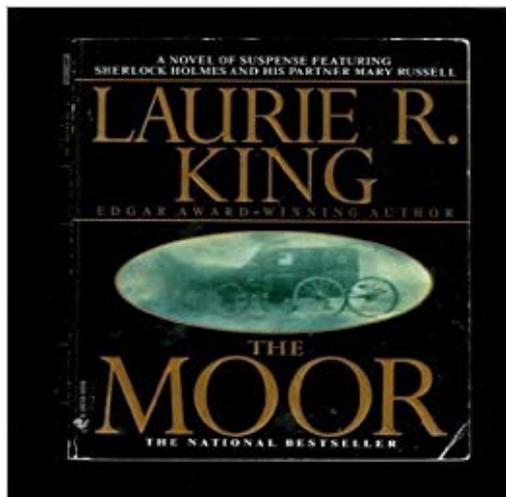


The Moor (Mary Russell Novels) by Laurie R. King



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Though theirs is a marriage of true equals, when Sherlock Holmes summons his wife and partner Mary Russell to the eerie scene of his most celebrated case, she abandons her Oxford studies to aid his investigation. But this time, on Dartmoor, there is more to the matter than a phantom hound. Sightings of a spectral coach carrying a long-dead noblewoman over the moonlit moor have heralded a mysterious death, the corpse surrounded by oversized paw prints. Here on this wild and foreboding moor, Russell and Holmes embark on a quest with few clues save a fanatic anthropologist, an ancestral portrait, a moorland witch, and a lowly-but most revealing-hedgehog. As Holmes and Russell anticipate, a rational explanation lies beneath the supernatural events-but one darker than they could have imagined. And one that could end their lives in this harsh and desolate land.



Reviews of the [The Moor \(Mary Russell Novels\)](#) by Laurie R. King

Malien

The first two books in this series were excellent, the last one decent enough. But this book (number four) was, well...boring.

The tedious and frequent descriptions of the moor were mind-numbing. If King was trying to invoke suspense with the setting, she missed the mark, merely inducing me towards slumber. Two other mystery books set on the moors evoked much stronger reactions and the books were more thoroughly enjoyed. "Silent on the Moor" by Deanna Raybourn and "A Bitter Truth" by Charles Todd. King failed where these authors succeeded.

There was little action in the story with a lot of telling instead of showing. The action only picked up near the very end. I don't want to read a book merely to enjoy the last thirty or forty pages. I hope this is a fluke and the rest of the series lives up to the promising start.

GoodBuyMyFriends

This took a while to get through and it required a bit of effort. Lengthy descriptions of a number of long trips (via foot and horseback) through unfriendly and unfamiliar terrain in cold, wet weather were followed by descriptions of overnight stays outdoors, in homes of a host and inns along the way. The mystery Holmes and Mary Russell set out to solve came together quickly at the end. I really enjoy Laurie R. King's Mary Russell series; but if I had to rank them, this one would not make my list of "favorites".

LoboThommy

Mary Russell is reluctantly dragged away from her studies after receiving a telegram from Holmes requesting her presence in Dartmoor. Holmes had been in Dartmoor visiting an old friend, but got drawn into an investigation after a local is killed. The case in question involves a ghostly carriage made of bones and a spectral hound haunting the Moor. Rather begrudgingly, Mary helps to scout for clues in the foggy, cold, and damp Moor. What both her and Holmes find are a handful of supernatural sightings that draw suspicious parallels between this case and one of Holmes' most famous investigations, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Like a lot of Sherlock Holmes fans, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* holds a special place in my heart. So revisiting the setting of that mystery with Mary and Holmes had my geeky heart all a titter.

The pacing here was a lot faster than in some of the other Mary Russell books, which was a relief after slogging through the slow moving *A Letter of Mary*. My only complaint is pretty mild, Mary was going through a bit of a mid-life crisis that involved a hesitance to fully join Holmes in the case until near the end. So she sort of emotionally checked out during the first half of the investigation. While she was still physically involved, there was a lot of background noise involving her reluctance to be there at all. King did a good job of attributing this to a psychological backlash due to the events of the previous three books but, with such an awesome mystery going on, I got frustrated that Mary wasn't getting into it. However, Holmes more than made up for Mary's standoffish attitude. He was, luckily, more present here than he had been in the previous books and seemed really in his element. It was great seeing Holmes get to dash about and really get into the mystery, which is something we hadn't fully gotten to see in the first three novels.

Most of the action takes place in a huge echoing mansion and the chilly moor, which seems so far removed from the London/Sussex settings of the previous novels that it was a refreshing change. I also really adored the moor atmosphere because I'm a huge fan of Gothic mysteries. The moor offered a great eerie and isolated feeling typically found in that genre and it really upped the suspense.

This is, by far, my favorite out of the series so far. I highly recommend it.

Qusicam

These books in this series are great: I am an addict now. The author spends a lot of time in the first half of the book laying the groundwork and setting up the story and history. (There are always interesting details, too...) Then, about halfway, zoom! Things really start to move, "the plot

thickens...", and I just can't put the book down!! I have a fantasy, that Robert Downey Jr. and some cute actress about 10-15 years younger than him will make some of these into movies.... :)

Quellik

A few years ago someone told me about Laurie R King and how marvelous her writing was. I picked up her first novel and was hooked. And this one is no different.

The Moor takes us to Dartmoor, where Holmes once solved the case of the Hound of the Baskervilles. Now in the early 1920's, the Reverend has summoned Sherlock, to find out what is happening on the moors. There have been strange sightings of a coach made of the bones, driven by a headless horseman and led by a black hound with a single eye in the centre of his forehead." But more germane to the point, a local man has been killed and found on the moors.

Russell is summoned and reluctantly comes home to aid Holmes in solving this mystery. Through her love for reading she begins to put the pieces of the puzzle together and she and Holmes are able to solve the mystery.

LadyShlak

This book has such a different feel than the earlier books in the series, and it has a foreboding, dark feel throughout. I felt like it was rainy and gloomy the whole time, although it wasn't likely the case. I like that a real-life character is used, in the aging Sabine Baring-Gould, best known to me for writing the words to the hymn Onward, Christian Soldiers. He also wrote about 150 books, 50 of them novels, and was the rector in that area for a long time. The mystery in the story wasn't as interesting to me as the involvement of Baring-Gould, but it was engaging enough and involved Holmes and Russell traipsing around quite a lot and getting into a small amount of danger.

Vrion

I do love the Mary Russell Sherlock Holmes stories and try reading them in chronological order. This is not the absolute best of those I read so far, I think "the beekeepers apprentice" is my favourite. But this one deserves the five stars I have given. The authors wit and complex language is as present as ever. Lots of expressions and words appropriate for the time of the history, are used in such a way as to be perfectly natural. Making it very easy to believe the story was really written by Mary Russell herself. Hope I will like all the books equally well.

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