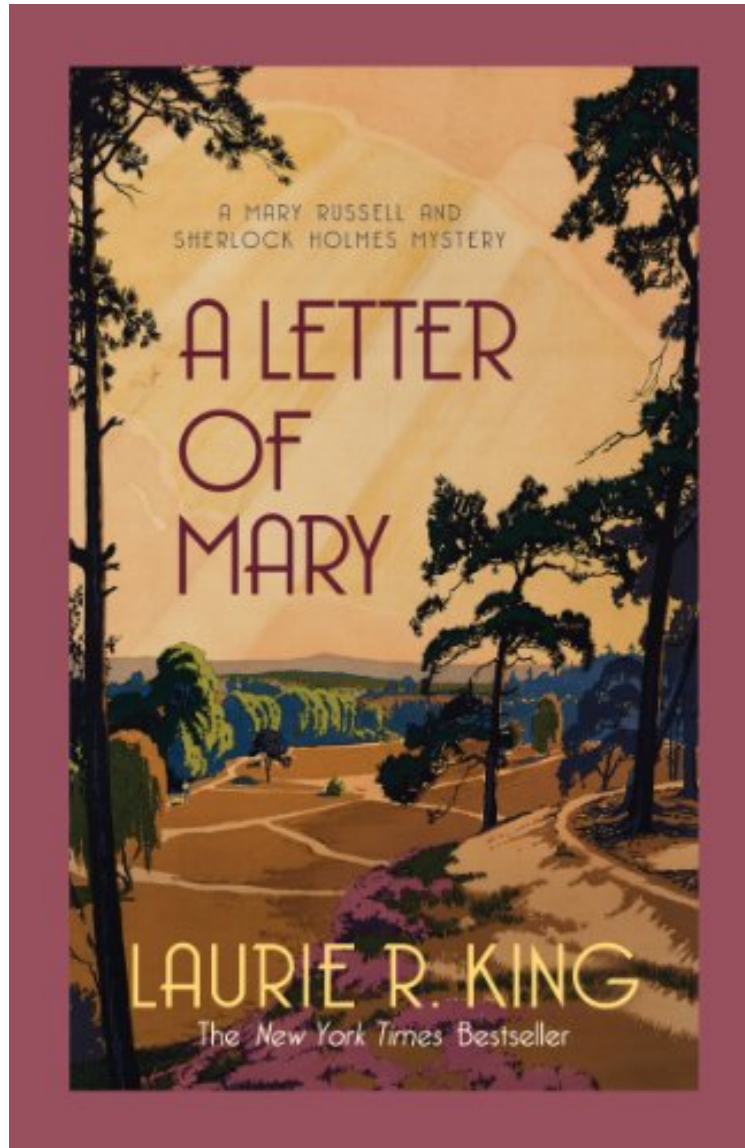


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## A Letter of Mary (A Mary Russell Sherlock Holmes Mystery)

Von Laurie R. King

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**Von Laurie R. King : A Letter of Mary (A Mary Russell Sherlock Holmes Mystery)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Letter of Mary (A Mary Russell Sherlock Holmes Mystery):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Romance fiction for intellectuals?Von Ein KundeI read THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, and have been reading the other Holmes/Russell adventures, and found all but the first book curiously disappointing. No one appears to be

