

THE FEMALE VERSION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

TIM KLINE, THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR

Sherlock is the most beloved characters of the last 100+ years.

The love of Sherlock Holmes is no mystery at all and I consider Holmes a superhero even though he doesn't fly, or wear tights.

He is an intellectual superhero who saves the day, makes things right and protects the people who may occasionally wear a cape depending on the weather.

He has been billed as the original Caped Crusader.

So could we really have a female version of Sherlock to live up to these ideals?

Let us look at his qualities and see if we can find some female versions of Sherlock Holmes.



He is smart, sees what other people miss, and is discerning and wise.

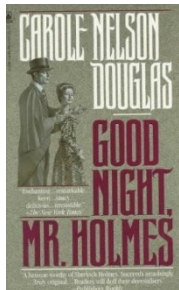


When we watch or read Sherlock Holmes stories, part of us enjoy the adventures he takes us on, and part of us – admit it now – part of us wants to be him.

So you would love for your little girl to be the next Sherlock Holmes or are you looking for a new career for yourself ladies?

So to coin a term examples of a GirlLock or a Herlock Holmes.

Irene Adler who bested Sherlock Holmes in the story “A Scandal in Bohemia” has been elevated to be as smart and resourceful as Sherlock.



Our own Society member and world famous author Carole Nelson Douglas, who is with us here tonight, has written about the Detective Irene Adler for many years now and will be discussed by Cindy Brown.

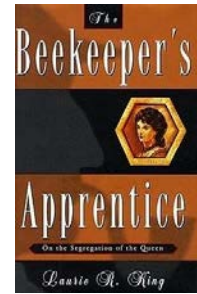


As a detective Irene is every bit as good as Sherlock.

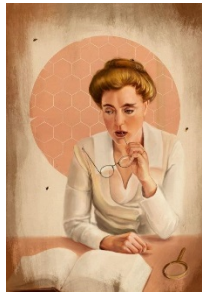
So that brings us to a girl who loves Holmes so much and wants to be like him she marries him. Mary Russell created by Laurie R King is that girl.



We read in the “Bee Keepers Apprentice” where Holmes is keeping bees in retirement. In wonders this girl who is longing to be loved and find her path in life.



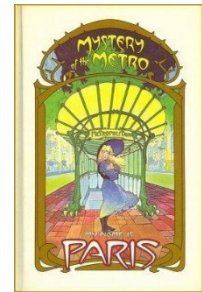
She is young, gawky, egotistical, recently orphaned, with an intellect to impress Sherlock Holmes and match him wit for wit.



In more than 14 works Mary Russell has become not just Sherlock’s wife but almost a clone of his knowledge of crime and criminal detection methods.

Now that we have found 2 women to look to as the female version of Sherlock Holmes to model your new career after, we will look at the younger versions for our daughters to aspire to Master Detective status.

My name is Paris is the first Series I discovered with a girl wanting to be Sherlock Holmes.



It is 1900, where a girl from Chicago goes to Paris to visit an uncle who turns up dead under mysterious circumstances.

She takes it upon herself to solve the murder. Paris continues her detective work in a total of 6 novels by Elizabeth Howard.



Our next heroine is Enola Holmes who turns out to be the 14 year old sister of the already famous Sherlock Holmes, twenty years her senior.

This great series brings characters and settings from the Original Canon of Sherlock Holmes in a total of 6 books in all.

These stories are some of the best at showing what a young girl can accomplish with mentors such as Mycroft and Sherlock as brothers, but also as very independent.

She devises a scheme as 2 persons, where to the poor, she’s the mute sister and to the Rich, Ivy, the Secretary to a private investigator.

Within the series Enola spends much of her time dodging Sherlock and Mycroft only to be united in the end with her famous siblings.

We switch now to 1930's England and 19 year old Portia Adams.

Portia is a budding detective with a mysterious heritage living in Toronto.

Portia is suddenly uprooted at the beginning of the series taken to London where she has inherited 221b Baker Street, the most famous address of the Master Detective himself, and must start solving crimes involving stolen jewelry, a sick judge and a kidnapping.

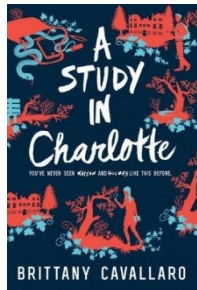
Her greatest mystery turns out to be her own which is why did she inherit 221b and why did her Mother keep her heritage a secret.



Our next candidate for a female version of Sherlock Holmes would be Charlotte Holmes.

The great great-great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes.

A Study in Charlotte connects her with Dr. Watson's great-great-great-grandson, James in which he has a short fuse and is a candidate for murder.



