February 2014

LIVERMORE PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Civic Center Library
1188 South Livermore Ave.
(925) 373-5500

Rincon Branch Library
725 Rincon Ave.
(925) 373-5540

Springtown Branch Library
998 Bluebell Dr.
(925) 373-5517

For More Information
www.livermorelibrary.net
(925) 373-5500
Oakland native Laurie R. King began writing fiction in 1987 at the age of thirty-five when her daughter was in second grade and her son started attending preschool three mornings a week. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Religion from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an M.A. in Old Testament Theology from the Graduate Theological Union. King has created two popular series characters: Mary Russell, the crime-solving cohort of Sherlock Holmes, and Kate Martinelli, a San Francisco policewoman. King’s first novel, The Beekeeper’s Apprentice; or, On the Segregation of the Queen, introduced Mary Russell, but publication was delayed due to copyright issues over the Sherlock Holmes character. In the meantime, King wrote A Grave Talent, the first book to feature her Kate Martinelli character, and it won both the Edgar Allan Poe Award and the John Creasey Dagger when it was published in 1993. King once commented, “As a writer I like the structure of a mystery. It gives me the skeletal structure upon which to hang story or plot, something to keep me going forward in narrative, to allow the people in the book to move around and develop while the plot unfolds. Mysteries also are often series, and you have the opportunity to get to know characters over a length of time.”

In The Beekeeper’s Apprentice, Mary Russell, a fifteen-year-old American orphan, meets Sherlock Holmes in 1915 in Sussex Downs. Holmes spends his quiet days studying beekeeping and dabbling in detective work. Holmes takes the spirited Russell on as an apprentice and in her, finds his perfect partner in detection. In her Washington Post Book World review, Pat Dowell praised King for liberating “Holmes of the worst effects of his misogyny” and alleviating the disappointment “that comes to every female reader of literature, usually at a very young age, when she realizes...she is excluded from the circle of presumed readers and fellow adventurers.” The Beekeeper’s Apprentice was named one of the Century’s Best 100 Mysteries by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association.

### Fiction

Adams, John Joseph. The Improbable Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Mystery and the Imagination Detailing the Adventures of the World’s Most Famous Detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Bugge, Carole. The Haunting of Torre Abbey.

Caleb, Carr. The Italian Secretary.


Grant, Barry. Sherlock Holmes and Frankenstein’s Diary.


King. Laurie R. and Leslie S. Klinger (Eds.). A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon.


Thomas, Donald. Death on a Pale Horse: Sherlock Holmes on Her Majesty’s Secret Service.
Livermore Reads Together

The Beekeeper’s Apprentice; or, On the Segregation of the Queen by Laurie R. King

Livermore is invited to read together once more.

The Beekeeper’s Apprentice; or, On the Segregation of the Queen is the story of 15-year-old Mary Russell, an American girl who unexpectedly encounters Sherlock Holmes during a ramble through the English countryside. Ostensibly retired, Holmes studies beekeeping and is still involved in detective work. Despite differences in age, attitude, and background, Russell and Holmes become friends and sleuthing partners. Together they work to solve the kidnapping of Jessica Simpson, daughter of a U.S. Senator. The Beekeeper’s Apprentice is the first book in Laurie R. King’s Mary Russell series, which now includes twelve novels. The most recent installment, Garment of Shadows, was published in 2012. According to King, the Mary Russell series touches upon many issues, including “politics, women’s rights, religious expression, and governmental oppression.”

During the month of February 2014, the Livermore Public Library will host a series of programs related to Sherlock Holmes, detectives, forensics and bees. The Beekeeper’s Apprentice is available for check out at any of the Livermore Public Library’s three libraries, thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Livermore Library.

Join us for a spirited exploration of Laurie R. King’s book during our eighth annual Livermore Reads Together program in February.

Book Discussion Clubs

Book discussion clubs are invited to select The Beekeeper’s Apprentice as their book choice for February. Book club kits, available for check out, include copies of the book, discussion questions, and tips for leading book discussions.

FURTHER READING

Non Fiction


Blackiston, Howland. Beekeeping for Dummies.

Capuzzo, Mike. The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World’s Most Perplexing Cold Cases.

Crowder, David A. Sherlock Holmes for Dummies.


Evans, Colin. The Father of Forensics: The Groundbreaking Cases of Sir Bernard Spilsbury, and the Beginnings of Modern CSI.


Konnikova, Maria. Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes.


Miller, Russell. The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle: A Biography

O’Brien, James F. The Scientific Sherlock Holmes: Cracking the Case with Science and Forensics.

Pointer, Michael. The Public Life of Sherlock Holmes.

Sinclair, David. Sherlock Holmes’s London.


Wagner, E. J. The Science of Sherlock Holmes: From Baskerville Hall to the Valley of Fear, the Real Forensics behind the Great Detective’s Greatest Cases.
**EVENT SCHEDULE**

**All programs are free and take place in the Civic Center Storytime Room, except where noted.**

**Saturday, February 22, 7-9:30pm**
**Murder in the Library: Dewey Decimated!**
- Adults 21 and over
- $10 tickets available at Friends Bookstore
- Light refreshments and wine (with ID)

**Sunday, February 23, 2pm**
**Introducing Mr. Sherlock Holmes**
Author Leslie Klinger

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**February**

**Civic Center Library Art Gallery**
**Watching the Detectives: A Movie Poster Exhibit**

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**Saturday, February 15, 2pm**
**Jer Johnson’s Bee Basics**
Bees, beekeeping and more

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**Friday, February 7, 4-5:30pm**
**The Great Mouse Detective**
Disney children’s animated film

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**Saturday, February 8, 12 noon**
**Classic Movie at the Vine: The Hound of the Baskervilles**
1939 adaptation starring Basil Rathbone

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**Sunday, February 9, 2pm**
**From Sherlock Holmes to CSI**
Robin Burcell, Crime Writer, Investigator, Forensic Artist

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**Sunday, February 16, 2pm**
**The Dashiell Hammett Tour of San Francisco**
Author Don Herron

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**Thursday, February 20, 7pm**
**Readers’ Theater: The Beekeeper’s Apprentice**
Shakespeare’s Associates

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**Friday, February 21, 4-5:30pm**
**Tale of the Dragon’s Tail**
Puppet Art Theatre Company-Puppet Show

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**Sunday, February 23, 2pm**
**Introducing Mr. Sherlock Holmes**
Author Leslie Klinger