However, that being said, it was nice to see a bit more of Holmes and Watson in the Victorian era.

If it had not been Cumberbatch reading it to me I might not have made it past the first mystery. I found that the first one was the weakest story of the four. It was obvious what had happened and worse yet was that Watson (a medically trained doctor) was completely clueless. I really dislike a trope that some people use in Sherlock Holmes stories of a stupid Watson. Instead Watson should be a very intelligent man, who is still completely overshadowed Holmes. I can't really say if Watson is less dense in the later stories as he plays a much smaller part in these stories than he does in the first.

As far as Cumberbatch's voice, I think he is really able to bring Holmes alive for me. Not only that, but he does a very good job doing all the different voices, making it easy to tell who is speaking. This is no easy feat, and I have listened to some people that cannot do this. One of my favorite bits of the audio-book was listening to Cumberbatch attempt an American accent. While it is good at first, it slips a bit as the story progresses, and actually I loved this. It helps me understand what Americans who attempt a "British" accent sound like to a British person.

To be honest, I probably would listen to Cumberbatch read a phonebook (although I really recommend him reading poetry), so having it be a Sherlock Holmes mystery, no matter the caliber, is a treat. The stories are enjoyable, if you can get past the first one. For a morning commute, it is not a bad way to pass the time.

Final Verdict: Too easy for hardcore Sherlock Holmes fans, but in the end, a good way to spend the morning commute.

Review originally posted at: [http://francesandlynne.wordpress.com/...](http://francesandlynne.wordpress.com/)

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