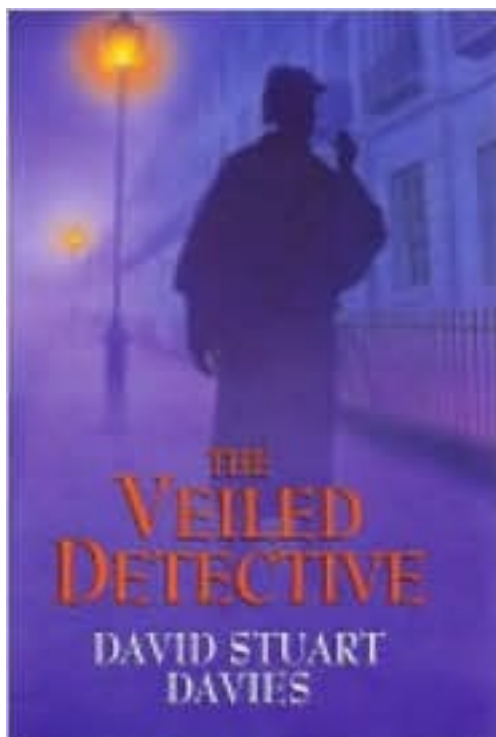

David Stuart Davies

The Veiled Detective (Sherlock Holmes Adventures #5)



Title: The Veiled Detective (Sherlock Holmes Adventures #5)

Author: David Stuart Davies

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Description

It is 1880 and a young Sherlock Homes arrives in London to pursue a career as a private detective. He soon attracts the attention of the criminal mastermind, Professor James Moriarty, who decides that he must control this fledgling genius. What happens next is both shocking and thrilling.

Insightful reviews

Wendy: I wish I would have read this before seeing the BBC's recent reincarnation of Sherlock...

Timothy Tobolski: What an incredible twist on the entire Sherlock mythos. Davies has crafted a tale where Moriarty has been manipulating Sherlock's career from the very start. John Walker, a disgraced army doctor summarily discharged for abandoning his duties to drink, is approached by Moriarty to 'befriend' Sherlock and pass along information of his whereabouts as might pertain to Moriarty's schemes. Thus is born 'John H Watson', colleague and eventual partner of Sherlock Holmes.

Everyone in this story is firmly attached to Moriarty's pocketbook, from Watson to Mrs Hudson right down to Mycroft. Even Lastrade and Scotland Yard itself are suspect. Many of Sherlock's early tales are twisted in such a fashion that they all become part of Moriarty's grand machinations; it goes right down to their final encounter at Reichenbach Falls, giving a sly nod to the beginning of the Great Hiatus.

John: This is a solid Sherlock Holmes story. It is very clever but does take several liberties with the original stories. I feel like you get more out of this book if you have read the original Doyle books that the stories within this book are based on. If you have, you will appreciate the additions to the originals unless that type of thing annoys you. I believe the stories this book addresses are the cases in "A Study in Scarlet", "The Greek Interpreter", "The Sign of the Four", and "The Final Problem".

blushenka: i assumed this ebook started out beautiful bland and the large passages copied from research In Scarlet, the ultimate challenge have been frankly the spotlight of the book... it sort of feels similar to dishonest so as to accomplish that and alter slightly right here and there to make it right into a type of trade universe fan fiction. But it was once the transparent goal of the writer to make all characters darker than the canon made them, which served to make me intrigued and curious sufficient to complete it and notice the place it should lead. John Walker, later John Watson, is employed through Moriarty who takes good thing about his dishonorable discharge from the army, to befriend Sherlock Holmes, undercover agent on him and report to him. Walker reluctantly agrees, mostly in worry of his lifestyles and since he's nearly an outcast. That a lot for 'It is my maximum pleasure and privilege to aid you.' it sounds as if Moriarty knows the probability Holmes poses yet while is entertained sufficient through his genius so just like his personal that he does not are looking to kill him simply but yet does not wish him meddling an excessive amount of in his affairs either. Walker / Watson accepts all this a piece too quietly and quickly, for a guy whose excessive ethical criteria are chiefly else (well at the very least in the

