

GROANS, CRIES AND BLEATINGS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS LETTER OF
THE BAKER STREET BREAKFAST CLUB

Volume 14, No. 4. Copyright 2011, Baker Street Breakfast Club
Editor: Sally Sugarman, BSI

www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.org

“Dear me!” said he, turning over the pages. “What a chorus of groans, cries and bleatings! What a ragbag of singular happenings! But surely the most valuable hunting ground that was ever given a student of the unusual.” -- Sherlock Holmes, “The Red Circle”

Page 1	Tonga's Tidbits
Page 2	The Mystery Corner
Page 4	One Doesn't Need To Be A Sherlock Holmes
Page 5	War of the Worlds
Page 6	Holmes at Christmas
Page 7	Book Reviews
Page 14	Last Issue's Challenge
Page 15	This Issue's Challenge
Page 15	How to Contribute

Tonga's Tidbits

Watson is soon going to help doctors diagnose and treat patients. The computer Watson, that is. How Dr. Watson feels about this development is not yet known...Novels about Holmes' adventures are being published at an impressive rate, challenging the devoted Sherlockian to keep up. Among the latest is *Sherlock Holmes: The Breath of God* by Guy Adams, (Titan Books)...Along with books, Sherlock Holmes video games keep on coming as well. The latest is from Nintendo and it is *Sherlock Holmes and The Frozen City*. London is threatened by a mysterious storm that is freezing the Thames...There is also a video game based on the new Downey/Law movie *A Game of Shadows*...“I don't know what's true and what's not,” Priebus said on NBC Thursday morning. “We're not the Sherlock Holmes of the presidential primary field.” This was the Republican National Chairman responding to a query as to whether it was the Perry or the Romney campaign that leaked the news about Herman Cain's sexual harassment problem...Ken Ludwig, whose play *Postmortem* was set in the Gillette mansion, has written a new play *The Game's Afoot* set in the same locale.

THE MYSTERY CORNER

Sherlock Holmes Mysteries By Sally Sugarman

Since I gave a talk about Sherlock Holmes at the Martha Canfield library, they asked if I would write a list of my favorite pastiches for their newsletter. I did and this is the result.

After you have finished reading the fifty-six stories and four novels that make up the Sherlockian Canon and still want more stories about this master sleuth, as most people do, here are some titles that might interest you. There are many others besides these. Many of the characters in the Canon have their own series, but these are among my favorites.

Sherlock Holmes and The Alice in Wonderland Murders – Barry Day has written three Sherlock Holmes mysteries, all of which are delightful. In this mystery, the murders have a connection to the Alice in Wonderland stories, just as the *Shakespeare Old Globe Murders* mimic murders in Shakespeare plays. An American Rupert Murdoch-type newspaper tycoon exploits the crimes for sensational stories. Not only are the two friends in rare form but they have villains worthy of their skills.

The Jewel of Covent Garden by Wayne Worcester - The key to a successful Holmesian pastiche is usually the Dr. Watson. The author needs to capture the right tone for it is Watson's narrative that draws us into Sherlock Holmes' world. The Dr. Watson in this instance is believably recreated as is the city of London. There are descriptive passages that are so evocative and sensory that one can feel the fog. There is respect for the characters of Holmes and Watson and a

solid sense of period. The writing is of a higher quality than that in many of the other numerous series about Holmes.

The Raleigh Legacy - L. B. Greenwood also does a fine job with Holmes and Watson. This author also offers a series of three adventures. Having tried this one you may want to hunt down the others. All of the complications of a mysterious inheritance and what it does to families are a part of this adventure with Holmes addressing all with his usual skill and Watson adding his perspective.

The Italian Secretary - Caleb Carr is best known for his Alienist books, but this one, written in a year many established authors did their Holmes books, is a worthy addition to the genre. Although initially Carr seems straining too hard to achieve Watson's voice and period, he quickly settles down and moves from his own elaborate rhetoric to Watson's more natural tone. In the process, he demonstrates a trace of humor, not a notable characteristic of his writing. A Holmes story curbs his tendency towards length and makes for a well paced story. He does particularly well with Mycroft, humanizing him as he puffs about and the sibling rivalry is nicely done. Carr's only failure is that he does not give Holmes a villain worthy of his talents.

