



My Sherlock Holmes: Untold Stories of the Great Detective

Michael Kurland (Editor), Richard A. Lupoff (Contributor), Michael Mallory (Contributor), George Alec Effinger (Contributor), Barbara Hambly (Contributor), Mel Gilden (Contributor), Norman Schreiber (Contributor), Gary Lovisi (Contributor), more... Gerard Dole (Contributor), Linda Robertson (Contributor), Cara Black (Contributor), Peter Tremayne (Contributor), C.D. Ewing (Contributor) ...less

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For over a century, readers have thrilled to the exploits of Sherlock Holmes as told from the point of view of Dr. Watson. But do Watson's tales really tell the true story of the Great Detective? In this collection of thirteen original tales, each narrated by a side character from the original canon, another side of the legend is revealed. From what Inspector Lestrade really thought about Holmes to Holmes' untold encounter with the insidious Dr. Fu Manchu, from the bitter reminiscences of C. Auguste Dupin to the thoughts of his long-term landlady, Mrs. Hudson, the long-standing veil of mystery over Sherlock Holmes is finally lifted.

From the imaginations of Barbara Hambly, Cara Black, Peter Tremayne, Richard Lupoff, and Michael Kurland, among others, another side of the famous fictional detective is finally revealed.

My Sherlock Holmes: Untold Stories of the Great Detective Details

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From Reader Review My Sherlock Holmes: Untold Stories of the Great Detective for online ebook

Bev says

Just finished this collection of stories about Holmes--all told from the viewpoint of one of the other characters in his stories. It was very interesting to see Holmes through the eyes of someone other than Watson. Although, of course, any time one reads Holmes stories from outside the canon they must be taken with a grain of salt. My favorites were "The Dollmaker of Marigold Walk" (the 1st Mrs. Watson); "Call Me Wiggins" (the "chief" of the Baker Street Irregulars); "The Witch of Greenwich" (Billy, the page) and "Mrs. Hudson Reminisces." I still don't get the authors who insist on putting Mycroft in league with Moriarty. Had to suffer through another one of those...otherwise, I would have given a full four stars in Visual Bookshelf. And, of course, we had to have a few stories that showed Holmes in a less than glowing light (Dupin, Moriarty, & Col. Moran all have a chance to have their say on the Great Detective). I was a bit disappointed that none of the authors chose to write from the viewpoint of Lestrade....he only shows up in the last section, titled "The Others," and is given very little space. Three & 1/2 stars.

Paulette Illmann says

A group of stories about the famous investigator, as seen through the eyes of his many acquaintances, this was an enjoyable read. The only downfall is the many spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors throughout the book - which I could have easily overlooked, had not someone else already marked them and made corrections in the margins! I suppose this is the downfall of borrowing books from the library. You never know who borrowed it before you, or what they did to it, until you are experiencing it. While this was extremely distracting from the stories themselves, and it certainly did cause me to take much longer than I expected to read this book, what strikes me the most is how many the "proofreader" missed. Aside from all that, again, a very enjoyable read, and I particularly liked being able to draw comparisons between each of these stories and the episodes of Sherlock on the current TV program. It is amazing how much they can keep the same while having changed the time period. If you enjoy the show, you should read this book.

Theresa says

a good collection of stories written in modern time by authors using Doyles characters and writing style. an intriguing set of mysteries

notyourmonkey says

A wildly mixed bag of stories, some of which were marvelous (hi, Barbara Hambly!), some of which were awful (hi, author whose name I've blocked because it was SO BAD), many of which skated around somewhere in the middle. I do love me some outsider POV, though, and this was a wonderful collection of that.

My one regret, though, is what I find so very, very common in much of Holmesiana: either an author is all about elevating Holmes at the expense of Watson or elevating Watson at the expense of Holmes. Sure, this often makes sense in the context of the points of view in this collection, but too often it comes off as authors having axes to grind. And, sure, I should've expected some of this in the nature of the book (it's about other people's relationships with Holmes), but I feel like these stories (and so many pastiches) shoot themselves in the foot by ignoring much of what makes the original ACD stories so marvellous: the relationship between Holmes and Watson (and I don't even mean that in a subtextually groiny way). It comes off as a little authorial self-inserty: sure, Holmes and Watson were an okay pair of crimefighters, etc., but the one who was *really* important was me. Er. My character.

It's part of why I so thoroughly enjoyed the new BBC version of Holmes: Sherlock may still be, well, Sherlock, but John Watson is a badass in his own right, and it's all about how they're simply *more* together than they are apart. I think that's true in ACD as well, and I wish more pastiches recognized that.

Mark says

If you enjoy Sherlock Holmes stories and you're looking for some interesting crossovers (Sherlock Holmes vs. Dr. Fu Manchu) then this is a fun book.

Personally it was fun but I was not blown away by this.

