



## Baker Street Irregulars: Thirteen Authors with New Takes on Sherlock Holmes

*Michael A. Ventrella (Editor) , Jonathan Maberry (Editor)*

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**Baker Street Irregulars: Thirteen Authors with New Takes on Sherlock Holmes** Michael A. Ventrella (Editor) , Jonathan Maberry (Editor)

**Thirteen authors, including Gail Z. Martin, David Gerrold, and Jonathan Maberry, come together to pen short stories innovating Sherlock Holmes, adapting and revolutionizing the iconic character.**

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most iconic and lasting figures in literature. His feats of detection are legendary, and he continues to capture audiences today in stories, movies, and on TV. In this new anthology, **BAKER STREET IRREGULARS**, authors present the celebrated detective in more than a dozen different, wildly entertaining new ways. In Ryk Spoor's thrilling "The Adventures of a Reluctant Detective, Sherlock is a re-creation in a holodeck. In Hildy Silverman's mesmerizing "A Scandal in the Bloodline, Sherlock is a vampire. Heidi McLaughlin sends Sherlock back to college, while Beth Patterson, in the charming "Code Cracker, turns him into a parrot. The settings are as varied as Russia in the near-future, a dystopian world, a reality show, and an orchestra. Without losing the very qualities that make Sherlock so illustrious a character, these authors spin new webs of mystery around their own singular riff on one of literature's truly singular characters.

Stories In This Volume:

*Locked!*Mike Strauss

*Identity (An Adventure of Shirley Holmes and Jack Watson)*Keith R. A. DeCandido

*The Scent of Truth*Jody Lynn Nye

*The Adventure of the Reluctant Detective*Ryk Spoor

*A Scandal in the Bloodline*Hildy Silverman

*The Fabulous Marble*David Gerrold

*The Scarlet Study*Jim Avelli

*Delta Phi*Heidi McLaughlin

*Beethoven's Baton*Austin Farmer

*The Adventure of the Melted Saint*Gail Z. Martin

*Automatic Sherlock*Martin Rose

*The Hammer of God*Jonathan Maberry

*Code Cracker*Beth W. Patterson"

## Baker Street Irregulars: Thirteen Authors with New Takes on Sherlock Holmes Details

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## **From Reader Review Baker Street Irregulars: Thirteen Authors with New Takes on Sherlock Holmes for online ebook**

### **Indy Quillen says**

Full disclosure: I purchased this during the book signing and two of the authors, Jonathan Maberry and Austin Farmer, are friends of mine. But I bought and read it because I'm a Sherlock Holmes fan. The book didn't disappoint. Although there were a few stories I didn't connect with, they were still well written and others may love them. But on the whole it was great fun and I found more than a few of the stories to be genius! Best part is I've discovered some new authors to read. If you love Sherlock I recommend you check it out. The game's afoot!

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### **Shannon Renee says**

I am not a short story person. I want to ideally just live in long novels, lol. However, Sherlock Holmes has always been a favorite of mine, so I picked this book up on a whim.

I fell in love.

Now not all stories are five stars. but enough of them were for me to clearly give the book as a whole 5 stars. I loved the variety and the creativity of all the concepts. "Locked", "Identity: An Adventure of Shirley Holmes and Jack Watson", "The Scarlet Study" "The Adventure of the Melted Saint" and "The Hammer of God" I desperately long for full novels of. I found "Code Cracker" "Beethoven's Baton" and "Automatic Sherlock" highly enjoyable.

Check out this book. There is sure to be a story tailor-made for your enjoyment.

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### **Yosef Shapiro says**

Different versions of Sherlock Holmes and related characters. Some are better than others.

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### **Tim Hicks says**

Not for purists. I thought it was fun.

With about 187,412 Holmes tributes/pastiches/satires out there, it's not easy to come up with new ideas. I admit I have not seen SH as a parrot or a nun before.

This doesn't come close to Robert Fish's *The Incredible Schlock Homes*, though.

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## **Karen says**

I love short stories, and every story in this collection is excellent. The basic concept is wonderful, and they take it to every possible level. If you like Sherlock Holmes, if you like excellent short story writing - read this.

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## **Kristin Davison says**

I would like to thank netgalley and Diversion books for a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

This collection was kind of all over the place, some pieces felt thought out and genuine, while others felt like cheap fanfiction.

Locked-2 stars

Identify: an adventure of Shirley Holmes and Jack Watson-3 stars

The scent of the truth-DNF

The adventure of the reluctant detective-5 stars

A scandal in the bloodline-4 stars

The fabulous marble-DNF

The scarlet study-DNF

Delta Phi-4 stars

Beethoven's baton-4 stars

The adventure of the melted saint-DNF

Automatic Sherlock-3 stars

The hammer of God-3 stars

Code cracker-DNF

Price: free via netgalley

#COYER

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## **Cara Group says**

I received this book free as an ARC in exchange for an honest review from Netgalley. I thought it was a really interesting look at the Sherlock Holmes character type. Written as short stories, it was great to be able to read one at a time. I think my favorite was Ho, Ho, Holmes - it felt the most similar to the traditional character while still being different & fun.

