

The Beekeeper's Apprentice, or, on the Segregation of the Queen Study Guide

The Beekeeper's Apprentice, or, on the Segregation of the Queen by Laurie R. King

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Plot Summary

The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King is the story of how a young girl becomes the apprentice to the great Sherlock Holmes. She is so engrossed in the book she is reading that she falls over him while out walking. Though at first she comes across as sassy and argumentative, Holmes immediately sees through her veneer. He recognizes that at long last, after he had given up entirely, he has finally found a person worthy of training as his apprentice. The knowledge that he has finally found someone who challenges and understands his analytical mind is invigorating and instills new life in the super sleuth who had retired to Sussex Downs and become cocaine dependent. With the challenge of mentoring young Mary, he finds new enthusiasm for life.

Holmes begins by challenging Mary with puzzles of all kinds. When he is not testing her mind with puzzles, they play chess or work in his laboratory. He rapidly becomes the father Mary lost in an accident several years previously, and Mrs. Hudson who is Sherlock's housekeeper and companion fills in the large hole that Mary's mother left when she died. Slowly, they heal each other. Mary thrives under the tutelage of Holmes and the nurturing of Mrs. Hudson in all other matters, and Sherlock comes back to life with Mary's company. The tests he devises become ever more challenging, and Mary's powers of deduction and observation grow stronger all the time. Finally, Holmes brings her in on a new case. Together, they solve the mystery surrounding the client and discover that her husband is not the traitor she feared he might be, arresting the man responsible. The thrill of solving the case invigorates Mary. When the manager of her farm tells her about a local robbery at the Inn, Mary becomes involved, but Holmes seems disinterested, telling her to go ahead but leave him out of it. His motivation however is more to give her the confidence to go forward on her own, and she does. Solving this case is tantamount to an addiction in the high it gives Mary and Holmes, though available if needed, is proud of her achievement.

Mary is accepted to Oxford and her life becomes divided. Part of the time, she is a diligent and intelligent student, studying and enriching her mind, and when the breaks between sessions occur, she returns to Holmes where she feels most at home. When the attempts on Sherlock's life begin, Mary realizes for the first time that the work they do can be dangerous as well. In an attempt to get to the bottom of his antagonist, he and Mary use disguises to travel, leave London for several weeks while Mycroft Holmes and Inspector Lestrade attempt to unravel the identity of the mastermind, and in the weeks that follow Holmes and Mary solve yet another case. This time, they must appear to be adversaries themselves. It is a difficult ruse that has Mary doubting herself at times, but the game of cat and mouse works. The evidence leads Mary to realize that their adversary is actually her Math tutor, Miss Donleavy. Donleavy is the daughter of the long dead adversary of Holmes, Moriarty. In a final showdown, Donleavy confronts Mary and Holmes in his laboratory taking them by surprise. At gunpoint, she demands that Holmes sign a suicide note, promising Mary's freedom in return, despite having shot her in the arm already once. When Mary uses an opening to tackle Donleavy, she is shot a second time, but the bullet goes through her shoulder and into Donleavy's

heart, killing her. Sherlock is uninjured, and stays by Mary's side until she heals, taking her to his home for convalescence.



Book One: Chapter 1, Two Shabby Figures

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At the age of fifteen, in the year of 1915, Mary Russell stumbles over Sherlock Holmes for the first time. They form an immediate friendship, going back to Sherlock's house where Mrs. Hudson, his housekeeper of many years, makes tea and feeds her a variety of goodies. Afterward, Mary and Sherlock make a game out of giving each other's biographies—deduced largely by observation and common sense. Sherlock goes first and unnerves Mary with the depth of his analysis of her, but she recovers and returns the favor soon afterward, surprising Sherlock with her quick and intuitive mind. This begins their association.

Mrs. Hudson and Sherlock both extend the invitation for her to come again, and she assures them she will as she gets into the Taxi arranged for her by Mrs. Hudson. She lives with her mother's sister, and feels obligated to return to her parents' summer house where her aunt acts as her guardian until she turns of age.

Book One: Chapter 1, Two Shabby Figures Analysis

Mary is a bit of a loner, spending much of her time and small allowance on books. Her aim is to go to University and study Theology. She has a quick and analytical mind which combines with a rather sharp and unrestrained tongue to give her a brash first impression of a person who is far beyond her years emotionally and intellectually. It is this demeanor that asserts itself when she first stumbles over Sherlock Holmes and she is mortified when she realizes who he is. By then, she has already been quick to sharpen her wit on him and is embarrassed to have done so.

Sherlock is retired, and has been for twelve years. He spends his time mostly alone as well, and studies the behavior of bees. His first meeting with Mary takes him back as he realizes almost immediately that for the first time in his life he has found a mind worthy of making an apprentice out of. Their first afternoon together is spent further exploring



both of their powers of observation, and Mary quickly proves that her intellect is as sharp as her insight into people, and she is an immediate hit with both Sherlock and Mrs. Hudson.

Mary's aunt is a selfish, financially driven shrew who has little control over the fifteen year old Mary. Since her parent's death, Mary has a generous inheritance, but it is held in trust until her twentieth birthday with her aunt as guardian. With little care or concern for Mary's well being, her aunt uses the only leverage she has to control Mary— withholding food as a method of manipulating her. It does not work. Instead of folding, Mary loses weight but continues to live her own life.



Book One: Chapters 2 - 3, The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Mistress of the Hounds

Book One: Chapters 2 - 3, The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Mistress of the Hounds Summary

Whatever fates put Mary and Holmes together, the pair quickly becomes inseparable. Mary is the apprentice that Holmes always yearned for, and he is the instructor/father figure and intellectual inspiration that her quick mind so needed after the death of her parents. Mrs. Hudson teaches her to garden, sew, cook and even instructs her in the ways of a female body. On Mary's eighteenth birthday, Mrs. Hudson takes Mary to a dressmaker's and then to a hairdresser, after which her appearance makes Holmes notice for the first time that she is indeed another gender rather than just "Russell." Mary is of the opinion that Watson is at the least dim-witted until the day she arrives unannounced to find him in Sherlock's kitchen. Her opinion of him changes on that day, and he quickly becomes 'Uncle John' to her. Mary feels as though her life begins in the summer of 1915. Her apprenticeship begins slowly, with Holmes testing her even before she realizes it. This soon graduates to Mary taking an active part in his experiments, and Holmes using old cases of his to test her acumen. The puzzles he devises become ever more complicated until the day he actually involves her in a case he is currently involved with. By then, Mary has learned to recognize subtleties that most ordinary people would never take notice of. In the fall of 1917, Mary is accepted to Oxford, volunteering in her spare time with injured Veterans of the war, and going back to Holmes at every break.

The first collaboration Mary and Sherlock share is brought to them by a local woman named Mrs. Barker. Her husband is inexplicable ill, but she believes that, as a government agent, her husband's on and off illness is not coincidence. He is ill only during periods of weather clarity, and she has noticed a light blinking on their roof during his times of illness. She is afraid he is a spy. Holmes and Mary visit her home, and are immediately greeted by a pack of dogs. The house has a tower that Holmes manages to investigate despite protestations from Mr. Barker. Together they determine that Mr. Barker is being poisoned by his manservant, Howell, using a poison from New Guinea. The antidote is also from that area, and Mr. Barker begins to improve soon after it is administered. He administered the poison and thereafter to keep him well needed only to administer the antidote. He would listen in on Mr. Barker's telephone calls, and then neglect to administer the antidote so that he would be too ill to realize that his manservant was on the roof transmitting the details he had learned to the enemy. By the time the case is solved, Mary has found an entirely new confidence in herself.



Book One: Chapters 2 - 3, The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Mistress of the Hounds Analysis

Mrs. Hudson and Sherlock Holmes rapidly evolve to become the parents that Mary has lost in her life, and she is equally beneficial in their lives. To Holmes, she is a new lease on life, an apprentice he has longed for all his life and a willing and able receptacle for the knowledge and ability he is so famous for. Meeting Mary is as much a tonic for him as it is a life changing event for her. Her many visits evolve until she is one of the family, and even Dr. Watson is astounded in the difference he sees in Sherlock. Mary has an eye for detail and a thirst for information that has Holmes challenging her at every opportunity, drawing her out and shaping her abilities. He teaches her how to recognize even the most subtle differences in everything from footprints to fingerprints, and she gives him a reason to wake up every day. She is a quick study, and the first person he has found that is worthy of an apprenticeship and capable of absorbing the myriad of knowledge he has stored up over the years. He involves her in everything from his experiments to bee keeping, and her interest is obvious and unfeigned. Though Mary has trouble reconciling their lack of participation in the war effort, Holmes assures her that no matter how the war turns out, their talents and observations will be skills that are much needed, inspiring her to continue her tutelage.

Their first case together in collaboration is a convoluted and complicated affair involving rare poison, fingerprints and treason. Together they discover that the manservant is responsible for the treachery, and solving the case gives Mary a boost in confidence that is immediately evident. At the beginning of the case, she is reserved, following Sherlock's lead, but by the time all has unraveled, Mary has truly come into her own. She even finds it in her to command the respect and attention of the seventeen dogs owned by the Barkers, much to Sherlock's pleasure and surprise. The traitorous butler is arrested, and Mr. Barker is receiving the antidote for his now explained illness.



Book One: Chapter 4, A Case Of My Own

Book One: Chapter 4, A Case Of My Own Summary

The Barker case not only invigorates Mary, but leads to the capture of a dozen German spies. She returns to University feeling refreshed. Mary begins to show an interest in running the farm, asking Patrick questions that include the future for the farm after the war. Holmes changes in her absence, noting her blossom into womanhood and develops a cautious demeanor around her. They go to London several times together where she also notices and recognizes Sherlock's mortality.

Patrick tells Mary about a burglary at the local Inn, and Mary remembers Holmes telling her about two others in the area. Holmes is abrupt with her, telling her to take the matter up with the local constabulary, and she goes down to the Inn herself to have a look. Holmes shows up behind her anyway, offering little more assistance than a looking glass to examine the footprints left behind. She discovers that food had also been taken and enlists the noses of Mrs. Barker's dogs to track the felons. Led by Justinian, Holmes and Mary find their way to a smokehouse owned by Mr. Sylvester. The missing hams are smoking inside. It takes little more sleuthing to realize the cash is hidden elsewhere, and after taking some stale bread and making sandwiches from the smoking ham, Sherlock locks the house. Then he breaks a window and enters again to add two beers to their picnic, amused that the thief should return to discover he has been robbed. They wait up the hillside for him to come home, discover the break in, and reveal the location of the lock box. He does so, and Holmes leaves to return with the constable. Before he manages to do so, Sylvester himself is robbed, and the young thief leaves just in time to place himself in the hands of the local police who have returned with Holmes. They go back to the Inn and enjoy a nice dinner, Mary basking in the seldom received praise from Holmes.

