



The Last Moriarty

Charles Veley

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A lovely young American actress from the D'Oyly Carte Opera Troupe comes to 221B Baker Street on a cold November morning, desperately seeking assistance from Sherlock Holmes. Inexplicably, Holmes agrees to help, even though the Prime Minister of England and his cabinet need Holmes to solve a murder case that could threaten a high-stakes meeting with John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan. The clock is ticking. Holmes will need all his physical and deductive powers to preserve innocent lives and prevent political and economic chaos on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet even Holmes cannot foresee how much the ultimate outcome will depend on a mother's sacrifice, a daughter's hopes, and on the true identity of the last Moriarty.

The Last Moriarty Details

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From Reader Review The Last Moriarty for online ebook

Stephanie Zuiderweg says

Enjoyable, clever, though not error free

While familiar with Sherlock Holmes, I haven't read many of the original Conan Doyle stories, and certainly not recently, so I can't attest to how accurately the style was emulated. However, the feel seemed accurate (and I suspect probably actually better written).

There are many historical figures that appear to be well researched and emulated, though again I can't attest to that. But I found the characters interesting and learned a few things I didn't know.

Generally, the book was fun, fairly readable, and only obviously lacking with a few minor continuity errors. I'd consider reading more by this author.

Jacob Thompson says

Excellently paced with enough action to support the detailed moments of sleuthing. I particularly enjoyed the added female companions to Sherlock's roster.

Bandit says

Perfectly enjoyable pastiche. One might wish for slightly more deductions that made the man so famous and slightly less melodrama, but alas, there it is. Plenty of twists and turns and some pretty clever uses of real historical figures and events, as the famed detective uses his inimitable mind to prevent another November 5th from occurring, all while navigating some...well some family drama. Interesting spin on the character's history and, of course, left sequel ready. Fun quick read.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are enlisted by the Prime Minister to solve the murder of John D. Rockefellers security agent before the incident can derail an upcoming British-American summit. At the same time, a young woman contacts Holmes to help her find her parents.

I was quite looking forward to reading this book after seeing it on Amazon and was happy when I saw it on NetGalley. Now I'm glad that I didn't buy it since it was so predictable that it was hard to enjoy reading the book. Predictable and sometimes utterly jaw dropping ridiculous. Especially when it comes to Sherlock Holmes, or I should say that all that is ridiculous with this book has to do with Sherlock Holmes, because he is nothing like Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and that's the biggest problem with the book. Giving Sherlock Holmes a past that really goes against the man that Doyle wrote about is something I just can't abide with.

I also had some problem with the story, the biggest problem was that the characters weren't that memorable. It felt like every time I picked up the book and they mentioned some name I just sat there thinking "who was he again?". Also, jealousy over a woman that's why professor Moriarty set out to destroy Holmes? Come on!

So no, this book didn't work for me. I'm picky when it comes to Sherlock Holmes stories. I want Sherlock Holmes to be Sherlock Holmes, not some romanticized version and I want a good story!

I received this copy from the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review!

Katherine says

Another awesome Sherlock imagining!

If you are a Sherlock fan, especially one who enjoys the addition of a female point of view then this is for you. This takes place and is narrated by Watson (of course!) several years after the events of The Final Problem (Doyle's final Sherlock story). But it goes off in a completely different direction that is delightful. No spoilers will be revealed here but try this and see if you also think it is an enjoyable read. I will start the next book in the series right away.

Bethany Swafford says

When the Prime Minister and his cabinet requires Holmes to solve a murder involving John D. Rockefeller and J.P Morgan, the great detective obliges, intrigued by the details of the case. A young actress brings new light onto the case, and changes everything.

As far as pastiches go, this is done very well. Told from the point of view of Dr. Watson, it's very similar to Conan Doyle's voice, which is not easy to do. The new characters are interesting enough in their own way.

The mystery was a little disappointing. Everything seemed complicated at first, but it really wasn't. Holmes, if I'm perfectly honest, was more sentimental than I expected, which was interesting to see but not the Holmes I love.

