



The Valley of Fear by Arthur Conan Doyle

Total running time: 06:28:18

The Valley of Fear is the fourth novel Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about private detective Sherlock Holmes. First published serially in *The Strand Magazine* between September 1914 and May 1915, this novel was published as a book three months before its serialization was complete. Doyle went on to write more Sherlock Holmes stories, but *The Valley of Fear* was his last novel about the character. In writing *The Valley of Fear*, Doyle used a similar structure to that of his first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study in Scarlet*. Inspiration for *The Valley of Fear* came from the life of real-world private detective James McParland and his investigation of the Molly Maguires, an Irish secret society. Further inspiration came from Groombridge Place, a moated manor house in England on which the novel's Birlstone Manor is closely based. This novel has sometimes attracted controversy due to its negative depiction of trade unions.

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