Sherlock Holmes: The Ultimate Collection (Illustrated)

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Spending so much of my day plugged into the internet, peering at my iPhone, staring at Excel spreadsheets, it has been an absolute pleasure reading The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (on my Kindle, I must admit). I am reminded, in adventure after adventure, that there is no substitute for a sharp mind and astute observation. As I watch the master investigator calmly solve the most "singular" of mysteries through the eyes of Dr. James Watson, I almost want to myself be transported back to 19th century London. If you haven't read any of Conan Doyle’s stories, they are worth perusing. I only read a dozen of Holmes’ adventures. But in those stories, I grew intimately close with both the detective and his trusty sidekick and doctor-cum-biographer, Watson. I came to admire Holmes’ heroic stoicism, encyclopedic memory, and sharp wit. Each of the adventures follows a somewhat similar plot structure. The adventure opens with a shot into Watson's or Holmes’ personal life. You might hear briefly about Watson’s life as a doctor, or get a glimpse of Holmes’ tobacco, alcohol, or cocaine habits (yes, the rumors are true--Holmes does cocaine). At some point, Watson ends up at Holmes’ pad on Baker Street. Both men are then found lounging, Holmes in his "dressing gown," both men likely smoking, drinking, and enjoying a fine meal, usually arms’ length from a cozy fire. Watson, the narrator, will then tell us how, in all of his time with Holmes, the case he is about to elucidate is the most "singular" one yet. Then one of them will see or hear someone approaching their home base; inevitably, the bell will ring and in will enter yet another all-but-hopeless client.
Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Novels and Stories The Encyclopaedia Sherlockiana; or, A Universal Dictionary of the State of Knowledge of Sherlock Holmes and His Biographer, John H. Watson, M.D.