



# A Monstrous Regiment of Women: A Novel of Suspense Featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (A Mary Russell Mystery)

By Laurie R. King

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## Winner of the Nero Wolfe Award

It is 1921 and Mary Russell--Sherlock Holmes's brilliant apprentice, now an Oxford graduate with a degree in theology--is on the verge of acquiring a sizable inheritance. Independent at last, with a passion for divinity and detective work, her most baffling mystery may now involve Holmes and the burgeoning of a deeper affection between herself and the retired detective. Russell's attentions turn to the New Temple of God and its leader, Margery Childe, a charismatic suffragette and a mystic, whose draw on the young theology scholar is irresistible. But when four bluestockings from the Temple turn up dead shortly after changing their wills, could sins of a capital nature be afoot? Holmes and Russell investigate, as their partnership takes a surprising turn in *A Monstrous Regiment of Women* by Laurie R. King.

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(A Mary Russell Mystery)** By Laurie R. King **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

In *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, Laurie R. King came up with a completely original story that had Sherlock Holmes as one of its principal characters but was in no way part of the Holmes canon. The focus of that book was a young woman, Mary Russell. Now in **A Monstrous Regiment of Women**, Mary Russell's adventures as a student of the famous detective continue. A series of murders claims members of a strange suffrage organization's wealthy young female volunteers, and Mary, with Holmes in the background, investigates, little knowing what danger she personally faces.

Laurie R. King is also the author of the Edgar Award-winning novel *A Grave Talent*.

#### From Publishers Weekly

King's second mystery tale of a young woman who's a protege of Sherlock Holmes.

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#### From School Library Journal

YA?Mary Russell, the apprentice to Sherlock Holmes first encountered in *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (St. Martins, 1994), has established her own regime in and around Oxford just after World War I. Still drawn to Holmes, but seeking her own identity and the furtherance of women's rights, she pursues her studies as well as a case concerning wealthy young women and their spiritual mentor, Margery Childe. While captivated and encouraged by Margery's sermons and good works, Mary can't help wondering why several of these women have recently passed away, leaving much of their estates to Margery's association. She alternately seeks out and rebuffs Holmes. Mary has lost none of the spark and intelligence as well as individualism that so intrigued her mentor in the first book. Readers learn much of the condition of women, especially as the few remaining men return home from the war, and become aware of the class system and unequal social conditions of early 20th-century England, while engaged in a thoroughly entertaining romp through the meaner streets of London. A delight, and a worthy sequel.?Susan H. Woodcock, King's Park Library, Burke, VA

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**Carrie Hanks:**

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