



# The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade

*M.J. Trow*

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## **The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade M.J. Trow**

It is 1891, and London is still reeling from the horror of the unsolved Jack the Ripper murders when Inspector Sholto Lestrade is sent to the Isle of Wight to investigate a strange corpse found walled up in Shanklin Cline. Lestrade whirls from ballroom and barroom, from vicarage to spiritualist gather, from the studio of the celebrated Alma-Tadema to 221B Baker Street with spell-binding panache.

## **The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade Details**

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Author : M.J. Trow

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# From Reader Review The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade for online ebook

## Ruth Downie says

The much-maligned Inspector LeStrade (who has actually solved the Ripper murders but gets no credit for it) finally gets a chance to set the record straight - Sherlock Holmes is not the genius we all thought, and Doctor Watson makes things up!

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## Tamsin Ramone says

This book was actually quite entertaining but as a Sherlock Holmes fan I couldn't like his portrayal of Holmes or Watson or their relationship. The only reason I read this book is because of it's Sherlock connections. After reading it I think it does stand up on its own as a good old fashioned who dun it but if you love Sherlock Holmes be prepared to get a bit shirty.

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## Rekha Rao says

It is 1891 and Londoners are still coming to terms with the unsolved mystery of Jack the Ripper. Melville McNaghten, the head of C.I.D. tries to hide the file containing information about Ripper from Lestrade. Lestrade has played an important role in finding clues and suspects in the Ripper case and now, Lestrade is not allowed to proceed further. However, Arabella, McNaghten's daughter, steals the file from her father's desk and hands it over to Lestrade. Lestrade is happy to see the list of the final four suspects in the Ripper case.

The story is then divided into chapters where each chapter corresponds to an unsolved murder case. The first story is The Man in the Chine – the gruesomely murdered and decomposed body of a man is found in the Shanklin Chine and Lestrade is sent to investigate the case as it closely resembles the M.O. of Ripper. After a series of investigations – from a poet to the military, Lestrade is not able to find the murderer.

The second story is Ball of Lightning. Lord Frederick Herstmonceux is found brutally murdered while on a hunting trip. A pack of 40 or so foxhounds gores him to death. Frederick was notoriously known for torturing and killing animals in the gruesome way possible. Was someone trying to avenge the killing of these animals?

The vicar's daughter is the story of Harriet Elizabeth Wemyss, a 17-year-old girl who is found burned to death in her house. The vicar and Harriet's father – Wemyss, believes that his daughter was murdered. But why? Although Lestrade knows that the girl did not die as a result of instant human combustion, he cannot find the murderer.

Three of Spades – Atlanta Washington, an ex-slave is humiliated in public by three men. The three men are then found dead in the Battersea Park, covered from head to toe in black paint. This sinister-looking murder case takes a turn when Lestrade finds out that the paint was stolen from a renowned painter – Alma Tameda.

Thea subsequent deaths of Albert Mauleverer, Forbes, Augustus, Philip Faye and John Torquil increase the body count to eleven. Who will be the next victim? Will Lestrade be able to solve the mystery behind these killings?

This is the second book by M.J.Trow that I have read and I absolutely loved it! Be it his writing style – which is weird, quirky and one of a kind, be the story – a Patsche of Sherlock Holmes, or the characters – Lestrade, Dew, Bandicoot (yes, you read it right!), Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Artur Conan Doyle and Dr. Watson, everything in this book is interesting.

The story is a mixture of murder mystery and humor, and a little bit of romance – just a teeny-weeny bit of it. Never imagined Lestrade to be of the romantic kind, but one does get to see his cheesy side in this book. The characters are absolutely marvelous – the conversations between Lestrade and Sherlock Holmes are not to be missed!

There's a whole lot of clues and good detective work, with a bit of silly humor here and there, which makes the story even more interesting. The ending is unexpected. With the most famous characters being on the list of suspects, the story takes a 180-degree turn in the end. The murderer, well, even Lestrade couldn't believe his eyes when he knew who it was! And, nor could I!

My favorite part of the book is when Lestrade gets the name of the painter – Alma Tameda wrong. Initially, he says it right – Alma Tameda. Then it is Mala-Teda, followed by Alma-Mater and finally, Alda-Tamer. Then the conversation between Dr. Watson and Lestrade where Watson accuses Conan Doyle of copying his work and Lestrade points out that he is termed as an 'imbecile' in the book, which is of course not true because he just recognized the old-hag downstairs as Sherlock Holmes.