The Whitechapel Horrors - Since Jack the Ripper was operating at the same time as Holmes was in business, many authors cannot resist the temptation to write the story. This book by Edward Hanna is one of the best of the tales. Hanna weaves in many elements of the time, including the new technologies that we don't often remember as being typical of the Victorian period. Watson is treated with a great deal of respect and his medical training is utilized most effectively. The resolution of

the case and the identity of the Ripper are most convincing.

Dust and Shadow - This is an impressive first novel by Lyndsay Faye. Like Edward Hanna's book, it is about Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper. Faye is much more explicit about the horror of the disemboweling than many other writers are. She also recreates the atmosphere of fog and poverty that are a part of the whole situation. Faye provides a clever blending of the real and the imagined. She uses a lot of the slang of the time and provides the perspective of the street with the character of a young woman Holmes hires to be his eyes and ears much like the Baker Street Irregulars. Although she is street-wise and probably a prostitute, we are led to believe that she will end up with Stephen Dunleavy, a reporter who is also investigating the case.

Sherlock Holmes and the Plague of Dracula - Another contemporary some authors like to match Holmes with is Dracula. Stephen Seitz does well with the delicate job of blending "no ghosts need apply" Holmes with the supernatural vampire. There are interesting twists and turns that bring Holmes back from the Reichenbach Falls quite interestingly. Seitz knows the two origin stories very well and uses them most effectively.

Durkheim Is Dead - This is the third in a series of books by Arthur Asa Berger wherein he uses the mystery form to explicate social theories. In this case Sherlock Holmes is the detective, one of many examples of Holmes being used to teach other subjects. Someone has stolen Lady Cecily Bracknell's diamond. Any reader who doesn't get that joke shouldn't be reading the book. So Holmes interviews Weber, Simmel, Freud, DuBois, Lenin and Beatrice Webb. He has already spoken to Durkheim and Weber's wife

Marianne. The explications of the theory are fine and we have Watson to ask for clarification.

The Trial of Sherlock Holmes, by Leah Moore and John Reppion. Illustrated by Aaron Campbell, with covers by John Cassaday. - This is an excellent Sherlock Holmes graphic novel, beautifully plotted and drawn. Simply put, but not simply executed, Holmes is framed for a murder so he will be out of the way of an assassination plot against a visiting Baron. There is a locked room mystery with Holmes found with a gun in his hand and a dead man on the bed. Watson and Lestrade work together to prove Holmes innocent while Mycroft refuses to help. Holmes escapes from the jail but when recaptured wants to go to trial to prove his innocence. Meanwhile, Watson and Lestrade foil the assassination plot. That is done in pictures while the voice-over is Holmes. The story ends with Holmes and Mycroft playing chess.

The American Years - From the first sentences of Leslie Klinger's introduction to the last story, this is a collection to delight both Sherlockians and more casual readers. Michael Kurland has edited two other collections of Sherlock Holmes stories, each with its own theme. This anthology focuses on the years that Holmes spent in the United States. This is Sherlock Holmes in his younger years before he had decided on his life's work. He encounters a range of famous Americans, including Samuel Clemens and P.T. Barnum among others. His foreignness is particularly evident in his adventures out west where his accent and clothes elicit derision that turns to admiration at his deductive skills. Although believably young, his skills developing, Holmes emerges as a character consistent with whom he will become. Each reader will probably have a favorite encounter but mine is the tale told by a young William

Gillette watching Holmes perform Malvolio in Twelfth Night. The stage may have lost a fine actor when Holmes decided to become a consulting detective, but he was well represented by Gillette. The consistency of tone among the stories is remarkable given the diversity of authors.

One Doesn't Need To Be Sherlock Holmes Department

It doesn't take Sherlock Holmes to figure out what this guy is up to. One of Florida's greatest crime mysteries has been solved, Ocala police say, with the arrest of the infamous "serial pooper" of Ft. King Middle School.



[The Gainesville Sun reports](#) Kenneth Martin Sarsony, 23, was arrested for allegedly defecating at least five times in front of a door at the school since early September.

It doesn't take **Sherlock Holmes** to figure that there is something wrong here! More articles by PZ Myers can be found on Freethoughtblogs at the new Pharyngula! Kitties experience pain and suffering, which turns out to be a theological problem.

Posted on: November 8, 2011 9:21 AM, by [PZ Myers](#)

IT DOESN'T TAKE SHERLOCK HOLMES TO SEE WHERE WE NEED TO IMPROVE.

By [Dave Williams](#) | Tuesday 13th September 2011

It was riches to rags as a bare 11 players were available to represent Marine tonight with the final score belying a greatly improved performance.

