

March 2024



"It's your New York!"

# *The Rondout Reader*

## MYSTERY OF THE MOHONK MONSTER



(FILMED ON LOCATION IN TECHNICOLOR & IN BLACK AND WHITE)



# MOHONK CONSULTATIONS

## Presents



**Featuring a panel of world renown  
psychics & cryptozoologists**

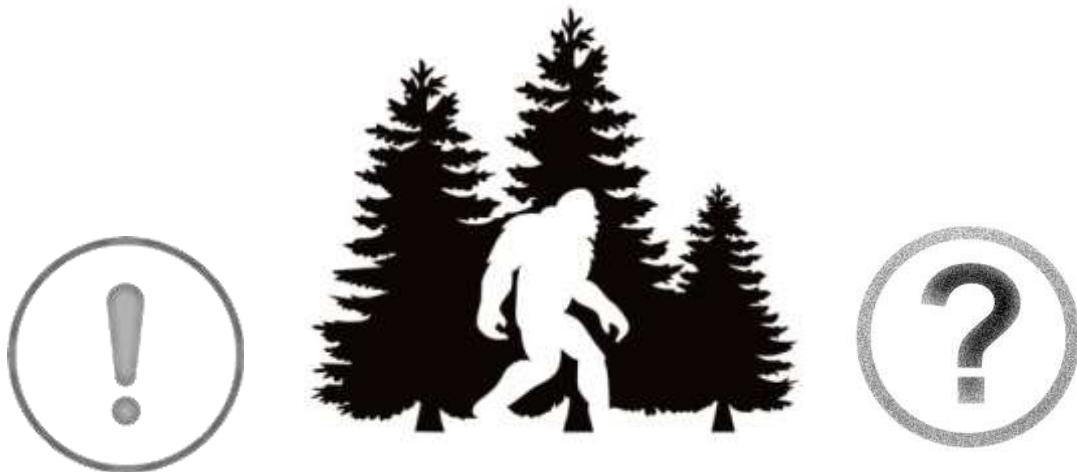
**With Exclusive Guests...**



# Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson

Characters created by  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

&



*For Erica*





  
**Mohonk**  
Mountain House  
**MONSTER**



**The Movie UNIVERSAL Studios Never Made**  
(With an All-Sherlock cast)

*Written, Produced, & Directed* by Kevin Ahearn

# JULY 1946



## FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

*Amazing how some of our most baffling cases begin. Our last adventure had us chasing porcelain busts of Napoleon in pursuit of stolen Bank of England plates, and brought Colonel Cavanaugh and his murderous gang to the gallows!*

*Little did I know, that events in a New York wood would soon launch Holmes and I on an international quest that would shake the world, or at least, a small corner of it!*

*A sweet summer morning and the hikers were out in force soaking in the joys of nature...*



*When suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere...*



*And nature wasn't that wonderful anymore!*



*It took all of two days for the news to  
reach 221B Baker Street...*



*"Great Scott, Holmes! There's a creature  
in the Catskills!"*

# THE TIMES

## New York "MONSTER"?





*“Watson, old friend, New Yorkers, full of Broadway bravado and tabloid news, can’t help but create their own ‘monsters’!”*



*“Mr. Holmes, Dr. Watson, there’s someone here to see you.”*

***The moment he appeared, ready to lock and load, like  
my old Afghan regiment, the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers.  
I knew we were on our way to who knows where!***



*“Mr Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson. Princess Elizabeth requests your immediate presence!”*



*“Gentlemen, I’ll be cooking you a fine dinner!”*

*“Better not, Mrs. Hudson. We might not be back for a while.”*



*“Gentlemen, the PRINCESS!”*



*Through London to the Palace with  
every speed limit broken!*



*“Complete with  
police escort!”*

*“The princess must  
be in trouble!”*

*“Or we are!”*

*After too much further ado...*



*“Gentlemen, so good of you to come.  
I’ve got an American mystery  
for you!”*



**FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD**  
***By Jove! Will we soon have a bison by the tail?  
 Or could this Royal summons be about....???***



*"We English are a proud and an imaginative people, holding our myths and legends dear!"*



*"As we should, Your Majesty!  
 The heroic tales of our ancestors  
 have given us courage in the  
 bleakest of times."*



