



Sherlock Holmes and the Sword of Osman

Tim Symonds

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A romp through Edwardian-era Stamboul in high summer in 1906; with colourful descriptions of jewelled swords that rule empires, ghosts that haunt palaces, and tyrannical rulers flanked by their murdering eunuchs. Holmes and Watson are reunited after a threat is uncovered to steal the Sword of Osman from the ruler of the Turkish Empire – a theft that could see the fall of the Ottoman Empire and have cataclysmic results the world over. The world would be brought to the brink of war; the fortunes – and indeed lives – of thousands are once again in Holmes' his hands. A tale of espionage, double-crossing, intrigue, and murder ensues.

Sherlock Holmes and the Sword of Osman Details

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From Reader Review Sherlock Holmes and the Sword of Osman for online ebook

JustLoveBooks says

A Treat for all Sherlock Holmes Fans!!!

I got fascinated with Sherlock Holmes after having been introduced to his adventures in the recent BBC series. The TV series came off as funny, witty and engaging for me, and I was eager to read what a book on Sherlock has in store. It has made me a greater fan of Sherlock more than ever!

I enjoyed the story and the plot very much. It definitely has a lot of depth, and gives an insightful glimpse into the teamwork and camaraderie of Sherlock and Watson in solving mysteries. Sherlock and Watson are off to a case to uncover a plot to steal the Sword of Osman and prevent the destabilization of the Ottoman Empire. It is set in 1906, at a time where tensions in Europe are mounting, and any destabilization can cause far wider implications.

The element of mystery is intriguing, worthy of any Sherlock Holmes mystery. Mr. Symonds has done a fine job fitting and weaving the plot inside a historical setting, slowly revealing bits and pieces of the puzzle, with plot twists and turns nicely injected as the story moves along. Furthermore, the narration is done from Watson's point of view. This has given me an in-depth appreciation of Watson's character and his thought process. But in my opinion, the beauty of this is that told from his point of view, it has magnified the mysterious vibe surrounding Sherlock's character, in that even from a close comrades' point of view, how Sherlock's mind works is still surprising, astounding and downright admirable. The effect is that it leaves you in awe of his brilliance, oftentimes wondering how he managed to deduce a piece of the puzzle.

The research that Mr. Symonds has done is very extensive and detailed. The historical timeline, background, the characters, the people's way of life, nothing has been left out of context. It has led to a very realistic feel and a feeling of being transported to that period in time. Frankly, it is not one of the easier books for me to read as oftentimes I would come across terminologies used that are unfamiliar, and upon further research were because they existed only during those times. This has simply added to the authenticity of the story. Overall, it has added to the immense quality of story writing Mr. Symonds has devoted on this book.

There is a reason why Sherlock Homes is a character that stands the test of time in the literary world. I would highly recommend this to all Sherlock fans, old and new. For those who have been introduced to Sherlock from the TV series, as I have been, this is certainly a very interesting read and gives you a different yet perhaps more authentic look into a Sherlock Holmes classic. I am interested to read how old time fans of Sherlock would receive this story. In any case, I look forward to other Sherlock books by Mr. Symonds.

Review copy provided via Reading Alley in exchange for an honest review.

Dale says

Sherlock Holmes and the Sword of Osman by Tim Symonds

My thanks go out to the good people of MX Books for my review copy of this engaging Holmes story!

It is the spring of 1906. Watson is planning on departing for the Congo, as part of a medical expedition. Holmes and Watson haven't seen each other but once in the past 12 months. (Adventure titled *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Einstein's Daughter*—same author.)

Then a summons by post sends both Holmes and Watson to meet a client. Sir Edward Grey wishes to send them into Constantinople. The Ottoman Empire's Sword of Osman, a very important relic, is in danger of being stolen.

Grey is backing the undertaking, and sets up the fake IDs and uniforms for them to pass as British soldiers. Mycroft is also in on the case and has a lot of suggestions about diplomatic courtesy. Watson is forced to postpone his intended trip to the Congo to bring medicine to the Pygmies.

They are to have an audience with Abd-ul-Himad, the current Sultan. There are groups that wish to see the Sultan dethroned and replaced with someone they can control. The secret to all of this is to seize the Sword of Osman and kill the Sultan.

The Sultan in the meantime has grown paranoid, with food tasters, body-doubles, and isolation in his palace at Yildiz. He has grown sadistic in his dealings with people he dislikes. He has even taken to shooting down citizens in the street for target practice.

And yet this is the guy Holmes and Watson are to negotiate with and protect the best they can. Mycroft sees war on the horizon and doesn't want Germany taking over the Ottoman Empire, which is on its last legs. Holmes soon begins to wonder just who is watching whom. Who can they trust and who is using them as a scapegoat in case things don't turn out as planned?

The story has a wealth of history written into every chapter. By clever prose, Mr. Symonds manages to transport the reader into exotic locales. The mystery in this story runs very deep. Just when the reader has it all figured out, chances are very good that he or she is wrong!

With the Arabian Knights atmosphere, the James Bond-like intrigue, and Holmes' inimitable powers of deduction this makes for a very satisfying read. I give the volume five stars.

Quoth the Raven...

Jeremy Reppy says

One must always be wary when a new author takes on beloved fictional characters. However, Mr. Symonds has done justice to Holmes and Watson. *Sherlock Holmes and the Sword of Osman* is full of the intrigue, deception, feats of deduction by Holmes, and puzzlement by Watson at how Holmes figured things out for which the Sherlock Holmes stories are known. I particularly liked how the author wove geopolitical intrigue into the story, discussing the various issues, concerns, and possible objectives of the European powers, including the sick man of Europe, Turkey, setting up the coming World War. The story ends years before WWI; as someone with particular interest in the pre-war years, this aspect of the story was of particular interest. The author has done his research (in fact, the end of the book contains acknowledgements of the various people and sources he consulted for information on the period) and depicts a very realistic early 20th century England and Turkey/Ottoman Empire. I also liked that he made references to earlier Holmes stories,

even using some of the techniques from past adventures to help solve this mystery.

This book is well worth reading. I am certainly interested in reading more of Mr. Symonds' Holmes stories.

I received a copy of the e-book from Reading Alley in exchange for a review.

Calvin Daniels says

A tad slow out of gate, but still lots of intrigue, and yet a quick read. Very solid effort.

Phi Beta Kappa Authors says

Tim Symonds
ΦBK, UCLA, 1964
Author

From the publisher: A romp through Edwardian-era Stamboul in high summer in 1906; with colourful descriptions of jewelled swords that rule empires, ghosts that haunt palaces, and tyrannical rulers flanked by their murdering eunuchs. Holmes and Watson are reunited after a threat is uncovered to steal the Sword of Osman from the ruler of the Turkish Empire – a theft that could see the fall of the Ottoman Empire and have cataclysmic results the world over. The world would be brought to the brink of war; the fortunes – and indeed lives – of thousands are once again in Holmes' his hands. A tale of espionage, double-crossing, intrigue, and murder ensues.
