



# Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong: Reopening the Case of The Hound of the Baskervilles

By Pierre Bayard

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In his brilliant reinvestigation of the classic case of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Pierre Bayard uses the last thoughts of the murder victim as his key to unravel the mystery, leading the reader to the astonishing conclusion that Holmes-and, in fact, Arthur Conan Doyle-got things all wrong. Part intellectual entertainment, part love letter to crime novels, and part crime novel in itself, *Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong* turns one of our most beloved stories delightfully on its head.

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*By Pierre Bayard*

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- Sales Rank: #1685728 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-09-01
- Released on: 2010-09-01
- Format: Kindle eBook



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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

French literature professor and psychoanalyst Bayard (*How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read*) returns to the close reading and iconoclastic analysis of classic detective fiction he did in *Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?* with this audacious revisionist view of one of the best-known mysteries of all time. As always, Bayard playfully counters the ways literary academics read with the way real people read as he explains his theory of detective criticism. Arguing that Sherlock Holmes often drew false conclusions, Bayard picks apart the apparently airtight case Holmes assembled in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and offers an alternative solution. He goes a step further than with the Agatha Christie whodunit by suggesting that Holmes erred in his identification not only of the murderer but of the murder victim. Readers may be more impressed with Bayard's cleverness than his tongue-in-cheek arguments, but his logic will lead many to hope that his opinion on who really killed Hamlet's father (in *Enquête sur Hamlet*) will be translated into English as well. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

"With wit and careful analysis, Bayard makes a convincing case." ---Los Angeles Times

About the Author

**Pierre Bayard** is a professor of French literature at the University of Paris VIII and a psychoanalyst. He is the author of *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read*, *Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?*, and many other books.

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