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The Valley of Fear

Arthur Conan Doyle · *1915 · original English text*

I am inclined to think— said I. I should do so, Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently. The Valley of Fear is the last of the four Holmes novels, complete in two parts and an epilogue, and it begins in a small impatience at Baker Street.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What is a warning worth when a friend is inclined only to think, and how should a last Holmes novel be read when its second part is another life in another valley?

"“I am inclined to think—” said I.”

Part I, Chapter I, The Warning, the opening

The hosted text is The Valley of Fear (1914–15, PG #3289), complete in two parts—The Tragedy of Birlstone and The Scowrers—plus an epilogue. The opening is exact, including the em dash (printed “I am inclined to think—”). Map the whole book; the second part is not an extra. Do not name the solutions, and do not spend the second part’s last identifications in the map’s voice (even though a contents heading may name a trapping). For a wide older band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

Dr. Watson
The friend who is inclined to think, and who tells both parts.

Sherlock Holmes
The impatient partner of the opening, and the mind of the Birlstone case.

the household at Birlstone
The company of the first part; do not name the solution here.

the people of the valley
The company of The Scowrers; do not spend the last identifications here.

INCLINED TO THINK

> *“I am inclined to think—” said I.”*
>
> Part I, Chapter I

Grades 8–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Inclined to Think

PART I, CHAPTER I, THE OPENING

I am inclined to think— said I. I should do so, Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently. The last Holmes novel begins in a small irritation, and in a warning already on the table.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including the dash after ‘think.’
- This is the fourth Holmes novel, not a short adventure from the collections.
- Do not name the solutions on the map.

> *“I am inclined to think—” said I.”*
>
> Part I, Chapter I

02

The Tragedy of Birlstone

PART I

A country house, a death, and a demonstration occupy the first part. Keep the warning and the house distinct from the later valley.

- Part I is complete in seven chapters in this file.
- Do not name the solution of Birlstone on the map.
- A wide older band can read this with help.

03

The Scowrers

PART II, AND THE EPILOGUE

The second part is another life in a valley of fear, with an epilogue after it. It belongs to this novel. Do not spend the last identifications in the map’s voice.

- The hosted file is complete through Part II and the epilogue.
- A contents heading may name a trapping; still do not spend that revelation in the map’s voice.
- Teach the lodge violence with gravity, not as spectacle.

04

The Last of the Four Novels

THE HOSTED FILE

PG #3289 and the site EPUB are this complete novel. Quote stretches that appear in both. The short-story collections, and the earlier novels, are other books on this site.

- Complete in two parts and an epilogue.
- For a wide older band.
- Do not name the solutions on the map.

A Warning | A Country House | Two Parts, One Novel | A Valley of Fear | Friendship under Irritation

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 8–12

1. The hosted text is The Valley of Fear (1914–15, Project Gutenberg #3289), complete in two parts—The Tragedy of Birlstone and The Scowrers—plus an epilogue. The opening is exact: “I am inclined to think—” said I.
2. Map the whole book; the second part is not an extra. Do not name the solutions, and do not spend the second part’s last identifications in the map’s voice (even though a contents heading may name a trapping). Teach the lodge violence with gravity, not as spectacle. For a wide older band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB. This is the last of the four Holmes novels; the short-story collections are other books on this site.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #3289, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-valley-of-fear/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.