



.S. ▾

Celebrities Television Carey Mulligan Music BlackBerry 101 More

Log in



November 1, 2011

HUFF POST ENTERTAINMENT

THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

Like 476K Follow



FRONT PAGE POLITICS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT TECH MEDIA LIFE & STYLE CULTURE COMEDY HEALTHY LIVING WOMEN LOCAL MORE
ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRITY MEDIA COMEDY MUSIC TV CELEBRITY KIDS MOVIEFONE



Michael Giltz

Freelance writer

GET UPDATES FROM MICHAEL GILTZ

FAN RSS EMAIL Follow Like 57

Books: The Return Of Sherlock Holmes!

Posted: 11/1/11 03:13 PM ET

React > Inspiring Funny Hot Scary Outrageous Amazing Weird Crazy

Follow > Video, Anthony Horowitz, Sherlock Holmes, Books, Novels, Entertainment News

SHARE THIS STORY

1 2 0 0

share tweet email comment

Get Entertainment Alerts

Sign Up

Submit this story

ADVERTISEMENT



Long Island City: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

Mom Reveals \$5 Wrinkle Treatment That Makes Botox Doctors Furious!



Long Island City: Mom Turns \$27 into \$6795

Single mom spills secret on how she makes \$6795/mo part time. (ConsumerFinanceReview.com)



New New York Law Saves Money on Insurance

New York Residents get Car Insurance for \$15/month. (InsuranceAgents.com)

Advertisement

PHOTO GALLERIES



What Is Kris Humphries' Future After The Divorce?



PHOTOS: Heidi Klum Gets Dead For Halloween



PICS: Nancy Upton Won American Apparel's...

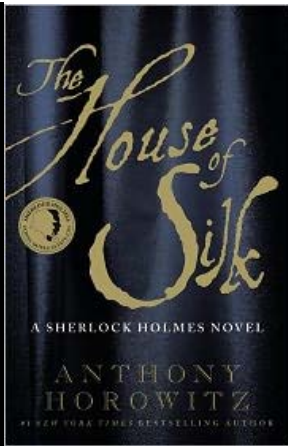


PHOTOS: Carla Bruni Wears Sweatpants...

HUFFPOST SOCIAL NEWS

FOLLOW US





THE HOUSE OF SILK: A SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVEL BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ ** 1/2 out of ****

It may seem to you that Sherlock Holmes has never left us. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famed detective has inspired more fan fiction than almost any literary character in history, with acclaimed works ranging from *The Seven Percent Solution* by Nicholas Meyer to Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Chabon's *The Final Solution* and Laurie R. King's ongoing series of mysteries, all inspired by that master of deduction. On TV, we have a fun new reboot from the BBC that places Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) in the present day.

At the movies, we have Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law in tales filled with action set pieces that make them almost entirely unrecognizable as Holmesian. (Though Downey and Law would be great with better scripts.)

One could list thousands and thousands of short stories, novels, movies, plays, kids' books, games and so many more, all springing off from that Victorian hero. The Guinness World Records says **Sherlock Holmes has been played in more movies by more actors than any other character in history.**

But in fact Holmes has been officially quiet since Doyle laid down his pen. Now for the first time the estate of Doyle has authorized a new tale. The writer they selected was a good choice. **Anthony Horowitz** is the best-selling talent behind the Alex Rider novels (a teenage James Bond) and numerous other TV and book projects. Most notably, he created the marvelous mystery TV series *Foyle's War*. It was this intelligent, subtle show and its distinctive hero that surely won them over.

The result is indeed fanboy fiction, a book firmly rooted in the style of Doyle, faithful to the character as created and with just enough wiggle room to allow the author to say all the things he's been longing to say about the world of 221B Baker Street. Who can blame him?

MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST

◀ 1 of 2 ▶



Girl Accidentally Hangs Herself At Haunted House

Like 599



Googlers Carve 1,000 Pound Pumpkins For Doodle

Like 3K



Nude Photo Scandal?

Like 208



Moviefone Blog: The 15 Worst Movie Mistakes in History

Like 380



AOL Real Estate: Halloween Special: Monster-Size Houses

Like 47



Slutty Halloween - why Can't Women Just Wear Normal Fancy Dress?

Like 613



What Your Kids Might Not Be Telling You

Like 2K



The Boot: Taylor Swift Prepared to Sue Website Over Alleged Topless Photo?

Like 209



AOL TV: Was Kim Kardashian's Marriage Bad for Business?

Like 311

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

◀ 1 of 5 ▶



Haji: The Pilgrimage To Mecca



Safe Water and a Toilet -- Is That Too Much to Ask... for 2.5 Billion People?

The House Of Silk is a novel, of course, making it a rarity among the official works. Doyle wrote four novels and 56 short stories and it was the short stories that turned Holmes into a superstar. Since he was delivering a novel, Horowitz was obliged to raise the stakes and make it a doozy, a case for the ages. If he had written say a dozen short stories, Horowitz perhaps might have felt freer to play with this world and create vivid sketches and scenes. With a novel, the weight of importance is heavy.