*"America, once our rebellious child, has legends of their own, but as of late, more and more of them have begun to believe that one of their myths is real!"*

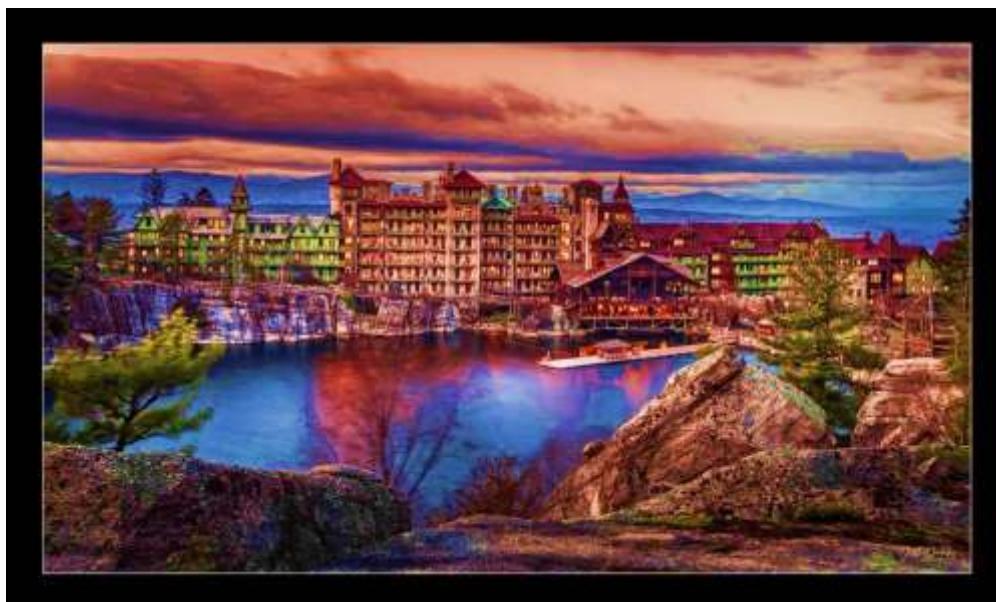


*"We English have as many dragons as the Chinese, yet very, very few of us believe they actually existed."*



*“Have either of you ever heard of Mohonk Mountain House, a castle-like resort 150Ks north of New York City?”*

*“Sounds fascinating, Your Majesty! Has a crime been committed there? Maybe a murder or two?”*



*“Oh, no, Doctor, NO! Mohonk was founded in 1869 by Albert Smiley, a naturalist my grandfather insisted, was “way ahead of his time!”*

*“King George VII himself! MY goodness. Your Majesty, I had no idea! But where do Holmes and I fit in?”*



Getty Images

*“Mohonk has a “monster” problem!  
This “creature” came out of the  
forest last week and scared the  
daylights out of hikers!”*



*“Remembering the King George connection, Mohonk contacted our embassy and they...”*

*“But of course, Holmes! They then requested the world’s best ‘consulting detective!'”*



THE COURT JEWELLER

*“Precisely Dr. Watson! Arrangements have been made, paperwork completed. Your flight leaves in two hours. All of England flies with you!”*

**FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD**

***Back in another limousine! Treated like royalty!  
Are we then supposed to run through the wood  
to catch this "Creature of the Catskills"?***



*"Princess or no princess,  
ordering us about like a pair  
of shuttlecocks!"*

*"Watson, old friend, couldn't  
you feel the strength blossoming  
inside that teenage girl?"*

*"She's royalty and certainly  
worthy of respect, but we've  
served Kings, President and  
Premiers and this young..."*

*"Yes, Elizabeth is quite young,  
but one day she is going to be Queen,  
the beaming face of the Commonwealth  
and the one fixed point in the Universe!"*

***Sooner than we thought possible...***



**And then we were off!  
What a time to be alive and flying!  
Holmes & I were making history, being aboard the  
very first British Airways passenger flight  
across the Atlantic!**



**Nearly twenty blessed hours in the air via Shannon  
and Gander, to refuel, enabling the service, as the  
Lockheed L-049 'Constellation' airliners that plied the route  
couldn't do so without stopping.**





*“Long live British Airways, Watson! Man was meant to fly! Yet again technology urges humanity to evolve!”*