Book One: Chapter 4, A Case Of My Own Analysis

Mary is developing into a woman and Holmes responds by becoming a bit more cautious around her. When she hears that the local Inn has been robbed, she calls to enlist his help, but he brushes her off, encouraging her to pursue it herself or leave it in the hands of the local police. She goes to the Inn and unable to resist, Holmes shows up behind her, giving her support as she works her way through the case for the most part on her own. Mary is quick to determine that the best way to catch this thief is to use a tracking dog as food was also stolen. She calls Mrs. Barker who is only too happy to loan them one named Justinian. Justinian leads them to the smokehouse where the meat is, and is rewarded and returned to Mrs. Barker.

Sherlock brushes Mary aside when she brings the matter of the Inn's theft to his attention, claiming it is not worth his time or attention, but as is usual with Sherlock, that is only half the story. This, like so many other situations, is viewed by Sherlock as an



ideal training vehicle, and though Sherlock leaves Mary to figure the case out by herself for the most part, he is there to point her in the right direction if she gets sidetracked, or help her if the need arises. His instincts are correct though. Mary is ready to take on a small case like this and effectively manages to find the thief and bring him to justice. In the process, the thief himself is robbed, making the arrest count higher still, and later while they eat at the Inn, he is as liberal with his praise as he ever is, telling her that she conducted herself with reasonable decorum. She is absurdly pleased with the praise from him, as it means more to her than actually solving the case does.



Book Two: Chapter 5, The Vagrant Gypsy Life

Book Two: Chapter 5, The Vagrant Gypsy Life Summary

After helping to bring in the last of the hay on the farm, Russell cleans up and cycles to Sherlock's. She finds him in full disguise, almost not recognizing him, and playing his violin. Though his expression reveals dismay at first sight of her, he covers quickly and asks her to mind his most recent experiment for a few days, but Russell knows immediately that he is being evasive. She keeps at him until he admits to going on a case, but claims it is too dangerous for her involvement. Russell argues, and he finally relents but only after the threat that their association is at stake. He gives her clippings from the recent papers that have articles circled pertaining to the kidnapping of the Senator's daughter. Holmes is perturbed that he was not called in immediately, and that the scene of the crime has had many disturbances by now, but still answers the call in the fleeting hope that he will see something that the others may have missed. He helps Russell into a costume that mirrors his own, while explaining that they will travel under cover as gypsies with her as his daughter. In order to get in to see the Chief Inspector without raising suspicion by announcing themselves, Sherlock creates a situation with Russell that causes their arrest. After recovering his initial surprise at their appearance, the Inspector summons the Senator and introductions are made.

Holmes and Russell go over what they know of the events leading to Jessica's disappearance, and determine with a few questions that this was not likely a random kidnapping, and that the Senator and his wife were likely drugged so that they would not wake while Jessica was taken from her bedroll while on vacation with them in Wales. The Inspector has arranged for a wagon for Holmes and Russell to use, and even apologizes for the treatment they received while in his cells, but Holmes assures him that they are fine. They leave shortly afterward, on the trail of Jessica's disappearance.

Book Two: Chapter 5, The Vagrant Gypsy Life Analysis

All the tutelage from Holmes comes in handy when Mary finds him about to embark on a case without her, and she uses it as leverage to get herself included. It is the reason he has been training her, she insists, and she presents such a convincing face that he caves and allows her to join him. It does not hurt that she has solved her first case without his direct intervention. This small experience proves to him that she has absorbed the rigorous though somewhat unstructured training he has provided, and can put it into practice. His reservations go further though, as he is also worried about her safety, but somehow he realizes that eventually she will be placed in positions of risk, simply because of the direction of the training he has given her. It is that realization that tips the scales in her favor, as he comes to the conclusion that it would be better if her



first dangerous case were at his side instead of after he is no longer able to accompany or guide her. Mary has used their association as leverage, insisting that if Holmes leave her out of this case she will no longer take his instruction or friendship, but it is not until he is helping her into disguise that she truly appreciates that there might be danger involved.

Holmes uses their disguises as gypsies to get into the police department without notice. He knows that if the kidnappers sense his involvement, it will increase the danger that the senator's daughter already faces. He uses a ruse in the train station, loudly berating Mary for incompetence until their appearance and his behavior attracts the attention of the local constabulary. From there, inciting him to arrest them is easy. Mary is released first, and by dropping Sherlock's name she manages to get herself into the office of the Chief Inspector who is horrified to discover that he has Holmes in his lockup. He is quick to have him released and brought upstairs to him, but is embarrassed by the fact that the officers who arrested him took it upon themselves to show the 'Gypsy' what it feels like to be on the other side of an abusive relationship. Holmes assures the Inspector that his men acted totally appropriately, but the Inspector is good enough at his job to recognize the fresh bruises Sherlock sports and to put together the likely sequence of events.



Book Two: Chapters 6 - 7, A Child Gone From Her Bed and Words With Miss Simpson

Book Two: Chapters 6 - 7, A Child Gone From Her Bed and Words With Miss Simpson Summary

At the outskirts of town, Holmes wisely stops to ensure the horse is without sores and the wagon is mechanically sound. When they resume Sherlock gives Mary tips so that her disguise is believable and convincing. In the villages they pass, they stop and perform. Russell juggles and reads tarot cards while Holmes plays the fiddle and in character gathers information from the local pubs. On the third day they go to the Simpsons' campsite. They find a slit in the seam of the tent deducing it is how sleeping gas had been delivered and come to the conclusion that Jessica was taken by horseback. Scouting, they find Jessica's handkerchief, and her hair ribbon, and speculate as to whether a six year old would deliberately leave them. They travel in the direction the kidnappers went, trying to pick up their trail, and in the fourth town they go to, Holmes hears of a house hired in late June and now occupied by five men with a sixth that comes and goes. Sherlock tells Mary he will create a diversion out front so that she can sneak closer from the back to see if Jessica is there. Mary climbs on top of the outhouse, almost getting caught by a man coming out to use it, but still cannot see inside. She climbs the tree nearby and is rewarded with the sight of Jessica asleep in the bed. Though she is aware that Holmes wants her to return to the caravan until a plan to rescue Jessica can be devised, a part of her knows that a distraction will have to be arranged—just like the one happening in the front of the house now. She decides to go ahead, and getting closer sees a man leaving the room. She manages to slip the window latch and get into the room. Jessica is chained, but Mary breaks the leg of the bed and swiftly takes her out the window after locking the bedroom door. She tells Jessica to be very quiet and hang on and Jessica does as she is told. Mary manages to get her down the tree, and Holmes catches sight of them heading back to the caravan. An hour later, when Holmes arrives, Jessica is frightened again, but Mary reassures her while Holmes picks the lock on her chain. The Simpsons are called and their arrival and reunion with Jessica is emotional for both Mary and Sherlock.

Book Two: Chapters 6 - 7, A Child Gone From Her Bed and Words With Miss Simpson Analysis

Staying in disguise, Holmes and Russell travel from town to town, first heading to the area where Jessica and her family were last camping. It is not difficult to get around, as the caravan is not an unusual sight, and a few tricks from Mary and fiddle playing from Sherlock are enough of a distraction to give them unfettered access to the area. They



camp just a short distance from the sight where Jessica was last seen, and in the morning they walk to the Simpsons' campsite. They notice several things that the police have overlooked. The first of those is a small slit in the Simpson's tent which would be the likely place for sleeping gas to have been administered. From there, knowing that there were no cars in the area, it is easy for them to deduce that the kidnappers must have left on horseback, at least initially. Scouting in every widening circles, they manage to pick up the trail and with clues from the six year old Jessica herself, they are able to track the direction in which she was taken, even noting her attempted escape and the scuffle that ensued as a result. Remembering Hansel and Gretel, Jessica has been leaving traces of herself beginning with a handkerchief and then a hair ribbon. When the trail seems to vanish, Holmes knows that the most likely reason is that a car has taken over, but also surmises that they could not have gone far as the police had the area blocked off relatively quickly.

Continuing in the same direction, and with Holmes discreetly inquiring at local pubs along the way, it does not take long to find out where a group of men new to the area might be. Once the location is discovered, Holmes creates a distraction out in front of the home while Mary is at the back attempting to confirm that Jessica is there. It takes some effort on her part, but after climbing a tree she is rewarded with a direct look at the young girl in bed. From there, Mary uses initiative that goes directly against Holmes' instructions. He had told her to confirm and leave unnoticed, but seeing her chance to affect Jessica's freedom, she decides to take a chance. She knows that Holmes may not approve of her taking chances, but uses what she has learned from him to get into the room, gain Jessica's trust and spirit her back out the window again. When Holmes sees them running through the back yard together, he realizes what Mary has done, but instead of being angry as Mary feared, he knows that she has only done what Holmes himself would likely have attempted. At the same time, he realizes that Watson, despite all the years spent with Holmes, would never have taken it upon himself to try such a dangerous rescue. His admiration for Mary grows and his decision to take her on as an apprentice is rewarded.



Book Three: Chapters 8 - 9, We Have a Case and The Game, Afoot

Book Three: Chapters 8 - 9, We Have a Case and The Game, Afoot Summary

The Oxford calendar, divided into three terms, is in its Michaelmas term in 1918 and Mary is late leaving for holidays because of an essay that is late and that an instructor demands be turned in before she leaves. As such, Mary is almost completely alone in the lodgings house, but for Mr. Thomas and his wife who minded the place. He gives her two envelopes—one from Mrs. Hudson and one he tells her an elderly woman left for her. Mr. Thomas describes the woman as black haired, old and ugly with a great big mole on her chin, and tells Mary that she was there about three hours earlier, but did not stay. As Russell goes upstairs, she notices other things out of place. There is dirt where Mrs. Thomas surely would have cleaned and grease on the handle of her door. Deciding to be cautious, she goes back outside, and climbs up the outside vine to peer in the windows first. Her caution is rewarded by the sight of the old woman sitting in her room, and then Russell notes similarities, and realizes it is Holmes. He helps her in, and explains that they are in grave danger. Someone has already detonated a bomb that injured him, and planted another one he discovered and disarmed in her room. He has already ensured Mrs. Hudson is safe with friends, and now, after a brief rest and change of bandages on his injured back, he suggests that she dress as a young man and they make their escape before first light.

