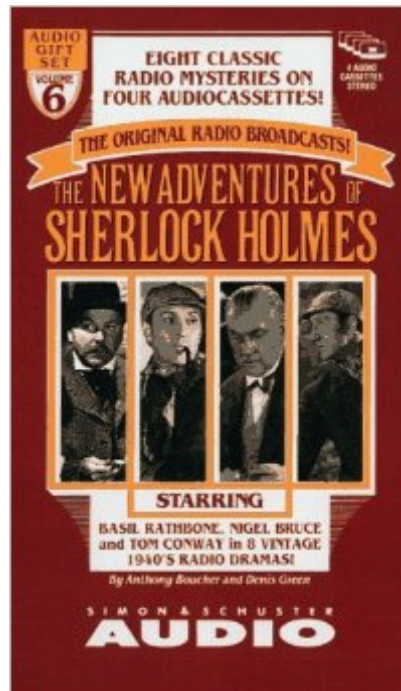


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# The NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES GIFT SET VOLUME 6



## Synopsis

Welcome to the golden age of radio and the best in classic mystery... From 1939 to 1946 Americans gathered around their radio to listen to "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"-- featuring Basil Rathbone as the high strung crime-solver and Nigel Bruce as his phlegmatic assistant. Witty, fast-paced, and always surprising, these great radio plays, written by the prolific writing team of Anthony Boucher and Denis Green, are as fresh today as they were then, and feature perfect sound along with nostalgic war-time announcements, original narrations and radio commercials. This special collector's edition includes: Tape One: The Great Gandolfo and The Adventure of the Original Hamlet Tape Two: Murder By Moonlight and The Singular Affair of the Coptic Compass Tape Three: The Gunpowder Plot and The Babbling Butler Tape Four: The Accidental Murderess and The Adventure Of The Blarney Stone

## Book Information

Series: Sherlock Holmes (Book 6)

Audio Cassette

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0671537032

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Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 4.4 x 1.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,595,170 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÂ Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Radio > Books on Cassette #1916 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Radio >

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## Customer Reviews

If you are a fan of the classic Sherlock Holmes film series starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, we heartily recommend this wonderful collection of vintage radio plays from the same World War II era as the films. Lovingly restored, this series of relatively obscure adventures of Sherlock Holmes are brought to vibrant life by Rathbone and Bruce who give sterling performances that seem second nature to them. Listening to this CD is like stepping back in time -- you can practically imagine that you are living in the 1940's sitting by a cozy fireplace one cold evening with the radio on enjoying the great detective's latest adventure for the first time. An added bonus is included: vintage radio

commercials evidently included on the original tapes. Also, if you like this product, keep an eye out for the excellent hardcover book called "The Lost Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," by Ken Greenwald, which adapts Anthony Boucher's same radio scripts from this CD into a short story format complete with illustrations based on Rathbone and Bruce. A welcome treat for fans of Sherlock Holmes and for all those who enjoy classic radio programs or may wish to experience one for the first time (as we did).

having been born 30 years after the recording of these great radio classics, i feel like I was there during the original broadcasts. Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce are superb in their roles as Holmes and Watson. A must have for any Sherlock Holmes fan.

Nigel Bruce's Watson is a loveable bumbler--quite a contrast to Conan Doyle's capable but unimaginative Watson. The stories tend to be somewhat contrived and suffer in comparison to the BBC productions of original Doyle stories in which Clive Morrison starred as Holmes. The organ music gets monotonous, and if I weren't already a teetotaler, the wine commercials would make me take the temperance pledge. Despite all that, the productions are wonderfully entertaining. Basil Rathbone's Holmes exceeds Clive Morrison's overacted Holmes as the day exceeds the night. The chemistry between Bruce and Rathbone is perfect, and the simple stories move swiftly to their satisfying (if somewhat obvious) conclusions. Although Holmes purists tend to hate Nigel Bruce's Watson, I found him to be irresistibly likeable. I'd want Doyle's Watson guarding my back in a tight spot, but I'd rather sit by the fireplace and swap stories with Bruce's Watson. I particularly liked the host's introductory visits with Watson in which Watson sets the stage for the mysteries.

When I learned Simon and Schuster was re-releasing this set on CD, I hoped they addressed the problems with the cassette versions released in the late '80s. They didn't. Oddly, the episodes on the first three discs have some of the original commercials and/or portions of the announcer's closing banter with Watson edited out, bringing the run time to about 25 minutes instead of the full half-hour. To serious collectors of old-time radio, this is unacceptable, especially when the packaging in effect states the programs are presented as they were originally broadcast. The rest of the episodes are intact. No idea what possessed S & S to do this, but here we are. Secondly, depending on the episode, the audio restoration is a bit heavy-handed. Too much noise reduction and processing has resulted in some words and bits of dialogue sounding clipped or chopped off. The shows should have been re-mastered for the CD release. These may be picayune issues to

most people, but to others like me, they're not.

Unedited Radio Broadcasts from the late 30's and 40's with Rathbone and Bruce at their best. Originally released on Cassette many years ago but now for the first time on CD. Highly recommended.

I can only add my enthusiastic approval to that of the previous reviewers -- here is a happier world of mystery, mood, and the magic of radio, where two fine actors bring the beloved Holmes & Watson to glorious life. The period commercials are a delightful bonus, as is the ever-present organ music. The stories themselves are superb examples of pastiche, written with a deep knowledge & understanding of the characters. But in the end, it's those wonderful actors, Basil Rathbone & Nigel Bruce, who bring the listener back time & time again. Was there ever a Holmes as precise & eloquently spoken as Rathbone's? And while Watson was actually a stronger figure in the Doyle originals, who can resist the warm, avuncular version of Nigel Bruce, all "Harrumph!" with a jolly twinkle in his befuddled eye? So sit back, relax with your glass of Petri wine, and let these long-ago voices return you to a golden age. You'll want to get every collection in this series -- most highly recommended!

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