

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the novel *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle to the movie version *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1959) starring Peter Cushing, Andre Morell, Christopher, and Marla Landi. A Hammer Film Production.



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SAMPLE THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Arthur Conan Doyle

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) starring Peter Cushing, Andre Morell, Christopher, and Marla Landi. A Hammer Film Production. The movie leaves out several important characters and changes the plot in parts, but the basic story holds up. The film is shot on location in England and is in color. There are older black and white movie versions, but the British DVDs do not play on U.S. or Canadian equipment.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ **Characters:** ★★☆☆☆ **Setting:** ★★☆☆☆

Structure: ★★☆☆☆ **Symbols:** ★★☆☆☆ **Theme:** ★★☆☆☆

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

The walking stick, yew alley, cigar ashes, moor gate, hansom cab, taxi driver, new boot, warning message, test telegrams, soldiers on the moor, butterfly net, prehistoric ruins, ponies in the mire, Merripit House, Black Tor, burned letter, the fog, Sir Henry's proposal to Beryl Stapleton, Stapleton's proposal to Laura Lyons, Frankland as eccentric father of Laura, Stapleton as a naturalist, Cartwright, Lastrade, John Clayton, and Anthony.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

The tarantula, dagger, abbey ruins, church sale, webbed hands, hunting trap, stolen portrait, mine collapse, Cecile, the Bishop, Sir Henry's heart condition, Sir Henry's home in South Africa.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

The Baskerville legend, moors, hound, Grimpen Mire, tin mine, old boot, convict, and the portrait of Sir Hugo.

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1

This chapter is omitted from the movie.

Sherlock Holmes is having breakfast. Dr. Watson is examining a walking stick a guest left behind who called while no one was home. The inscription on a silver band on the walking stick says, "To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S. from his friends of the C.C.H. 1884." Watson thinks the walking stick belongs to an elderly doctor who is a member of the C.C.H. club. Holmes disagrees. From the worn bottom of the stick, Holmes deduces it belongs to a country doctor who once worked at Charing Cross Hospital. Judging from the teeth marks on the stick, Holmes thinks Dr. Mortimer owns a spaniel. Watson looks up Dr. Mortimer in a medical directory. He finds out Dr. Mortimer was a surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital for two years.

Holmes looks out the window and sees Dr. Mortimer on his doorstep with his dog. Dr. Mortimer tells Holmes and Watson the walking stick was a wedding gift from two friends. He says he left the London hospital when he got married to make a home of his own.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 2

Dr. Mortimer visits Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson at Holmes's Baker Street residence. (*ACCURATE*) Dr. Mortimer reads aloud the story of a Baskerville family legend. (*ACCURATE*)

Sir Hugo Baskerville was a cruel man. (*ACCURATE*) Sir Hugo kidnapped a young maiden and locked her in a room in Baskerville Hall. (*ACCURATE*) The maiden overheard Sir Hugo torturing her father, one of Baskerville's servants. (*ERROR: Not in the book*) The maiden escaped by climbing down the ivy covered wall of Baskerville Hall. (*ACCURATE*) She began run across the moor. (*ACCURATE*, but in the book she walks across the moor headed for her father's farm) When Hugo discovered the maiden gone, he pledged "his body and soul to the Powers of evil" if he could re-capture her. (*ACCURATE*) Hugo let his hounds sniff the maiden's handkerchief and he rode across the moor with his hounds in pursuit of the maiden. (*ACCURATE*)

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