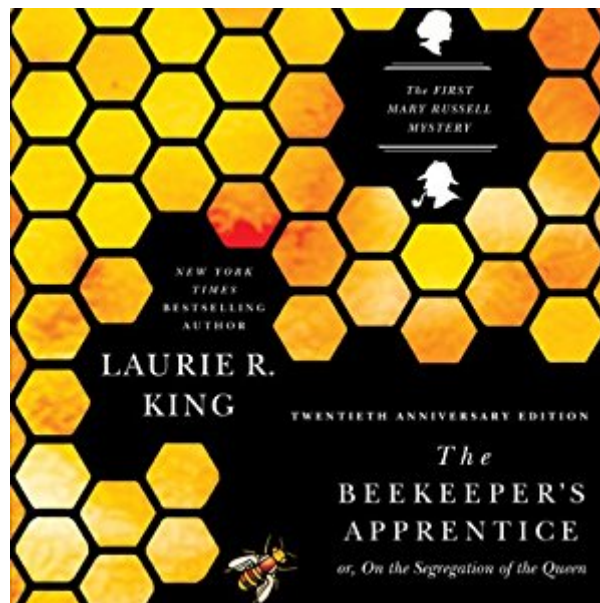


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The Beekeeper's Apprentice, Or On The Segregation Of The Queen: Mary Russell And Sherlock Holmes, Book 1



Synopsis

From New York Times best-selling author Laurie R. King comes the book that introduced us to the ingenious Mary Russell - Sherlock Holmes mysteries. In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees when a young woman literally stumbles into him on the Sussex Downs. Fifteen years old, gawky, egotistical, and recently orphaned, the young Mary Russell displays an intellect to impress even Sherlock Holmes - and match him wit for wit. Under his reluctant tutelage, this very modern 20th-century woman proves a deft protagonist and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective. In their first case together, they must track down a kidnapped American senator's daughter and confront a truly cunning adversary: a bomber who has set trip wires for the sleuths and who will stop at nothing to end their partnership. Full of brilliant deductions, disguises, and dangers, this first book of the Mary Russell - Sherlock Holmes mysteries is "wonderfully original and entertaining...absorbing from beginning to end." (Booklist). Named "One of the Century's Best 100 Mysteries" by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed The Beekeepers Apprentice. I have always loved Sherlock Holmes (dismissing some of the recent TV shows which only exhibit a passing glance at getting anywhere near Holmes real character & complexity.)That being said, a female counterpart, partner &, yes, apprentice, was perfectly personified in the appearance of Mary Russell. She fits right in, brilliant, tough, & way ahead of her time in her attitudes, she gives as good as she takes.I'm looking forward to experiencing many more adventures with the illustrious master & the fabulous Russell. The

games afoot, & this is without doubt the pair to solve even the most bewildering of cases!

The writing, story line, and mystery/mysteries are good, but I had one MAJOR problem with it...there is an utter disrespect for the character of Dr. John Watson. It is really bothersome! The relationship between Watson & Holmes was one of the great things about the originals. Watson was not eccentric or a prodigy, but he was bright, (a physician for goodness sake) and capable, and honorable, and good. If he is going to be remembered,(which I feel he should be) he should be remembered true to his character. He was a great friend to Sherlock, and a priceless contributor to Sherlock Holmes' successes. In this book he is remembered as slightly pathetic, and remembered lukewarmly at that.

A thoroughly engrossing book. I will recommend it to my book club friends as well as to family members. I gave this book a five-star rating for several reasons; the skill of the writing, the tautness of the plot and the dialogue, the subtlety of the relationship between Holmes and Russell, the teacher and the pupil, developing into so much more, and my overall delight in being given the joy of reading a darned good story. They are often few and far between. I am most appreciative and will continue the journey with Russell and Holmes in great anticipation.

The Beekeeper's Apprentice is one of those books that takes a well known fictional character, in this case Sherlock Holmes, and reimagines him in a new situation. This can be a disaster, but in this case it is a triumph. This book was first published in the 1990's and was not on my radar. The author has written quite a few sequels to this, which I look forward to reading. Sherlock is in semi-retirement in the country and keeps bees as a hobby. Mary Russell is a 17 year old girl who literally stumbles onto him in a field. She is bookish and lonely, living with her nasty aunt after the death of her parents and brother. Mary narrates the story of how she and Sherlock meet and start a cautious friendship. This evolves into Sherlock helping to hone Mary's innate analytical skills and they begin to work together. The first book contains a couple of mysteries that are well done. In addition to the mystery, you see the growing respect and admiration between the two. There is a hint of potential love (not creepy) later in the book when Mary is a young adult. These two really need each other to heal old wounds. I have never read any Sherlock Holmes or seen the movie and tv offerings, but of course the character and Dr. Watson are familiar. No prior knowledge is required to follow and enjoy the plots. It does make me want to read some of the original Arthur Conan Doyle though. This book hits all the points I require for a 5 star rating: good story, interesting characters,

page-turner, and intelligently and well written. Please give this book a try!

Laurie King takes on the business of extending the Sherlock Holmes canon in an intriguing way. Rather than simply replace Watson with a new foil for Holmes, she makes Holmes' new partner an associate, an apprentice he teaches with the goal of following in his footsteps. As you would expect, Holmes finds this difficult to reconcile with his lifetime of solitary pursuits, but King's choice of this arrangement is abundantly rewarded by making this story more than a simple extrapolation of Doyle. Now in his declining years, Holmes lives in the country in a semi-retired state. His mind is as active as ever and he does take on the occasional case. Perhaps he has been watching for an appropriate candidate for an apprentice, but Mary Russell crosses his path and she proves worthy. Over time she earns and negotiates a position as his equal. In this respect, King's Holmes is new, different, and refreshing. He must accept Russell, and the vulnerability that implies, but he clearly values the companionship of someone so capable. He may also be securing his legacy by ensuring someone can fill his void after he is gone. The result is the best of both worlds for the Holmes enthusiast: the familiar that you value from Doyle, plus this novel has something new to say about Holmes.

I'm on the fence. The characters are interesting enough. However, Holmes is just simply nothing like the man so beautifully created by Conan Doyle. I know the author wasn't really trying to imitate ACD but still.. being such a huge fan of the original work, I would have loved a hint of the detective I grew up with. The storyline is slow and the writing is average according to me. Overall, it's just ok.

Bach, which has the beauty and cadence of a well-balanced mathematical formula, particularly when played on the harpsichord. The symmetry and nobility of the master's music, together with a glass of the champagne served afterwards, calmed my nerves, and I found myself in bed before midnight...

Loved this book! I'm a huge Sherlock Holmes fan in all of his forms and this one is particularly fun to explore. The setting is lovely, the banter is fun, and the writer doesn't dumb anything down. I wound up staying up much too late to finish this one which is always a great sign :)

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