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Colonel Sapt of the Ruritania Court journeys to England on a secret mission to save his country from anarchy. He is to engage the services of Rudolf Rassendyll once more to impersonate the King while the monarch recovers from a serious illness. But Rassendyll had mysteriously disappeared. In desperation Sapt consults Sherlock Holmes who with Watson travels to the Kingdom of Ruritania in an effort to thwart the plans of the scheming Rupert of Hentzau in his bid for the throne.

Sherlock Holmes and the Hentzau Affair Details

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Author : David Stuart Davies

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From Reader Review Sherlock Holmes and the Hentzau Affair for online ebook

Gordon Harris says

While not written by Conan Doyle, this is in the same style and was a really good read. I'd recommend it to any Sherlock Holmes fan.

Nefty123 says

Well in line with the Doyle Holmes novels. Enjoyed it.

Jane says

This book is an adventure story, but I found parts of it troubling. I know the writer has to put in Holmes references, in case someone new to the Holmes stories is reading the book. However I found the continued reference monotonous.

This book also references The prisoner of Zenda.

I am a Holmes fan, I read everything I can get my hands on, some are really good other's are really bad. I would say this story falls in the middle. A good read, but I have definitely read better.

Dale says

Sherlock Holmes and the Hentzau Affair by David Stuart Davies

I wish to thank the good people at Endeavour Press for my Kindle™ review copy of this book. Thanks, Georgina Cutler!

This story is a sort of addendum to The Prisoner of Zenda by Anthony Hope.

Walking back to their Baker Street flat, Holmes and Watson are startled when a hansom cab rattles by and halts at their door. The passenger jumps out and begins to rap furiously on the door. He slams up the stairs to 221B, pulls the blinds, and can be seen as his shadow crosses the blind as he paces the floor.

He introduces himself as Colonel Sapt in the service of King Rudolf the Fifth of Ruritania. He relates the history of King Rudolph and the Englishman Rudolf Rassendyll, the King's double from Anthony Hope's adventurous tale. Once before, Rudolf Rassendyll; himself a bastard of the Royal Family of Ruritania, had impersonated the King in a time of trouble.

Now problems arise from the same parties involved in the original plot to overthrow the King. Black Michael, villain of the Anthony Hope novel was killed in the end. His conspirator, Count Rupert of Hentzau, hopes to seize the throne from King Rudolf. Rudolf himself, never physically well, has descended into a simple-minded madness.

To carry out his coup, Rupert of Hentzau has kidnapped Rassendyll—using his kidnapped nephew’s life to force him to cooperate. Holmes and Watson are commissioned by Mycroft to see that the throne of Ruritania doesn’t fall to the Count of Hentzau...

I found the story to have nuances of both Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Anthony Hope. Mr. Davies manages to paint the world of both men into a combined universe that is a veritable masterpiece! Encore!

I give the book five stars!

Quoth the Raven...

James Grubb says

It's an okay short read but it lacked the clever analysis I've come to expect from Homes, I found David Britland's Holmes better in 'The Mayfair Murders' and I tend to find other murder mysteries more to my liking - authors like, Damien Boyd, Donna Leon, Colin Dexter, Reginald Hill, Michele Giuttari, Maj Sjowall & Per Wahloo and 20 or 30 others.

Kally Sheng says

A good attempt but not impressed.
Did one 'check in' in a hotel in 1895?

Ray says

A very successful blending of Sherlock Holmes with Anthony Hope's adventure stories "The Prisoner of Zenda" and "Rupert of Hentzau." In "Sherlock Holmes and the Hentzau Affair," Holmes is called upon to prevent an evil scheme involving look-alikes from bringing down the tenuous monarchy of Ruritania. Holmes and Watson must find and rescue Hope's hero Rudolf Rassendyll from being used as a pawn in Rupert of Hentzau's bid to seize the throne for himself. The book is well-written, the deductions reminiscent of the real article, and the story moves along at a fast clip (except for some very early exposition that recounts Rassendyll's exploits and the state of Ruritanian politics). A very satisfying pastiche, that at 128 pages, never outstays its welcome.

Saad Ahmed says

Even though its not entirely necessary to read the Prisoner of Zenda before starting this book bu I'd recommend reading it first its a beautiful novel and will give you a feel what to expect next in this Sherlockian adaption of the book.

