



## The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery)

By Laurie R. King

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**The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery)** By Laurie R. King

**An Agatha Award Best Novel Nominee**

**Named One of the Century's Best 100 Mysteries by the Independent**

**Mystery Booksellers Association**

From *New York Times* bestselling author Laurie R. King comes the book that introduced us to the ingenious Mary Russell–Sherlock Holmes mysteries, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*.

In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees when a young woman literally stumbles into him on the Sussex Downs. Fifteen years old, gawky, egotistical, and recently orphaned, the young Mary Russell displays an intellect to impress even Sherlock Holmes--and match him wit for wit. Under his reluctant tutelage, this very modern twentieth-century woman proves a deft protégée and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective. In their first case together, they must track down a kidnapped American senator's daughter and confront a truly cunning adversary--a bomber who has set trip wires for the sleuths and who will stop at nothing to end their partnership. Full of brilliant deductions, disguises, and dangers, this first book of the Mary Russell--Sherlock Holmes mysteries is "wonderfully original and entertaining . . . absorbing from beginning to end" (*Booklist*).

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Sherlock Holmes takes on a young, female apprentice in this delightful and well-wrought addition to the master detective's casework. In the early years of WW I, 15-year-old American Mary Russell encounters Holmes, retired in Sussex Downs where Conan Doyle left him raising bees. Mary, an orphan rebelling against her guardian aunt's strictures, impresses the sleuth with her intelligence and acumen. Holmes initiates her into the mysteries of detection, allowing her to participate in a few cases when she comes home from her studies at Oxford. The collaboration is ignited by the kidnapping in Wales of Jessica Simpson, daughter of an American senator. The sleuthing duo find signs of the hand of a master criminal, and after Russell rescues the child, attempts are made on their lives (and on Watson's), with evidence piling up that the master criminal is out to get Holmes and all he holds dear. King ( *A Grave Talent* ) has created a fitting partner for the Great Detective: a quirky, intelligent woman who can hold her own with a man renowned for his contempt for other people's thought processes.

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From School Library Journal

YA-At 15, Mary Russell is tall and gangling, bespectacled and bookish. In 1915, the orphaned heiress is living in her ancestral home with an embittered aunt she has plucked from genteel poverty to act as a guardian until she reaches her majority. In order to escape the woman's generally malevolent disposition, she wanders the Downs. On one such outing, she trips over a gaunt, elderly man sitting on the ground, "watching bees." This gentleman turns out to be Sherlock Holmes, and the resulting acquaintance evolves into a mentoring experience for the young woman. The story is well written in a style slightly reminiscent of Conan Doyle's, but is also very much King's own. The plot is somewhat predictable, but the characterizations are excellent and the times and places are skillfully evoked. Readers come to understand much of Holmes that was unexplained by Dr. Watson. These additions are entirely plausible, and the relationship between the great detective and his apprentice is delightful. Readers see much of Sussex, London, and even of student life at Oxford and the conditions of Romanies (Gypsies) in Wales. Wartime Britain is accurately evoked, and the whole is a lot of fun to read. While a fitting addition to the Holmes oeuvre, the narrative is delightfully feminist. It is likely to please YAs already entranced by Sherlock Holmes and will surely attract a few new fans.

*Susan H. Woodcock, King's Park Library, Burke, VA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Imagine Sherlock Holmes retiring to a Sussex farm but keeping his hand in by occasionally investigating cases for the British government. Imagine further that Watson was not so much Holmes' helpmate and confidant as a kindly bumbler who proved more a hindrance than a help. Then picture Holmes, walking on the Sussex Downs, literally stumbling across a 15-year-old girl whose brilliant intellect, caustic wit, egotistical personality, and gift for detail rival Holmes' own. Finally, envision the stirring adventures Holmes and his prot{, }eg{, }ee could have as a detective duo. King has used these fanciful possibilities to create a wonderfully original and entertaining story that is funny, heartwarming, and full of intrigue, with Holmes and his young apprentice, Mary Russell, matching wits with some of the finer criminal minds of the times, including the brilliantly diabolic daughter of Holmes' old enemy, Professor Moriarty. Everything about this book rings true, from the ambience of World War I England to the intriguing relationship between Holmes and Mary to the surprising final confrontation between Holmes and Moriarty's daughter. Holmes fans,

history buffs, lovers of humor and adventure, and mystery devotees will all find King's book absorbing from beginning to end. *Emily Melton*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Taylor Becker:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. These are reading whatever they get because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you'll have this The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery).

#### **Vanessa Gilliam:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery) your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unknown for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a e-book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery) giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful information for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

#### **Donna Wright:**

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#### **Mary Lewis:**

This The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery) is new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information since it relief your hunger details. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having small amount of digest in reading this The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery) can be the light food in your case because the information inside this specific book is easy to get by means of

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