If you love to read a good pastiche of Sherlock Holmes, then This is The Book! I have decided to read all the books in Inspector Lestrade series. It is super funny, super quirky and super interesting.

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### **Susan says**

It all started in 1891 when Inspector Lestrade is sent to the Isle of Wight. There he investigates the death of a man who has been walled up in Shanklin Chine. But this is just the start of the random killings. Is there a serial killer stalking England.

Interesting mystery which did take it take time to get going, but there were moments when I felt it was verging towards a comedic story which I believe let it down.

A NetGalley Book

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### **Jud Hanson says**

Inspector Lestrade is fresh off the Ripper case when he is once again thrown into the middle of a bizarre mystery. He is called to a murder scene in which the victim was sealed up behind a wall. When he returns to the Yard, he finds a letter on his desk containing an excerpt from a book of poetry, the content of which bears a striking resemblance to the murder scene he just visited. When a second body is discovered and then a third, also followed by peculiar letters, Lestrade knows he is facing a very adept foe. As the body count rises and the pressure to catch the killer mounts, Lestrade will be tested to the very limit of his abilities.

"The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade" by M.J. Trow features not Holmes but a supporting cast member of the Holmes stories, Inspector Sholto Lestrade of Scotland Yard. Although portrayed by Doyle as something of a misfit, Trow allows Lestrade to shine in the way he solves a series of murders without the help of Holmes. I've been a Holmes fan most of my life and thoroughly enjoyed the first entry in this spinoff series. Anyone who enjoys mysteries should check out this series. I give it 4/5 stars.

\*A copy of the ebook was the only consideration received for this review.\*

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## **Shana says**

In my never ending mission to read as many Sherlock Holmes pastiches as I can... we'll try this one!

OK, not bad. Not great, but not bad. This is about Inspector Lestrade, Holmes' main contact at Scotland Yard. In this story, Lestrade is not a buffon, as Conan Doyle sometimes portrays him. I did enjoy the character.

I had a tough time following some of the plot, but it got rolling in the end. And the Struwwelpeter plays a major role (see fertileplots entry about this).

One very odd thing - there are two random sex scenes in this book. Not well done. Not appropriate. Do not fit with the story. No reason for them. Very odd.

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## **Roddy Williams says**

This could have worked quite well if the author had taken the time to think through what he wanted the novel to be. It has other serious flaws but in the main one is confused as to whether this is a comic novel, a pastiche or a complex murder mystery.

As a comic novel it fails since the comedy is sporadic and reliant for effect on Carry On style 'double entendre' and cheap puns. It is draining to read since - for one thing - the style of the comedy is far too modern and sits uneasily in a late Victorian setting. Sometimes it hits the nail but most of the time it is just not funny or severely laboured. There is a section where Lestrade meets Oscar Wilde which is particularly painful to read, brief though it is, as it seems it was only included for its comic value.

The basic premise is that Inspector Lestrade (of the Sherlock Holmes tales) is in fact a real Inspector and exists in the real world alongside Holmes, Watson and Conan Doyle. Holmes and Watson are reduced to one-dimensional buffoonish stereotypes, while the rest of the cast struggle to get beyond two dimensions. Lestrade is tasked with investigating a series of peculiar murders which are based around Hoffman's cautionary verses of Struwwelpeter, or Shock Headed Peter.

Lestrade - for no good reason - comes into contact with various famous Victorians, such as Tennyson,

Swinburne, The Prince of Wales, Prince Albert Victor (whose presumed homosexuality, like that of Oscar Wilde, is presented to us for no other reason than the author knows all about it and presumes he is telling us things we never knew... Oh, and it gives him the excuse to use the derogatory term for gay men 'cottage loaf' several times) and various others.

The murders themselves are quite preposterous and would be impossible to put into practice in real terms. Had the author taken some time to construct more credible scenarios it might have saved this novel from ruin.

It's not that difficult to work out who the murderer is either, but I'll leave that for you to determine.