So now lets talk about the plot and the book itself

Firstly its not very lengthy expect to finish it 3 to 5 hours but the story line and plot are beautifully explained and will keep you interested from the start to the very end.

Although the book is gripping to the very end but I think the writer could have concluded the story a little better.

Oh yes for all the sherlock fans wondering does this adaption by David Stuart gives the same feel like Sherlock of Conan Doyle rest assured guys it really does.

John Rhodes says

A reasonably satisfying pastiche wit a few groaner typos where the author and or editor could not de-confuse Ruritania and Romania.

Tomina says

#T_Books

Name: Sherlock Holmes & The Hentzau Affair.

Quick read.

By: David Davies.

—————
Sherlock Holmes novels are one of my favourite and the very first books I read in English. This is not an original novel obviously. It was not written by Conan Doyal, but I still enjoyed it.

I do not recommend this book to people that just started reading English books or people that don't like the Victorian era. This book is not for you. Sorry.

—————
Anyway!! This book is full of awesomeness! 1- As I said, it takes place in Victorian London and if you know me you'll know that this is my favourite era ever! If I can travel in time -with the doctor, DUH- I would want to visit Victorian London. That's also why I used my London book mark, fits so well. 2- It is narrated from John's point of view! He keeps fan-boying over Sherlock's deducting skills. xD I just find it funny cause I ship BBC Johnlock. It's hard to read this book without imagine Benedict as Sherlock and Martin as John.... I did, they were just wearing Victorian clothes instead of modern clothes... Don't judge me!

—————
Royal affairs: Check.

Murder: Check.

221B Baker Street set: Check.

Sherlock deduction: Check.

Victorian: Check.

—————
Book Rate:

Aileen says

The kingdom of Ruritania is in trouble and Rupert of Hentzau is again trying to take over the throne. A perfect time to ask for the help of Sherlock Holmes. He and Watson travel to the country and are soon

involved in intrigue, disguises and a long-standing love affair. Very hard not to believe this short story was not written by Conan Doyle, his characters and those of Anthony Hope blend seamlessly.

Karolina says

Sherlock Holmes and the Prisoner of Zenda novels are two of my favourite books. When I discovered that an author had actually blended the two together I was eager to try! This is a wonderful blend of the two tales. I really enjoyed the story and how Holmes and Watson were mixed into the lives of Rudolf Rassendyll, Sapt, Tarlenheim and Flavia.

The author did get the hair colour of Queen Flavia wrong which did throw me, but otherwise the story is fun with a few surprises. Worth a read.

Aoife says

This review can also be found on my blog

It was one of Holmes's most annoying traits that he would keep vital information to himself until it suited him to reveal it, usually at a moment when he could create the most dramatic effect.

Davies does a good job imitating Doyle's writing style. Die-hard Holmesians might be able to tell the difference but casuals enthusiast will have a hard time telling if a paragraph has been written by Doyle or Davies. Holmes' manners and his relationship with Watson is also well described (especially the latter is something pastiche authors often fail to do).

However, this isn't everything because the story as a whole feels everything but Holmesian. It's more like a Victorian James Bond with a hero who rushes from one dangerous situation into the next and then has to shoot/punch his way out of it. And Davies' Holmes has no qualms about this. I genuinely don't know how many people get killed in this 120-page story but I think it's somewhere around 10. And only one of those gets murdered by the bad guys, the rest are killed in fights with Holmes and his associates. But don't worry. They are all –gasp– traitors and anarchists.

I don't object to a bit more action in Holmes-stories. And after all The Prisoner of Zenda is quite a swashbuckling novel full of fights (and also with quite a high body count which only bothers the heroes tangentially) so you can't fault the book for taking some inspiration from there. But the reason Holmes (and Watson) get in half of these fights is their incredible stupidity:

Just imagine: You are on a very dangerous case. You know your opponents don't shy away from anything and have already tried to kill you twice. Now you meet someone new. You feel there is something fishy about him but you can't quite put your finger on it, yet. He offers you a drink. Do you

- a) Drink it
- b) Wait a moment and try to figure out why you have such a bad feeling

If you answered b) congratulations! You are cleverer than Holmes is in this book!