It was a cagey first half with each team probing and testing the oppositions defence. [Alex Jones](#) took the eye early on with some excellent individual runs. [Alex Parry](#) was also on good form with lightening pace at the centre of his personal gameplan. McGrath looked comfortable at the heart of the midfield and showed an excellent first touch. ...To end on a word of caution however, the mystery of the troublesome centre half pairing needs to be solved rapidly. Hopefully White can don the deerstalker and calabash pipe in time to make sure that the games remain afoot.

It Doesn't Take Sherlock Holmes

By Kathleen Melymuka
March 3, 2003 12:00 PM ET

[Add a comment](#)

Computerworld - Much of the intelligence you need about a prospective vendor partner may be just a click away. To see how much information we could get on a prospective vendor just from its own Web site, we picked Symantec Corp. in Cupertino, Calif., at random. This is what we found:



War of the Worlds

On October 16, a group of the Baker Street Breakfast Club went to Shakespeare and Company to see a version of The War of the Worlds. There are many connections between Holmes and The War of the Worlds. There is the excellent book that Phillip Shreffler wrote about the Baker Street Irregulars following up on a crime that occurred during the broadcast. There is also the book Sherlock Holmes' War of the Worlds by Manly and Wade Wellman about how Holmes and Professor Challenger dealt with the Martian invaders. The Mercury Theatre of the Air also broadcast a number of Holmes stories. Orson Welles played Moriarity to John Geilgud's Holmes and himself played Holmes in an adaptation of he William Gillette play. Holmes is everywhere.

After the delightful performance the cast met with the Sherlockians to discuss the performance and some of the changes that they had made to the script. The radio ads that added to the humor of the play were of the company's sponsors. Although they did not use the Mercury Theatre as their company, they did stick close to Wells original tale once they got their program underway. Walter Colby took a number of pictures of the event. Members had many questions and comments and the exchanges were lively and enlightening.



Holmes at Christmas

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, but also deck the tree with Holmes ornaments. Decorations vary in price, but they all pay tribute to the master and the fact that this holiday did result in one of the best stories in the Canon. Although they may not be as pricey as the blue carbuncle, the ornaments do add a festive air. From Snoopy to a somewhat hefty version of Holmes, there is much joy to be found in them.



There are traditional and non-traditional views of Holmes.



There are even ornaments for those who have other interests as well as Holmes.

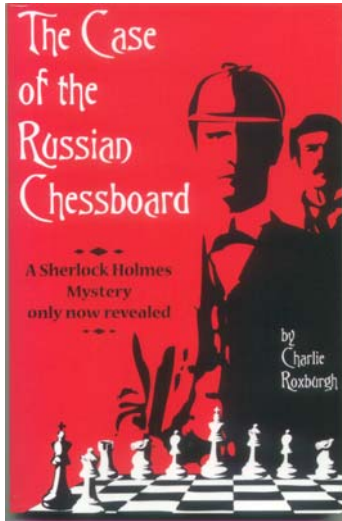


Book Reviews

The Case of the Russian Chessboard

By Charlie Roxburgh

Reviewed by Sally Sugarman



Starting out much like a Canonical case, this intriguing book addresses an issue that was relevant in Holmes time. Secret revolutionary groups were a cause of concern in England prior to the First World War, particularly those from Czarist Russia. Terrorism has deep roots in the 19th century and was as much of a source of panic then as now.

When a young woman comes to Holmes for help in saving her sister, she is not completely honest with Holmes as the case progresses. There are wheels within wheels as we begin to see not only the chaos that can ensue when idealist young people are manipulated, but also the evolution of government sponsored spy organizations. In the name of the greater good, these organizations can be as corrupt as those they seek to control. Freedoms are quickly eroded when revolutionaries and counter revolutionaries use the same methods. Holmes succeeds in the mission he undertakes, but he is aware of what is happening in the name of national security.

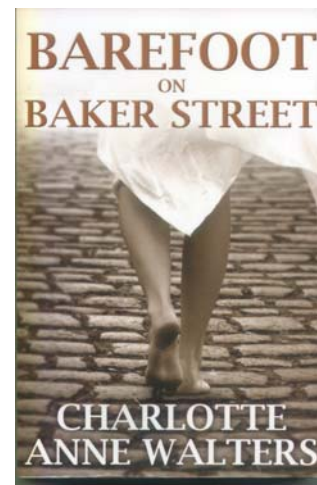
One can see the intricacies Le Carre records emerging from the convoluted espionage Holmes uncovers in the process of saving the woman's sister. At 108 pages, it is a brief book, but a solid one as it tells its own exciting story and also comments on what is to come in terms of covert operations.

