



## The Secret Notebooks of Sherlock Holmes

*June Thomson*

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## **The Secret Notebooks of Sherlock Holmes June Thomson**

In Sherlock Holmes 's London, reputations are fragile and scandal can be ruinous. In order to protect the names of the good (and not-so-good), Dr. Watson comes to the decision that his accounts of some of his friend 's most brilliant cases must never see the light of day. Concealing the manuscripts in an old dispatch box deep in the vaults of a Charing Cross bank, Dr. Watson preserves the honor of others and in doing so proves himself a true gentleman as well as a good friend. But then a hundred years pass, and the mysteries outlast the memories of those they once could have harmed An aluminum crutch betrays the criminal who relies upon it for support An Italian Cardinal lies dead in a muddy yard in Spitalfields What do a pair of suspiciously successful gamblers have in common with the Transylvanian mind-reader, Count Rakoczi? And can Holmes and Watson outwit the jewel thief who has the nerve to steal from the King of Scandinavia?

## **The Secret Notebooks of Sherlock Holmes Details**

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## From Reader Review The Secret Notebooks of Sherlock Holmes for online ebook

### Catherine Thompson says

June Thomson has taken several of Holmes' unpublished cases, as noted in Conan Doyle's stories, as her basis for the tales in *The Secret Notebooks of Sherlock Holmes*. She presents them as recovered from Watson's Army tin dispatch box, which was in the care of Cox & Co., whose building was bombed out in the Blitz. The stories are presented with footnotes by Dr. J. F. Watson (no relation), as if they were the genuine article.

The stories themselves are well-written, and definitely capture Conan Doyle's narrative style/Watson's narrative voice. There are plenty of references to the Canon that will keep Holmesians happy (they kept this one happy, at any rate). Overall, an enjoyable way to spend time in Holmes' company once again (short of re-reading the originals, of course).

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### Martha says

I sometimes forgot I wasn't actually reading Arthur Conan Doyle, which is the best compliment I could give this book :) Really enjoyed it.

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### Carol says

Disappointing. I'd read a previous book of Holmes stories by this author and liked it enough to look for more. But the tales in this book make practically no use of Holmes' detective powers and are sadly slight in their plots.

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### Shubhra says

Quite a few good cases in here...

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### Ehbooklover says

A modern Sherlock Holmes story compilation. As an obsessive Holmes fan I enjoyed reading "new" stories but if I am being honest, they can't compete with the originals.

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### Helen says

Quite interesting stories but not totally convincing in the language used. The footnotes are annoying as they

repeat the same extremely obvious information over and over again.

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### **Jayaprakash Satyamurthy says**

Imaginative, but well-rooted in canon. A tendency to rely on Holmes filling Watson in on stories rather than plunging into the thick of things, but still very enjoyable.

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### **Riju Ganguly says**

June Thomson's Sherlockian pastiches had been praised by many scholars & readers as the "real" thing. My own feelings, after reading "The Secret Journals of Sherlock Holmes", matched this expression, and I had hailed the stories to be better than the later stuff churned by Sir ACD. However, the next book came as a rude shock as I discovered that the author has created a niche for Holmes (who had acquired a persona that is too gentle and empathetic to be true, with many traits that directly contravene the canonical template) and is very happy to see him confined to that niche only. Hence, I approached the 3rd & final (from my perspective) collection of her pastiches with some trepidation. This one was marginally better than the previous one. The stories contained in this book are: -

1. The Case of the Upwood Scandal: a rather simple and one-dimensional story, with no mystery whatsoever.
2. The Case of the Aluminium Crutch: the story was incredibly simple, and the reason for keeping the story 'secret' was improbable.
3. The Case of the Manor House Mystery: no mystery, hardly any role played by the house, and a rather drab story.
4. The Case of the Cardinal's Corpse: better story, involving illustrious people, and with a hint of actual scandal and few dramatic moments, although the mystery was too flimsy.
5. The Case of the Arnsworth Affair: definitely the pick of this collection, with several dramatic moments and action. Not exactly a mystery, but even then it was better.
6. The Case of the Vanishing Barque: no mystery, and only action performed by Holmes was more like a lawyer than a detective.
7. The Case of the Gustaffson Stone: precious jewel belonging to royal family getting stolen by a crook who is so powerful that even kings aren't arouse his enmity, illustrious client approaches Holmes asking him to retrieve the jewel using explicitly illegal means, Holmes does so with a flourish (involving Watson without his consent) and in-the-process allows us to be lectured about lock-picking! Definitely readable stuff, but actually a cannibalization of two of the most famous canonical stories ('A Scandal in Bohemia' and 'The Illustrious Client').

Thus, marginally better than "The Secret Archives of Sherlock Holmes", but nothing that might warrant a return.

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