Dressed warmly, against the chill of December, they make their way cautiously around the outskirts of London until they reach the Diogenes Club in London where Sherlock's brother Mycroft is a member. Sherlock is hopeful that Mycroft will help them to determine who their bomber is by the signature of his work. By the time they reach the Club, Sherlock is in pain and they are both cold and exhausted. Mycroft is immediately helpful, taking them into the building across the street from the Club where he provides them with not only lodgings, but food and clothing for Russell as well. After cleaning up, Russell wants nothing more than sleep, but she joins the Holmes' brothers for food, changes Sherlock's dressings and then realizes that Watson might also be in danger. She calls him, suggesting he leave his home and take lodgings in a hotel until she speaks to Holmes again, inferring that he is not with her now. Then she rather strongly suggests to Sherlock that he rest before going to bed herself.

Book Three: Chapters 8 - 9, We Have a Case and The Game, Afoot Analysis

Mary divides her life almost evenly but with polar opposites in thinking. On one side, she is an Oxford student, with mind fully involved in studies and education. She thrives



there, assimilating well with both professors and other students. In this life, she is a relatively normal and functioning young lady whose interest in men is beginning to develop. She looks forward to holidays with friends and with a tinge of romantic interest. On the other hand, she is Sherlock's apprentice. She is susceptible to dangerous situations where her mind must function like a criminal in order to pursue and track those whose paths cross her mentor's. In this part of her life, she is calculating, intelligent, quick witted, strong willed and fearless. She is willing to put her life on the line to help others, and will follow Sherlock into any and all of his adventures. At times, it is only natural that these two lives will overlap. Such is the case in this chapter where Mary is excited and looking forward to Christmas holidays with friends and her plans are altered by the appearance of Holmes and the danger her association with him brings. Suddenly, she is thrust into the life of a detective again, and her life, along with the lives of those she loves are in danger.

Mary switches easily from one role to the other as she follows Sherlock's directions and quickly changes from the young lady she has blossomed into to the young man she disguises herself as so that they can make good their escape. A bomb planted in both Sherlock's home and her room in Oxford's housing are enough to inspire her to lie to her hosts who expect her for the holidays, and follow Sherlock to his brother Mycroft's club where hopefully he will be able to discern who their enemy is now. She is invaluable to Holmes as she aids him in securing rides from strangers, and acting as a blind person to further his disguise as an old woman. Tired and unnerved by the events, Holmes and Mary still manage to successfully elude their pursuers for the time being, and arrive at Mycroft's without incident. It is not until they get there and have had a meal that they realize that Watson may be in the same danger. Mary is quick to call her "Uncle John" and insist he leave his lodgings that very night, despite the late hour. Having worked with Sherlock for as long as he has, Watson knows the kind of danger that can follow his best friend, and barely hesitates before doing as Mary suggests.



Book Three: Chapter 10, The Problem of the Empty House

Book Three: Chapter 10, The Problem of the Empty House Summary

In the morning, Mary is surprised to wake and find Watson downstairs with the Holmes brothers. She had not told him where she was, and in fact had made a point of assuring him that Sherlock was not with her, and yet he still saw through her deception and came to them. Having been the one at Sherlock's side for so many years, it took him little time to figure out that not only were they together, but that the only place Sherlock would have gone was to his brother Mycroft at a time like this. He disguises himself and takes a convoluted route to the Club, concerned for Sherlock's physical condition after the bomb blast that injured him, and refuses to leave until he has had a chance to examine Holmes for himself. Unfortunately, his loyalty brings the danger right to them again, as Sherlock spots a man watching the building from across the street.

They puzzle over who might be responsible, and the matter is further complicated when they discover the news that Watson's home was the site of a bombing and the bomber himself, an old nemesis of Holmes, dies in the blast. It seems unlikely that the matter is resolved because of the person still watching them now, and it seems just as incongruous that the bomber was the mastermind. It is much more likely that there is some relatively wealthy and well connected criminal pulling the strings in the background, but none of the four bright minds set to the task can figure out who that might be. They review the time line together, beginning with the blast that injured Holmes and his responses afterward, but still, none of it makes sense. Sherlock decides that his only course of action now would be to reacquaint himself with the criminal element in the city, and insists that this is something he must do on his own. He arranges a meeting that evening at Covent Gardens for Italian night. To evade the danger once more, Sherlock dresses himself as Mycroft, transforming himself with layers of clothing and putty to make his facial features similar at least from some distance, and then helps Mary to transform into Watson the same way. When their disguises are complete, Watson offers Sherlock some morphine to combat the pain he is sure to be in, but Holmes laughingly reminds him that he never imbibes while on a case.

Holmes gives Mary a key to one of his many hideaways in the city, The Storage Room, which is a small windowless room filled with racks of clothing, makeup and a dressing table. It is an ideal place to slip into and emerge as someone else, and one of many that Sherlock has. Mary makes her way there, and looking around she realizes that this place could house someone indefinitely. There is a plumbed in kitchen and bathroom, and enough supplies to make it possible to hide there for some time if necessary. Mary is surprised to discover that the room seems to have been used recently, and wonders



how active Sherlock's career still is. It takes some time for her to find an outfit and shoes that fit, and then apply makeup to sufficiently alter her appearance the way Holmes has taught her. Afterward, she leaves with the idea that she will spend some of the money she discovered from the Holmes brothers, put in her handbag earlier.

Book Three: Chapter 10, The Problem of the Empty House Analysis

Though Mary is a surprising good partner for Sherlock, she often fails to remember that Watson has been around Holmes for many years longer than she, and his personal knowledge and abilities are considerable, despite appearances. She often thought in the beginning that Watson must be quite slow or inept not to have noticed some of the clues in their old cases. Despite his naive appearances, Watson is able to discern that Holmes is with Mary and that they are both in the one place that Holmes would go to in a time such as this—his brother's. Without wasting time, he disguises himself and is at Mycroft's home by the next morning to personally supervise and tend to his best friend's wounds. Unfortunately, his actions also are the likely reason that the criminal element are once more aware of their location.

The person responsible for the bombings is an enigma, and made more so by the fact that even though they are being watched, Watson's home is bombed and the bomber killed inside. This gives them several new clues to consider. The most important one is the fact that there must be many more people involved in the surveillance and there has to be a mastermind at work. This mastermind has to be someone who is not only aware of Sherlock and his habits, but also of Mary and her whereabouts along with her connection to Holmes. These clues only further confound the four of them, and Sherlock makes the decision to go to the criminal element himself to see if he can discover who is behind the attacks.

They disguise themselves once more; this time Sherlock leaves as his brother, Mycroft, and Mary is made up to resemble Watson from a distance. Sherlock sends her to one of many safe places he has throughout the city, and Mary gets her next surprise. The Storage Room has obviously been used recently which makes Mary realize that Holmes is still much more actively working than she realized and his cover of retirement is likely just that. The Storage Room is so well equipped that she could have easily spent the remainder of the afternoon waiting there, but she decides to change her clothing and look once more and resurface. She spends the day in the shops above, spoiling herself in a way that she has not had the ability to do before.



Book Three: Chapter 11, Another Problem: The Mutilated Four-Wheeler

Book Three: Chapter 11, Another Problem: The Mutilated Four-Wheeler Summary

Russell leaves the Storage Room which is conveniently located near one of the stores in the city that carries everything, and spends the next several hours pampering herself and relaxing. She buys clothing and shoes that fit correctly, has her nails done and then heads for the exit with her parcels in hand to meet with Holmes. Sherlock had instructed her to follow the same convoluted exit strategy as they had used earlier, so to the doorman's amazement, she sends the first two cabs on their way without her. Cold and tired, she reluctantly gets into the third cab which is old and battered compared to the others. Surprised, the doorman sends her on her way. It is not long before she realizes that the cab is not taking her to the Covent Gardens as she had asked. She becomes indignant instead of frightened and even threatens the driver with a pistol before she realizes that Holmes has put one over on her again—he is the driver! Well disguised, he somehow manages to know exactly when to appear to pick her up, and Mary is not amused that he has fooled her again, blaming her tired mind on the lapse.

When they get to Covent Gardens, Holmes has her get out and wait while he transforms his look once more inside the cab. When he emerges, it is as an elegant gentleman with top hat and cane, surprising her yet again. He offers his arm and she takes it, going inside to watch the show and enjoy a meal afterward. Holmes is at his finest and intelligent, engaging and conversational, making Mary remember that he also possesses those wonderful qualities. She has spent so much time with him during instruction and his experiments that she sometimes forgets this side of him. The evening is most enjoyable until they emerge to find the cab's real owner, Billy, has been attacked in his cab as he waited for them. Inspector Lestrade is already there. He has a moment of amusement when Holmes introduces Mary as his associate, until Mary and Holmes both set him straight. Then, looking closely at the crime scene, they find Mary's parcels slashed and torn, as well as the seats of the cab, and Billy is found lying unconscious on top of Holmes' disguise and the rug he had used. Fingerprints are taken, along with soil samples from footprints, and then after thanking the policemen for their due diligence (and making them more alert in the process which was her aim) Mary goes through the cab and scours it for evidence that did not belong to the parcels she had with her. Afterward, when one of the policemen escorts her to the bathroom facilities in the park, Russell discovers something that causes her to summon Holmes. She asks him then if the person they are looking for could be a woman.



Book Three: Chapter 11, Another Problem: The Mutilated Four-Wheeler Analysis

Mary is surprised and dismayed that she can be fooled a second time by Holmes in two days. First she fails to recognize that he is the old woman in her room right away, and then she mistakes him again for a cab driver. She is outwardly angry with Holmes and even threatens him the second time for using his considerable talents to fool her, but the truth is that she is angry with herself for not seeing through his disguises. She cannot believe that she allowed herself to be fooled.

Holmes is full of surprises throughout the evening. He is the perfect companion, elegant and charming, which is a side of him she does not see often. She is in the process of probing which of the two of his identities he is more comfortable with as they exit Covent Gardens and discover that the real cab driver Billy has been attacked. They approach Inspector Lestrade who is already on the scene, and Holmes introduces Mary as his associate. That gets a laugh from the Inspector who thinks Holmes is joking, but both Holmes and Mary are quick to put him in his place. Billy has been knocked on the head, and chloroform was used to put him into an unconscious state. The horse drawn cab has been ransacked, Mary's parcels have been opened and the contents ruined, and the cab has had its seats slashed. Mary uses the opportunity to show off her skills by pointing out several things she has already deduced about the policeman who discovered the scene, which impresses the Inspector and restores her dignity somewhat. Several things come to light as they investigate the scene. There are several sets of prints and a blond hair is discovered. Mary gets an escort to take her to the public restroom in the park and she is further vindicated when she comes to the realization that the mastermind they are looking for may indeed be a woman.