Moriarty's descendants even show up for a teenage plot that involves poison, explosives, and a deadly virus.

This novel presents a dark view of boarding school with some drinking and other risqué behavior.

Let's move on to some duos next with Rollie and Cecily being invited to attend the mysterious Sherlock Academy of Fine Sleuths, where children learn the art of detection just like the great Sherlock Holmes.

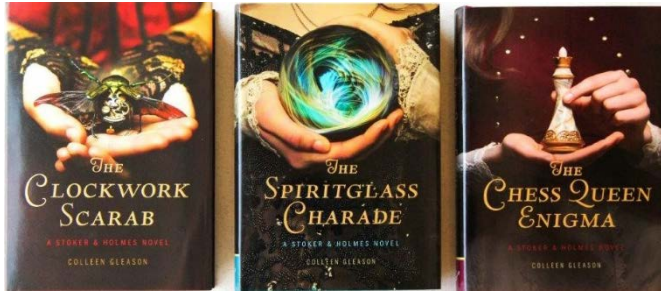
They discover a strange burglary of a 100 year old painting has been committed and the game is afoot.

The Sherlock Academy has 3 books in its series.

The Stoker and Holmes series is the next duo which consists of Evaline Stoker and Mina Holmes, the Sister of Bram Stoker and the niece of Sherlock Holmes which Vampire hunting and mystery solving are in their blood.

The setting is an alternate Victorian Steampunk London where Mina and Evaline have been recruited by Irene Adler to solve mysteries afflicting young women of the city.





Mina's gifted with the Holmesian mind and has been trained by her uncle in the art of observation and detection.

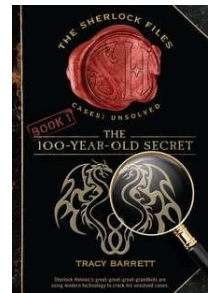
In every generation of Evalines' family, one person has been born with extraordinary strength and speed, destined to fight and kill vampires.

As they encounter real danger in the form of an Egyptian cult, vampires, and a tall Scottish gentleman named Ambrose Grayling who matches Mina deduction for deduction that irritates her to no end, when he isn't making her stomach flutter.

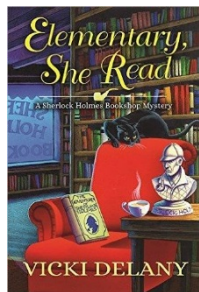
Mina and Evaline must learn how to balance working with each other in order to stay alive and save other.

The 2nd book features mediums carousing with spirits and spiritual manifestations while the 3rd book is the Chess Queen Enigma and involves a princess that is a chess queen that will heal the centuries old rift between England and the Betrovians.

Our last duo is Xena and Xander Holmes, an American brother and sister living in London for a year discover that Sherlock Holmes is their great-great-great-grandfather when they are inducted into the preservation of famous detective and given his unsolved casebook, from which they attempt to solve the case of a famous missing painting.



2 more novels follow with "The Beast of Backslope" and the "Case That Time Forgot".



Elementary She Read: A Sherlock Holmes Bookshop Mystery finds Gemma Doyle, a transplanted Englishwoman, retiring to West London to manage her great uncles Sherlock Holmes bookshop and Emporium.

Located at 222 Baker Street specializing in the Holmes Canon and pastiches, it also has a cat named Moriarty.

Gemma finds a rare and potentially valuable magazine containing the first Sherlock Holmes story hidden in the bookshop.

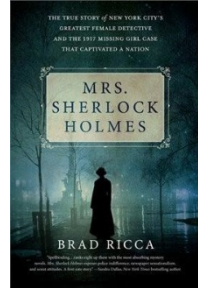
She and her friend Jayne set off to find the owner only to stumble upon a dead body.

Mrs. Sherlock Holmes is the true life story of Mrs. Grace Humiston, the New York lawyer and Detective who solved the famous cold case of Ruth Cruger, an 18-year-old girl who disappeared in 1917.

Grace was an amazing lawyer and traveling detective during a time when no women were practicing these professions.

She focused on solving cases no one else wanted and advocating for innocents.

Grace became the first female U.S. District Attorney and made ground-breaking investigations into modern slavery.



It is too bad that Elizabeth Hardy in the movie young Sherlock Holmes did not become Mrs. Sherlock Holmes or we might actually have a female detective named Shirley Holmes that could solve crimes just like dear old dad.

My final candidate is an artist named Jessica Lisette which sings that Sherlock as being her perfect mate.



They could marry and have crime solving children that would carry on the great legacy of the Greatest Detective to ever live.