event you cross in regards to the canon). Cue a few unrealistic chain of occasions which serve to deliver Holmes and Watson jointly dwelling at 221B, within which it turns into obvious that Stamford, Mrs Hudson and Holmes' former landlord are all a part of Moriarty's chain. The occasions of analysis in Scarlet start to unfold, with a twist on the end. incredible because it can have appeared on the start, Holmes and Watson do befriend every one other, Watson's stories to Moriarty mirror his loyalty to Holmes and there's even a pleasant passage the place Watson displays he needs to be his friend's protector, from Moriarty yet usually from himself. As occasions proceed to spread in the direction of the inevitable end result of 'The ultimate Problem', the writer by surprise realizes that everybody has been too great for too many pages and makes a decision to make Mycroft a part of Moriarty's association too....with simply as little motivation as Mrs Hudson or Stamford....well, perhaps even *less* of a motivation, fairly - Mycroft being loads cleverer than them. This used to be heavily too foolish for words. at the whole, the excessive aspect of this e-book was once the friendship among H&W, yet I doubt that the author's twists from the canon reached their obvious function to convey those even nearer and extra stimulated to struggle Moriarty than the unique tales did. regardless of its noticeable flaws, i used to be adequate to maintain analyzing and curious the way it was once going to development so it cannot were that bad. Memorable quotes: "Man's legislations is ephemeral and arbitrary. It shifts and alters at the tide of fixing perceptions of society. think me, Watson, it really is no degree wherein to judge. True, refined, goal justice is timeless."

Matthew Kresal: Sherlock Holmes could be the main written approximately fictional personality within the world. outdoors of a number of the stories written by way of Holmes' unique writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, there is additionally been a legion of pastiches increasing or maybe transforming the Holmes canon that he created. the most attention-grabbing examples of the latter is David Stuart Davies' The Veiled Detective. Davies story will be some of the most radical reworkings of the canon that does not replace it for no matter what "present day" it truly is being written or produced in. Going again to basics, the unconventional offers what the again disguise of the Titan variation calls "the mystery origin" of the well-known detective and particularly that of the canon's major narrator, health care provider Watson. Davies has the reader learning that Watson isn't really particularly who he turns out in any respect and that the it appears probability assembly among him and Holmes used to be something yet that. simply as fascinating, Davies additionally offers the "real" model of a few of the simplest recognized tales within the canon (Study In Scarlet and ultimate challenge especially) will possibly not have fairly occurred the way in which we have been instructed they did with the consequences portraying all people in a under confident mild at times. it is as radical of an remodeling of the canon as Nicholas Meyer's The Seven percentage Solution, maybe even extra so and that is what makes it a desirable read. Yet The Veiled Detective is usually a difficult learn as well. the radical is 246 pages which would appear like an honest web page count number till one begins really examining it. Davies' narrative whips alongside at a very good pace, flying from 1880 Afghanistan to the Reichenbach Falls in 1891 whereas additionally protecting loads of flooring in-between. With that during mind, 246 pages is particularly little certainly and the unconventional suffers as a result. It by no means particularly develops and it opens up loads of avenues which are by no means explored totally reminiscent of Watson's marriage lower than the conditions the radical portrays or Mycroft Holmes who by surprise waltzes out and in of the narrative with fanfare yet little influence upon things. it is the tricky loss of either a bigger web page count number and the intensity that can have include it that makes analyzing an in a

different way interesting novel an now and then troublesome experience. That said, *The Veiled Detective* is easily worthy a read. that is much more precise if you are a great deal into the Conan Doyle Holmes tales and the canon at the whole. likelihood is you would not be this otherwise. whereas it has it truly is shortcomings, for having some of the most daring and engaging types of the Holmes canon i have but read, *The Veiled Detective* is a must-read for any critical Holmes fan.