Book Three: Chapter 12, Flight

Book Three: Chapter 12, Flight Summary

When Mary tells Holmes that she suspects the mastermind is a woman, he looks over the evidence she found there to support it, and agrees with her. Holmes quickly requests that the park be cordoned off until he can examine it in the morning and use Lestrade's laboratory. They make their way to the lab to analyze the samples and Russell falls asleep. Holmes wants to return to the park in the morning immediately, but Mary insists that she must have a change of clothing first. A young PC shows up to tell Holmes a package arrived for Mary and Lestrade wants him to join them as the bomb squad opens it. A note inside reads that knowing Sherlock's limitations, Mary will undoubtedly be requiring the enclosed items this morning. Inside are appropriate clothing, stockings and shoes. The note is signed "An Admirer." Holmes is furious at the presumption of this person. While they examine it, he asks that Russell be provided with suitable clothing, and she is given a set that is part uniform, part civilian. Holmes suggests she make a list of necessities for the next few days and have a female officer go for them and adds she should get him some clothing as well. Mary accuses him of holding out on her and treating her like Watson, and while they are arguing in Lestrade's office, a shot rings out and the window explodes. Holmes grabs Mary and drags her beneath the window horrified, but she is okay. He explains what he has to do is of the utmost urgency and he has no time to explain. Then he kisses her brow, rendering her speechless until after he is long gone, which she realizes afterward was his likely intention. She goes back to the lab and notices the shoes in the package are actually a pair of hers that went missing from her dorm in the fall. At the same time, she notices the type used in the note is the same type used in the kidnapping note when Jessica was taken.

Holmes returns with a stench of Opium and Mary refuses to leave with him until he showers. He is angry and ready to confront her in the car, but Mary launches into a lecture of her own, telling him they have a partnership and she expects to be treated as such. She adds that he has not eaten, slept or bathed and in her opinion, is not thinking clearly any more and as his partner it is her duty to stop him from being stupid. That quiets him. When they get to the docks, he leads her to a small ship, explaining that they need to disappear for a while and introduces her to the Captain. His son Brian helps him cast off and takes them to their quarters. Holmes pours her a brandy and she tells him about the shoes and the type characteristics. Holmes is stunned, and angry with himself for not having seen it. He thanks her and they go over the entire case again, examining the evidence from both sides. Holmes has written articles about footprint differences between men and women, and distinctive characteristics of soil. He is certain the soil from the smaller footprints came from Baker Street. Since the mud was on her boots and hands, Holmes determines that she replenished the print to ensure he would make the connection. He believes the mastermind is a woman he knows quite personally. He also believes the bullet was meant to hit Mary. He apologizes for treating her like Watson admitting she passed every test he gave her and



has come to a point of graduation from his tutelage. He grants her the next decision and asks her where she would like to go with him to stay out of harm's way for a while. She chooses Palestine, after all of her other arguments have been put to rest by Holmes. They will be on holiday for six to eight weeks, he tells her. They spend their time aboard ship with Holmes devising puzzles for her to solve, and playing chess. Mary beats him for the first time, using a move that she learns from a Math professor in which her queen is sacrificed for the greater good. Holmes is pleased that she won but the style of her win disturbs him, although she does not understand why at the time.

Book Three: Chapter 12, Flight Analysis

Holmes agrees with Mary's analysis of the scene, and the deeper they delve into the clues left behind, the more sure he is that this is a woman from his past. He argues with Mary over leaving her behind while he goes out on his own, and while they argue, Mary is almost shot through the window of Lestrade's office. Holmes is horrified by how close he came to losing her, and realizes again just how much she has come to mean to him. He kisses her on the forehead in a moment of tenderness that renders her speechless, and while he is gone she discovers two more important aspects of this case. The first is that the shoes sent in the parcel actually belong to her and were taken some time in the fall, and the second is that the note was typed on the same machine used for Jessica's ransom. When Holmes returns, she insists he clean up before they leave, and though he is in a state of agitation and wants to leave quickly, she refuses to go until he does. They are driven back to the docks afterward, and board a ship that Holmes has arranged passage on. Mary is reluctant to leave, especially when Holmes tells her they will be gone for the better part of two months, but he assures her that all outstanding details can be dealt with. When he has her agreement, he apologizes to her for leaving her in the dark. He finally admits both to himself and to her that she has passed every test he has given her, and has in fact almost surpassed his own abilities in some cases. It is time for the teacher to grant her the master's she has earned, and hearing that, Mary is suddenly afraid that he is cutting her loose. Though she desperately wants his respect and acknowledgment of her talents, she certainly does not want their relationship or her tutelage with him to end now. She feels better when he discusses their plans in terms of where they will go, insinuating that their association will continue at least for now. Then he allows her to decide where they will go, and thinking about it for a moment, she realizes that this is an opportunity for her to go somewhere she has always felt connection to. She tells him they should go to Palestine, and while that takes him by surprise at first, he admits that "she" will never think of looking for them there. Meanwhile, Lestrade and Mycroft will be doing their best to figure things out while they are gone.

They amuse themselves aboard ship by continuing the puzzles Holmes creates for Mary, playing chess, and discussing the case in great detail. Mary is excited that her chess playing has improved to a degree where he no longer has to spot her pieces at the start, and during one of their games she even manages to distract him enough to lead him into checkmate. He acknowledges the ruse and congratulates her, but she admits that she learned the set up from a Math instructor at Oxford. She tells him that



sometimes the Queen must be sacrificed for the greater good, and Holmes is taken aback by the analogy. He is thinking about their case, and understanding that the mastermind was trying to do exactly that. She was looking to sacrifice Mary, in her mind undoubtedly for the greater good. The analogy is a little too close to home for Holmes and he leaves Mary for the evening feeling greatly disturbed, while Mary is still unaware of the connection he has made in his mind.



Book Three: Chapter 13, Umbilicus Mundi

Book Three: Chapter 13, Umbilicus Mundi Summary

Mary had not realized how much she wanted to be in Palestine until she actually thought about going. It is the land of her heritage, and her childhood is filled with stories from the area. Now, needing comfort, she finds it by going to a place that feels like home to her. They are deposited on land quietly at night and in disguise again. Two Arab men meet them, acting as their guides and sent by Mycroft whose name opens many doors to them. Disguised as father and son, Mary and Sherlock roam the area, finding strength and rejuvenation with Mary's only regret being the lack of bathing available to her. They spend time in Jerusalem, and even Holmes is moved to thank her for choosing this destination which has renewed him in spirit. Before going to Acre to meet the boat at the end of their holiday, Mary takes Sherlock to the Plain of Esdraelon and Mount Megiddo. Standing there, overlooking the ancient battleground, Mary broaches the subject of their return to London for the first time. He asks her why she chose Palestine, and she tells him of the stories her mother relayed to her as a child. These stories also include the sacrifice of one woman for the greater good, and Holmes realizes that she did make the connection he made on the boat after their chess game. She offers to make herself the sacrificial lamb in their case, and he turns her down. He suggests instead that Mary appear to abandon him, and like the pawn in their chess game, come to his rescue at the appropriate time.

Mary is nervous about this plan. Her faith in her own ability to competently come to Sherlock's aid at the correct time is slim at best. Up until now, her involvement with Holmes has been tame for the most part. Even her rescue of Jessica, though daring, would not have harmed Holmes had the outcome been different and she had been caught. Now, he proposes to put his life in her hands and she fears that the quarry will not be fooled by their ruse. She tries to convince Sherlock to at least involve Mycroft or Lestrade with some form of protection, but Holmes assures her that the woman he believes is the mastermind will not be easily fooled. While Mary wanted more responsibility, she is only too aware that she has no experience in this area, and is surprised to realize that Holmes is totally and completely trusting of her. She finally reluctantly agrees and, shaking at the thought, Holmes does something he never has before. He holds her until her fear subsides. They make their way back to the dock and, thanking their guides, are rowed quietly back to the ship.

Book Three: Chapter 13, Umbilicus Mundi Analysis

The trip to Palestine is a surprise to both Mary and Sherlock. Mary finds a comfort and feeling of belonging that she had not previously known. She feels a deep connection to the land, and its people, and to her family and their deep roots in this place. She and



Holmes visit the places her mother told her about and read to her about, and finally understands her place in the world. Holmes is also surprised by the incredible and total peace of mind and body he finds in this unpretentious place. The people are direct and warm, welcoming them at every turn, and he is grateful to Mary for choosing this destination that so refreshes his spirit and allows him the break and peace of mind he so desperately needed. It is in this land that he realizes that Mary is every bit a graduate of his teachings, and that they are no longer teacher and apprentice. To Mary's surprise, he finally lets down his guard in more ways than one.

Holmes tells her of his plan to catch the mastermind responsible for the attacks on their lives. His intention is to walk right into her trap willingly and alone, giving the outward appearance that Mary has deserted him. Like the chess game in which Mary beat him for the first time, Holmes wants her to be the pawn that sits in the shadows seemingly unimportant and come to his aid when he has seduced their quarry out into the open. Mary is astounded by the degree of faith he has in her, effectively putting his life in her hands, and the knowledge that she could fail scares her to a degree that at first she vehemently objects to the entire idea. Holmes explains that it is the only way. Any other approach would be seen and responded to before it could be executed, and they would not be free of her. Reluctantly, Mary comes to realize that Sherlock is right, but her fears are still enough to have her quaking at the thought of this plan. Holmes holds her until her fears subside, showing a side of himself, without guard, that Mary has not seen before. Their connection is strong and their feelings for each other so deep that Mary cannot bear the possibility that she might not be up to the task and his life will be at risk as a result. Holmes, on the other hand, is completely confident in her capabilities, and exhibits no reluctance of fear at the prospect of putting his life in her hands. It is a first for him, as even Watson never earned that degree of confidence from him.



Book Four: Chapter 14, The Act Begins

Book Four: Chapter 14, The Act Begins Summary

Once aboard ship, Holmes and Russell both enjoy the sensuous and delightful feeling of clean clothes and body before meeting again for tea. It is remarkably civilized after the way the last few weeks have been spent. Captain Jones brings Holmes a package he received for him that included five envelopes from Mrs. Hudson who is safely traveling as well, and one from Mycroft. The latter includes results from the lab that conclude the bomb at Sherlock's home was set to scare not kill, connected and tripped by a wire trigger. It confirms for Holmes that the aim is to hurt him by harming his associates and he concludes that if Mary were to alienate herself from him, she would be safe. Scotland Yard includes results of finger prints, and documents concerning the bomber who died in the bomb at Watson's. In each case where someone was hired to complete a job, evidence of large sums of money are found but cannot be traced. The bomber's wife is well compensated for her husband's death, and the family of the man whose prints were found in the cab also received large sums of money that are untraceable. Russell studies the photographs of the cab's destruction that were enclosed and sees a pattern of roman numerals in the slashes. Twenty five numbers, seemingly inconsequential. Without some form of key, they are unable to discern the meaning in the message.

