SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES



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I shall now reveal the truth of the legend behind the hound of the Baskervilles … No Baskerville should ever cross the moor at night.

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On sale: June 2021 - ISBN: 9781782264361 - RRP: £6.99

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Published by Sweet Cherry Publishing Limited
Unit 36, Vulcan House,
Vulcan Road,
Leicester, LE5 3EF
United Kingdom

First published in the UK in 2021
2021 edition

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

ISBN: 978-1-78226-436-1

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Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles

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adapted by Stephanie Baudet.
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Cover design by Arianna Bellucci and Amy Booth
Illustrations by Arianna Bellucci

Lexile® code numerical measure L = Lexile® 610L

Guided Reading Level = W

www.sweetcherrypublishing.com

Printed and bound in China
C.WM004

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THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Sweet Cherry



Chapter One

The morning this strange case started was just like any other. Holmes was sitting at the table, eating his breakfast and mulling over the headlines of *The Times*. I joined him and poured myself some coffee.

He had just taken a bite of toast when he stopped and looked towards the window. 'I do believe a hansom cab has stopped outside, Watson.

Hansom cab

A quick and relatively cheap mode of public transport, just right for two people. It can take corners fast without tipping over, despite having only two wheels. The driver sits outside at the back of the carriage, so that passengers are able to have a private conversation. Another choice is the Clarence cab. These have four wheels and are called 'growlers' because of the noise they make over cobbles. They are useful for groups of more than two, or if taking luggage.

I wonder if we have a visitor.' He sprang to his feet and went to the window. 'Ha! We do indeed!'

A moment later I heard the doorbell ring and our housekeeper,

Mrs Hudson, answer it.

The man who entered was tall and thin. He had a long nose, like a beak, and eyes that sparkled brightly from behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses.

‘Mr Sherlock Holmes?’ he said, holding out his hand.

‘Indeed. And this is my friend, Doctor Watson. How can we help you?’ asked Holmes.

‘My name is Doctor Mortimer and I am here because I have a very strange



problem. I have heard that you are the best person to consult.'

'Please, tell me the details.'

'I have an old manuscript,' said Doctor Mortimer.

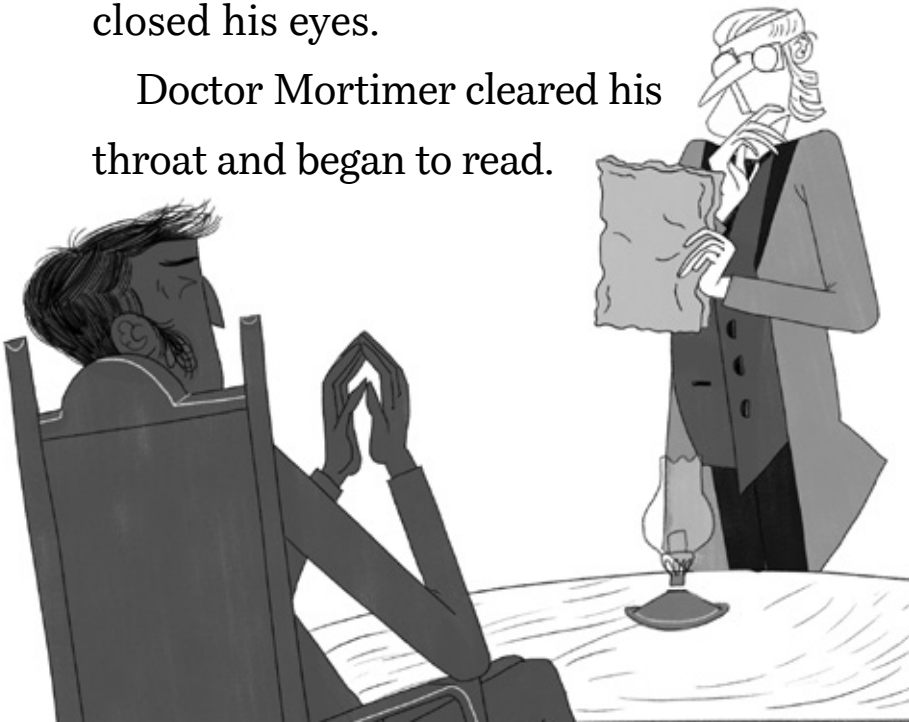
'I saw it as soon as you came into the room,' said Holmes. 'Dating from about 1730 unless it's fake.'

'The exact date is 1742,' said Doctor Mortimer, impressed. 'It's a family paper that Sir Charles Baskerville gave me to keep safe. He died a few months ago, at his home in Devon. I was his friend as well as his doctor.