The House of Silk involves two strands, two mysteries that you will not be surprised to discover are linked. One involves the theft of paintings in America and a vengeful Irish gangster determined to revenge the death of his twin. The other strand involves corruption and evil at the highest levels of society and government, a conspiracy so cloaked in secrecy that not even Holmes has had an inkling of its existence till now.

As a fan, Horowitz delivers every set piece you would expect: the novel begins with Holmes greeting Watson with a flurry of observations that the spluttering fellow insists he explain, which of course Holmes does in his most elementary style. Horowitz moves on to depict Lestrade (not such a bad fellow, as Horowitz sees him), Mycroft Holmes, the Baker Street Irregulars, Professor Moriarty, fog, danger, disguises that we see through but Watson does not and even a nod to Mrs. Hudson (a wonderful woman and under-appreciated). If Horowitz missed a button to push, I've missed it too.

When the novel is not touring all the Holmes highlights like the docent of a museum, it is announcing its importance. Our narrator Dr. Watson repeatedly says things like "I will never forget the 50 minute vigil..." and just a few pages later, "I have never forgotten that night and its consequences."

The mystery itself is vile enough to support a novel and Holmes has some clever moments. If you're a fan, this is comfort food. It feeds your desire to see Holmes in a new tale but does not provide any insight or astonish you with its cleverness. Watson perhaps should not be quite so blind or naive at the end when wrapping up his tale, but the old fellow surely can't handle the monstrosity of what he's witnessed, so I'll let Horowitz off the hook by assuming that is what he meant rather than to show Watson as a little foolish.

If you're like me, you're helpless in the face of any decent Holmes adventures. If so, *The House Of Silk* will satisfy. If you prefer any new Holmes tale to leap ahead, to surprise and delight in unexpected ways, to offer new insight into the mind of this most vivid character, then you'd best stick with the canon.

BOOKS I'VE READ -- 2011

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand *** 1/2

The Songlines by Bruce Chatwin ****

Two Adolescents by Alberto Moravia *** 1/2

King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard ** 1/2

Cart & Cwiddler by Diana Wynne Jones ** 1/2

A Game Of Thrones by George R.R. Martin ****

A Clash Of Kings by George R.R. Martin ***1/2

Just A Dream by Chris Van Allsburg * 1/2

THE Hollywood REPORTER



19 Of Hollywood's All-Time Shortest Marriages Gallery



Kim Kardashian's Brother Rob Addresses Elephant In The Ballroom After 'Dancing With The Stars'



Kim Kardashian And Kris Humphries Decided To Take A Break From Each Other During Shooting

More Entertainment News at THR.com

People.com



J.R. Martinez: This Was My 'Bad Week' on Dancing with the Stars

[READ MORE](#)



Miranda Lambert's Four the Record: Review

[READ MORE](#)



Glee Star Charice Pempengco's Father Stabbed to Death

[READ MORE](#)

More Celebrity News at People.com

TOP VIDEO PICKS

◀ 1 of 9 ▶

Sneak Peek: 'Little Couple' Expecting a Baby?

Hollywood's Halloween Costume Round-Up

Are Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart Technically Married?

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW

◀ 1 of 2 ▶

What Is Kris Humphries' Future After The Divorce?