For Holmes lovers who like to try something new, I would recommend this.

Argum says

An interesting new series in the Sherlock Holmes universe. It is in the period between Sherlock's death at the falls, but before his Return. He is still working cases for select people like Her Majesty's government. A big hush hush meeting between heavyweight American industrialists including Mr Rockefeller is scheduled to occur with British government to do with major naval advancements. Germany or someone else seems to be behind some major threats. Something strange is happening and it may involve a young woman at the theater where the younger Rockefeller has been directed to see an old friend. This is the last place the family security man was known to have been. Her identity is quite the shocker and she is an intriguing character.

Kayla West says

Okay...so I have to admit that there was a teensy tiny part of me that only bought this book because of my slight obsession with the show Sherlock. I have been dying to find out who is in fact going to be coming back in Moriarty's place in this fourth and possibly final season of the show (hopefully a woman, because there are not enough crazy women on that show), and so I thought this book, due to its title, might give me some sort of clue. Admittedly, it gave me no ideas, but I was really glad that I bought it.

The character of Sherlock Holmes has always been intriguing to me, and ever since I first read my first Sir Arthur Conan Doyle story starring this intellectual at a very young age, I have kind of felt a kinship toward Holmes. And Watson as well. So it was with a light heart that I began to read.

In this book, as with all the stories that I know, it has been written from Watson's point of view. Now as most of us know, he sometimes can be a little bit out of the loop from Holmes, which can be slightly annoying, but it makes him a sort of endearing character. The author of this work did justice to this fact.

I also quite loved that it had a new age feel to it. There were times that I definitely could relate it to being a possible continuation of the old works, it had a bit of the Doyle touch in some parts, but it also had that "new car smell." You could tell it had been written with a more recent hand. It felt clean and fresh.

The characters in this, besides Holmes and Watson, were wonderfully likeable, and I liked that Holmes has a secret past in this one. A past that subconsciously I know could definitely have happened, but one that I would not have imagined myself. At first I was a bit pensive about this part of his past, I thought "this isn't the Holmes I know", but after a few days of contemplation, it kind of fits. And although there is one part I might still be in denial over regarding his past life, I think this story was beautifully done.

I have to admit that there were so many twists and turns regarding the crimes of this story, it sometimes became a bit confusing and overwhelming, so this is a book more to be savoured than devoured to properly be able to appreciate this particular work.

M. White says

Interesting variation on the Holmes legend

This story combines a cleverly plotted, fairly typical Holmes and Watson mystery with some startling revelations about the youthful years of both Holmes and Moriarty and the introduction of a beautiful young lady who turns out to be Sherlock's daughter. The book reminds me a lot of Laurie R. King's series featuring young Mary Russell who becomes Holmes's wife.

Fred Hughes says

Any time a Moriarty is involved you know Sherlock is going to have his hands full. Add in a top secret government meeting between the PM and several american billionaires and you have a recipe for some evil to pop up.

Some plot twists and revelations that Sherlock fans will love

Recommmended

Richard Thompson says

Doyle-like Atmosphere

I enjoyed the Doyle-like atmosphere in this mystery. It is one of the more convincing Holmes pastiches due to all the Edwardian detail. However, the plot was not as believable. I liked the romantic aspects of the story, but, just as in the Laurie King books, they are uncharacteristic of Doyle's Holmes.

Jan says

A lovely young American actress from the D'Oyly Carte Opera Troupe comes to 221B Baker Street on a cold November morning, desperately seeking assistance from Sherlock Holmes. Inexplicably, Holmes agrees to help, even though the Prime Minister of England and his cabinet need Holmes to solve a murder case that could threaten a high-stakes meeting with John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan. The clock is ticking. Holmes will need all his physical and deductive powers to preserve innocent lives and prevent political and economic chaos on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet even Holmes cannot foresee how much the ultimate outcome will depend on a mother's sacrifice, a daughter's hopes, and on the true identity of the last Moriarty.

M.R. Graham says

Three and a half stars, for me.