I'm also reading this for the PopSugar Reading Challenge - rewrite of a classic!

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## **Diana says**

Book received from NetGalley.

I had never read a retelling of Sherlock Holmes prior to reading this anthology. If they are all as well written as this I will be looking for more. In here we have gender bent, vampire, and "old" Holmes to name a few. Each different version gives the story a unique twist. When I actually grabbed this off of the TBR pile, I read it all in one day, I just couldn't put it down.

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## **CleverBaggins says**

This was not only a horrible book, but so bad it made me furious as I read each story. I have never read such horrible stories Sherlock or no and can't believe they were published. Out of thirteen only a couple were even ok and none were excellent. Here is a breakdown if you're interested.

'Locked by Mike Strauss

The most badly written story of the lot. So bad that I'm not sure it isn't supposed to be some kind of satire or something. So very horrible that it made me feel sick with anger at how excited I was to start this book. Will NEVER read this or anything he writes again.

The Scent of Truth by Jody Lynn Nye

Another also that led me to buying this book. I know her from various scifi and expected a lot more from her than this story. It was ok as a story. I'd give it maybe 3 stars itself. The idea was interesting but ultimately boring. Her John was kind of a jerk which is never something I like. Disappointed but at least I wasn't furious.

Adventure of the Reluctant Detective by Ryk Spoor

The first story that sparked any interest in me. It was fairly well written and I was intrigued by what was going on. Not crazy about his interpretations of Sherlock and John but they weren't bad. The conclusion of the mystery was interesting and somewhat satisfying. I feel fond about it probably more because I'd been so disappointed before than over it actually being good.

A Scandal in the Bloodline by Hildy Silverman

I was hopeful again. I ove a good vampire/ sorta werewolf Sherlock story. Ultimately stupid. Made Sherlock into a hopeless pining for Irene stereotype which is completely out of character and not even written to make it in character. By the end of this one I felt angry and disgusted by the whole book again.

The Fabulous Marble by David Gerrold

Another author that made me want to buy the book. The story wasn't bad at all. Was actually interesting. The problem being it wasn't a Sherlock Holmes story. Felt like he had a story, changed the names and went hey look I can make scfi-y acronyms of Sherlock names. Wasn't worth reading the rest of the book. Still disappointed.

The Scarlet Study by Jim Avelli

This one was just disgusting. He had Sherlock in love with Irene again, no real John Watson and Sherlock was no one and nothing wish I'd never read this one. Not even an original idea. Biggest note I left on this

story was the word BARF underlined twice if that gives you a clue.

Delta Phi by Heidi McLaughlin

Another female Sherlock only done badly with a very lame story, stupid plot and even more stupid conclusion. Made both John and Sherlock dumb. Badly written too. Words used that don't mean what the author obviously meant them too. (you can't open a door with luster)

Beethoven's Baton by Austin Farmer

Boring. Boring. Boring. That's pretty much it. Nothing horrible but man boring.

The Adventure of the Melted Saint by Gail Martin

Another author I was excited to finally read. Not a bad story. Decent writing. A very cute mystery at the end. The Sherlock character was okay, but kind of forced? A good idea but not greatly executed. Not enough Sherlock, either. Also made John Watson just a dog. Not okay. Not a cute enough mystery to fix all that.

Automatic Sherlock by Martin Rose

Actually the best Sherlock character in the book I think. Kind of a cute story. I like the idea. The John character is meh to potentially good. Still nothing to rave about.

The Hammer of God by Jonathan Maberry

The last author that made me want to grab this book. I know he's a fairly big writer for kind of scifi/horror. After this I'll never pick up his books. This story was EXTREMELY boring. Barely finished. The characters didn't seem like Sherlock nor John. SO BORING. Have fallen into a sort of disgusted despair by now about this book.

Code Cracker by Beth Patterson

I was excited about this one. Sherlock as a parrot could be fun! Give me some humor please! Anything interesting! Instead Got a stupid John Watson, a kind of cute Sherlock as a bird and one of the stupidest mysteries in the book. A dumb mystery with an even more dumb conclusion.

All in all this is possibly the most disappointed I've been in a book in a VERY long time. I'm still so angry and mad I spent money on this that I can't get over it. Hopefully these stories will be forgotten soon enough. Nothing was memorable anyway beyond how disgusted they made me feel. Don't recommend this to anyone ever.

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## Kelly says

Various authors deliver stories on alternate Sherlocks in nearly every genre.

Standouts for me were "A Scandal in the Bloodline" by Hildy Silverman, "Delta Phi" by Heidi McLaughlin, "The Adventure of the Reluctant Detective" by Ryk Spoor and "Automatic Sherlock" by Martin Rose.

