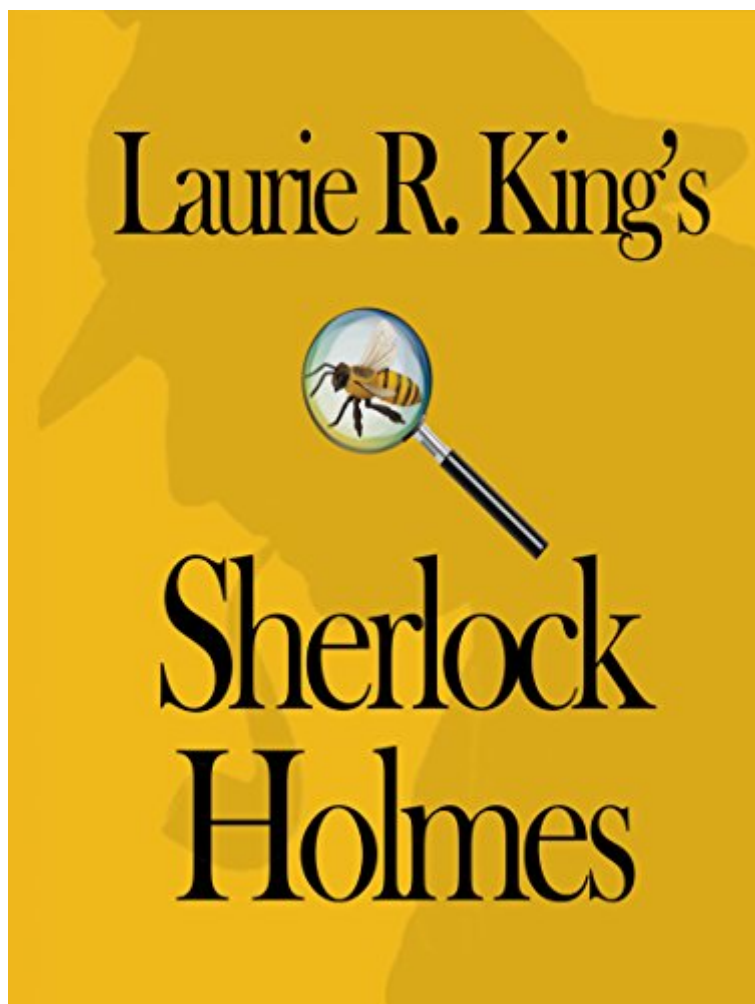


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# Laurie R. King's Sherlock Holmes



## Synopsis

From time to time, people have asked me to comment on Sherlock Holmes, in ways other than what the novels provide. This collection of eight documents have all been published before, occasionally in slightly different versions. Some of them are straight nonfiction; others participate wholeheartedly in "The Game," that wildly imaginative edifice of Sherlockian scholarship built upon the solemn declaration that Holmes and Watson were absolutely real, that Conan Doyle was but their literary agent, and that the stories are absolutely factual--if only we lesser mortals can figure out the apparent flaws and omissions. This collection includes the following essays: Dr. Watson's War Wound, which was delivered as a guest lecture to the annual Baker Street Irregulars, where I solemnly played the game--complete with footnotes! The Sabine Baring-Gould and Sherlock Holmes essay was published in the UK journal of the Sabine Baring\_Gould Appreciation Society (which turned out to be a bit rude to Sabine's grandson who plagiarized his grandfather's memoirs). A Holmes Chronology is an explanation of why "my" Sherlock Holmes isn't an aged geezer when Mary Russell walks over him on the Sussex Downs in 1915. Sherlock Holmes on Beekeeping, from the long lost volume by Holmes on his research into bees. Art in the Blood was commissioned by Penquin for their website as an introduction to Arthur Conal Doyle. . . and three more: Textual, Higher, Radical, and Midrashic Sherlockian Criticism: an introduction to The Grand Game; Introduction to The Hound of the Baskervilles; and LRK on ACD.

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## Customer Reviews

Interesting selection of Laurie R King's writings and speeches about Sherlock Holmes. If you are a King fan, but not a Sherlockian (not unlike Twi- or Beatle mania), you may not like this. If you ARE a Sherlockian based on TV/movies and these books, then you may or may not like this. If Sherlock Holmes is your personal literary god, or for that matter, the good Dr. Watson, then you will find this interesting....not essential, but like the dog in the night, you may miss something really fun. Liz7bee

I especially enjoyed "Dr. Watson's War Wound". This isn't long, being a collection of previously-published items, but it's nice to have them in one place. I hadn't read any of them, and they are a nice complement to the Russell/Holmes series.

Enjoyed insight into King's process. References to Sayers interesting. A lot of Harriett Vane in Russell. I highly recommend anything she writes.

Not fiction, people. This is a compilation of a few speeches and prefaces. But, wow! I loved every word, especially Watson's Wound. King presents her rather unique answer to the question: How could Dr. Watson have been injured in his shoulder and his leg by one bullet in Afghanistan? The Jezrial bullet is explained and brilliantly, I think.

This is a collection of essays King has written over the years. Brief, entertaining, occasionally insightful; completely in keeping with the 'fandom' of the Sherlock Holmes world. Recommended for fans of King and fans of Holmes.

A well written compilation of works. It gave me even more appreciation of a much loved and long time friend, in William Sherlock Scott Holmes. I also learned something about one of my favorite Holmes authors. Also a very quick read, if one is looking for a short term knowledge rich distraction.

Laurie King's Sherlock Holmes is a compilation of short stories and talks that King gave to various groups regarding King's introduction to, and love for, the Sherlock Holmes character. She tells of

being a 35 year old recent graduate of divinity school with two small children, a husband eyeing retirement and a great need to earn a living. One day she wrote a sentence about a new character, Mary Russell, who literally bumped into Holmes one day, and then King had to find out about this great detective. She writes of reading all of the Holmes short stories and novels, fearing that she would be like, "those poor misguided souls who declare that they are going to read the Bible, and get as far as the begats in Numbers before they bog down and return to Carlos Castaneda or 'God for Dummies'." She didn't bog down, but thrilled to every mystery presented. The author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, she says, "was a man who reached out from the page and grabbed the reader by the collar. Here was wit and color and intense humanity desperately concealed as cold calculation...Here was a hero for his age, and for the ages to follow." The talks and stories are a marvelous collection of King's research on and thoughts about both Conan Doyle and his creation. No matter how many stories you may have read about both, you will learn something delightful in this enjoyable book.

Erudite and amusing as one would expect from Ms. King, if you have read any of her Mary Russell books. I am not a Holmes fanatic, but a fan. I enjoyed her musings, some insight into the histories of Conan Doyle and canon criticism as well, but especially her deft wordplay and enthusiastic scholarship.

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