



# Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery

*Larry Millett*

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## **Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery** Larry Millett

Larry Millett has managed to recapture the voice and style of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and bring Sherlock Holmes across the Pond to America. In this third adventure Holmes is hired by King Oskar II of Sweden to authenticate a mysterious stone dug up by a western Minnesota farmer. Trouble begins to mount, however, when the farmer is murdered and the stone disappears. Joining Holmes in the quest for the archaeological truth is Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders alumnus Shadwell Rafferty. With Rafferty's talents for "discreet investigations" and Holmes's deductive genius, *Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery* is a rollicking and suspenseful incarnation of Doyle's classic sleuth.

## **Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery Details**

Date : Published November 1st 2000 by Penguin Books (first published October 1st 1999)

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Author : Larry Millett

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# From Reader Review Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery for online ebook

## Erth says

now i am hooked. This was such a great, easy and creative book. i was hooked after the first page.

The characters were easy to fall in love with and follow, along with the story. the author made the mental visions so easy and vivid of the surroundings and the characters actions felt so real.

i would highly recommend this author and this book.

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## Larisa says

I spent the Thanksgiving weekend indulging in some light reading fare. Of the three books in this series I've read so far, though, I have to say this one is the least compelling. It's pretty obvious early on who the culprit is--hints are dropped two or three times in case the reader missed it the first time. Another important clue is overlooked entirely by the Holmes, Watson, and their American compatriot Shadwell Rafferty. Overall, the suspense factor is minimal and the book is less entertaining than its two predecessors, *Sherlock Holmes and the Red Demon* and *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders*. It's more of a chance to visit with familiar characters than it is a gripping mystery--and the characters do have some amusing moments, so I'll go ahead and give the book three stars for that.

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## Donna says

Sherlock Holmes believably depicted along with Dr. Watson. Instead of England they are in Minnestota. Interesting story

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## Mary Ann says

I don't really agree with reviewers who find this much less satisfying than the first two. Perhaps, read as a stand-alone, it may be true, which is why I prefer to read any series in order. Those of us who first read *The Red Demon* and *The Ice Palace Murders* are well-acquainted with Shadwell Rafferty, Mary Robinson Comstock, Joseph Pyle, and James J. Hill and greet them as known, fleshed-out characters.

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## Warren Benton says

This is the 3rd in the Sherlock in Minnesota series. I have read (listened) to all 3. Millett has done a good job capturing the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle feel but throwing in some American flair.

Sherlock and John are called back to the great northern state of Minnesota when a representative of the King of Sweden stops in to ask for help with a Rune Stone. Once arriving they jump right into a murder scene. Lucky for them Shadwell Rafferty is back to help the m in one of the hardest cases of their careers. Sherlock is sure the Rune Stone is a fake, but being as everyone who seems to know where the stone is kept turning up dead and they have a tough time tracking it down.

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### **Cris says**

This whole mystery series by Larry Millett is fun and intriguing. Larry Millett worked for three decades as a reporter, editor and architectural critic for the St. Paul Pioneer Press before retiring in 2002. He adds his take on Sherlock and Dr. Watson arriving in America to help the developing railroad and lumber barons in the region of Minnesota. I recommend reading them in the order they were published.

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### **Cynthia says**

This book is very interesting because by the unique sense of crime the mystery of the rune stone changes fakery into something real. This mystery cause a huge confilci among the death of many innocent people. As Holmes, Watson and their new friend Shadwell Rafferty joined the hunt through a scene of new adventure. This book allowed me to focus more upon the scene and it was interesting. I couldn't stop reading this adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the conflicts being held within the rune stone.

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### **Heather says**

I love this series by Larry Millett, and the audiobook was especially a delight thanks to the talented narrator.

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### **Jessica says**

Another great entry in this series features Holmes and Watson once again visiting Minnesota, this time to investigate the authenticity of a supposed 14th-century rune stone found on a farm outside Alexandria. Based on a real-life mystery, the story weaves murder and double-cross with turn-of-the-last century history and original characters, both allies and villains.

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### **J. says**

I like this book, but then again I get sucked in to everything Holmes. The author again uses a real historical event to blend in Holmes and a visit to Minnesota. This book doesn't have quite the same "Holmes" feel to it that I found in æSherlock Holmes and the Red Demon"by the same author. Still the tale moves along, has plenty of Holmes being Holmes and is a good read, especially for Holmes fans.

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## ???? ???? says

I started my Book Diet novels 2015 by reading four Sherlockian anthologies during January, which is also the said Great Detective's birthday month, so I thought it only appropriate to finish this year with a Sherlock Holmes novel once more, and this time it's something written by writer Larry Millet. It's the first time I encountered his Holmes series. In fact, I purchased this book by luck while sifting through boxes of a second-hand bookstore months and months ago.

I'm always on the look-out for any Holmesian story I can get my hands on so I immediately bought this and knew I had to read it soon enough. And it wasn't a disappointment. Millet's series, from what I can tell, are focused on Sherlock Holmes' travels and subsequent cases in America, and *The Rune Stone Mystery*.

