



Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls

Charlotte Smith

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From the well-worn tin dispatch box belonging to Dr J. H. Watson, three untold stories are brought to light. In *Sherlock Holmes and The Murder At Lodore Falls*, Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are drawn into a case that involves murder, blackmail and robbery. It is a case that leads to danger to both Holmes and Watson and brings a confrontation with their old adversary. With Dr Watson facing his own personal nightmares, will Holmes be able to solve the mystery and help his troubled friend? The two other tales are Christmas stories. In *The Adventure Of The Wooden Boat*, Dr Watson is haunted by an old tragedy and copes by building a model boat, which is an old family tradition. In *The Call of Angels*, Dr Watson has an accident while travelling back to Baker Street and is aided by a mysterious stranger. Who is this mysterious stranger? Sherlock Holmes is determined to uncover the truth, but all is not as it appears as his investigation comes to a stunning conclusion.

Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls Details

Date : Published June 4th 2012 by MX Publishing (first published April 23rd 2012)

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Author : Charlotte Smith

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From Reader Review Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls for online ebook

Philip Jones says

This is an anthology of three novellas, all by the same author. All three are quite different, with the only commonality being their celebration of the growing friendship between Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. The title story is the first and longest of the lot. It takes place mostly in 1896, after Holmes' return from The Great Hiatus. Watson is having nightmares triggered by Holmes' 'death' at The Reichenbach falls. The main client is also having similar nightmares triggered by his experiences fifteen years before in the first Boer War. This theme of war experiences and the loss of close friends defines this story and sets the tone of the entire book.

The mystery involves the company founded by three friends to produce gelignite, an invention of Alfred Nobel that is much safer to store and to use than nitroglycerine or even Dynamite. The friends are pressed by shady characters to reveal the formula for this explosive and are then subjected to a series of increasingly violent 'accidents' when they refuse this request. Some time after the 'accidental' (according to the police) death of one of the founders, the pressure causes the other two seek help from Holmes in London. They are attacked on their way to consult him. Unraveling the mystery costs both Holmes and Watson dearly and reveals an unexpected source for the problems stirred up by 'The James Gang.'

The other two tales in this book take place at Christmas time, one in the year before the events at the Reichenbach and the other after Holmes' return. Both celebrate the growth of the friendship between Holmes and Watson and both do not really relate to any cases they investigate.

The book is well edited with few of the language and spelling mistakes common to the general run of recent Sherlockian literature. On the other hand, the themes of all three stories are dark and somber. The two shorter tales are quite emotional and the longer tale is, at best, hopeful. While it is not true that the book is depressing, it also is not a joyous collection. The stories are interesting but the mood is mostly sad and serious.

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones, April, 2012

Sam says

Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls is a short book, only about 150 pages (the publishing information says this book is 172 pages, but the remaining pages contain a list of other Sherlock Holmes stories from the publisher). The first story is the longest, at approximately 110 pages, the second two stories are only about 20 pages each. So, this book was a quick and easy read and only took me a few hours to finish.

There were several grammar mistakes throughout the book, as well as formatting errors, and these were very distracting for me. The writing was a bit stiff, and the dialogue between the characters was very weak. The Murder at Lodore Falls was entertaining to a point; the mystery was built up nicely, but when Holmes solved it, I literally thought, "That's it?" The conclusion of the story was a let down.

(view spoiler)

Towards the end of the book, I was also tired of reading about how much Holmes and Watson cared about each other and had to suck up the pain and inconvenience of their own injuries to go take care of the other. This point was made over and over and over again throughout all three stories and was extremely repetitive.

So, for me, this book was only ok. If it had been much longer than 150 pages, I don't know that I would have finished it.

I received a copy of this book from the Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

Margaret says

The book comprises a novella and two short stories.

A nice little read, though probably not for all Sherlockians. The slight metaphysical aspects may put some of the more diehards off.

Dale says

Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls by Charlotte Smith

This is the first Holmes book published by Ms Smith, a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and founding member and Liverpool and Wirral Sherlock Holmes Society

The book consists of three stories, the titular novelette and two short stories. If I were to choose one word for the theme that runs through all three it would be "camaraderie." The three stories give the reader a sense of just what these two friends mean to each other as they face various dangers.

Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Lodore Falls

First of all, the book makes no effort to name Watson as the writer. Thus one does not expect it to flow in the same vein as an original story from the canon. This book is written by a third party.

At the start of the story, two cousins and a friend from the Army have gone into business together. Matthew Crowther, Brett Sullivan, and Danny Peterson's Civil Engineering company has a formula for gelata lignis, given to Matthew by a friend to experiment and ascertain its value as an explosive.

Like many struggling companies, the firm has need of investors, and one company, Syke's Holdings, Ltd, has invested an unnamed amount into the research.

Now the three partners are in danger from a criminal organization known as The James Gang. Determined to get the formula at any cost, the gang murders Matthew at Lodore Falls. He had slipped the formula into his watch and had it posted to his cousin.

The cousin, Brett Sullivan and his friend Danny Peterson now come under attack so Sullivan visits Holmes.

The trail leads through deserted docks, another murder, back alleys and odd corners of London before the gang confronts Holmes and Watson. Both wounded and marked for death by an old foe, how will they survive?

It's a good story if a bit slow paced and I give it four out of five stars.

“The Call of Angels” is set at Christmastime. Watson has had a long day at his surgery, and missed the last cab home to 221B. Holmes is in a dither as the weather is bad, and Watson’s leg unable to bear a lot of stress.

Shortcutting through Hyde Park, Watson falls and is knocked unconscious. He awakes helped by a man who says he is the caretaker of the park. Holmes has gone in search of Watson, reasoned that he may be in the park, and is told by the same man where Watson is.

The story dips into the supernatural, which some Holmes readers may chaff at, but the mystical quality isn’t all that bad. It is written in altering viewpoints, first Watson and then Holmes.

“The Adventure of the Wooden Boat” is also set at Christmastime. Watson wants to get something for Holmes and again becomes trapped in the snow. Holmes once more rescues him, and Watson recalls a sad time in his life and the boat in the bottle his Father gave him.

The two stories are about the camaraderie of the two old friends. They are very short essays.

Since the bulk of the book is taken up by the novelette, the book as a whole gets four out of five stars from me.

Quoth the Raven...

Charlotte Smith says

From the well-worn tin dispatch box belonging to Dr J. H. Watson, three untold stories are brought to light. In Sherlock Holmes and The Murder At Lodore Falls, Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are drawn into a case that involves murder, blackmail and robbery. It is a case that leads to danger to both Holmes and Watson and brings a confrontation with their old adversary. With Dr Watson facing his own personal nightmares, will Holmes be able to solve the mystery and help his troubled friend? The two other tales are Christmas stories. In The Adventure Of The Wooden Boat, Dr Watson is haunted by an old tragedy and copes by building a model boat, which is an old family tradition. In The Call of Angels, Dr Watson has an accident while travelling back to Baker Street and is aided by a mysterious stranger. Who is this mysterious stranger? Sherlock Holmes is determined to uncover the truth, but all is not as it appears as his investigation comes to a stunning conclusion.

Laura says

Very good. I liked the part where Holmes was taking care of Watson after he fell.
