

Title: *A Study in Scarlet Women (First in the Lady Sherlock series)* by Sherry Thomas

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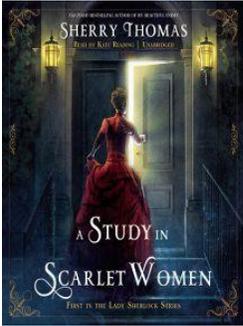
Why this book?

This book is a cozy read, and an engaging, atmospheric mystery with a dash of slow burn romance. The first novel in the Lady Sherlock series by award-winning romance writer Sherry Thomas, this historical mystery is set in Victorian times. Sherlock, Watson, Lestrade, Mycroft, and Moriarty are creatively re-imagined by the author. Charlotte Holmes, beautiful and brilliant, defies the constraints imposed on women from upper-crust Victorian society. She assumes the name of “Sherlock” and with her friend Mrs. Watson, the amateur sleuth is set to unravel mysteries and dark deeds. This book has intricate plots with a potpourri of society scandals, government spies and mysterious deaths. It is a great introduction to a new refreshing Holmes’s world. Its characters, with their quirks and original backstories, are ones to look forward to in subsequent novels.

About the Author

Sherry Thomas has published historical and contemporary romance, young adult fantasy and mystery novels. She is a two-time winner of the Romance Writers of America RITA Award. She is currently working on the fifth book of her Lady Sherlock Series.

About the Book



USA Today bestselling author Sherry Thomas turns the story of the renowned Sherlock Holmes upside down... With her inquisitive mind, Charlotte Holmes has never felt comfortable with the demureness expected of the fairer sex in upper class society. But she never thought that she would become a social pariah, an outcast fending for herself on the mean streets of London. When the city is struck by a trio of unexpected deaths and suspicion falls on her sister and her father, Charlotte is desperate to find the true culprits and clear the family name. She'll have help from friends new and old—a kind-hearted widow, a police inspector, and a man who has long loved her. But in the end, it will be up to Charlotte, under the assumed name Sherlock Holmes, to challenge society's expectations and match wits against an unseen mastermind. (Excerpted from the publisher)

Book reviews

"Sherry Thomas has done the impossible and crafted a fresh, exciting new version of Sherlock Holmes. From the carefully plotted twists to the elegant turns of phrase, *A Study in Scarlet Women* is a splendid addition to Holmes's world. This book is everything I hoped it would be, and the next adventure cannot come too soon!" - Deanna Raybourn, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Sherry Thomas is a rebel, a rule-breaker, and, above all, a romantic [Her] writing is nothing short of a revelation." - Lisa Kleypas, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Thomas is known for a lush style [and] transporting prose even as [she] delivers on heat and emotion and a well-earned happily ever after." -*The New York Times Book Review*

"Ravishingly sinful, intelligent, and addictive." - Eloisa James, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Hold onto your deerstalkers, Sherlockians. RITA Award-winning romance writer Thomas has come up with a completely new, brilliantly conceived take on the iconic detective. She not only offers some clever changes to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's cherished cast of characters, she also delivers a plot worthy of the master at his best. An auspicious start to a new series." - *Booklist*

Get the Book

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Discussion Questions

For discussion tips & tech support: [How to Start Your Own Online Book Club](#)

1. What did you think of how the author has reimagined the Holmes's world? How does "Sherlock" differ in Sherry Thomas's and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes version?
2. What do you think of Charlotte Holmes's parents' marriage? Are the husband and wife equal partners in the marriage?
3. Was Charlotte's father misguided in wanting to secure an advantageous marriage for his daughters in a conservative Victoria society? What do you think about his character and his parenting style?
4. Sherry Thomas's heroine is a rebel and the novel has strong feminist undertones. Does society still impose constraints and expectations on the modern woman?
5. Livia and Charlotte respond very differently to the constraints imposed on them by family and society. What do you think of the relationship between the two sisters and how they support each other?
6. What do you think of Charlotte's plan to get away from an arranged marriage – and the scene that led to her exit from polite society? Was it over-kill on her part?
7. Charlotte's outward appearance seems so at odds with her inner personality. Do you agree? What do you think about Charlotte's relationship with food?
8. How successful is Sherry Thomas in developing her characters and a plot for her novel? Will you read the [next book in the series](#) to see how the relationship between Charlotte and Lord Ingram develops? What did you think about their relationship in this book?

Read-alikes

- [*Her Royal Spyness*](#) by Rhys Bowen
- [*The Inheritance*](#) by Charles Finch
- [*Garden of Lies*](#) by Amanda Quick
- [*A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder*](#) by Dianne Freeman
- [*City of Lies*](#) by Victoria Thompson
- [*The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes*](#) by Leonard Goldberg