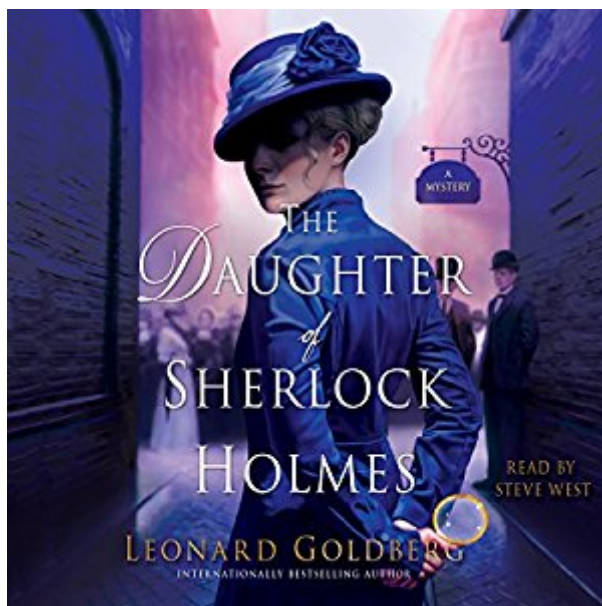


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# The Daughter Of Sherlock Holmes: A Novel



## Synopsis

From USA Today best-selling author Leonard Goldberg comes *The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes*, a new thrilling tale of the great detective's daughter and her companion, Dr. John Watson Jr., as they investigate a murder at the highest levels of British society. England, 1914. Joanna Blalock's keen mind and incredible insight lead her to become a highly skilled nurse, one of the few professions that allow her to use her finely tuned brain. But when she and her 10-year-old son witness a man fall to his death, apparently by suicide, they are visited by the elderly Dr. John Watson and his charming, handsome son, Dr. John Watson Jr. Impressed by her forensic skills, they invite her to become the third member of their investigative team. Caught up in a Holmesian mystery that spans from hidden treasure to the Second Afghan War of 1878-1880, Joanna and her companions must devise an ingenious plan to catch a murderer in the act while dodging familiar culprits, Scotland Yard, and members of the British aristocracy. Unbeknownst to her, Joanna harbors a mystery of her own. The product of a one-time assignation between the now dead Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler, the only woman to ever outwit the famous detective, Joanna has unwittingly inherited her parents' deductive genius.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an avid fan of the Original Doyle this book brings back many good memories of his original method of operation. It is a very fun read and I recommend it highly. It is well worth it and very enjoyable and a great read.

Great book. My husband is reading it too.

A brilliant, creative innovation in the literary world of Sherlock Holmes. The cover is wonderful. It captures the mystery, drama and sensitivity that evolves in the book. Beautifully written. Bravo!!

What a fun read! I recommend it highly.

There are just some tag words that have me reaching for a book without doing much preliminary investigation whether a book is for me. 'Sherlock Holmes' in title or blurb would be one of those. Pair that with the idea that he has a daughter and she, a keen observer, setting out on her first mystery and I'm all in. The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes takes place after the death of Holmes with Watson in his old age. Watson's son, Dr. John Watson, Jr. is the narrator of the story explaining how they got the case and met Joanna Blalock, the daughter of Holmes. There was more than a nod toward Holmes' original creator, Arthur Conan Doyle's writing style and the fun inclusion of a whole younger generation representing the familiar cast of supporting characters in the Holmes' universe. I got the feeling this was a homage to the great detective and Watson so I allowed the story to wink and grin at me when it came to all the characters being a junior version of the original cast. They aren't all identical shadows, but a fan will easily recognize this cast of characters and even the story line with the mystery bearing resemblance to The Sign of the Four. I did feel poor Lestrade, the detective was a tad too inept and there were moments when I thought Joanna wasn't as keen an observer and analytic as her famous father, but I thought both the Watsons were just right. And Toby Two... that was fun to get the hound back on the scent. I would have loved to have seen Joanna's son, Johnnie get a larger role. The young genius made his appearances and bore a stronger resemblance to Holmes than his mother. The mystery was not that difficult. They knew who it was quickly enough, but they needed solid proof and they needed to head him off before he did further trouble. There was some plodding along as they tracked down each clue and discussed how it was deduced. It took its time and built to an ending that paid-off the earlier time taken to line up all the ducks and work a trap for a cunning fish. There is a whiff of romance, but it is not the focus of the story by any stretch. Their chemistry was more as a detecting team first and foremost. I would equate The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes to a historical cozy mystery in style, pace, and format. It was a good one to curl up with, offer some light entertainment, and great fun for the Holmes' fan.

I am generally well-disposed towards homages to classic authors and characters; however, for an homage to be successful it has to present the characters in a way that makes them convincing to fans of the classics. In general, Mr. Goldberg manages to capture believability in Dr. Watson and Watson's son. He even does so in his most important creations – Joanna Blalock and her son, Johnnie Holmes – supposed descendants from a night with Irene Adler. Unfortunately, he ruins the illusion with a couple of easily correctible mistakes. In chapter 3 (p.36), he has Joanna say, “An object falling through space drops at a speed of thirty-two feet per second” but, as any decent student of high school physics knows, objects accelerate at 32 feet per second squared. Her calculation from this is also significantly incorrect as, instead of a dead body falling 160 feet in 5 seconds, it would have fallen 400 feet. And this incorrect information is coming from a person Mr. Goldberg is asserting has a better mind for facts than Holmes. Worse, the correct information would have worked as well in the novel as the incorrect information. I nearly put down the novel here, but I kept going. In chapter 9 (p.109), the Watsons go to get a dog, Toby Two, to follow a scent. This dog is supposed to be a pup of Old Toby [who] passed on nearly five years ago. Old Toby appears in The Sign of Four which is supposed to take place in 1888 while this novel takes place in 1910 (if we believe the text – p.3 – and not the dust jacket flap). It is 17 years between 1888 and 1905. It borders on the impossible that Toby Two can be a pup of Old Toby. Now, though I am well read in the original Holmes, I am by no means the passionate expert that some are. There are Holmes references scattered throughout this novel, as one would expect. I worry that there are howlers worse than this one that real experts could pick out. Which is disappointing because, otherwise, there are things to enjoy here. There is no real mystery as the killer is known early on but it is fun to see the means and motives unraveled and the murderer ultimately taken down. It's also rather pleasant to see the relationship between the young Watson and Ms. Blalock progress. Still, it's hard to get on board with a mystery that contains such blatant errors and unlikelyhoods.

Excited when I saw this title; as I have always been a Sherlock/Watson Fan. Book takes place in a time period years after the death of Sherlock Holmes and centers on Dr. Watson and his son also Dr. Watson. Dr. Watson still living at 221b Baker Street is visited by his son John weekly to monitor his health and well being. A boost in Dr. Watson's spirits arrives in the form of a plea to investigate a suicide that turns out to be murder. Leads are followed and a woman of extraordinary insight and

intuitive observations is encountered. Lovely story of the talents that are passed along to generations of the future. Pathology, Murder, Romance, and amazing characters young and old make this work by Leonard Goldberg a read not to miss. St. Martin's Press/Minotaur via Netgalley supplied me a copy with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read and my comments here are my honest opinion.

This was an enjoyable read but a bit on the light side, On thing that stood out was that the author of a Doyle/Holmes derivative novel was apparently so unfamiliar with the Holmes canon that he mistook Holmes retirement date of 1903 for his death date when stories such as The Blanched Soldier and His Last Bow occur after this date and clearly have Holmes alive until at least 1914.

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