The Premise:

A meeting between captains of industry is threatened. Men connected with the upcoming meeting keep turning up dead, and all signs indicate that a criminal organization on par with the defunct Moriarty gang is responsible. Possibly even the successor of the Moriarty gang, as Colonel Sebastian Moran has escaped from prison, and he had help.

Into the mix is thrown a young actress, Lucy James, whose ties to this shadowy organization grow ever more perplexing and sinister as she enlists Holmes's help to hunt for her true parents. At the same time, both Miss James's plight and the murderous plot begin to shed light on Sherlock Holmes's past.

The Good:

The writing is lovely, and amazingly faithful to the source. It's very rare to find pastiche that really has the sound and the feel of Conan Doyle's writing. Watson's voice is authentic, and at no point was I drawn out of the story by awkwardly modern - or awkwardly Victorian - language.

It is also very well researched, with that strong sense of place that is so essential to mystery and to Holmesian mystery particularly. Well researched without being a treatise on Victoriana. Some works have a tendency to lift passages straight from textbooks, but all of Veley's references feel natural.

The Bad:

Much of the story was, sadly, predictable, and the foreshadowing heavy-handed. Certain twists were not so much hinted as laid out. Nothing ever really surprised me, and the mystery was thin.

I would also have liked more sleuthing, more of the hunting and connecting that ought to characterize Holmes stories. I'd characterize this one more as suspense than mystery, which I suppose is all right, but wasn't what I was expecting.

Worth Noting:

Veley's Holmes is an emotional sort. I am not one of those who thinks Holmes should always be an emotionless machine - he shows himself in Canon to feel strongly, though he generally keeps his feelings under tight control. In the context of Veley's storyline, I feel that the little displays of affection, distress, and concern were entirely appropriate, but I do know that many aficionados would take issue.

In Conclusion:

I enjoyed this one. I finished it in two sittings, which has been an increasingly rare occurrence for me. It did not blow me away, but the end hints at a coming sequel, and I will certainly look for it when it arrives.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kim Taylor says

I love the original Sherlock Holmes stories and books, and I enjoy many pastiches. This one was...okay. It kept my attention enough to finish the story, but it only earned 2.5 stars (rounded to 3).

A brief synopsis: this story takes place after Holmes' return to London after Reichenbach Falls, but before Watson writes "The Adventure of the Empty House", so that the general public isn't aware that Holmes is not dead. In advance of a meeting between the British government and American oil tycoons (including Rockefeller and Morgan) to discuss conversion of the British navy from coal to oil, Holmes is hired by the Rockefeller's son to look into the death of a Pinkerton agent. A plot to disrupt the meeting is discovered, and the game is afoot.

One aspect of the story I liked was the scenes involving "The Mikado" and the Savoy Theatre, including appearances by Richard D'Oyly Carte. G&S fans will appreciate going onstage and backstage with the original D'Oyly Carte Company, and a performance has a central role in the action.

Which brings me to an aspect I did not like: the character of Lucy James. Lucy is an American singer who is performing in "The Mikado". She's also a Holmes fan who is observant, intelligent, and beautiful. Lucy is too perfect - she's a Mary Sue who can sing, deduct/induct, and handle a pistol. Lucy will be appearing in future books in this series, and I hope she develops more of an interesting character.

I own the next book (thank you, Kindle sales!), so I will read it, but I'm not sure about other books in the series.

Alfred Carreon says

The book and the writing itself was amazing! I loved the mystery and how the author took a leap and decided to 'dive into Sherlock's past' and, I'll admit, it was a nice touch. Though, the thing I didn't much like was the fact that Sherlock's character became a little OOC - I actually love the canon Sherlock much better! Personality wise - and also magically have a daughter?? If the author plans on putting that into the novel, at least have more... explanation to it? Maybe that's just me and wanting to know why and how and more about Sherlock / Zoe and how Lucy ties into this!

Also! My personal opinion... I didn't hate Lucy's character, but I also don't hate her... a like-hate relationship with this character...