The Good Book: A Humanist Bible by A.C. Grayling ***
 Dodsworth in Rome by Tim Egan ***
Prince Valiant Vol. 1: 1937-1938 by Hal Foster ***
Prince Valiant Vol. 2: 1939-1940 by Hal Foster ***
Prince Valiant Vol. 3: 1941-1942 by Hal Foster * 1/2**
 A Storm Of Swords by George R.R. Martin *** 1/2
 Queen Of The Falls by Chris Van Allsburg ** 1/2
 A Feast For Crows by George R.R. Martin *** 1/2
The Greater Journey: Americans In Paris by David McCullough ***
The Great Night by Chris Adrian ** 1/2
 Empire State Of Mind by Zack O'Malley Greenburg
 The Little Red Pen by Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel * 1/2
 21: The Story Of Roberto Clemente by Wilfred Santiago ** 1/2
The Siege Of Washington by John Lockwood & Charles Lockwood ***
Malcolm X; A Life Of Reinvention by Manning Marable ****
 Dawn, Dusk or Night by Yasmina Reza ** 1/2
 Unforgivable by Phillippe Djian **
 On Being: A Scientist's Exploration Of The Great Questions Of Existence by Peter Atkins **
 Mygale by Thierry Jonquet **
Berlin, 1961: Kennedy, Kruschev And The Most Dangerous Place On Earth by Frederick Kempe * 1/2**
 High Strung: Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe and the Untold Story Of Tennis's Fiercest Rivalry by Stephen Tignor ** 1/2
 Death At La Fenice by Donna Leon ** 1/2
 Death In A Strange Country by Donna Leon ***
 My Friend Flicka by Mary O'Hara ***
 Drive by James Sallis **
 The Magicians by Lev Grossman ***
 The Magician King by Lev Grossman ** 1/2
The Buddha In The Attic by Julie Otsuka ****
 Fly By Night by Frances Hardinge ***
 Thunderhead by Mary O'Hara *** 1/2
The Hypnotist by Lars Kepler ** 1/2
Cocktail Hour Under The Tree Of Forgetfulness by Alexandra Fuller * 1/2**
 East Of The West by Miroslav Penkov ***
 Sum: Forty Tales From The Afterlives by David Eagleman ***
 Green Grass Of Wyoming by Mary O'Hara ***
 A Dance With Dragons by George R.R. Martin *** 1/2
 Willie & Joe Back Home by Bill Mauldin ***
 The Cut By George Pelecanos ** 1/2
Grand Pursuit by Sylvia Nasar */**
 A Matter For Men: War Of The Chtorrs by David Gerrold **
 A Rage For Revenge: War Of The Chtorrs by David Gerrold * 1/2
 The Shootist by Glendon Swarthout ***
Sea Of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh * 1/2**
River Of Smoke by Amitav Ghosh * 1/2**
 When The Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka *** 1/2
 The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway *** 1/2
 Winesburg, Ohio by Sherwood Anderson *** 1/2
 Cousins: A Memoir by Athol Fugard **
The Art Of Fielding by Chad Harbach ***
 The Rings Of Saturn by W.G. Sebald ****
 Siddhartha by Herman Hesse * 1/2
The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides ** 1/2
 John Henry Days by Colson Whitehead ***
Prince Valiant Vol. 4: 1943-1944 by Hal Foster ***
 Civilization: The West and the Rest by Niall Ferguson ** 1/2
 Charles Dickens: A Life by Claire Tomalin ***
 The House Of Silk by Anthony Horowitz ** 1/2

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the co-host of Showbiz Sandbox, a weekly pop culture podcast that



Will Kim & Kris's TV Shows Get Pulled Off Air?



f HOT ON FACEBOOK ◀ 1 of 3 ▶



Surrealist Cinema Legend Alejandro Jodorowsky Makes Two Rare NYC Appearances

f Like 218



'Glee' Singer's Dad Murdered

f Recommend 45

t HOT ON TWITTER POWERED BY **TOPSY** ◀ 1 of 2 ▶



<http://t.co/trJ2s8IS>
<http://t.co/ngUXknzn>



<http://t.co/pBPOxZer>

Sponsored Links

Spinal Stenosis Pain?
 Outpatient Endoscopic Spine Surgery. Relieve Chronic Pain In One Week
www.bonati.com

57-Year-Old Mom Looks 27
 The Stunning Results of Her Wrinkle Trick Has Botox Doctors Worried
ConsumerLifestyles.org

Charmin® Toilet Paper
 We All Go. Why Not Enjoy The Go w/Charmin® Toilet Paper. Try Today!
www.Charmin.com/Toilet-Paper

Buy a link here

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



Video



Celebrities



The Kardashians



Healthy Living Health News



Pop Culture



House Of Representatives



Europe Travel



Reality TV



Blackberry

reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's available free on iTunes. Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog. Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called Popsurfing and also available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

NOTE: Michael Giltz is provided with free copies of books to consider for review, including digital and physical galleys as well as final review copies. He typically does not guarantee coverage and invariably receives far more books than he can cover.

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

Sponsored Links

1 Tip To Erase Wrinkles

Mom Reveals Clever \$5 Wrinkle Trick That Has Angered Skin Doctors!
LifeStyle-Journal.net

53 Year Old Mom Looks 25

The Stunning Results of Her \$4 Wrinkle Trick Has Botox Docs Worried
www.LifeStylesAlert.com/MUST-SEE

"Strange Fruit Burns Fat"

Burns Over 8 Pounds of Fat in 28 Days. Can It Work for You?
www.HealthDiscoveriesMag.com

Get Athena Pheromones

Enjoy more romantic attention w/ Biologist Winnifred Cutler's formulas
www.athenainstitute.com

Buy a link here

More in Entertainment...



Kim Kardashian Divorce: What's Kris Humphries Future?



Jessica Biel's First Role As A 12-Year...



Kim Kardashian Wedding: 'Kim's Fairytale Wedding' With...



Albert Finney Joins 'Bond 23': Actor In...

SEARCH



FRONT PAGE | POLITICS | BUSINESS | ENTERTAINMENT | TECH | MEDIA | LIFE & STYLE | CULTURE | COMEDY | HEALTHY LIVING | WOMEN | LOCAL | MORE

COMEDY | MUSIC | TV | CELEBRITY | KIDS | MOVIEFONE

Advertise | Log In | Make HuffPost your Home Page | RSS | Careers | FAQ

er Agreement | Privacy | Comment Policy | About Us | About Our Ads | Contact Us

gtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

Part of HuffPost News