After the Fall: Reviews from a Hospital Bed

Reviewed by Bob Sugarman

BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET

BY Charlotte Anne Walters



There are no universal rules for pastiches. However, reading this book convinces me that I have some. I feel that the material being pastiched (?) should be respected and one may change locale and narrators, but one should not rewrite the original or change the characters. Although well written with exciting images of the exploited poor of London, Ms. Walters' novel takes it upon itself to project her heroine, Red, into existing stories in the canon. Red becomes the Dutchess of Moorcar's maid in *THE BLUE CARBUNCLE*. Red also has passionate sex with Holmes in the study at 221B! And poor Horner is revealed to be a sexual

predator and the head of the Irregulars a corrupt weakling. Enough!!!

LUCK BE A LADY, DON'T DIE

By Robert J. Randisi

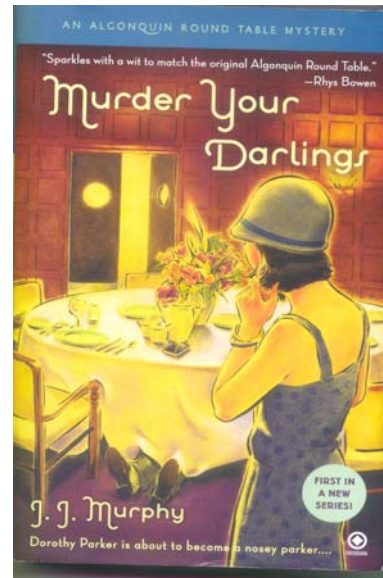


Let me confess at the outset that I have never been a fan of the Rat Pack. However the self-glorifying group is largely background in this fast paced, skillfully written adventure. Far more interesting are the truly ruthless underworld characters that Sinatra seems childishly in awe of. P.I. Eddie Gianelli is hired to find Sinatra's missing girl friend who is also involved with mob boss Sam Giancana. That is only the beginning of complications of identity and who is really working for whom. Along the way, Gianelli is given the services of a giant Jewish hit man from New York who is a charmer. All is finally resolved and the guys keep singing and breaking each other up in Vegas.

MURDER YOUR DARLINGS

by J.J. Murphy.

Just as I am not a Rat Pack fan, as a card carrying English Major I am smitten with the Algonquin Roundtable Pack and they are front and center in this truly delightful work. Dorothy Parker and Robert Benchley are the sleuths when a well know critic is found murdered under the Roundtable. Parker's



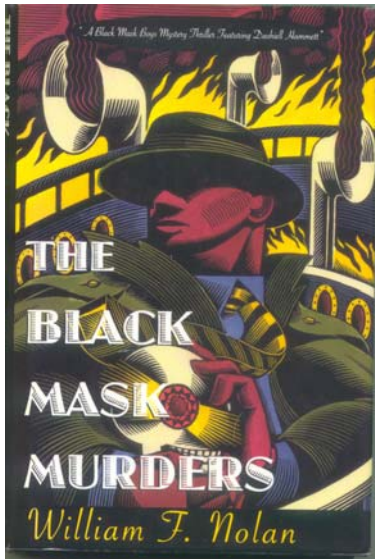
compassion for lost souls – here the young William Faulkner who has arrived in New York with dreams of literary fame, is as great as her wit which Murphy creates, or recreates, wonderfully. Benchley, in all mechanical things helpless, has to master a giant crane in the exciting climax in a newspaper printing plant, while Faulkner, much the worse for booze has to shout out so he can be located in increasingly stream-of-conscious language. When Parker finds him, she tells the young writer, “Bill, you have found your voice.”

Best of all is the depiction of the wonderful relationship between Parker and Benchley, filled with wit covering a necessarily unrequited love - she has a demoralized war veteran husband and he a lovely wife in Westchester and in his words “either one or two wonderful children”. I am convinced that well defined characters are what set fine mysteries like this apart.

THE BLACK MASK MURDERS

by William F. Nolan.