Holmes then says goodbye, their alienation beginning, telling her that it may be some time before they are able to speak freely again. He kisses her forehead, and says goodnight, after thanking her for showing him Palestine. Assuming that they are watched at all times, their act of dissociation must be convincing in every respect. From that day forward, when they meet it is with venomous tongue and icy conversation that quickly disintegrates into quarrel. Each day the act becomes a little easier to keep up. It becomes so automatic so quickly that Mary fears it will become reality and permanent. She finds a way to ask Holmes once through the door he leaves open as she stands at the rail whether or not he has ever 'become' the role he played. He, of course, is aware of this risk, but assures Russell that he is confident she will step up when the time is right. He convinces her that while their ruse will be long and difficult, it will work and they must be vigilant. That night, her old nightmare returns, and for the first time in four years, she tells someone the contents of the dream. Holmes sits quietly and listens, and then agrees with her assessment of guilt and responsibility that not only spawns the nightmare but kills her parents and brother when she was only fourteen. He tells her then that while she bears the responsibility, she also needs to let go of the guilt and become a worthy reminder of the family she lost. For the first time since the accident, she weeps. Their alienation begins again the next morning, but each evening for a few moments they sit together in privacy and friendship again. It is way to maintain sanity and keep the illusion up during the day. When they dock in London, Russell is able to muster an attitude that shakes Watson and Mycroft who waited at the dock. She stalks off while Holmes disembarks, telling them to let her go. He looks like death warmed



over, yellowed and aged - all of course a part of the show they concoct. Thus begins two months of separation.

Book Four: Chapter 14, The Act Begins Analysis

Once aboard the ship again, Russell and Holmes spend the first day going over the documents sent by Mycroft concerning the investigation into the bombings and the attack on the cab. Mary finds a series of roman numerals in the slashes on the seat, but they are unable to discern their meaning. Holmes finally packs it all up again, and tells Mary it is time for them to become adversaries. They must assume that they are being watched at all times, and their act of disdain and dislike for each other has to be convincing if they are to draw out their prey and lure her into their trap. Beginning the next morning, they disagree, then quarrel and their friendship on the surface of things quickly disintegrates. They speak in icy tones to each other, with barbs and baited remarks so that even the crew on board begins to avoid them both. Their act is so convincing that when she is alone, Mary begins to question her entire relationship with Holmes. Horrified, she seeks him out discreetly, and asks if it is possible to become the role you play. Holmes assure her that it is, but at the same time reassures her that he has complete faith in her and knows that she will be there for him when he needs her. That night, her old familiar nightmare returns with a vengeance and she wakes screaming with Holmes at her side. She asks him to leave, but he does not and instead brings her water and sits smoking his pipe until her shaking subsides and the nightmare completely fades. Then Mary does something she has never done before. She shares the contents of the nightmare with Holmes, telling him about the guilt and horror that regularly visits her since she killed her family. She describes the events to Holmes who knows comforting her is not the answer. Instead, he agrees with her, telling her that she has every reason to feel the way she does, but then suggests that to honor her family she must go forward without the guilt and be worthy of those lost. The weight of her horror and self loathing lifts and finally she sleeps. The next day, they resume the arguing as if the night before never happened.

The toll shows on Holmes, who refuses to eat, smokes like a chimney and begins to drink heavily again. His skin is jaundiced and his eyes are red and swollen, and finally Russell takes him aside and suggests he is taking the ruse too far. He laughs, admitting only to ingesting yellow spices to change his pallor, and the liquor he tells her, is mostly poured down the drain. For the ruse to be effective, he must appear beaten and seemingly lose his interest in life itself. Reassured, Russell makes him promise to eat and look after himself. He agrees, and they go back to being enemies again.

When they reach London, Holmes looks like death warmed over and Russell is positively mean when she strides past Watson and Mycroft who wait on the dock. Perplexed, Watson calls after her, but Holmes assures him that she will have nothing to do with any of them. He plays his part as convincingly as Mary, and Watson and Mycroft are none the wiser. The ruse is now complete and for two months, there is no contact.



Book Four: Chapters 15 - 16, Separation Trial and The Daughter of the Voice

Book Four: Chapters 15 - 16, Separation Trial and The Daughter of the Voice Summary

Mary throws herself into her studies in an effort to regain her status after being gone for so long. Alienation from Holmes changes her style of dress as well and she no longer wears pants and boots. Her math and Greek tutors are both away, and after three weeks of steady work, she feels caught up with the rest. In early March a telegram from Holmes queries her plans between terms and after some brief hesitation, Mary wires that she will come. She approaches the executors of her parents' will, and convinces them to give her enough money to buy a Morris. It is just two weeks before the end of term before Mary discovers she is being watched. Paying closer attention, she notices three different people, and on her trip to Sussex she manages to spot five vehicles which confirms there is money backing this endeavor.

Once home, she talks to Patrick and discusses farm business, and he tells her that there have been city people asking about her in town. He probes her alienation from Holmes and she explains that Holmes had tried to hold her back when all she wants do is spread her wings and fly. She does however admit that she will see him that afternoon. When she arrives at Sherlock's residence, it is difficult to be cool and distant as per their plan. He takes her up to the laboratory to show her his current experiment, and where they are able to speak freely for a few moments. It is the first time in several months and Mary can hardly contain her emotions. Holmes recognizes her difficulty and backs off, giving her copies of the evidence reports from the attack on the cab. Then they agree to resume arguing, and the hurtful remarks escalate until Mary leaves without even saying goodbye to Mrs. Hudson.

Mary goes back to Oxford and the weeks pass. Spring arrives, but Mary spends most of her time in the Bodleian library. It is in there, away from the public, that she hides the information given to her by Holmes, and studies it every spare moment, but she still cannot make heads or tail of the roman numerals carved into the cab's seat. Finally, in a moment's inspiration, she attempts to decipher the code using a base of eight instead of ten, and the symbols translate to reveal the word Moriarty. It does not take long before she makes the leap from the name of Sherlock's old nemesis, to the maths tutor who had been working with her in this vein. Suddenly it all makes sense, and Mary realizes that their assailant is none other than her maths tutor. It fits, makes sense, and in her excitement she almost does not notice that her constant watcher is no longer there. With great anxiety, she hurries to the women's housing to call Holmes, but discovers the lines are out. She asks Mr. Thomas to get her car ready intending to drive to Holmes that evening. Racing upstairs, she sees the greasy smudge on her door handle and tentatively calls out Sherlock's name on her way in.



Book Four: Chapters 15 - 16, Separation Trial and The Daughter of the Voice Analysis

Mary's time away from Holmes is more difficult than she imagines it will be. Isolated from him, and having to keep up the pretext of alienation closes her off from not only Holmes, but Watson and Mrs. Hudson as well. She throws herself into her studies, and regains all that she lost while away with Holmes. All of her free time is spent in the library, and on the rare occasion that she goes out with others, she finds the experience less than satisfying emotionally or intellectually. She leaves the evening early, returning to her room. She is beginning to get used to the whole thing when a telegram arrives from Holmes asking her briefly if she is coming to visit between terms. Confused, she queries as to whether he wants her to, and he sends yet another note adding that Mrs. Hudson would love to see her. She begins to pay more attention to her surroundings after walking head first into a post, and notices that she is being followed. Three different people come to her attention, and when she drives her car to Sussex, she notices no less than five cars used to follow her. She makes sure that they have no trouble following, and heads for the farm. Her aunt is the same as always, indifferent to her at best. While discussing farm business with Patrick, he mentions that city people have been asking about her in town as well. Patrick quietly mentions that Holmes is not looking and hints that their alienation may have some impact so Mary tells him that her argument with Holmes could be summed up by his reluctance to allow her a graduate status with him. It is a partial truth, borne from past arguments and easy to make real for her, so she is believable. She adds that she plans to see Holmes and Mrs. Hudson while she is home, and tries to keep the excitement out of her voice.

In truth, Mary can hardly wait, and finds it difficult to hold her emotions in check. When she gets there, it takes all of her control to keep up the appearance of bare civility, especially when it feels so much like home to her there. Holmes casually invites her to his laboratory to see his current experiment, and once inside with door closed, she sees nothing of note going on there. She cannot even look at him, for fear that she lose her tenuous grip on her emotions, and she communicates that to him quietly. He realizes the tender state she is in, and instead gives her copies of the documents that related to the cab destruction from Mycroft. They go back down after planning to argue in front of Mrs. Hudson again and force Mary out before dinner can be served. They have words, and Mary leaves on a sarcastic note without even saying goodbye to Mrs. Hudson. It is one of the most difficult things she has had to do. She goes back to Oxford with the file from Holmes and while sequestered in the library, she works on the roman numeral puzzle. It takes her a while, but she finally realizes that the message is a code using a base of the number eight instead of ten, similar to a code she worked on in math that was created by Moriarty—a nemesis of Holmes now long dead. The more she thinks about it, the more sense it suddenly makes. The woman who is the mastermind that they have been trying to flush out is her math tutor. With that excited knowledge, she knows that she and Holmes no longer need to fear or hide their friendship. They know who their enemy is. She goes back to her room, telling Mr. Thomas on the way to get her car from the garage. He does, while she goes up to change. Reaching her room, she sees

greasy prints on the doorknob—Holmes's calling card. She goes in, calling his name out excitedly.



Book Four: Chapter 17, Forces Joined

Book Four: Chapter 17, Forces Joined Summary

Inside her room Holmes sits disguised as a priest. She hugs him and in a rush of excitement tells him they no longer have to stay alienated. Holmes stops her, and asks her to clarify herself, and she slows down long enough to reveal the identity of their assailant. She also tells Holmes that her watchers have been pulled off, and at a suggestion from Holmes she changes into trousers and boots. Their noisy exit creates a stir as women come out of their rooms to protest the men in their dorm. Holmes makes a quick call before they get into Mary's Morris and head for Sussex Downs. Mary's driving habits have Holmes anxious for most of the trip, constantly suggesting she slow down so that they arrive in one piece, but Mary is confident and fearless behind the wheel.

She hides the Morris in the barn at her farm, asking Patrick to keep it out of sight, and she and Holmes make the rest of the journey to his home on foot. They go carefully, so as not to attract attention and in the dark they slip through the back door and make their way up to Sherlock's lab, where he assures her a candle will not be seen by the outside. They intend to hide quietly and wait for Donleavy to show herself to them. Mary comments on the smell of meat pies and enjoys the familial feeling that washes over her until she sees the look in his eyes and looking past him sees Miss Donleavy pointing a gun at her.