*“So it would appear, old fellow, but there may be other cards in play.”*

*“Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are not summoned from across an ocean unless...”*

*“Exactly, a mystery that threatens the very future of the Mountain House!”*

*“Yes, but I believe we may be charged to capture a creature that does not exist!”*

*“And us, Holmes, are we ‘evolving’? An all-expense paid week at the Mohonk Mountain House for a paranormal conference!”*

*“Beyond Ghoats, Goblins, and other mythical monsters?”*

*“There’s a mystery Mohonk wants solved. Discreetly, of course!”*

*“A fine reputation ruined! Their business terminated!!”*

*“So the game will soon be afoot, but we won’t know whose feet they are!”*



*“The wonder that is the London Times! Tell me, Watson, have you ever heard of the ‘nantinaq?’”*

*“Great Scott! No, not yet! I can’t wait to hear all about it!”*

At Idlewild Airport...



*"Welcome to New York &  
Mohonk Mountain House!"*

*"I've stored your luggage,  
Please do not smoke in  
the limousine."*

**FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD**

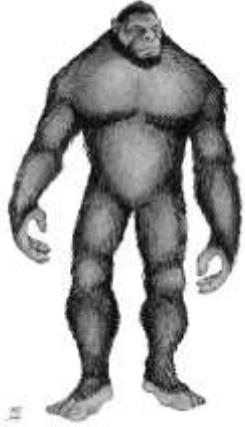
*Eager to be off, we jumped in and were on  
our way! Fine roads, but the traffic! Outside the  
big city comes the lush countryside!*





*“New York is a solar system  
of immigrant cultures.”*

*“And Mohonk Mountain House,  
‘The Lake in the Sky’!  
“Which ‘solar system’ is your  
‘Catskill Creature’ from?”*



*“Therein lies the rub, old friend.  
I have no idea!”*

#### FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

*Holmes' reply shocked me. Never have I seen him so perplexed. What kind of case was this? We spent the rest of the trip taking in the lovely summer New York scenery.*

*Finally...*



*"Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. So good to see you."*

*"We'll take care of everything. The 'Chief' is expecting you."*



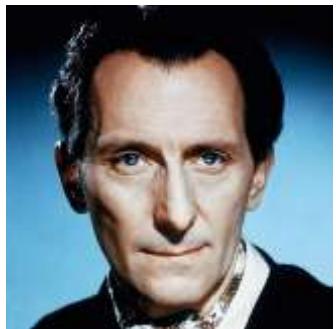
*"Magnificent! And so Victorian!"*

*"With a legendary kitchen and nature trails!"*



*"Watson, the only thing I suddenly believe is that the Princess understated our challenge!"*

*"Nonsense, Holmes! We'll expose this Catskill 'creature' fiasco before lunch!"*



*“Ah, and here are the superstars of the conference!”*

*“Expect to catch any ghosts or maybe a goblin or a certified crypto-creature?”*



*“Gentlemen, the ‘Chief’ is waiting.”*



*“Careful, Watson! The spirit world is watching and listening!”*

*“Oh, Holmes, let them! We’re celebrities, aren’t we?”*

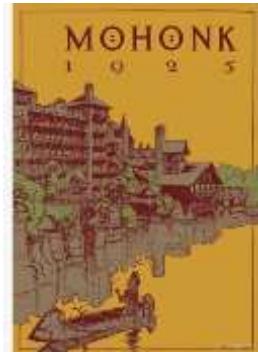
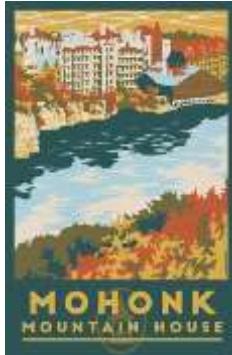
**FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD**

***The 'Chief' – Are we at Mohonk or an Indian reservation? This whole case is becoming more and more suspect!***



*“Watson, this case is not what we or the Princess, think it is!”*

*“And when we do find out, what then?”*



*“Mohonk welcomes “The world’s greatest Detective” and his esteemed comrade. Please don’t smoke in here!”*