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## **Mark says**

A really good

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## **Bandit says**

There are many pastiches and spin offs featuring the world's greatest detective, though nothing quite like this, with Sherlock being a minor player of pompous nature, while the much beleagued and made fun of in the books Inspector Lestrade takes the center stage. And that's the premise and the main gimmick of this book, the first in series, featuring the memorably named Sholto Lestrade as an intrepid crime solver in his own right. The main thing with that is that while Sherlock is a genius, Lestrade is a mere man, so he plods diligently and methodically, lacking panache and pizzazz of deductive method and spectacular powers of observation. And so it takes him quite a while to find the serial killer terrorizing London in 1891, all too soon after the Ripper case. And so as a murder mystery it's a pretty standard serial killer story, murders occur according to child cautionary rhymes and the ending twist is a doozy, not to mention exceptionally progressive for the times. But as a work of fiction it's a delight, the way the author disposes with Sherlock alone is worth the entire read. But then there's the use of real life historical figures, woven in pretty cleverly. And it's surprisingly funny, at times almost laugh out loud so. Made the entire read very...charming. Mind you, there's plenty of murder and suspense for genre fans, but for me it was all the bonus extras that made the book. Lestrade is the proverbial straight man who isn't in on the joke, he isn't well read, he's terribly serious (although not at all humorless), he's very dedicated to his job. Not world's greatest, not even close, but a respectable leading man doing a credible, if not extraordinary, job. This book's characterization of him doesn't exactly make one go...oh wow, time to rethink the (fictional) historical accounts, but it's a clever and interesting twist. The twist that outshines its subject, actually. Thanks Netgalley.

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## **Jo says**

Halfway through this book I told my husband, "This is so weird. Read this scene." After reading it he commented, "It reminds me of P.G. Wodehouse." I was like, "No way." But I guess after reading other reviews, I see that the book was meant to be humorous? Rather gruesome humor, if so. Definitely don't read this for the mystery plot. It's totally meandering and seems kinda pointless.

I was thinking maybe this suffered from first in series syndrome, but reviews of other books don't make me feel hopeful, so I won't read any further.

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### **Svetlana Tishchenko says**

I'm sorry but I could not bring myself to continue with this book. I gave it a hundred pages waiting for a sparkle, waiting for the book to take me in. But it didn't.

This is disappointing given the premise: London, The Ripper, Lestrade and Sherlock...

Too much dust on the words. Too many words...

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### **Heather says**

This book is a tale of Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard as a stand alone character. Lestrade is famous for his Sherlock Holmes connection. He is known for coming to the detective for help in some of Lestrade's more baffling cases. Sherlock Holmes always makes fun of the bumbling detective but solves his cases and lets him take the credit, thereby establishing Lestrade's credentials as a famous Inspector. In this particular story Holmes makes a brief appearance but is in no way part of the narrative or the solution. As Lestrade struggles with a series of murders he is sure he can solve, he accepts a new constable to teach the ropes to and takes on murder after murder with only the wrong conclusions. The story is meant to absolve Lestrade of the contempt of Holmes and show he can do what he needs to do eventually. This makes him less of a hero and more of a laughing stock in the story, as the author intends. This is not a serious mystery but a good read if you are looking for something light and funny.

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### **Cherry says**

I'm just not into spin-offs. I tried but... just not my thing.

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### **Chris Wright says**

Excellent pastiche on Sherlock Holmes. Lots of fun with great Victorians having walk on parts.

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### **Johnny says**

Sholto Lestrade was much smarter than Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson put together. At least, that is the premise of this delightful series of books—part detective novel and part historical fiction. For fans of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the revisionist version of the Holmes legend would be damnable heresy. Doyle himself makes an appearance as a hack writer, murder suspect, and questionable physician. If I were casting the part for a BBC series, it would be tremendously tempting to cast a younger Stephen Fry in the role with occasional cameos by his old comedy partner, Hugh Laurie, as “The Great Detective.”

This mystery could just as easily have been entitled “The Struwelpeter Murders” as the theme running through the recounted events are laboriously tied to a series of bizarre, sometimes macabre, children's

rhymes by Henrich Hoffman. (I'm told that a reference to these rhymes appeared about three years ago on an episode of *Family Guy*.) In an homage to the Jack the Ripper case, Lestrade keeps getting notes in doggerel that tie the murders to *Der Struwwelpeter*, a doggerel that allows Lestrade to interview the unbalanced poet, Algernon Charles Swinburne ("Death, if thou wilt, fain would I plead with thee: / Canst thou not spare, of all our hopes have built, / One shelter where our spirits fain would be / Death, if thou wilt?").

As with Swinburne, some of the most delightful (and comic moments) in this mystery are tied to cameo appearances by well-known personalities of the time: General William Booth of the Salvation Army, Swinburne, Doyle, and others. And, as with any historical novel, some of the joy is found in the detail where public works projects have begun, reform efforts are taking place, and advances in technology (in this case, forensics) haven't caught up with the institutions which need them. Most particularly, I enjoy the characterization of the literary efforts—not just Doyle's *The Strand*, but the ridicule dumped on the Metropolitan Police by *Punch* and the news organs of the time.

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