Mystery writers and friends, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler and Earle Stanley Gardner, join forces to solve a murder in this the first of a series. Hammett is the



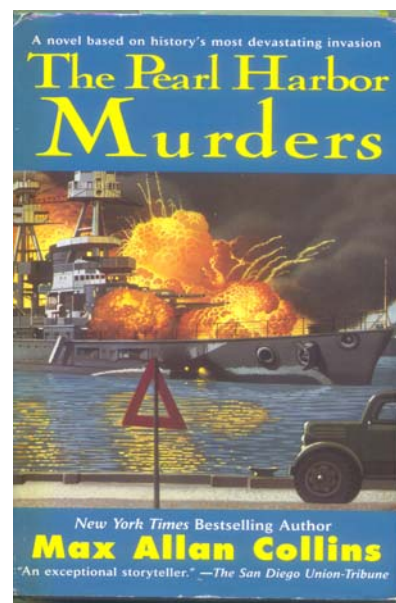
narrator in this, in subsequent volumes the others will take turns narrating. The world of Hollywood in the thirties is well created, but unlike *MURDER YOUR DARLINGS*, the three detectives are not that well defined. Maybe they were not as unique characters as Benchley and Parker, but I suspect they were more so than is presented here. The plot is complex and skillfully rendered, but for me the lack of more clearly defined central characters limits the book's effectiveness.

THE PEARL HARBOR MURDERS by Max Allan Collins.

The detectives here are an elderly Edgar Rice Burroughs, still involved in writing his Tarzan and other stories, and his adult son. The book is set in Pearl Harbor and the story begins on December 5, 1941 so hanging over the book is the reader's sense of what is coming two days later.

Ensign Bill Fielder is in love with Pearl Harada, a popular Japanese-American lounge singer. Fielder wants to ask his father, a colonel, for permission to marry Pearl. After Pearl asks a friend to set up a meeting with Col. Fielder, people assume it is to plead her case for marrying young Fielder, but when

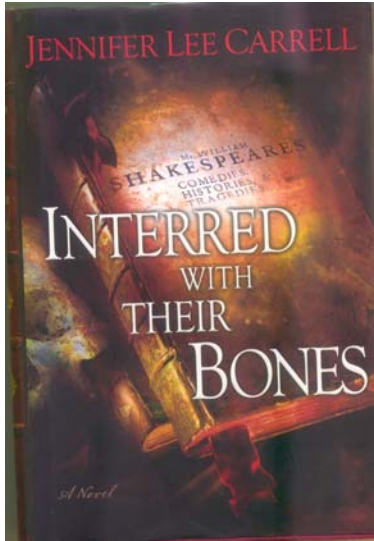
Pearl is found murdered before the meeting can take place, even this plot insensitive reader (everything always surprises me) suspects that she had wanted to speak to the Colonel about other things. Meanwhile, Admiral Kimmell and General Short are convinced that any threat to Pearl Harbor lies not from overseas, but from espionage by a fifth column among the area's many first and second generation Japanese. Their intelligence officers have assured them this is so. Consequently all of the island's airplanes and ships have been placed in confined spaces to protect them from espionage. Gasoline has even been locked away from airplanes and radar is mostly used on weekdays.



As Burroughs and his son pursue the investigation, the December 7th attack comes and is devastating. It turns out that local Japanese were almost entirely loyal to the United States and Pearl had, indeed, wanted to tell Col. Fielding about the impending attack which she had learned about from some of the few disloyal Japanese who were soon rounded up. An interesting sidebar is that Hawaii, unlike the Mainland, never incarcerated its Japanese-Americans. An

engaging story, fascinating for its picture of Pearl Harbor on the eve of the attack and then of the attack itself.

INTERRED WITH THEIR BONES
by Jennifer Lee Carrell



Carrell's first novel, like the *Da VINCI CODE*, is a fast moving adventure that take its protagonist, here the Shakespearean scholar Kate Stanley, from directing a production of *HAMLET* at London's recreated Globe Theatre, around the world in pursuit of murderers, a lost Shakespearean manuscript, and clues to the identity of the person, or persons, who wrote Shakespeare's plays. As I remember the *Da VINCI CODE*, the writing in this volume is far more elegant which is not a surprise as Carrell is a Shakespearean scholar who studied and taught at Harvard, has directed Shakespeare, and even studied Shakespearean acting at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA.