doing much deducing, and the 'mysteries' are distinctly secondary to the action between the characters. This is frequently a fault with Conan Doyle as well. The main appeal to me of the Holmes stories has been the atmosphere of Victorian London and the fabulously eccentric character at the center of the stories. There is a sense of believability about Holmes, no matter how odd his actions may appear. Conan Doyle based Holmes on one of his teachers. Additionally, he was writing in what was (for him) the present day and so his descriptions of his settings don't sound forced. I got a distinct feeling in all but *THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE* that someone was trying very, very hard to be 'clever' without really convincing me that these characters were plausible for their period. Mary Russell herself can be very tiresome. She appears to be a collection of mismatched parts. There is no real period detail, other than the occasional aside. I simply could not believe her family story for one minute. Why couldn't her family have died in the influenza epidemic of 1918? But I suppose a car wreck is more cinematic, and I can smell the screenplay from afar... Mary is a very Nineties woman (as in 1990's.) Not that there weren't freespirted, opinionated women in the 1920's. I just think that Ms. King might have researched a few of the more interesting examples rather than trying to assemble her heroine by patchwork. Holmes is written considerably better; but then, there is a lot of information one can use to develop those parts of his character that Conan Doyle chose not to develop. I found the portrayal of him in *THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE* to be most successful, the others less so. I was struck by the fact that this series of books appears to be a form of romance novel, where the brilliant and famous male's personality is molded into whatever shape the (allegedly equally brainy) female requires. And I'm sorry to say that I didn't even consider this good romance fiction --which I frankly bought the books for. I am myself a rather bookish female of considerable intellectual prowess and it amused me that there was a form of this literature specifically designed to appeal to me. In short, we have one person's 'dream man' written up in the guise of detective fiction. Dear Watson, take a look at the picture of the authoress on the book, then read the description of Mary Russell, then consider...0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It started well, but proved a disappointment Von mugavero@sprynet.com Dr. Watson carefully chose his stories so as to showcase the best of Holmes' efforts. It's a pity that Mary Russell does not show the same discretion. The book is one large red herring, from the theological discovery at the beginning that proves to have little to do with the case, down to Mary Russell's own investigations, which prove tangential to the solution. Meanwhile, Holmes -- who of all four of the individuals "detecting" on the case, is the only one on the right track -- is working offstage; we only see the results, and then only by implication. Ms. King has forgotten the first rule of a Holmes story: show us the Master in action, and then explain his methods and the steps he took to arrive at the solution. The Beekeeper's Apprentice worked precisely because the reader was fully and completely a part of the investigative process (A Monstrous Regiment of Women failed miserably because there was no investigation, but that's another story entirely). What we have in Ms. King's attempts is a third-person narrative of all the events in a case except for those events that involve Sherlock Holmes. I agree with another reviewer: Ms. King, either produce a decent Holmes pastiche, or stop teasing us with these poor substitutes! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A welcome addition to the Sherlockian legacy Von Ein Kunde In 1923 England, amateur archeologist Dorothy Ruskin visits Mary Russell and her husband Sherlock Holmes. Dorothy gives Mary a tattered papyrus that she says was found in Palestine. The document is allegedly a letter written by Mariam the Apostle to her sister in Magdala, dated 70 AD. That night Dorothy dies in an alleged traffic accident that Holmes and "Mrs. Sherlock" prove to be no accident. The detective duo wants to learn why the woman was killed. The number of suspects is mind boggling as it could be her family, her involvement in the volatile Near East politics, or even the papyrus. It is up to Mary and Sherlock to uncover the truth and though there is a four decade difference in their ages, no team works better than the Holmesian duo in solving a murder. This is the third novel starring Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and like the first two books, *A Letter of Mary* is an absolutely incredibly delightful tale. Fans of Holmes will flock to this refreshing look at the legendary bachelor, who has found himself a female counterpart and companion. Mary is actually a much more complex character than Dr. Watson. I presume that Doyle purists will not start a flash war over that comment; Watson still remains one of the great characters in literature. This novel is worth reading by fans who enjoy a who-done-it with nostalgia elements. Laurie R. King has taken possession of the Holmesian crown. Harriet Klausner

**Kurzbeschreibung** 1923. Mary Russell Holmes and her husband, the retired Sherlock Holmes, are enjoying the summer together on their Sussex estate when they are visited by an old friend, Miss Dorothy Ruskin, an archeologist just returned from Palestine. She leaves in their protection an ancient manuscript which seems to hint at the possibility that Mary Magdalene was an apostle--an artifact certain to stir up a storm of biblical proportions in the Christian establishment. When Ruskin is suddenly killed in a tragic accident, Russell and Holmes find themselves on the trail of a fiendishly clever murderer.. de Sherlock Holmes and his scholarly companion Mary Russell are caught up in an exciting mystery when an archaeologist leaves them with a treasured find, a papyrus supposedly written by Mary Magdalene. When the archaeologist winds up dead and someone attempts to make off with the artifact, Holmes and Russel become embroiled in a rollicking story filled with political intrigue and highbrow sleuthing. The level of

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