

Mr Holmes – Review

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous, **beloved sleuth** Sherlock Holmes is one who needs no introduction. Since his inception and first **appearance** in 1887's *A Study in Scarlet* to the BBC's **current**, enormously popular adaptation starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, to the countless authors putting their own spin on the detective (Neil Gaiman's Lovecraft-ian short story *A Study in Emerald* is particularly delightful), he has captured the world's imagination with **aplomb**.

Bill Condon - of pictures as different as *Gods and Monsters* (1998) to *Dreamgirls* (2006) and even the final two films that make up the *Twilight* saga (2011-12) - here presents us with a take on Mitch Cullin's 2005 novel *A Slight Trick of the Mind*, in which an ageing Holmes battles against **fading** memory and **loss of sharpness**. As with *Gods and Monsters*, Ian McKellen stars, and, as you would expect, his portrayal of Holmes is a **deft** and **skilful** one.



The story finds him long-**retired** and living in a Sussex **farmhouse** with his housekeeper (Laura Linner) and her young son (Milo Parker), having just returned from a trip to Japan equipped with jelly from the prickly **ash** plant which he believes will aid his foggy memory. Holmes is **haunted** by the last case he ever conducted, some 30 years previously - one in which he made an uncharacteristic **mistake** - and one which was also fictionalised by his ex-partner, Dr. John Watson.

His **resolve** to write his own **account** of the case leads to a narrative that **leaps** across time and continents with **wit** and confidence, beautifully shot by director of photography Tobias Schlessler, and one which, countless adaptations later, finds something new to say about one of literature's most **enduring**, iconic figures.