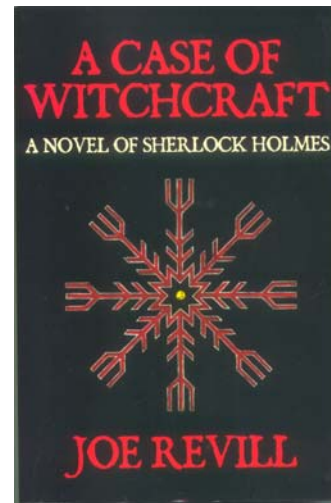
The action begins when an actor is murdered during a rehearsal of the *HAMLET* Kate is directing at the Globe. The murder is accompanied by a fire that threatens the Globe and we are soon reading an account, apparently written when it happened, of the burning of the original Globe. These

occasional time shifts introduce a fascinatingly different writing style and continue throughout the book. Of course, ultimately they contribute to unraveling the mystery. A further complication for Kate is that she is never sure who her allies are and who are her enemies. The scene shifts to Harvard, London, Spain, Washington, and the American Southwest.

The battle in Elizabethan times between the ruling Protestants and minority Catholics figures prominently in the mystery. Along the way, many of the leading theories about the authorship of Shakespeare's plays are given full and fair presentations. Recommended for everyone, but of special interest to lovers of Shakespeare. Be prepared to stay up late.

My Seven-per-cent Solution to A Case of Witchcraft

Reviewed by Chuck Putney



One of the pastiches recently sent to the *Gasogene* for review is *A Case of Witchcraft* by Joe Revill. I found a seven-per-cent solution very helpful. Despite the fact that I hated the first two paragraphs I persisted for 7% of the book, then gave up.

I recall that Nicholas Meyer refused to direct “Young Sherlock Holmes” because it included in the plot that Holmes and Watson (a chubby Watson, at that) were at school together. “Anyone who would propose that,” he said, “obviously didn’t know Holmes.”

I’ve come to the conclusion that there are two kinds of writers of stories that further the reports of Holmes’ cases. The first type, and more reliable, knows the sound and texture of the canon. They understand what is said and what is left unsaid. They know the value of a crisp narrative. They know Holmes doesn’t refer to Watson as John. They know that the author’s voice is almost never the third-person omniscient.

Then there are those who probably watched Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, or the PBS series, or have just read comic book versions. They know Holmes is the smart one and think that Watson is just comic relief.

Revill falls in the latter school.

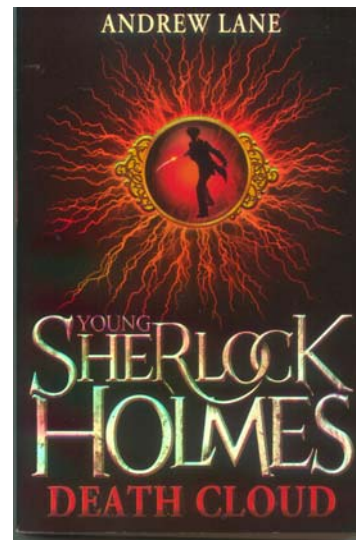
The woman who brings the case to Holmes was “a pale but resolute blonde in her late thirties.” I’ve heard of pale blonds, perhaps bottle blonds, but not resolute blonds. A blonde (except in some unacceptable modern jokes) is not a type of person, it’s a hair characteristic that Watson (who noticed these things) would have called “fair.”

The novel has Holmes out seeking the most recent scholarly books on witchcraft. In the Canon Holmes would simply have come back to the rooms with them. In the novel we get to meet the bookshop assistant, an autodidact who is heavysset and provides a running commentary on the options. It represents the kind of filler added to spin the book out to a novel rather than a longish short story.

I have better things to read, so I did.

**Young Sherlock Holmes:
Death Cloud
By Andrew Lane
Reviewed by Sally Sugarman**

Fascination with the early days of Holmes has been ongoing. This is the second recent series devoted to his youth. However, unlike the Shane Peacock books which posit a very different youth for Holmes than suggested by the Canon, the first in this series seems more consistent with the Canon. Holmes’ father is in the army in India and it is Mycroft who is responsible for Holmes while the patriarch of



the family is away. There is a sick mother and a sister with problems. Holmes is waiting to go home for the winter holidays when Mycroft appears to tell him that he will be staying with relatives. This is a warmer and nicer Mycroft than many non-canonical portraits of him. It is clear he and Sherlock have a good relationship.

Understandably, Holmes is not happy with the household in which he lands. Not only is his Uncle Sherrinford an absent minded clergyman and his wife a rather inane and vacant woman, but there is a menacing housekeeper about whom Mycroft warns Sherlock. However, Sherlock makes friends

with a poor, itinerant boy who seems a model for the Baker Street Irregulars whom Holmes will employ later in life. Holmes is observant and makes deductions, but it is the example of an American who is hired as his tutor that clearly is pointing Sherlock in the direction that he will follow. Also evident is the source of Holmes' interest in bees who play an important and menacing part in the plot. We even see the source of Holmes' involvement with drugs.