I also enjoyed editor Mayberry's contribution, which is perhaps the longest and most complete story in the

anthology.

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## Jessi says

Sherlock Holmes is hella popular these days with movies, television shows, and books all re-imagining how these books could be reinterpreted -- brought into the modern day or different genres. This book invites thirteen different authors to do just that.

### *Locked* Mike Strauss

Set up as Sherlock and Watson being on some sort of reality show where Sherlock solves crimes and Watson plays the bumbling fool, who in fact is in league with the producers to make Sherlock look good. I didn't really get a good feel for the show or for Sherlock. The premise was interesting (basically the producers hire people to commit crimes so that Sherlock can solve the case) but didn't play out well in a short story.

Three stars

### *Identity: An Adventure of Shirley Holmes and Jack Watson* Keith R. A. DeCandido

There have been a LOT of gender-swapping of the Holmes and Watson characters. Some more successful than others. This story not only plays with gender but with race. Set in the modern day, Watson encounters Martha Hudson while covering for her oncologist. It plays close to the beloved Sherlock Holmes we all know except that Shirley is her niece in this case and Martha wants someone to move in and keep an eye on her. The case they solve will be familiar to Holmes fans with some nicely updated twists.

Four stars

### *The Scent of Truth* Jody Lynn Nye

A futuristic sci-fi Holmes. In this case, the Holmes-character is a dog-like being from another planet (named Baskur, naturally) and he has mainly retired but is lured into another case by a middle-aged journalist. There was some really nice world-building for a short story in this one and the info-dumping was kept short and tight.

Four stars

### *The Adventure of the Reluctant Detective* Ryk Spoor

I swear I've read this one before. Or at least a similar version. Supposedly a case that takes place somewhere in the middle of the Holmes canon, soon after Mary dies, it starts with a strange woman entering Sherlock's apartment. She is not quite... right. For the woman she claims to be, there are some glaring discrepancies. To tell too much more would give the ending away but it wasn't quite up to the snuff of ACD.

Two and a half stars

### *A Scandal in the Bloodline* Hildy Silverman

Suppose that Watson became a werewolf after an encounter with the Hounds of the Baskervilles. And that Sherlock was turned into a vampire at the edge of the Reichenbach Falls by Irene Adler. Now it is present day and Irene's husband, the paterfamilias, is missing. If he dies, she will go to. As will Sherlock.

Three stars



*The Fabulous Marble* David Gerrold

An interesting take where Watson is... some sort of computer program? Not an AI, exactly, since that's more what Marble does/is. There is a particular brand of sexbot, the Lorelei, that can become whatever the user desires; man, woman, other. Several bots that have been dismantled and their... well their male options have been removed. This one was a little too weird for me but a nice idea.

Three stars

*The Scarlet Study* by Jim Avelli

In a world where Big Brother makes people take drugs to keep them dumb, Sherlock Holmes has a brief, shining moment of reversing the trend.

Three stars

*Delta Phi* Heidi McLaughlin

If Watson were a love-struck frat boy and Sherlock an oblivious girl on campus, it would take a very special case to bring them together.

I love romance novels, I love cheese, this was a little too much.

Two stars

*Beethoven's Baton* Austin Famer

Sherlock and Watson are violinists in Ludwig van Beethoven's orchestra but it seems like someone is plotting to kill the great man.

Again, a little too much of a reach and the ending was bonkers.

Two stars

*The Adventure of the Melted Saint* Gail Z. Martin

Quirky. Very quirky. Sherlock was not the main character in this one. It felt like she (Shelley is transgender in this story) was just stuck into another story. As a Sherlock Holmes story, it was maybe a two/two and a half but I liked the idea of a Museum collecting objects that have ghosts attached, waiting for their mysteries to be solved.

Three stars

*Automatic Sherlock* Martin Rose

Dr. Jovan Watson is Russian, working on a robot that will perform the perfect surgeries. But instead of his dream being realized, he is left with a robot that can... solve crimes? Might have been better as a more developed story.

Two and a half stars

*The Hammer of God* Jonathan Maberry

A really interesting take where Sherlock Holmes and John Watson become a novice and her mentor who are called in to solve a series of crimes that seem to have been perpetrated by God himself. Not sure how I feel about this as a Sherlock story but I liked the idea.

Three stars

*Code Cracker* Beth W. Patterson

Sherlock is a crime-solving parrot. Do I need to say more? The idea was interesting, the story was just meh.

Three stars

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### **Marina says**

Dreadful. Couldn't possibly decide which story I despised most. The stories have very little to do with Sherlock Holmes and almost appear as an insult to Conan Doyle's great detective!

There were maybe 2-3 interesting ideas, but even those stories weren't great. All in all a complete waste of money!

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### **James Hauenstein says**

I have a confession to make. I'm actually in the process of reading Backer Street Irregulars 2. Good Reads couldn't find the book so I'll change my review if it turns out to be a bad read.

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