Then there's the fact that this is also a sequel to *The Prisoner of Zenda* and...it's not a good one. In the original Rupert Hentzau works for the Black Michael, the main villain but while they get Michael, Rupert gets away at the end. As a reader, you can't help but feel happy about it because Rupert is such a fun villain. He's definitely bad: he has no issues with killing unarmed men if they stand in his way, and he has no sad backstory as a reason for it (not that sad backstories excuse murder...but there are people who think that) and his ulterior motive is power and money. But he has glorious one-liners, is charming and dashing (even the narrator says so) and gets played by Douglas Fairbanks Jr. in the movie.

I mean:

Once again he turned to wave his hand, and then the gloom of thickets swallowed him and he was lost from our sight. Thus he vanished—reckless and wary, graceful and graceless, handsome, debonair, vile, and unconquered.

Is an actual quote from the actual *Prisoner of Zenda* and not the queer retelling *The Henchman of Zenda* by KJ Charles that will come out in May.

In other words: Rupert is a bit of a magnificent bastard.

In *The Hentzau Affair*, he's a mustache-twirling villain who abducts children to blackmail their relatives into helping him and has the rhetoric talent of a playground bully.

And then there is the end. *The Prisoner of Zenda* does not have a very happy ending and it seems the author wants to 'fix' this with his book. Now that in itself isn't wrong but in doing that he ignores all the reasons why there wasn't a happy end in the original. He seems to think there was only one obstacle and by getting rid of that everything will be fine but there were more reasons.

What now follows are ramblings that spoil this book, *The Prisoner of Zenda* and its actual sequel *Rupert of Hentzau* so proceed at your own risk.

(view spoiler)

Gerry says

What could be better? Sherlock Holmes meets the Prisoner of Zenda ... and the answer is 'Nothing'. Arthur Conan Doyle and Anthony Hope combined in one voice by David Stuart Davies. And he does a splendid job of it, capturing the Holmes/Watson relationship admirably and portraying the Zenda characters exactly as they appeared in Hope's original novel.

It is an adventure story par excellence although, of course, there is a mystery in it - where is Rudolph Rassendyll? And it is from this latter point that Holmes first becomes involved for Colonel Sapt of the Ruritanian Royal Household visits Holmes at 221B. He is concerned about the forthcoming coronation in his country and also to learn that Rudolph Rassendyll, a perfect lookalike for King Rudolph of Ruritania, has gone missing just as Sapt was hoping to take him back to Ruritania with him.

Not surprisingly Holmes quickly latches on to the situation and tells Sapt to leave it in his capable hands. Unfortunately the faithful Sapt is murdered so Holmes and Watson set off to Ruritania to investigate. Without giving too much away, they encounter various problems on their journey but these pale into insignificance once they reach Ruritania.

There they encounter the soldiers of the wicked Rupert of Hentzau, whose aim is to oust King Rudolph and his Queen, Flavia, and take over the country. There follows many hair-raising experiences for Holmes, who eventually, with great cunning and without the knowledge of Watson, overcomes all the evil forces and restores peace and tranquillity, albeit in an unexpected way, to Ruritania.

And again, not surprisingly, as an Englishman he was hailed as the greatest Elfberg [the house of King Rudolph] of them all by the Royal Household.

It is action all the way and very exciting stuff, perhaps even more so if one has already read 'The Prisoner of Zenda'.

Andrew says

This is one of the Wordsworths Tales of Mystery and Supernatural, in fact one of the early editions at that (There have been a number of revisions and changes to the line up including some dramatic changes to the covers).

The story is told in the style of Sherlock Holmes meets the Prisoner of Zenda, I will admit I am familiar with the story of Zenda but I have not read it so I cannot say it is a homage or not but the story does rip along at a fair pace - more so than some of the original Doyle stories but for me I do not think it suffered for it.

The story has all the hallmarks of a classic Conan Doyle and I will admit reading it I didn't at any moment think it was anything other than it, the story was fun to read although I suspect a true Sherlock Holmes enthusiast would pull it apart for inaccuracies and style but as probably one of literary's most inspiring and copied characters I think this book is as good as any - I certainly enjoyed it and cannot fault the author.
