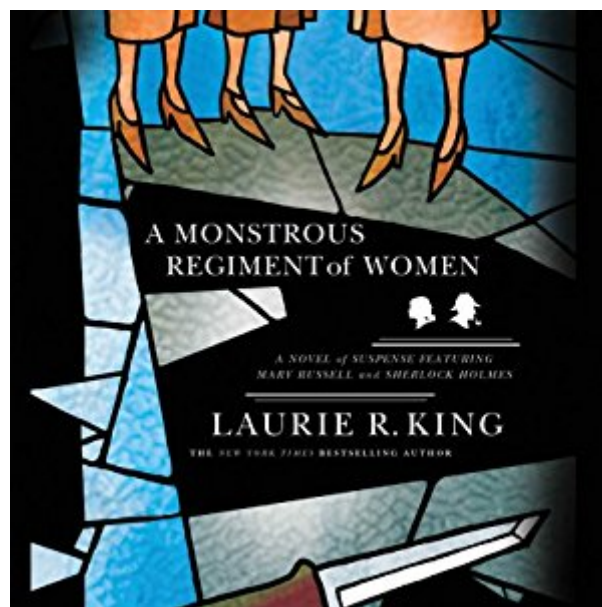


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# A Monstrous Regiment Of Women: A Novel Of Suspense Featuring Mary Russell And Sherlock Holmes: The Mary Russell Series, Book 2



## Synopsis

Winner of the Nero Wolfe Award It is 1921 and Mary Russell - Sherlock Holmes's brilliant apprentice, now an Oxford graduate with a degree in theology - is on the verge of acquiring a sizable inheritance. Independent at last, with a passion for divinity and detective work, her most baffling mystery may now involve Holmes and the burgeoning of a deeper affection between herself and the retired detective. Russell's attentions turn to the New Temple of God and its leader, Margery Childe, a charismatic suffragette and a mystic, whose draw on the young theology scholar is irresistible. But when four bluestockings from the Temple turn up dead shortly after changing their wills, could sins of a capital nature be afoot? Holmes and Russell investigate, as their partnership takes a surprising turn.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This novel focuses primarily on Mary Russell as she transitions from a student to a young woman coming into her majority with considerable personal wealth. Her years as a student carry over into the storyline as the reader spends much of the first half of the book immersed in a course like exploration of theology rather than the expected mystery, although sinister acts are referenced. Mystery plays a secondary role in the book as does Holmes. When the sinister actions come into the story, I found them to be predictable. I cannot say the same for Holmes. He did surprise me with an unexpected development. I do like the Russell and Holmes characters as well as their interplay which helped me get beyond the "elementary" aspects of the plot. Miss King did

provide me with a challenge to my vocabulary knowledge. I referenced my dictionary more times while reading this book than any other book I have read in recent memory.

Even better than the first in the series! Oh, how thrilled I am to have found another brilliant author to add to my canon of favorites - every bit as consuming as a novel by Umberto Eco, Louise Penny, Jacqueline Winspear, Eliot Pattison, or Colin Cotterill! So much more than a mystery novel, this is an intellectual and spiritual journey with a finely plotted mystery as the catalyst and foil to a depth of character development. I wish I could dole the series out to myself slowly, but I'm already casting aside any nonessential claims on my time so that I can devote myself to a marathon reading of the series!

I'm a long time Sherlock Holmes fan and finding this series of books was a very happy surprise. Laurie King is a very bright author with an intricate intellect and has done a masterful job of winding, or better, intermingling her stories through the fastidiously constructed history of the brilliant and clever fictional detective.

Mary Russell takes her relationship with Sherlock to another level in this story. The story centers on a religious group of women (or is it a cult) that Russell infiltrates. One of the things I like best about King is that she gives no easy answers. This story leaves the reader making up their own mind about certain elements of the story, which just adds to its suspense. The writing is crisp and exciting. There is plenty of food for thought. Everything good in a story can be found within.

The book meanders a bit like the middle of a Russian novel. We occasionally lose sight of the central mystery (or even what the mystery is) for delving into Mary Russell's inner thoughts on reaching adulthood, her relationship with Sherlock, and passing touches on the role of women in post WWI Britain. Worth a read.

Will read more of this series but this one disappointed. I was confused regarding the actual plot until well over a third of the way through. I persevered on the basis of the writing and my own high hopes for the series.

When I was a child in the 60s Nancy Drew was practically the only female protagonist available to me. Of course I also thoroughly enjoyed the Holmes books too. Neither quite satisfied in some

ways. It always had to be emphasized how "plucky" Nancy was while to keep her center stage the boyfriend was nondescript. Holmes of course was almost entirely in a male world. I have grown and evolved, as has our society in many ways and Mary Russell brings it all together in a very fun, satisfying and unpredictable way that leaves me wanting to enter this world again.

I love Mary Russell. Her character is very interesting and her relationship with Sherlock Holmes very believable. I have read two other books in this series. Laurie King certainly knows how to develop a plot. That said, I was disappointed in MRW because the character of Margery Childe did not live up to how Laurie King presented and developed her. Margery's relationship with her abusive husband didn't ring true. I think I'll take a break from Mary Russell for a while.

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