Book Four: Chapter 17, Forces Joined Analysis

Mary is so overwhelmed to see Holmes that she pulls him to her in a hug that mildly embarrasses him. She is so taken with his presence that she has difficulty making herself understood at first, but Holmes manages to slow her down just enough to get the gist of her information, the most important part being that she has solved the riddle of whom their opponent is. She also tells him that as of this evening, her watches have been removed, signaling a change of some kind, and the road to the Sussex country home is out as a result of an accident of some kind that includes the temporary interruption of the telephone lines. Knowing these things, Holmes comes to the conclusion that whatever is going to happen, it will happen at his home in Sussex, so they hurriedly get to the car and driving like a woman possessed, Mary takes them on back roads to get them to her farm undetected. They leave her car in the garage there, waking Patrick to tell him it is there, and that they would prefer he keep their presence a secret.

They walk to Sherlock's and let themselves in without turning on lights. Holmes leads the way to his laboratory which is the only room in the house where candlelight will not be seen from the outside. The ruse is that Holmes is supposed to be in bed recovering from pneumonia and in a weakened state, and as such, they believe that Mary's math



tutor will attack him there at last. Once in the darkened room, with guard down, they are both taken by surprise when they find that Miss Donleavy is already there waiting for them with gun in hand. It is the first time that Mary has ever seen emotions like fear and defeat in Sherlock's face.



Book Four: Chapter 18, Battle Royal

Book Four: Chapter 18, Battle Royal Summary

Miss Donleavy instructs them to sit at a distance from each other with hands in plain view at the table, and Mary is drawn through a series of memories from her classes with this tutor. The gun is pointed at Mary, where Donleavy knows it will achieve maximum effect from Holmes. Somehow, she still believes that Mary and Holmes were in a state of emotional alienation, and the thought gives Mary brief hope. Holmes draws her attention back to him, and laughs, letting Mary know that she was only playing with her, and the ruse is up. She confesses to them both that her time is limited. She is dying and what once was a plan she had intended to spring much later had become a plan of necessity in the time she has remaining. Donleavy asks if Holmes has questions for her, but when he declines, she insists that he explain their relationship and the reason for this final act on her part. Holmes gives Mary a quick look that tells her he is not as beaten as he appears to be, and in monotone voice, recites the events that led to him killing Moriarty. After that incident, Moriarty's wife and daughter disappear, and from the age of eighteen forward, she schemes and follows Sherlock around, learning all that she can about him. In her madness, she creates a suicide note that she asks Holmes to read aloud. He keeps a bored demeanor on his face, and Mary tries to keep up a look of youth and stupidity, despite the wound already affected on her by Patricia's gun when she gets angry.

Holmes agrees to sign the suicide note, and inject himself with one final and lethal dose of cocaine after extracting a promise from Patricia that Mary will be left unharmed. Mary believes Holmes has given up, and cries out in protest, but Holmes tells her not to be such a child. He pulls out his pen, but finds it out of ink, and Mary is asked to get a bottle from the cupboard. She does so reluctantly, and before Holmes signs the multi-page set of lies, he tells Patricia that her father committed suicide as well, and during his explanation of the circumstances, she flies into a rage. Mary grabs the bottle of ink and throws it at the arm holding the gun which goes flying. Mary jumps on top of Patricia while she retrieves the gun, and uses all of her remaining strength in her one good arm to turn the gun away from Holmes. The second shot rings out, and Mary turns to see Holmes is unhurt, just before the searing pain in her shoulder registers and the blackness of unconsciousness follows.

Book Four: Chapter 18, Battle Royal Analysis

Donleavy is as evil and morally bankrupt as her long dead father, whom she is still attempting to avenge. Unable to use her mind to constructively carve out an intellectual place for herself in the world, she instead creates accidents that kill two instructors to get herself instated at Oxford where she bides her time and learns all she can about Holmes. Taking over where her father left off, Donleavy orchestrates bombings, kidnappings and murders to get what she wants—the chance to take Sherlock Holmes



down. Now, holding Sherlock and Mary at gunpoint, she tries to force Sherlock to sign a suicide note. Holmes pretends to go along, giving Mary the opening she needs to intervene. Bravely attacking Donleavy, Mary sacrifices her own safety to save Holmes from Patricia Donleavy's plan to inject him with a lethal dose of cocaine. In the struggle, Mary takes a second bullet in the shoulder, but it goes through her and somehow through the twisted and hatred filled heart of Donleavy as well.

Mary is not considering her own safety at this point. Her only concern is to save Holmes. As the king of sleuths, she is his queen and now that her segregation from him is over, she reacts with strength of character and body to protect the man she views as both father and mentor. The irony is that Donleavy was the Math tutor that taught Mary the chess strategy of sacrificing the queen and using a pawn to catch the opposition's king. As intelligent as she was, she still did not see that Holmes and Mary were using this ploy against her until the very end. Luckily, the sacrifice Mary made was not permanent.



Book 4: Chapter 19, Return Home

Book 4: Chapter 19, Return Home Summary

When Russell regains consciousness, Holmes is at her side, worried expression easing slightly at her recognition of him. Doctors fuss over her, taking her pulse and checking other vitals before she lapses again into the darkness with Sherlock's gentle voice telling her to sleep and assuring her he will be there when she wakes again. True to his word, the next time she surfaces from the disjointed dreams of darkness, he is there. She finds that her visitors include Mycroft, and Watson who assures her that she will likely not want to wear anything more revealing than a turtleneck. The second bullet went through her collarbone and continued through Donleavy's heart. It is an appropriate end, and Holmes apologizes for being so slow to move that Mary had to endure the second shot at all. Mary is not awake for long, but slowly works her way back to the world. When she is well enough to leave, she has no desire to go home. Instead, she stays with Holmes, despite protests from the doctors who believe she is too isolated.

Once there, she is content to slowly heal, eating well and getting stronger with the help of Mrs. Hudson. Once on her feet again, she finds herself restless and easily agitated. Everything begins to grate on her nerves including Holmes. She is even irritated by the sound of his violin and the smell of his pipe tobacco, and finally decides to go back to Oxford. She even loses her temper when Holmes brings out the chess board. Then a letter from Jessica comes that breaks through her careful defenses. She reads it, and for the first time cries herself out, with Holmes at her side. When she recovers, he tells her he has to go away, and invites her to join him. Feeling more like herself than she has in months, she goes home with him, and tackles the game they both love—Holmes no longer spotting her a piece now.

Book 4: Chapter 19, Return Home Analysis

Russell is in and out of consciousness several times, but Holmes never leaves her side. He takes a room beside her, hovering close by at all time so that he is there whenever she wakes. His comforting presence is one of the first things that register on her when she comes to, and he encourages her to continue to rest. When she is finally aware enough to engage in conversation, Holmes fills in the blanks for her. He tells her that the bullet that very nearly killed her, did in fact kill Donleavy. His concern and affection for her is obvious, and when she is well enough to leave the hospital, the only place she wants to go is home with Holmes. The hospital staff is argumentative, citing the remoteness and distance, but Holmes can be persistent, and Mary soon finds herself under the comforting care of Mrs. Hudson. She heals, and becomes ever more restless. Suddenly, even the small things are getting on her nerves. Frayed and irritable, she spends more and more time on the Downs, finally coming to the conclusion that she

should return to Oxford. Sitting on the Downs one afternoon, Holmes approaches with a letter from Jessica.

The love and admiration from Jessica, along with her childlike acceptance of the obvious is enough to finally reduce Mary to tears for the first time. Holmes knows that this release is necessary and holds her while she cries herself out. Afterward, feeling more like herself than she has in many months, she goes home with Holmes. She is ready now—for chess, for pipe tobacco and for Holmes and his home. Life is normal and their friendship is restored and stronger than ever.



Characters

Sherlock Holmes

In the year of 1915, he is 54 years of age, looking considerably younger than portrayed by Conan Doyle. He is an intelligent and observant man who until recently sported a goatee the sun has yet to conceal the traces of. An eccentric, Sherlock has been retired for twelve years and now studies bees while writing a "magnum opus on detection." He makes his own honey wine and still conducts his own chemical experiments. He smokes a pipe often and still plays the violin. He has rheumatism, but multiple bee stings seem to help. Sherlock comes from a moderately wealthy background, but his relationship with his parents was not a happy one. To date, he is still trying to understand them.

He avoids relationships with women finding it difficult to have anything less than an all-inclusive partnership. He dislikes saying goodbye, but left Baker Street, moving to escape the feeling that he was surrounded by inferior minds. He has always had difficulty sleeping, and used cocaine for some time until meeting Mary Russell whom he considered to be the first person worthy of becoming his apprentice. Holmes is unconventional in his ideas and relationships. He ignores social customs and sees women as exotics from another tribe entirely. He all but ignores the fact that Mary is a female for the first two years they are associated. He is intelligent and has a sharp mind for detail and detection, and is seldom surprised by people or their behavior. Meeting Mary Russell is a breath of fresh air for Holmes that largely gives him a new lease on life. Holmes had begun to indulge far too frequently in the cocaine he used to sleep, and had lost interest in much of life around him until he meets Mary and realizes in an instant that she is the apprentice he has searched for his entire life. It is one of the few surprises in his life. Not only is he taken with her quick mind and tongue, but he is astounded that at this time in his life—his retirement—he would finally come across a mind worthy of becoming his apprentice at last. It gives him reason and enthusiasm for life that little else has, and their relationship grows rapidly and exponentially.

Sherlock Holmes is a true gentleman. He discovers a kinship with Mary that grows from genuine fondness to love as time passes, in the way that a father would love his daughter. Their relationship is one of the only ones in which Holmes finds himself on equal footing. It is a joy for him to find an equal in mind and logic, and he thrives as her mentor and teacher. Their time together gives Holmes a new lease on life.

Mary Russell

Mary is a fifteen year old girl when she stumbles over and meets Sherlock Holmes. She has long blond hair that she wears plaited and under a cap, and clothing that does little to accent her appearance or sexuality. Named for her paternal grandmother, she wears an antique locket with her initials engraved on it, and is under the guardianship of her



mother's sister—a woman who patently has no use for her, but covets her inheritance from her parents. After her parents were killed in an accident, and Mary's injuries had healed, she accepted the guardianship on the condition that her aunt move with her to her parent's summer home in Sussex Downs until Mary turns twenty-one and is able to assume responsibility for the funds. Mary wears glasses, and is somewhat gangling in appearance, but has yet to fully develop. Her maturity is far beyond her years, and she plans to study Theology in University despite Sherlock's feeling that she is wasting her time.

Born to Judith Klein, Mary writes Hebrew, and is governed by extremely good manners. She has an eye for detail and a straightforward attitude that immediately appeals to Sherlock. Her tongue is quick and her wit is sharp, and her aptitude for detection is evident to Holmes even at their first meeting. She develops her talent quickly and soon becomes as much a right hand to Holmes as Watson was for so many years before. She enjoys the experiments Holmes conducts, and the puzzles he creates for her. At the age of seventeen, she is accepted at Oxford. She excels in her studies there, volunteering with war veterans in her spare time and going back to the farm to continue her instruction from Holmes during holidays and breaks. It is a relentless schedule that she thrives on. With her forthright attitude, candor in all subjects, and a mind that is a sponge for all that Holmes feeds her, she is a new lease on life for him and he is the inspiration and guidance she needs in her life. It is the perfect match.