If you're looking for an interesting take on Sherlock Holmes I recommend Nail Gaiman's *A Study in Emerald*.

Rena Sherwood says

My Sherlock Holmes has cured me of any desire to ever read a Sherlock Holmes pastiche short story collection every again. How does this shit get published?

There were only two decent stories in the lot. Most of the stories are excruciatingly poor, such as the craptacular novella supposedly written by Billy the Page and Holmes' meeting with Fu Manchu. The story "A Study in Orange" is the sole reason why I gave this two stars instead of one. Kurland's own entry is amusing, too. Other than that --

Monica says

Don't bother.

The premise is interesting: having secondary players of the ACD Holmes universe telling Holmes stories from their point of view (not Watson's).

Unfortunately, there isn't a single story that stands above the slightly professional fan fiction fare that seems to plague anthologies nowadays.

I rated one star because, after all, we are talking about Sherlock Holmes. Nothing else.

Riju Ganguly says

This collection is based on a fairly interesting premise: what stories could have been told by "the others" mentioned in the canon (sometimes who played very important roles as well), but who had never got the centre-stage, so to say. The contents are:

(*) Introduction by Michael Kurland, the editor of this anthology.

1) 'The Incident of the Impecunious Chevalier' by Richard Lupoff: a wholly improbable early adventure of Holmes & Dupin, that discredits Holmes considerably, and has little redeeming value.

2) 'The Dollmaker of Marigold Walk' by Barbara Hambly: an atmospheric piece where the characters are true, the narrative is taut, and yet Holmes is at his insipid worst (something common in all the pastiches written by this author).

3) 'The Adventure of the Forgotten Umbrella' by Mel Gilden: a compact & readable piece, but nothing special.

4) 'Call Me Wiggins' by Norman Schreiber: a convoluted piece bringing Lewis Carroll and Sherlock Holmes together, but the puzzle is neither entertaining nor clever, and spreads rather libelous stuff about the Liddell household.

5) 'Mycroft's Great Game' by Gary Lovisi: a lengthy & drab piece about Moriarty being set up by Mycroft for the "benefit" of the British Empire, and how it had backfired.

6) 'The Witch of Greenwich' by Gerard Dole: a sensationalistic and improbable piece that is not worthy of commenting upon.

7) 'YEARS AGO AND IN A DIFFERENT PLACE' by Michael Kurland: the first, and brilliant story that suggests why & how Holmes harbours such antagonism for Moriarty. For more such pieces, I would like to recommend readers towards: [[ASIN:B005V1ZK1W Victorian Villainy: A Collection of Moriarty Stories: A Collection of Moriarty Stories]].

8) 'Mrs. Hudson Reminisces' by Linda Robertson: a tedious piece which was difficult-reading even for the first time.

9) 'Cabaret Aux Assassins' by Cara Black: this story is worthy of challenging Naomi Novik's "Commonplaces" {tarnishing an otherwise good book [[ASIN:1597801607 The Improbable Adventures of Sherlock Holmes]]} in bringing Irene Adler & Sherlock Holmes together in bed amidst totally improbable circumstances.

10) 'A Study in Orange' by Peter Tremayne: another piece from the Holmes-Mycroft-Moriarty-Moran-Irish connection mythos created by this author through other pieces in other books, pretty simple detection, with high political skullduggery. After Edward B Hanna's [[ASIN:1848567499 The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Whitechapel Horrors: 10]], this is another pastiche that aims at trashing Lord Randolph Churchill.

11) 'The Riddle of The Young Protestor' by Michael Mallory: an enjoyable read, with considerable liberties taken in the depiction of Holmes, but otherwise witty, thrilling and interesting.

12) 'The Adventure of The Celestial Snows' by George Alec Effinger: a throwback to the pulp-style yellow-peril stories involving Fu-Manchu and Holmes in a lengthy and improbable story that is not entertaining at all.

13) 'AND THE OTHERS' by C.D. Ewing: the most enjoyable piece written pseudonymously, consisting of vignettes from the different personages mentioned in the canon including Inspector Lestrade, King of Bohemia, Dr. Stamford, Conan Doyle, and Dr. Mortimer, and I am quite sure that after reading Dr. Mortimer's theories concerning Holmesian behaviour, you would view things in a rather new...er... light.

Recommended.

???? ???? #BookDiet2019 says

January is the great detective Sherlock Holmes' birthday month and he has been my childhood hero for a decade so I decided to celebrate him this year by reading and reviewing four Holmesian anthologies and this is the third for that rundown. A collection edited by Michael Kurland (who also happened to contribute his own story for this one), *My Sherlock Holmes* has quite an interesting unifying theme to its thirteen pieces. Where other anthologies still often make use of Dr. John Watson as its first-person narrator, this volume allows other characters from the canon to share their perspective of events regarding never-before-published cases of the great detective.

Ranging from the familiar ones to the most obscure, some of the tales span for more than ten pages with two of three of them savory in length and pace.

