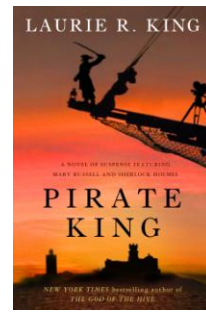


Dear friends,

One of the great pleasures of being a crime novelist is that it gives an excuse for playing with one's favorite ideas: Sherlock Holmes, Kipling's India, the 1906 San Francisco quake and fire—and now, Gilbert and Sullivan.



Pirate King, to be published this September, is the eleventh in the Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes series. In this story, the duo are dragged into the wicked shenanigans of a motion picture company that is making a movie about a movie about *The Pirates of Penzance*, a venture that takes them from London to Lisbon, then across the seas to Morocco.

In hopes that you, fellow devotees of Gilbert and Sullivan, will enjoy the book and perhaps even join in the fun, I am sending you my adaptation of the Major General's song, twisted to my own nefarious purposes—namely, the piratical and criminal—with which I fully intend to baffle the audience of my September book tour events, staging sing-alongs of that most challenging of G&S songs.

If any of your Society would like to make ours a mutual admiration society, either during the summer or in the book tour itself, I would love the chance to infect my own fans with a love of G&S. If you would like to participate in the tour, or in the upcoming “Ten Weeks of Laurie ARrrgh! King” promotion, we'd love to add a layer of Victorian-era silliness to the shenanigans.

My tour will take me to the San Francisco area, Seattle, Portland, Phoenix, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, St Louis, and Denver. If any of your members would enjoy adding a chorus to our literary event, or perhaps a YouTube video to our online collection, or even just a note to readers of my blog about the addictive appeal of Gilbert and Sullivan, please be in touch.

And—here's to pirates!

Laurie R. King
info@laurierking.com

Laurie R. King is the *New York Times* bestselling, award-winning author of **The Beekeeper's Apprentice**, **The Game**, **The Language of Bees**, etc. Her web site, details of the **Pirate King** tour, the “Ten Weeks of Laurie ARrrgh! King” schedule, text of the Major-Criminal's Song, and much more are at www.LaurieRKing.com.

The Major-Criminal's Song

Laurie R. King (with apologies to W. S. Gilbert)

I am the very model of the modern major criminal,
I've information sound although it's sometimes slightly fictional
I know the cops of England and I quote cases historical
From Turpin, Dick to Crippin, Doc, in order categorial.

I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters somehow chemical
I understand forensics as an argument polemical
About binomial theorem I can figure an inductive proof:
Professor Moriarty's enemy will never make a goof.

(Professor Moriarty's enemy will never make a goof. x3/ never never make a goof)

I'm very good at DNA, a whiz at dactyloscopy
I know the scientific use of -ology and -otomy
In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
I am the very model of the modern major criminal.

*(In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
S/he is the very model of the modern major criminal.)*

I know piratic history, Hank Morgan and old Edward Teach
I marvel at the feelings of the solo haemophagic leech
I quote, so archly knowingly, the words of D. L. Sayers
And I argue with the fervency of Father Brown's grim prayers

I can tell undoubted Conan Doyles from Carr and Faye and Dibdin, too
Recite Derleth and Meyer, Culin Chabon Gaiman and Norbu
I can even hum a Sherlockism when it's not the Master's
As for King's infernal nonsense, I just wish she would write faster.

(As for King's infernal nonsense, I just wish she would write faster. x3/ faster faster.)

Then I can write a short story in Wimsey's girlfriend's bookish code
And tell you details of an *LA Confidential's* cop's reload
In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
I am the very model of the modern major criminal.

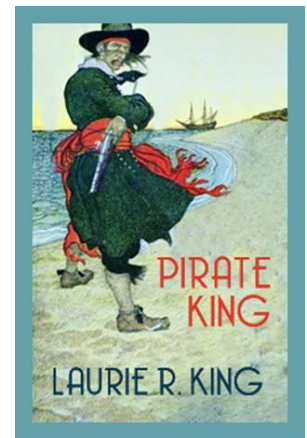
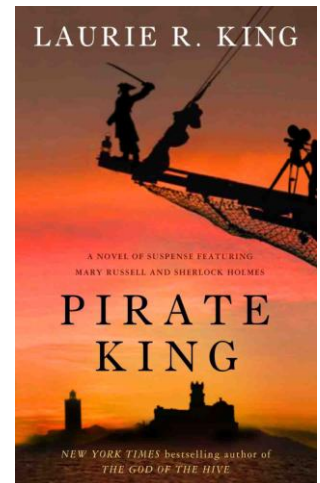
*(In short, in matters novelistic, short storied and filmical
S/he is the very model of the modern major criminal.)*

In fact, when I know what is meant by "cipher" and by "molecule"
When I can tell at sight a Yard detective from a bloody fool,
When such affairs as "boarding parties" "raids" and "pressganged" sailing crews
Fill me with more content than what is on the tv evening news.

When I can tell a privateer's rapier from a cutlass
And a Barb'ry Pirate's bottom from a corsair's big broad bupkus
In short, when I've a smattering of law and theft and chemistry
You'll say a major criminal had better stick to piracy.
(You'll say a major criminal had better stick to piracy. x3/ pira- piracy.)

Though my scientific knowledge (still, I'm plucky and adventury)
Has only been brought up to the late middle of the century
In fiction matters—novelistic, short storied and filmical—
I am the very model of the modern major criminal.

*(In fiction matters—novelistic, short storied and filmical—
S/he is the very model of the modern major criminal.)*



(Sung to the tune of "The Major-General's Song")