Lane clearly knows his canon well, even to a discussion of the attic of the mind. There are a plethora of narrow escapes which can be attributed to Holmes' youth and to the preference for action on the part of younger readers. There is also the American's independent and capable daughter who keeps up with Holmes in daring and enterprise. We can see that Holmes did not always abjure the fairer sex and we can probably anticipate that the reason for his coolness will become clear in subsequent books. We do need to remember that there is often a contradiction between what Holmes says and how he acts, since, with the exception of Agatha, the adult Holmes is always most cordial towards the women he encounters and helps. As a fourteen year old, Holmes does act towards Virginia as any adolescent boy might, intrigued and a little confused. And yes, there is a mastermind criminal who eludes capture and who promises to provide more challenges for Holmes. This is a series worth presenting to both budding Sherlockians and old hands who can never get enough of the Master, young or old.

Death Cloud

By Andrew Lane

Reviewed by Martha Folsom

Up front I must say that while I have read and loved the Canon, I am by no means an expert on Holmes.

I liked the book mostly because Lane did *not* make the young Sherlock into a miniature adult Holmes. Instead you see beginnings.

You learn that he was not popular at school; in fact he was intolerant of the foolishness of the other students, quite the loner and somewhat lonely because of that. Hoping to spend the summer with his family he learns that instead he must stay with an aunt and uncle because his father is away, his mother ill and the older Mycroft is too busy in London to look after him.

During the summer, Sherlock meets a homeless boy around his age named Matty. This relationship, I felt, was very important to the future, adult, Holmes. Matty comes from an entirely different world than Sherlock yet he is smart, resourceful and "knows his way around" from having to live on his own wits. This seemed, to me, to be the beginnings of Sherlock's willingness, as an adult, to form relationships with the "lower classes", both young and old, and his ability to use their resourcefulness to help him with his cases. As an adult he understands that people who have to fend for themselves 'see' far more than others who have everything given to them, and since they are 'invisible' he often disguises himself as one of them.

Mycroft engages an American tutor, Amyus Crowe, for Sherlock over the summer. It is Amyus that helps Sherlock learn the importance of 1) acquiring facts and 2) reasoning. This will be far more important in his adult life than mere rote learning from texts.

In *Death Cloud* Sherlock also learns that events that seem impossible or supernatural do have a logical, scientific explanation.

Even Sherlock's attraction to Amyus Crowe's daughter, Virginia, seemed fitting. She is

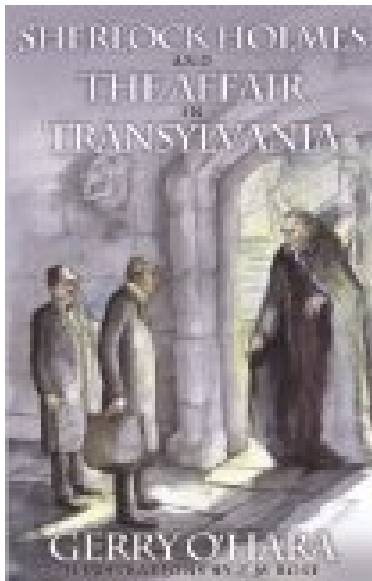
completely different from other girls. She is fiercely independent, and intelligent. There are no whining, fainting or other feminine wiles of the day with her. I want to see in future stories how Sherlock's attitude towards women develops. I see more of his admiration of Irene Adler in his relationship with Virginia, but something must happen to him later to form his overall opinion of women.

I am eager to continue with the series to see how Lane develops these characters. I think it is a great series that could bring a whole new generation of readers to the Canon.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE AFFAIR IN TRANSYLVANIA

by Gerry O'Hara

Reviewed by Norma Leavey



There is nothing worth reading in this book. This review can end right here, but space is allotted for it, so, abhorring a vacuum, painfully I will fill it.

This book gives drivel a bad name. The plot is banal - fretful females, fear, frenzy, fangs

and fury. The characters are stock figures poorly recycled. The writing is rambling and mind-numbing, with geographic sights and ethnic recipes the more coherent parts. The editing is slipshod with grammatical errors galore. The illustrations are puerile and inept. The best thing in the book is the author's warning that he has plans for a couple of follow-ups. Never mind Caveat Emptor - Caveat Reader!