‘The paper tells of a legend that runs in the Baskerville family,’ the doctor continued. ‘I am sure that it is connected to the strange problem I have come to speak to you about. Let me read it to you.’

Holmes leaned back in his chair, put his fingertips together and closed his eyes.

Doctor Mortimer cleared his throat and began to read.



I, a descendant of the Baskerville family, shall now reveal the truth of the legend behind the Hound of the Baskervilles.

My ancestor, Sir Hugo Baskerville, was a cruel and evil man. He fell in love with the daughter of a local farmer, but she did not love him back. So Sir Hugo went to the farm and kidnapped the girl.

He brought her to Baskerville Hall and locked her in an upstairs room. She escaped by climbing down the ivy that covers the south wall.

When Sir Hugo learned that she had run away, he was angry. He swore that he would give his soul to the devil if he could just catch her.

He saddled his horse, let his hunting dogs out and gave them the girl's scent from her handkerchief. Then he galloped off across the moor.

Sir Hugo's servants followed him. They saw a shepherd who said that he'd seen the girl, followed by the dogs and Sir Hugo and something terrifying he could not describe.

When the men found Sir Hugo's dogs they were whimpering at the edge of a dip in the moor. Below lay the bodies of the girl and Sir Hugo – but worst of all was the great black beast that stood over them. It looked like a gigantic hound!

The servants ran for their lives. The legend of the hound has haunted the Baskerville family ever since.

No Baskerville should ever cross the moor at night.

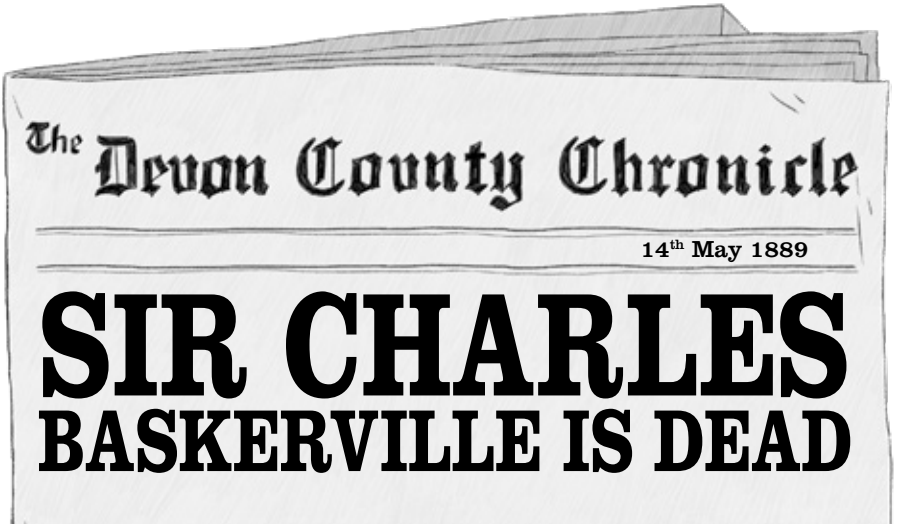
Holmes yawned.

'Don't you find it interesting?' asked Doctor Mortimer.

'I'm not really one for fairy tales,' said Holmes.

Doctor Mortimer took a folded newspaper from his pocket. 'This is no fairy tale, Mr Holmes. Here, see this.'

Holmes took the paper and showed it to me.


The Devon County Chronicle

14th May 1889

SIR CHARLES BASKERVILLE IS DEAD

End of FREE extract!

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Sherlock Holmes

World-renowned private detective Sherlock Holmes has solved hundreds of mysteries, and is the author of such fascinating monographs as *Early English Charters* and *The Influence of a Trade Upon the Form of a Hand*. He keeps bees in his free time.

Dr John Watson

Wounded in action at Maiwand, Dr John Watson left the army and moved into 221B Baker Street. There he was surprised to learn that his new friend, Sherlock Holmes, faced daily peril solving crimes, and began documenting his investigations. Dr Watson also runs a doctor's practice.



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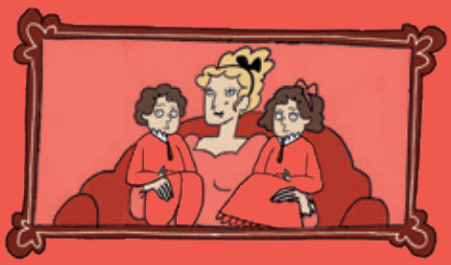


I, Sir Charles Baskerville, shall now reveal the truth of the LEGEND behind the hound of the Baskervilles ...

No Baskerville should ever cross the moor at NIGHT.

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R.R.P. £6.99 UK
ISBN 978-1-78226-436-1
9 781782 264361
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