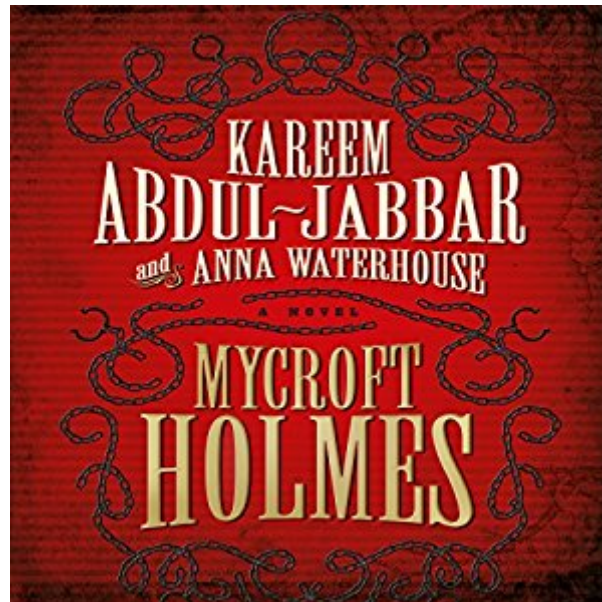




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Mycroft Holmes



Synopsis

"When I say, therefore, that [my brother] has better powers of observation than I...I am speaking the exact and literal truth." (Sherlock Holmes) This story occurs when Mycroft, an athletic Cambridge graduate, assists the secretary of State. He becomes embroiled in a mystery in Trinidad based on actual history. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a huge Holmesian, seven-foot-two tall, basketball's all-time leading scorer, and a US cultural ambassador. Anna Waterhouse is a professional screenwriter and script consultant.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First Sentence: The old man had heard of them, of course. Young Mycroft Holmes is fresh out of Cambridge University, engaged to the beautiful Georgiana Sutton, who was raised in Trinidad, and working for the Secretary of State for War. Holmes's good friend Cyrus Douglas, a free black also from Trinidad, receives word that the bodies of children are being found drained of blood. Georgiana suddenly departs for her home. Mycroft and Douglas decide to follow, never expecting the danger into which they are sailing. The book surprises us from the very beginning. The descriptions are very atmospheric and mysterious. And what, one might ask, are the douen and the loularou? Fortunately, we do learn the answers quite soon. The author creates very visual descriptions and wonderful metaphors; "Horse and rider moved as if they knew every little knot and turn of Greater London. All the while they nosed out the cleanest thoroughfares and most deserted byways, as if they and the city were gears in the noblest Swiss watch." We are

also presented with very exciting, action-filled scenes incorporating the sights, sounds, and smells of London. We are presented with a very clear sense of place and time. This is no placid Mycroft, but neither is he a particularly effective man of action. What we do see, very early on, are his skills of observation. It is fascinating observing the details of his observations to see to how he reaches his conclusions. This is a very different Mycroft than we've known before. He is young, inexperienced and has the weaknesses of youth. Yet the intellect is there. Douglas is a very interesting character and one who one feels could only have been written as well by Abdul-Jabbar. The story of his family is a sad and painful reminder of this country's history. Douglas, at 10 years older, serves to provide the maturity that Mycroft lacks. The story has plenty of action, but also provides a lesson in history that certainly isn't part of any ordinary curriculum. While most of us assume slavery ended after the Civil War, in fact it did not. We also learn the difference between indentured servants and slaves. The plot includes an excellent twist which is very well done and part of a very interesting secondary theme; He is Prichard's theory of moral insanity come to life, he mused. A human being devoid of the common thread of human decency. Mycroft Holmes is a fascinating read on so many levels; history, action, and character with a very satisfactory ending. It will be interesting to see whether this becomes a series.

MYCROFT HOLMES (Hist Mys-Mycroft Holmes/Cyrus Douglas-London-1870/Victorian) by VG Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem and Anna Waterhouse
1st Holmes book Titan Books, Sept 2015

Thoroughly enjoyable. Anyone who likes Sherlock Homes stories should love this, but it is not just Sherlock with a new name. Mycroft does not exactly match previous views of Sherlock's older brother, but for the most part that was a good thing. This story was just new enough to keep interest up, but still keeps the style, twists, and turns we've come to love. The characters were three dimensional, interesting, and likable (as well as quirky). I think Kareem did a great job of updating an old favorite, and Mycroft's friend and companion Cyrus was a perfect addition. I really enjoyed him being more mature and quite adept in his own right. Watson made for good "comic relief", but Cyrus was an equal and quite believable partner in the adventure. If anyone in the story could have used a little more development, it would be Mycroft's love interest. There were just too many questions left open as to why she did what she did. Where the two men seemed very well filled out, she seemed more of an afterthought. In that one area, there is some room for improvement, but I'm still giving it a five star rating for all the pleasure I found in reading it.

As a huge fan of Holmes, and an avid reader of all high-quality pastiches I can get my hands on, I have to say I was really pleasantly surprised by this book. The story was strong, the characters were interesting, and the plot had a decent pace, and it appears the authors did a lot of work researching the historical background of their story. If I have any complaint at all, it was that the two main characters, Mycroft and his friend and companion Cyrus Douglas, are almost too noble, which pushes them at times to be a little one-dimensional. The authors have tried very hard to create a partnership dynamic that you as a reader will care about, but as yet "Mycroft Holmes and Mr. Douglas" doesn't have the strength and depth of "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson". But the highest praise I think anyone can give a book is that they wish there was even more to read when it comes to an end, and for me that was absolutely the case here. Mr. Abdul-Jabbar & Ms. Waterhouse - I'm hoping you have a sequel in the works, please?

Who knew Kareem Abdul-Jabbar would be just as good at writing as he was in basketball. This was an amazing story. I was entranced. Extremely interesting to do a story about Mycroft Holmes. We always see him as a side character and to have him as the main character was brilliant. I am half Trinidadian so it was very unexpected to read about Trinidad during the late 1800/early 1900s time period. He does such a fantastic job describing everything it was easy to picture how things could be during that time period. He clearly did a fantastic job researching. The story was filled with suspense and I was truly surprised multiple times during the story.

This was a surprisingly good book from an unlikely author (known more for nonfiction). I have never read the Holmes books, but I've watched various adaptations in movies and television series, and this fits in well with the genre. The story begins in England, but mostly takes place in Trinidad, the home of Mycroft's fiancée. When he follows her to Trinidad, he uncovers a surprising mystery surrounding both her and her involvement in an unexpected plot. I don't want to give anything away, but suffice it to say that all is not what it seems, and Mycroft and his friend find themselves involved with danger at every step.

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