Cold Steal

Carole Spearin McCauley

Hilliard Harris 2004 217p

Reviewed by Walt Colby



The author is a fellow Sherlockian in the Sherlock Holmes Club of the Upper Valley and writer of fiction and non-fiction. This mystery, of her two, is set in a medical research facility. Our protagonist is a medical writer/reporter, Pauli Golden, who is having a secret affair with the charismatic and married research director who has engaged her to write articles about the work of the institute under his direction. He is promptly murdered in moderately grisly fashion at a party celebrating the institute's receipt of a good-sized government grant.

The narrative is rich with a number of themes: rivalry in medical establishments, topics in cancer research, operational details in research labs, Pauli's former lesbian long

term relationship, her dealing with a stroke-ridden mother, a tricky relationship with her lover's widow, and some biting commentary on human nature and society with smart tongue-in-cheek humor.

We spend time in the heads of a number of the characters, not just Pauli's, and are intrigued by the possibilities of who did in the popular but frequently not well-liked doctor. The suspects are underlings and colleagues with Pauli herself coming under suspicion. Financial shenanigans and professional transgressions interlace well-paced short chapters.

No traditional detective is on the scene and the police are minor players. Pauli is on her own in sorting it out and personalities trump conventional clues in the end result.

Last Issue's Challenge

The Hired Help

1. Who was Holmes' pageboy in *The Mazarin Stone*? Billy
2. Who was the leader of the Baker Street Irregulars, "an urchin of no fixed abode"? Wiggins
3. Who was Holmes' general utility man? Mercer
4. Who was Mr. and Mrs. John Douglas' butler? Ames
5. Who was the maid that brought Ned Hunter his supper? Edith Baxter
6. Who was Mrs. Ferguson's maid in *The Sussex Vampire*? Dolores
7. Who was Professor Coram's secretary? Willoughby Smith

8. Who was Mrs. Cunningham's coachman? William Kirwan
9. Who was Professor Presbury's coachman? MacPhail
10. Who was the incorrigible maid that Mary Morstan Watson fired? Mary Jane
11. Who was the stable hand at the Ferguson estate in Sussex? Michael
12. Who was Eduardo Lucas' valet? John Mitton
13. Who was Professor Coram's gardener, "an old Crimean man"? Mortimer
14. Who was Colonel Emsworth's butler? Old Ralph
15. Who was the butler in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*? John Barrymore
16. Who was Lady Beatrice Folder's butler? Stephens
17. Name the West End agency that specialized in governesses? Westaways
18. Who was the maid in Professor Coram's household? Susan Tarlton
19. Who was Lady Brackenstall's maid? Theresa Wright
20. Who was Lady Beatrice Folder's maid? Carrie Evans Norlett

Mendendez, Al *Sherlock Holmes Quizbook*. New York: Drake Publishers, 1975, pgs. 73-74.

This Issue's Challenge

Sherlockan Scramble

Deduce the correct place, name or character

1. RADLEOON
2. AIOGGNRO
3. HGITILCSR
4. KNSGTEINON
5. ANERSUDS
6. OTETNSUHRO
7. TAETSPLNO
8. CULCA RNEGNAO
9. OESEINLWNT
10. ANNA BASHI
11. UGAEMSRV
12. IRTOPER
13. ANOBRUCIVER
14. ATMDRORO
15. TELYAHHRE
16. RNRGUE
17. VTRIMLENO
18. DORERN
19. TEDLSRNAE
20. ERGAIET

Mendendez, Al [Sherlock Holmes Quizbook](#). New York:
Drake Publishers, 1975, pg 69..

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

It's easy! Just send me something: poetry, commentary, fiction, reminiscence, recipe, crossword, quiz, cartoon, photograph, reviews of books, movies, plays, television, you name it. As I said before, it does not need to be strictly Sherlockian, but try to keep the general themes of mystery, Victorian history, Conan Doyle and adventure in mind. We don't just have the newsletters that need contributions, but the web page does as well. Don't forget to check the web page for ideas and also give suggestions for both the newsletter and the web page. www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.org

The newsletter comes out in March, June, September and December

By snail mail: Groans, Cries and Bleatings, c/o Sally Sugarman, P.O. Box 407, Shaftsbury, VT 05262.

By e-mail: sugarman@bennington.edu

By FAX: 802-447-2611