*“Very well, ‘Chief’, then  
let’s get down to business!”*

*“And where and when  
is lunch?”*



*“Let me first confess that I insisted MOHONK Consultations  
schedule this ‘Paranormal Conference’ as a ruse to bring  
you here to either capture this elusive creature or to debunk  
its very existence!”*



*“This ‘hairy man’ or in the  
Himalayas – The ‘Yeti’!”*



*“Balderdash! We confronted a ‘ghost’ in Canada and a ‘vampire’ in Sussex! And exposed both as crude, and cruel hoaxes!”*



*“Dr. Watson, if this creature is a hoax, it’s been hundreds of years in the making. Indian tribes from ‘sea to shining sea’ have reported the ‘hairy man’ in legend and in artworks!”*

*“Just this month there have been ‘sightings’ by local people. They’re starting to call this woodland thing ‘the Mohonk Monster’!”*



**FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD**

*At that moment, the ‘Chief’s’ assistant opened the door and four men entered. Naturalists? Crypto-Zoologists?*



*"Mr. Sherlock Holmes! I could sense your skepticism from acres away!"*

*"And what happens if this legend is revealed as a living, breathing animal?"*



*"The New York Zoological Society will prove this 'hairy man' not only exists, but is thriving in these woods!"*

*"And then, Mr. Holmes and you, too, Dr. Watson, will be ridiculed beyond redemption!"*

#### FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

***"The laggards! And Holmes just sitting there, taking their merciless abuse. Or is he giving these pompous fools just enough rope...?"***



**BASKERVILLE HALL**



*“Mr. Holmes, Dr. Watson,  
the scenes of your most  
famous cases have been  
turned into tourist traps!”*



**MUSGRAVE MANOR**



*“Community yard sales, thanks to Sherlock Holmes!*

*“Not at Mohonk Mountain House!”*



*“Last week, this was taken less than a mile from here!  
Mr. Holmes, can you, through ‘deductive reasoning  
explain the ‘Mohonk Monster?’”*

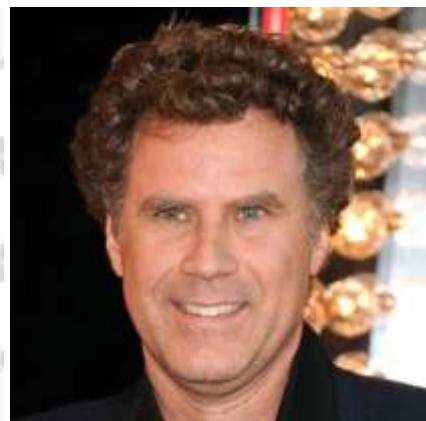
#### FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD

*A sudden silence overtook the Chief’s ornate office.  
All stared at Holmes. Here and now would “the world’s  
greatest detective” break this “monster case” wide open?*



*“Elementary, learned colleagues!  
This picture was taken with an excellent  
camera in exceptional lighting.”*

*“Holmes, you astound me!  
More ‘Hollywood’ than it has  
any right to be!”*



*“Oh, Holmes! You are a master at  
subtle sarcasm!”*

*“Subtle as a switchblade!  
Sherlock is a certified skeptic!”*



*“I only believe what has been proven.  
I’m from the old country where Scots and the  
Irish have been chasing “monsters” and Leprechauns  
unsuccessfully for generations!”*



*“Photographs prove nothing. Based on double-exposed pictures, Arthur Conan Doyle, one of the greatest writers in all of English Literature, believed emphatically...in faeries!”*



*“Enough histrionics! I want this “Mohonk Monster” captured and caged which will draw tourists here by the millions!*

*But far better for this iconic resort would be to expose this “monster” as a hoax! Let those responsible be captured and caged!”*

***Hello? Without knocking, this big galoot comes in...“Plainclothes Man”!***



*“I’m La Strade, Mohonk Security. And I’ll be chasing this ‘Monster’, too!”*

**FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD**

*Great Scott! Yet another finger in the pie!  
Holmes must be like a kettle about to boil!*

*Then, as usual, almost the opposite!*



*"At last all the players are in place, all pursuing either a  
senseless hoax or the miraculous return of a mythical 'monster'.*

*"Yes, gentlemen, as we used to say back  
at 221B Baker Street..."*

*"The game is afoot...indubitably!"*



### FROM THE JOURNAL OF JOHN H. WATSON MD



*To Be Continued!*