Mary grows into an attractive and well adjusted young woman and is as quick witted and capably minded as her mentor. So much so that Holmes finally acknowledges her as his equal. It is both a joy and unnerving for Mary to be told that she is a "graduate" of Holmes's studies and she fears that having passed all of his tests, he will now set her out on her own, but their relationship means more to him than that. The friendship stays intact throughout the trials they face, and out of it all, a partnership emerges.

Mrs. Hudson

Mrs. Hudson is the long standing housekeeper and cook for Sherlock Holmes. She quickly slides into the niche of Mary's new mother, instructing her on everything from cooking to sewing, and on all things a female needs to know. To Mary, she is as invaluable as she has become to Holmes over the years. She has a son who lives in Australia who writes to her each month, and her presence in Sherlock's home makes possible the myriad of visits from Mary. Without her there, the visits would have been considered improper at the least, and she quickly comes to regard Mary as her daughter. She teaches Mary that having a mind and being a woman are not incompatible, and she herself is imperturbable. She is largely the reason Mary blossoms as a woman. She keeps scrupulous household records for Holmes, and a running account for Mary as well, to be paid out when Mary's inheritance is no longer governed by her Aunt. She is a wonderful gardener who produces all the flowers necessary to feed the bees that Holmes keeps. She is truly a gem, without which both Holmes and Mary would be lost.



Mrs Hudson is invaluable. She worries consistently when Mary is hurt, and is glad for the opportunity to help her to mend, looking after her until she is back on her feet. She is a source of stability in both Holmes's life and Mary's. When faced with the danger of their adversary, Miss Donleavy, Holmes insists that Mrs. Hudson go on an extended vacation to Australia to visit her son.

John Watson

John Watson is the man that keeps Sherlock Holmes humble. He is somewhat naive, and not terribly intelligent, but has a polish that is borne of the many cases worked by the two men together. It is obvious to anyone who first meets Watson that his love for his friend Sherlock is genuine and pure, and he is as necessary to Holmes as Mrs. Hudson. Watson is considerate and gentle in his demeanor, and instantly accepting and appreciative of the presence of Mary and her effect on his best friend. In his first meeting with Mary, he tells her in all sincerity that she likely saved Sherlock's life with her presence in it. He is the one responsible for organizing and committing their various cases to paper for publication.

Watson is intelligent and gentle in nature, having been on so many cases with Holmes that he understands how Sherlock thinks and can even anticipate his reactions to a given situation. That is how he manages to find Sherlock and Mary when they are hiding out at Mycroft's home. Watson takes the chance of going to Mycroft's to ensure that the injuries to Sherlock are not more severe than what has been reported. He has had enough experience with Sherlock to disguise himself and take a convoluted route to Mycroft's, knowing the danger involved. While he does his best to be discreet, he still leads the adversary right to them once again. It is a decision that is good in hind sight however, as while he checks on Holmes, his own home is bombed and he is safe. Holmes asks Mycroft to look after him until the danger passes.

Patrick Mason

Patrick is a Sussex farmer who manages Mary's farm and has done so since before her parents married. He is fifty-two years of age, and is a large and slow moving man who treats the farm with as much love and respect as if it were her own. He has in fact, spent more time on it than Mary's family has. When his wife dies, he finishes raising their six children and on the day that the youngest of them reaches eighteen, he divides his land between them and moves onto Mary's farm full time. He is a respectful and considerate man who calls Mary "Miss Mary" and runs the farm to his liking—which is fine with Mary. He has always maintained a degree of formality with her, and is shocked the first time Mary suggests that she help him with the farm chores.

Ratnakar Sanji

Mary's alter ego, created when she attends University at Oxford, is the source of much entertainment for her and those who know, and much consternation for those who seek



to catch the elusive character. Using the disguise of an Indian nobleman for almost the entire month of May, Mary appears in three of the men's colleges. "He" speaks bad English when speaking at all, wears a turban, and is introduced as the son of a Rajput Nobleman.

Mycroft Holmes

Brother of Sherlock, Mycroft is a founder and prime member of the Diogenes Club. He has a deep voice and a firm handshake that matches his larger size. Despite this, he is remarkably light on his feet, and well educated. He enjoys knowing about the cases Sherlock works on, but prefers not to be involved in the more strenuous parts that would involve excessive physical activity. A considerate man, he is much like Sherlock in that the feminine form easily embarrasses him. Mycroft is every bit a gentleman, standing when a woman enters the room, pulling out a chair for Mary to sit, and not sitting himself until she is settled. By Sherlock's description, he possesses the knowledge of Scotland Yard without feeling the need to hoard the information.

Inspector Lestrade

This Scotland Yard Inspector is a small and wiry man of thirty five years. He is an old friend to Holmes and in days gone by Lestrade's father was a colleague of Sherlock's on a number of occasions. They know each other relatively well and Holmes trusts him.

Ronald MacReedy

Scotland Yard's fingerprint expert, Ronald is the man who is sent for to fingerprint Billy's cab after his attack. Holmes is relieved by the fact that he is on the case, having read his latest article dealing with fingerprint whorls and how they might compare with personality traits of criminals. Holmes thought the article was intelligent.

Miss Patricia Donleavy / Moriarty

The daughter of Moriarty, Miss Donleavy is behind all of the attacks on Holmes and Russell. She has been the Math professor at Oxford, and Mary's teacher until something in her snaps. Her intelligence and attention to detail gives way to a madness that is as unpredictable as a snake. A crack shot, she is still cloaked in hatred for Holmes and the events that led to her father's death when she was but a child. From the age of eighteen, she makes Holmes and his undoing her project. She causes the accidents of two tutors at Oxford to secure her position there and work in the position she felt her father was cheated out of. She runs her father's business during the entire time, keeping a more direct hand in it when the summer holidays come, including the orchestration of the kidnapping of Jessica. Her madness is not confined to just baiting Holmes. She buys the farmhouse on the hill above his home to watch him more closely,



and invades every part of his life that she can. In the end, she is just an educated crazy woman with a grudge that she carries like a war wound throughout her entire life.

Professor James Moriarty

Former nemesis of Sherlock Holmes, Moriarty ran a criminal organization that included everything from drugs to prostitution. Careful to keep his own hands clean, he kept his involvement in criminal enterprise to planning and spending the proceeds of his various activities. Though brilliant of mind, like his daughter Patricia, he is tainted with madness.



Objects/Places

Sussex Downs

The place where Mary meets Sherlock Holmes, and where they both enjoy walking alone.

Oxford University

University that accepts Mary and houses her while she studies chemistry and theology.

OUDS

Dramatic society at Oxford, run by Veronica Beaconsfield.

Ratnakar Sanji

Character assumed by Mary as an elaborate prank at Oxford.

Oxford Calendar

Three terms at Oxford that include Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. Michaelmas is the first term in Autumn, Hilary is the winter term and Trinity is the spring term.

Diogenes Club

Gentleman's Club that Mycroft Holmes belongs to, and the place where Sherlock and Mary go to get his help after the first bomb goes off and the second is discovered.

The Storage Room

One of the many hideaways Holmes has in unlikely London locales. This one is windowless, small and filled with equipment useful to alter identity, including racks of clothes, a dressing table and makeup.

Covent Gardens

The restaurant that is the meeting place for Holmes, Watson and Mary after Sherlock investigates an underworld connection to the recent bombings.



Fugue

Two different sections of music that heard separately may not appear to be at all related, but if the listener hears the entire work, the music's internal logic makes their relationship to one another clear.

Palestine

The destination Mary chooses for her and Holmes when the need arises for them to be gone for a time.

Scotland Yard

Police force Inspector Lestrade works for in London.

Reichenbach Falls

Location in Switzerland where James Moriarty loses his life, sparking the campaign of revenge his daughter begins years later in his memory.



Themes

Duality of Personality

Many of us have two distinct personalities. One is the person that we show the world and is the personality that we would like to be, and the other is the person that we are privately—the more honest self. Holmes is also two distinct and separate personalities. One is the detective. It is the part of him that most people see. He is dedicated, observant, often abrupt and determined. He has multiple abilities, including the skills of assimilating information and reading people. He also is a master of disguise, enabling him to blend with a multitude of surroundings with little preparation. Called upon by private and public sector alike to aid with a variety of confusing and often disturbing cases, he is invaluable and irreplaceable.

The other side of his personality is seldom seen by many. Watson claims a more intimate knowledge of this side of Holmes than he might honestly enjoy, but Mary has had the privilege and pleasure of knowing both sides of this man. His second and more elusive personality is a true gentleman. He has a varied knowledge of many subjects, making him an engaging and entertaining companion, and enjoys an interest in opera that surprises Mary. Though this side of him is seldom seen, he is as comfortable in this persona as he is in his role as detective and sleuth. When Mary questions him as to which side of himself he feels most comfortable with, he describes himself by comparing himself to a fugue. He is like a piece of music that when heard in pieces can not be imagined together, but when heard at once, the relationship between the two pieces becomes obvious and belongs.

Acting As If and Its Risks

Holmes comes to the conclusion that the only way to catch their opponent is to set up a ruse that traps her by her own confidence. They must appear to have dissolved their friendship completely, and when their quarry believes it completely she will reveal herself. Holmes will use himself as bait, and when the time is right, Russell is to swoop in and rescue him. The plan is a good one, and if executed correctly, will work flawlessly. They begin the ruse aboard ship, presuming that they are being watched at every turn. The quarreling is serious as are the barbed comments and the acid and icy tones they use on each other. They are so convincing in their behavior that it becomes easier each day to respond to each other with anger and venom. By "acting as if," they become the enemies that they pretend to be. Slowly, Mary finds herself thinking with the same animosity when she is alone in her cabin as she performs with on deck during the day. Her disguise molds itself so convincingly around her that she is losing herself in the process. She takes a moment one evening to discreetly talk to Holmes about it, asking him if it is possible to become the part you are acting, and Holmes admits it is a real danger, but at the same time he assures her that he has every faith in her. He knows that when the time comes, she will be there for him. Feeling somewhat reassured, she



continues the act, but Holmes, knowing that she is struggling, begins spending a few private moments each night with her to reestablish their close ties.

Their act is so convincing that they confound Watson and Mycroft when they arrive in London. Sherlock and Mary have done such a convincing job of hating each other that to any one watching, their association is finished. It is two months of separation that follow.