Once again chronicled in the first person by his constant and faithful friend Dr. John Watson, this story takes readers into Minnesota where a farmer uncovered what could possibly be a Viking rune stone that would prove that the Vikings themselves have arrived to America before Columbus. If proven true then this could be the biggest anthropological discovery in recent years. Disguised under assumed names of London museum curators, Holmes and Watson traveled to the states, but before they could authenticate the rune stone, the farmer who discovered it had been brutally murdered and the said stone can't be found in his possession! Afterwards, more disconcerting facts and theories begin to surface among the townsfolk, especially the Swede residents. And thus began a thorough police investigation (and Holmes' own deductive process on the side) where certain persons of interest have more to conceal than anticipated, and the key in solving this disturbing mystery might just lie in the late farmer's daughter, the fragile Moira "Moony" Wahlgren who may have a developmental disorder, and whose life is endangered because of her connection to her father's presumably hoax of a rune stone.

If the rune stone is indeed a hoax then who could possibly benefit from it? Who could be held liable if the artifact was discovered and proven false? What lengths would concerned parties will go just to ensure it's not revealed to the public? What happens if the rune stone is indeed the true thing--why kill for it? Holmes and Watson try to unravel this tangled web of conspiracies as best as they could, only to find more threads that don't make sense and even mislead.

With a daring and riveting narrative that definitely captures Conan's own style, this novel also has enough memorable characters to keep readers very invested in the resolution of the case and the sideline conflicts of its characters, but of all of them, Millet also included a unique character of his creation named Shadwell Rafferty, an inquisitive and charismatic Irish saloon owner who knew his way around America, and has assisted Holmes in other cases featured in Millet's previous novels. Rafferty's rapport and chemistry with both Holmes and Watson is refreshing and enjoyable, and he provides a great contrast to Holmes' own brand of cleverness. Rafferty is also a talented investigator, and his insights and warmer approach to things and people lend a more human touch to the art of deductive reasoning which even Holmes welcomes, seeing as Rafferty definitely assists than hinder. I liked how he made passages of chapters very entertaining and humorous at times.

Another intense and curious character is the villainess Mary Comstock whom Holmes even compared to Professor Moriarty which is both the highest and most perturbing compliment the great detective could ever assign to anyone. She's essentially a female arch-enemy, a rare type of woman whom Holmes described succinctly, "has no need for men in her life but finds uses for them every now and then". She's portrayed to

be wicked and without remorse, and her interest in the rune stone is a puzzling one, something that Holmes was determined to find out before she ends up a few more steps ahead of him in the game. Their interplay as detective and criminal is noteworthy and even Watson is mesmerized by it. I was also heavily invested in the child Moony's involvement since from the beginning I knew she had a critical role to play in the events later on.

Anyone who would attempt to write a Holmesian novel should make sure it's always engaging and thrilling, filled with characterizations that ring true from the source material. It also has to branch out and include more details and depth to what was established by Doyle, always both mentally challenging and entertaining for readers like myself. Although at first I wasn't that intrigued with the rune stone case, the way the mystery unfolded and the players who are involved have acted or been disposed of had won me over eventually while midway through reading.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Rune Stone Mystery* had been captivating and earnest in its portrayal of the Great Detective and the loyal doctor, and the mystery and detection were satisfying during the process of the case, and as readers reach that unexpected conclusion, they would be pleased that they stuck around long enough to see it all the way through the end. I'm certainly going to try and find more Millet books after this one.

**RECOMMENDED: 8/10**

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### **Bonnie says**

I just happened on this book in the library and had not heard of Larry Millett. He has written two previous books in this series, but each case stands alone like in Doyle's stories. Holmes and Watson agree to help King Oskar 11 to authenticate a rune found in Minnesota. They travel by ship to New York and then a forty-mile rail trip to Minnesota. Doubt is cast upon the probability of finding a rune in the exact center of North America 1000 miles from either ocean, but Holmes plots and schemes to locate the rune which has mysteriously disappeared. The reader learns much, maybe too much, about the prairie towns in the late 1800s and about runes that Holmes had studied. The plot is slow in developing, but the characters are vividly portrayed. I am going to read the next in the series: *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*. It seems the character has taken on a life of his own.

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### **Marti says**

There were some interesting characters, and a so-so plot in this story, which takes place in Minnesota. It is the third in a series by Larry Millett. It is amazing how people like to take established literary characters and take off from there. Recently we have had a number of books with actual people such as Abraham Lincoln being associated with vampires--also Jane Austen. I have read books by Laurie King with Sherlock Holmes supposedly married to a much younger woman. This was okay, but only just.

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**Rena Sherwood says**

This book commits the worst sin that a Sherlock Holmes pastiche can ever commit -- it's boring. The only interesting thing that happens is that Holmes pretends to get drunk.

This is a later book in a series and it relies heavily on the previous books. I did not get to read those books before I picked this up, so I was a little lost. This did not help an already ponderous plot.

Honestly, how do books like this get published?

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**Kathy says**

Written in the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle-style, this Sherlock Holmes American-mystery is full of intrigue and meticulous attention to detail. Millett has done yet another fabulous job of building the plot and developing the characters so that the reader is completely ensnared in the mystery and he successfully surprises with his ending.

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