



Sherlock Holmes: The Skull of Kohada Koheiji & Other Stories

Mike Hogan

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'This agency stands flat-footed upon the ground and there it must remain. The world is big enough for us. No ghost need apply.' - Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire. Despite Holmes' injunction, clients troubled with vampires, apparitions, mummies and disembodied skulls did mount the seventeen steps at 221B Baker Street and apply to his agency, and he was reluctantly obliged to investigate their claims. In this series of five traditional novelettes, Holmes and Watson pit their skills against supposedly unearthly predators, and probe evidence that suggests ghouls and ghosts are behind the macabre, uncanny and eerie happenings in a grimy house in Stepney, on board one of Her Majesty's men o' war in the Thames, at an exclusive girls' school in Surrey, at the Japanese Village Exhibition and at a séance in a genteel villa in West London. Have ghosts had the temerity to challenge Sherlock Holmes, or will Holmes and Watson uncover human agencies behind the supposed supernatural?

Sherlock Holmes: The Skull of Kohada Koheiji & Other Stories Details

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From Reader Review Sherlock Holmes: The Skull of Kohada Koheiji & Other Stories for online ebook

Noelle Walsh says

This is an excellent book! I love Sherlock Holmes and I'd read anything I got my hands on that involved him in some way. Needless to say, I devoured this book and I loved it! Definitely worth reading!

Priscilla Thompson says

Interesting stories with a definite Victorian feel. Hogan mimics Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's style of writing well, going so far as to tell his stories in relatively short formats as most of the original stories were written. A good read for dedicated Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts.

Dale says

Sherlock Holmes: The Skull of Kohada Koheiji and Other Stories by Mike Hogan

My thanks to MX Publications for my review copy of this novel...

This is a set of five stories that pit Holmes as the rational thinker against situations that could be termed supernatural. The stories are rather subtly connected with each other, although they may certainly be enjoyed as individual works.

The first story, "The Skull of Kohada Koheiji," involves a Japanese ghost that haunts the Japanese Village in Humphrey's Hall. The ghost appears in the form of a giant skull and bony arm that appears over the village temple. Holmes also meets an interesting character in an old-school samurai!

Next comes "The Ratcliff Oracle." A presence known as "The Voice" is telling fortunes in Ratcliff in an old house near The Crown and Dolphin pub and Mr. Pargeter's Carnival Show. The strange voice seems to come from a distance, with appropriate ghostly sounds. It answers questions, and has picked the winner of the local horse race!

Then we have "The Impulsive Vampire." An old friend of Watson's Naval Chaplain Reverend Hesketh of the HMS Impulsive, asks for an audience with Holmes. It seems that a vampire is loose on the ship. One man has already been attacked and the whole ship is up in arms about it.

Then comes "The de Gascoigne Mummy." Lady Elizabeth de Gascoigne comes to Holmes for a favor. Her late husband had been a collector of Egyptian relics. Upon his passing they were donated to the British Museum. Lady de Gascoigne frankly admits that she expected to upgrade the family to a Baronetcy or perhaps a Viscount, and has failed to do so. Now she wants the collection back as it is very valuable. However, a mummy has climbed out of its sarcophagus and is roaming the museum at night...

Last, but far from least, we have "The Reckoning of Kit Marlowe." Holmes and Watson are invited to a

séance, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Admiral Sir James Marlowe's oldest son Christopher, known to the family as "Kit" has been discovered in a pool of blood. He has been apparently stabbed in the eye. His father seems totally detached, as he expects the spirit medium he has hired, a Mr. Ludworth, to be able to contact Kit beyond the grave. In fact, one of the official police photographs of the crime scenes shows a ghostly figure hovering over the boy's body!

I must say I really enjoyed this volume. I believe the stories ring true to Doyle, but there is a touch of Carnacki the Ghost Finder in them as well! Holmes must do what he has always disavowed when ghosts do apply at 221B!

Five stars plus

Quoth the Raven...

Martyn says

A highly entertaining collection of longer stories that seem to feature supernatural elements until Sherlock Holmes gets to work on the cases. The major features of the writing are the period detail, dialog and humor. The settings, a Royal Navy warship on the Thames, a slum in the East End of London, a fine villa in leafy Kensington, the British Museum and the Japanese Native Village Exhibition, are vividly described and the plots are as tangled as any Sherlock Holmes enthusiast could desire.