According to its general introduction, *My Sherlock Holmes* borrows the stylistic approach of the famous Japanese story *Rashomon* where each character has his or her own version of the truth. True to that essence, some of the stories presented are conflicting accounts from some of the canonically established representations of Watson's narratives about certain cases. Others are new concepts altogether that challenge the preconceived notions we have about Sherlock Holmes and his relationships with people or crime-solving itself.

Of all the thirteen, I can recommend seven of the stories. A lot of these stories prove to be challenging, admittedly, because the length surprisingly exceeds what I'm normally used to with anthologies such as this. For some, such length is justifiable and has made the entire story enjoyable and exciting to read while a few others just bored me to no end. My absolute favorite of all has to be *Call me Wiggins* by Norman Schreiber whose primary POV is the former Baker Street Irregular urchin of the same name. What I love about this story is the fact that Charles Lutwidge Dodgson makes a fictional appearance as one of Holmes' closest friends and Wiggin's mentor. Dodgson is more popularly known as the author Lewis Carroll who wrote the immortal Alice stories. The story presents the simplest of mysteries and yet inevitably the most tragic and it's such a whimsical and delightful look at one of history's most eccentric writers and his relationship (granted it's fictional) with the great detective. It's just really awesome for a Carroll fan like me.

Other gratifying stories are *The Incident of the Impecunious Chevalier* by Richard Lupoff that explored the POV of Agustin M. Dupin, Edgar Allan Poe's own great detective, who suffered much criticism from Holmes in *A Study in Scarlet* so this is the story where he aims to remedy that misconception; *The Dollmaker of Marigold Walk* by Barbara Hambly that is written in Mary Morstan's POV concerning a series of abductions

that are akin to that of the Jack the Ripper; *Mycroft's Great Game* by Gary Lovisi which is an amazing alternate interpretation of the events of *The Final Problem* regarding the deathly confrontation between Holmes and Moriarty; and Michael Kurland's own contribution piece *Years Ago in a Different Place* that explores the early friendship between Holmes and Moriarty in college where an unfortunate fallout between them occurs during Holmes' very first criminal investigation.

We also have characters we have never considered prominent before such as Amelia Pettrigrew who is supposedly the second wife of John Watson after Mary, and she is present in Michael Mallory's *The Riddle of the Young Protestor*, where she gets to do some deductive reasoning herself concerning an antique treasure hunt riddle.

Finally, we have *And the Others* by C.D Ewing, whose format reads much like Chuck Palahnuik's novel *Rant* where the writer supposedly gathered interviews and testimonials from Gregory Lestrade, James Mortimer, Arthur Conan Doyle himself etc. about the things they remember the most about the great detective. In addition, we also have stories written in the POVs of Irene Adler, Sebastian Moran, and Reginald Musgrave. These stories were okay but not instantly captivating unlike the others mentioned above but they are notable because these characters are well-known.

My Sherlock Holmes is a fairly decent and worthwhile read for anyone who considers himself or herself a Holmesian aficionado. There are great gems to found in this volume whose lengthy narratives are justifiable because of the tantalizing content they delivered.

RECOMMENDED: 8/10

DO READ MY REVIEWS AT:

Jessica says

I thought it was such a charming idea for a book to have a collection of stories about Sherlock Holmes through the eyes of other people in his life besides Watson but, for the most part, the stories fell flat for me. Really flat. If you like Sherlock Holmes at all, don't bother with this book.

Some of them were preposterous and bordering on Did-the-authors-actually-read-any-Sherlock-Holmes-stories-before-writing-these-because-I-don't-know-where-they-get-these-characterizations-from? (The Incident of the Impecunious Chevalier and Mycroft's Great Game.)

Others only mentioned Sherlock in passing, as if he was only on the periphery to the story they wanted to tell (The Riddle of the Young Protester.)

Others were boring and I had to plod through them.

I only really enjoyed a few of them (The Dollmaker of Marigold Walk for instance).

Very disappointing.

Sharmistha says

All the stories included in this compilation surprisingly cast unnecessary insults on SH's deductive skills in an effort to bolster the importance of the role played by the supporting characters in Arthur Conan Doyle's novels. A very 'wannabe' effort at the most! Not something I would recommend for the bookshelves or even for one-time-read.

Cyn McDonald says

Stories were okay but not great.

Sjofn says

The anthology of 13 stories contributed by various authors about one of my favorite literary characters seemed promising, especially since the stories are narrated from the perspective of some of the secondary characters, not Dr. Watson's; and, edited by Michael Kurland whose other Holmes books had a diametrically opposite perspective that it made me sit up and explore the possibility.

A handful turned out to be quite interesting and impressive, some were rather insipid, and a few were quite uncharacteristic and lacked respect for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stalwart detective. But they all projected the spirit of the times in the style reminiscent of Holmes original adventures. Well worth reading.