Brilliance vs Madness

The line between brilliance and madness is sometimes very thin. In this story, the antagonist is the daughter of Sherlock's archenemy and long dead nemesis James Moriarty. James was a brilliant mathematician with the respect of his peers and family. He uses his extraordinary mind but rather than serving mankind he chooses to build a career in criminal enterprise. He assembles and runs an extensive and far reaching network of evil and depravity. His agents murder, rob, and drain families through blackmail, poison women and men alike with opium and weave a web of prostitution, torture and smuggling. When Patricia grows up, it is without her father's direct influence, but she "inherits" both his business enterprises and his penchant for living on the wrong side of the law. She arranges for the "accidental" deaths of two university professors to secure a position at Oxford that she felt her father was cheated out of, and uses her position there to keep track of Mary and learn about Holmes. With revenge as her single motivation, she uses her breaks from University teachings to arrange for the kidnapping of Jessica, and refers to this period as "keeping a hand in" her father's business. Hiring former enemies of Sherlock's to bomb both his residence, set a bomb at Oxford and at Watson's, she demonstrates an ongoing flare for evil instead of putting her superb mind to use by serving humanity in her position at Oxford. In both cases, a brilliant mind is wasted as it touches madness.



Style

Point of View

Laurie R. King writes *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* entirely from the perspective of one of the two main characters—Mary Russell. In the opening chapter, Mary meets Sherlock Holmes who almost immediately recognizes that he has finally found someone worthy of becoming his apprentice. While he never actually invites her to study under him, he begins testing her almost immediately, probing her mind and her ability to solve the many puzzles he devises. Mary is a young lady, just fifteen when she is "discovered" initially by Holmes and his surprise at her age combined with her wit and reasoning power is enough to pull him out of a cycle of cocaine abuse and depression. Holmes rapidly becomes a father figure as well as a mentor to Mary, and his housekeeper Mrs. Hudson easily slips into the role of surrogate mother to the young girl who lost both her parents in an accident years earlier. Mary thrives in her association with Holmes and her education is divided between the tutelage Holmes offers, and her acceptance into Oxford University. The novel is well written, direct and uncomplicated in its presentation, with detailed and well rounded mysteries solved by intelligent and daring characters. Mary is a strong. Her youth does not hinder her, as she is an intellectual match for Holmes—one that he never thought he would find in his life. She gives him purpose and direction, and in return he teaches her to use her powers of observation.

Setting

A Beekeeper's Apprentice takes place primarily in two locations. The first is Sussex Downs where Sherlock Holmes has retired to, and he and Mary Russell first meet. Much time is spent at his country home where Mary is taught his craft, and learns to see through his eyes. They make one excursion to Wales on a case during which they travel the countryside dressed as gypsies in an effort to track down the kidnappers of the Senator's daughter, Jessica, and they take a trip to Palestine to avoid the unknown enemy who threatens their lives, and the lives of those around them. The trip is made by boat, and once there, Mary is tour guide to Holmes taking him on a journey to the many places her mother told her about as a child. There are also several scenes at Oxford University. Other than that, the remaining setting is London itself where Mycroft lives and they retreat to when the bombings are taking place. During this time, it is revealed that Holmes has several hideaways scattered throughout London—places where he can go and either hide for a time with adequate food, water and other conveniences, or change his identity by creating a new disguise with the many sets of clothing and make up articles stored there. When the final confrontation takes place, it is at Holmes's country home in his laboratory where they are surprised by Miss Donleavy, the daughter of Sherlock's long dead nemesis, Moriarty.



Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is all British/English. While most of it is straight ahead English language, there are many instances in which King uses a more authentic Londonese to describe a situation. For example, when using a telephone, a "connexion" is the word used in place of connection as we would use in North America. While in Palestine, Mary and Holmes both slip into Jewish axioms and Mary even sings in the language at one point when they are camping under the stars in the desert. Holmes bids goodbye to their guides in their language as well. When describing events like Christmas, flaming pudding and other delicacies come into play and throughout the novel there are many such British English style idioms. These lend authenticity to the era and the area in which the novel takes place, but are not so frequent as to take away from the story itself, or make it more difficult or cumbersome for the reader to absorb. Since the novel takes place in a time where propriety in relationships is an issue, King lends credibility to her writing by dealing with the delicacies of a young girl apprenticing with an older Sherlock Holmes. All in all, a good and straight forward read.

Structure

The Beekeeper's Apprentice is divided into four books. Each one deals with a different phase of the story. The first book deals with Mary's apprenticeship to Holmes. The second book is Mary's internship, wherein Mary's ability and instruction are tested in real case scenarios. In the third book, the partnership between Mary and Sherlock is cemented and brought out into the light. The fourth book deals with the mastery of both the two sleuths and of their opponent—the daughter of Sherlock's old nemesis, Moriarty. Book one is four chapters long, book two is three chapters long, book three is seven chapters in length and book four is six chapters long. Though the chapter totals vary in each book, they are all approximately one hundred pages in length dividing the book equally into four parts. Two of the Books are further divided into subsections with subheadings to indicate a change in direction. The first is in Book Three which goes from the subsection which explains their "Partnership" and then "Excurses" which briefly describes their trip to Palestine. The second occurs in Book Four which begins as "Mastery" but finishes with a "Postlude" to wrap the story up.



Quotes

"I don't know how sapient you find most Homines, but I for one find the classification an optimistic misnomer." Book 1, Chapter 1, p. 11.

Mary to Sherlock when he speculates that perhaps his study of bees can be related to the study of people as they are so similar.

"And I thank you, with all my soul, for you have done what my skills could not, and brought back my truest friend from the grave." Book 1, Chapter 2, p. 37.
Watson to Mary at their first encounter.

"Madam, there is no treachery in the truth. There may be pain, but to face honestly all possible conclusions formed by a set of facts is the noblest route possible for a human being." Book 1, Chapter 3, p. 65.

Holmes to Mrs. Barker when she confesses her fears that her husband is a traitor.

"You find even such rustic and unadorned sleuthing satisfying?" Book 1, Chapter 4, p. 96

Holmes queries Russell after she catches the petty thief responsible for the cash box and food robbery at the local Inn.

"Reading that drivel of Watson's, a person would never know I'd had any real failures, the kind that grind away and keep one from sleeping." Book 2, Chapter 5, p. 108.

Holmes to Mary regarding his displeasure at being called into the kidnapping case so late in the game.

"If wishes were horses.... detectives would ride." Book 2, Chapter 6, p. 136.

Begun by Holmes and finished by Russell, the comment is made regarding their wish that they had been there a week previously when the kidnapping of Jessica had first occurred.

"It was, in fact, precisely what I myself might have done, given the circumstances." Book 2, Chapter 7, p. 168.

Holmes to Russell—high praise that puts her mind at ease after she deliberately defies Holmes's wishes and rescues Jessica.

"A hive of bees should be viewed, not as a single species, but as a triumvirate of related types, mutually exclusive in function but utterly and inextricably interdependent upon each other." Book 3, Chapter 8, p. 194.

A line remembered by Mary from Holmes's introductory chapter of his book on bee-keeping.

"Russell, there are times when the infirmities of the body may be used as a means of concentrating the mind." Book 3, Chapter 9, p. 208.

Sherlock to Mary after she strongly suggests he get some rest as well.



"Two discrete sections of a fugue may not appear related, unless the listener has received the entire work, at which time the music's internal logic makes clear the relationship." Book 3, Chapter 11, p. 242.

Sherlock describes himself and his dual personality to Mary by relating it to a fugue.

"Russell, you have struck the very question upon which I proposed to meditate with my pipe. You have also saved me from the worst sin a detective can commit: overlooking the obvious." Book 3, Chapter 12, p. 253.

Sherlock's comment to Mary regarding her analysis that the mastermind may indeed be a woman instead of a man.

"When faced with the unthinkable, one chooses the merely impossible." Book 3, Chapter 13, p. 300.

Mary to Holmes when he informs her of his intention to put his life in her hands.

"There he is, gentlemen, the great Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Savior of nations, the mind of the century, God's gift to humanity. Gentlemen, I leave you to him." Book 4, Chapter 14, p. 327.

Mary to Watson and Mycroft as she disembarks from the ship and strides past them angrily in character.

"It's just that if you force a race horse to work along with a plough horse, they'll both get upset and kick apart the traces." Book 4, Chapter 15, p. 337.

Mary explains to Patrick why she cannot maintain her relationship with Holmes right now, giving him what she knows will be a believable excuse for their mutual behavior.

"I could also see that you were on the edge of something and didn't want to risk knocking it out of your head." Book 4, Chapter 17, p. 360.

Holmes to Russell, explaining why he did not make himself known when he passed her dressed as a priest in the library earlier that evening.

"Mr. Holmes, how generous is the urge to Christian forgiveness in your soul, to perceive the man who nearly killed you and your two closest associates as a poor fellow who's widow and children weep for him." Book 4, Chapter 18, p. 379.

Miss Donleavy to Holmes when he berates her for the death of the bomber at Watson's home.

"Your father had a superb mind, as do you, and as you did he left the world of honest thought and turned to the creation of filth and evil." Book 4, Chapter 18, p. 390.

Holmes to Miss Donleavy as she holds a gun on him.



Topics for Discussion

What surprises Sherlock almost immediately after he first meets Mary? Why is he so surprised by his revelation?

What motivates Mary's aunt, and how does Mary cope with her?

What skills does Sherlock teach Mary before she goes to Oxford, and how does she use these skills while there?

When it appears as though Holmes and his associates are under siege, what does Holmes do that makes Mary angry? Why do his actions upset her?

What does Mary discover about the mastermind's identity, and how does she reach the conclusion she does?

Describe Mary's relationship to Holmes.... to Watson.... to Mrs. Hudson.... to her aunt. What is uniquely different about her family relationship vs. her relationships to the rest?

What two things does Holmes miss, but Mary catches, with regard to the mastermind bomber? Why does the fact that he missed these things bother Holmes so much and what does it imply?

When Mary beats Holmes at chess for the first time as they are on their way to Palestine, what is it about the way she beats him that disturbs him so? How does he use this tactic to their advantage later?

What factors motivate Mary to choose Palestine as a destination for her and Holmes to "vacation" in?

How is maintaining the ruse of alienation between Russell and Holmes dangerous to their association?

What is the source of Mary's ongoing nightmare? Who does she finally reveal it to and what is the reaction?

What is the relationship of the antagonist in this story to Holmes? Why is everyone close to Holmes a target?

The antagonist has one redeeming feature Holmes confirms after meeting her. What is it?

What is the catalyst that allows Mary the release she needs to put the entire ordeal behind her, and where does it come from?

Throughout all of this ordeal, what is hardest for Mary to endure? What about for Holmes?