Charles Prepolec: Ah, the pleasant international of 'what if'. What if every little thing we concept we knew approximately Dr. John H. Watson used to be a lie? What if Watson wasn't fairly Watson? What if the occasions surrounding the momentous assembly among Holmes and Watson in *A Study in Scarlet* was once all a set-up orchestrated through that legal mastermind Moriarty? What if David Stuart Davies took the above as a place to begin for a brand new pastiche? Well, to respond to the final 'what if', the result's David Stuart Davies first pastiche to be released via a non-Sherlockian press - *The Veiled Detective*. whereas Davies isn't any stranger to Sherlockian pastiche, having thrown Holmes up opposed to the likes of *Dracula* and into the midst of the *Prisoner of Zenda*, *The Veiled Detective* takes Holmes, to assert not anything of Watson, alongside a really assorted path. instead of taking the conventional strategy of throwing Holmes and Watson into non-traditional stories, Davies as an alternative reimagines the very middle of what we all know approximately our heroes. In essence he has taken the normal Holmes story, thus more often than not utilizing *A Study in Scarlet* and later the ultimate Problem, and adjusted the fundamental characters populating it. no longer in an altogether unpleasing demeanour either. Davies starts on a powerful note, we discover ourselves aware about occasions in Afghanistan on a fateful evening in 1880 that result in the courtroom martial and disgraced dismissal of Dr. John H. Walker. whereas heading again to England aboard the *Orontes*, the despondent Doctor, dealing with a destiny with out employment or clients for income, unearths himself being recruited for a few enigmatic company main issue by way of a clever fellow who retains mistakenly calling him Watson. Upon arriving in England, Walker quickly reveals himself head to head with that fab over-used Sherlockian plot-device Professor James Moriarty and here's the place the plot starts to thicken. You see, the Professor is worried approximately a few younger upstart named Sherlock Holmes, whereas he admires Holmes intellect, he additionally properly sees the younger detective as a almost certainly critical probability to the health of his massive legal association so needs to maintain a watch at the fellow. instead of easily have Holmes killed, he enjoys the problem of taking part in a online game opposed to a related mind too much, so he invests in a plan to place a secret agent in Holmes' camp who can document again on any probably threatening investigations. Walker is naturally simply the guy for the activity in keeping with Moriarty's recruiter, yet he's an honorable guy and needs no half within the plan... until eventually his lifestyles is threatened and a good-looking per 30 days money is dangled ahead of his eyes. Reluctantly Walker is given a brand new identify (Watson) and his history is successfully lined up in order that he can start a brand new life. He rationalizes his popularity of the spying task by way of pondering that he'll by no means need to increase a hand in violence and that each one he desire do is ship written stories to Moriarty if Holmes comes too just about any of the Professor's machinations. So in short, John H. Walker turns into a half-pay medico referred to as Watson newly back from Afghanistan trying to find accommodations in London. If that isn't twisted sufficient for the reader, Davies then particularly lays at the tricky to swallow stuff through having the home in Baker highway set-up by means of Moriarty, even together with a dodgy actress as

housekeeper, has strain utilized to Holmes landlord in Montague road to evict the younger lodger, and makes use of Stamford's playing accounts to govern an advent among Watson and Holmes that results in their sharing of rooms. as soon as the advent occurs, issues settle into more often than not customary territory and a touch skewed model of the most plot of A learn in Scarlet unfolds. Walker/Watson develops an admiration of the smug younger detective and a protecting friendship develops. Walker/Watson is going as far as to maintain very harmful information, the kind that may placed Holmes at the gallows, from either Moriarty and the Law. issues circulate alongside so good for Walker/Watson throughout the signal of 4 that Moriarty even permits him to marry and flow from Baker Street. unnecessary to say, ultimately issues begin to resolve leading, relatively predictably, to a climax that may be a edition of occasions within the ultimate Problem. Davies, as usual, demonstrates a fascinating type and important wisdom of the shape that's by no means absolutely at odds with the Canon. The exception being, of course, that Watson has lied to us. He deftly weaves a global that's either immediately primary but greatly at odds with our expectations. Unfortunately, the novel start, labyrinthine plotting aside, quickly supplies solution to a feeling that Davies is taking part in it secure after-all. yes he throws a couple of curveballs in offering a warts and all view of Holmes, and a fair odder view of brother Mycroft, yet one will get the feel that he may have driven the exciting premise significantly further. I'm now not suggesting one of these re-imagining that we got within the tv construction Sherlock: A Case of Evil yet I did think that having every little thing settle into the Canonical view post-Reichenbach used to be anything of a let-down. Is it as radical a re-imagining of occasions as in say Nick Meyer's Seven percentage Solution? Possibly. Does it go beyond the medium of pastiche and should it crossover to a mainstream readership within the similar way? no longer a chance. Is it nearly as good or will it have an analogous kind of impression at the Sherlockian reader? uncertain at best, yet probably that's the results of 30 years of pastichery that has taken Sherlock Holmes to just about each extreme, dulling our senses to what could be an intensive interpretation, that during the top makes this look like simply one other well-written and researched 'what if' that didn't particularly push the envelope so far as it can have. regardless of the case, it really is an unique sufficient version to make it a beneficial learn and addition to the Sherlockian pastiche bookshelf! The backside Line: suggested for pastiche lovers who get pleasure from whatever off the crushed path, yet now not instructed should you favor the normal pastiche approach.

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